



*North Fulton  
Amateur Radio League  
NFARL eNEWS*

*July 2017*

*Celebrating 40 Years  
Service | Friendship | Education | Fun*

[www.nfarl.org](http://www.nfarl.org)



## ***13 Colonies Event Is In The Books!***

If you're not familiar with the 13 Colonies Special Event, it is an annual event that is in celebration of America's independence from the British in 1776. During the week-long event, around the July 4th holiday, the 13 "colonies" put operators on the air using unique call-signs. This event is open worldwide and beyond!

This year, Georgia had 18 operators across the bands using the call-sign K2G. Georgia had several independent operators from across the state as well as several operators representing NFARL. In all, Georgia delivered 10,908 QSO's to amateur radio operators all over the world! This was primarily on HF bands using SSB, CW and digital modes. We also used satellites for contacts in the US and other countries. This was the first year that I'm aware that a YL has been on the K2G roster! We welcomed Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, to the team operating all modes including satellites!

The event presented its typical challenges and then some this year. This is always a tough week for dedicated operating time due to the holiday, travel and family events. We also had a few of our regular operators off of the air for various reasons. Several colonies were reporting very poor band conditions. But in the end, the K2G operators rose to the occasion and put some very competitive numbers in the log!

Historically, Georgia placed 8th in 2015. Last year (2016), Georgia placed 4th just under SC, NC and PA. This year, the numbers are CRAZY! This year GA placed 5th among the colonies. While we did drop one spot in the ranks, we were only 1,761 from First Place! (Much closer than last year.) A few colonies stepped up their game and surprised all of us! AND this was the first year since its inception in 2009 that the overall QSO totals have dropped! Overall, K2G did great, again.

But the best news of all... NFARL's own, Jim Stafford, better know as W4QO, clinched the Top QRP Operator Award again this year!!!

Looking ahead for next year, I have a few ideas that will be great additions for K2G. This includes ways to get technicians involved, promoting club efforts and even issuing an HF Triple Play award for ops that make contacts with K2G using SSB, CW and DIGI.

**Nathan H. Wood**, K4NHW  
Georgia State Manager (K2G)

## NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates

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- **Every Sunday — NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100  
*All licensed Hams are welcome, you do not need to be an ARES member!*
- **Every Monday — Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100  
NFARL's flagship technical based "non check-in" net. The net is always better when using the web based chat room but Internet is not required to join the net. Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to".
- **Every Wednesday — Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM  
Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Every Thursday — YL Net** — 8:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100  
Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."  
OM's (guys) are welcome to listen in to this YL net.  
Great opportunity to get your YL's on the radio!
- **Every Saturday — Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG) Lodge No. 1**  
9:00 AM - Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta (at Sandy Plains and Shallowford). Everyone is welcome: You don't have to be "old" or a "geezer" to join this breakfast get-together.
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell.  
Check [NFARES.net](#) for more information.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - **July 18, 2017**, 7:30 PM.  
Pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00PM.  
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
**Program: Jim Sorenson, KA4IIA, presents  
"Fox Hunting"**
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting**  
July 25, 2017, 7:00 PM  
Location: [Arbor Terrace at Crabapple](#)  
12200 Crabapple Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Meetings are open to all NFARL members. Space is available on a first arrival basis. Please contact the [President](#) to ensure available space.

## ***Field Day 2017 In The Rear View Mirror / John Kludt, K4SQC***

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Every Field Day is a unique adventure and the recently completed 2017 edition was no exception. Like all Field Day's some things worked and other things presented us with "opportunities to improve." Murphy paid a visit or two as he always does. And at the end, we could all look back and say we had a good time both as club and each of us in our own way.

Usually our main enemy at Field Day has been the heat. This time we had a new foe with whom to contend – rain! For those of you familiar with our setup we have an entire parking lot in which to set up our main tent for the phone, swing, satellite and 6 meter stations. Of course we chose the only spot where water could accumulate. That meant Daryl, K4RGK, was setting up his very elegant satellite station in two inches of water. One of the club members went home, got his Shopvac and proceeded to Shopvac out Daryl's corner of the tent. A Field Day first I can promise you.



**Teamwork Raising Antennas**

The other weather related issue that hit the CW ops hard was the loss of their trailer. Seems the unit we usually borrow was damaged in a camp ground accident and that put the CW team in a second tent. After all of the rain the heat returned and that meant hot and humid. As one of the CW ops noted, "I really missed my air conditioning!" Ah, yes, didn't we all. But despite the adverse conditions CW soldiered on to a very successful conclusion.

AS I think many of you know this was a year for personnel changes. Ian, KM4IK, stepped up as Field Day Chair, with Pavel, AC4PA, in the role of CW captain and Nathan, K4NHW, as Phone captain. Daryl, K4RGK, carried on as Satellite Captain, Mark, KK4FOF and Bill, K4WSW, ran GOTA and I stood in as the VHF/6 meter captain. This is actually a significant and welcome change in the life of NFARL. Some of us are getting just a bit long in the tooth, and it is a welcome event to see the next generation of NFARL leaders begin to emerge.

It was with some surprise that I received a call from Ian one week before Field Day to say that his mother had been hospitalized and would I be willing to pick up the reins for the final push. As it turned out things were pretty well organized and the load was not too heavy. We had some minor issues like "Who picked up the beam?" but we worked through them all.

Another last minute change was the selection of a different call for Field Day. Normally we use one of our two club calls, K4JJ, for the main effort and we use the other, NF4GA, for the GOTA (Get On The Air) station. In case you have not been around for the last few months, this is the 40th anniversary of the founding of NFARL (1977-2017). In honor of that we obtained a special event call, N4O, for Field Day. So if you were looking for K4JJ and could not find us, now you know the rest of the story.

We again ran as an ARRL class 3A station. We stayed at our usual location we've used for the

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last several years: Waller Park Extension. It now has a new name, Groveway Community Park, but it is the same place.

The exact nature of Field Day has always been a bit of an enigma and a subject of endless discussion. Ian likes to note that it is not a contest. And that is true. But it is also a contest with an elaborate scoring system with the results by class published in rank order highest to lowest in QST magazine. Go figure! This year we decided to play down the contest aspect and play up the public service part of the endeavor.

In an event like Field Day, so many people are involved it is difficult to thank everyone. And it is a real challenge not to leave somebody out when giving thanks. If that occurred, it was not intended. Especially given the last minute hand off between Ian and I, record keeping was not quite what it might have been.

Jon Wittlin, K4WIT's, Boy Scout exercise assisted over 40 Boy Scout's with obtaining the Radio Merit Badge.

***"So how did we do? Most importantly I hope all who participated, each in their own way enjoyed Field Day. "***

The NFARES group under Grant Register, KK4PCR, and Mike Cohen, AD4MC, got us the maximum of 300 bonus points (that "but scores are kept" thing again) and along the way showed all what ARES can do.

Lynn Kahn, N4MSK, as always put on a great picnic Saturday night and kept those of us who stayed over

for the weekend well feed and well hydrated.

Joe Camilli, N7QPP, did a masterful job of setting up our network and keeping the club's contest computers up to date. Yes, we, NFARL, own four laptops we use for logging. We started using these last year and it has made a real difference in network/logging reliability.

Tim Romashko, K4RA, was as always great in the role of our safety officer. This is a new category in the bonus point section (those again!) and it really is helpful to have someone of Tim's level of knowledge and commitment on site, devoted to keeping us all safe.

Thank you to Pavel, AC4PA, for the extra effort in developing the new visitor registration system we used this year. Seems the old one was on a memory stick that disappeared at the end of Field Day last year.



GOTA Station

Brian, NX9O, and the Fourlanders VHF Contest Club were again nice enough to loan us their 15kw diesel generator. Isn't that a little overkill? Yeh! But it sure is nice to put in some diesel fuel, turn it on and 30 hours or so later turn it off.

A very special thanks goes out to all of you who participated in setup on Friday and Saturday

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

morning and teardown on Sunday. Your efforts were really appreciated and contributed greatly to an enjoyable Field Day.

So how did we do? Most importantly I hope all who participated, each in their own way enjoyed Field Day. One of the questions we are always asked is how many QSO's did we make?

According to Scott Straw, KB4KBS, our official scorer, here are the totals by band and mode:

Band	Phone	CW	Band Total
80/75	250	30	280
40	850	411	1261
20	508	728	1236
15	59	195	254
10	232	20	252
6	176	13	189
<b>Mode Total</b>	<b>2075</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>3472</b>

Figure 1. Total number of QSO's by band and mode for N40

Clearly 40 meters and 20 meters were our money bands. Between the two they accounted for 72% of our QSO's. The totals were almost equally split between the two bands. Interestingly 15 and 10 meters were almost as productive as 80/75 meters. With the sunspot minimum the fact that we made QSO's on 10 meters was bit of a pleasant surprise. Kudos to the HF operators for at least going to 15 and 10 to take a look. As it turned out, a very wise move, indeed.

For comparison, last year (2016) we made 1995 CW QSO's and 1669 Phone QSO's. Year over year CW was down 598 QSO's and phone was up 406 QSO's. Perhaps a goal for next year would be to entice a few more CW operators to use the Swing station for CW. Some station to station interference issues cropped up this year that will need to be resolved but that is a manageable problem.

GOTA made 119 SSB QSO's. It was unfortunate that as soon as the rain started on Saturday, interest in GOTA evaporated as folks ran for cover. The station itself functioned well, using an Icom IC-7300 and an 80 meter loop.

Six meters was a grand adventure this year with short openings on Saturday and a huge opening on Sunday. All totaled we made 189 6 meter QSO's and worked 33 sections including all sections in the 1st call district. And with just 100 watts and a pair of stacked loops! This added another 5% to our QSO count.

Counting satellite QSO's is a bit more difficult as the ARRL and AMSAT have different ways of counting satellite contacts. There are also rules surrounding how you count FM satellite contacts. When all was said and done the satellite station had a very successful go with 20 contacts per the ARRL rules and 35 contacts per AMSAT rules. Yes, there is an AMSAT Field Day that runs concurrent with ARRL Field Day, and we have turned in a log to AMSAT as well. Just a

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reminder to the NFARL CW operators – per AMSAT Field Day rules a CW QSO is worth 3 points. Phone is worth 1 point. We had no CW satellite QSO's this year. For AMSAT Field Day, it sure would be nice to get some 3 point QSO's next year.

We are about to submit our claimed score to the ARRL. Please recall that bonus points are not automatic. We apply for them and then based on the evidence the ARRL decides if they will be awarded. And that is why pictures, copies of messages, newspaper clippings, etc., are so very important. Our claimed score includes 10,076 QSO points and 1,870 bonus points for a total claimed score of 11,946.

So another NFARL Field Day is done and headed for the record books. It was a different Field Day in a lot of ways. Most importantly I believe we all had fun as each of us defines "fun." The weather threw us a bit of a curve. We are especially grateful to the younger club members such as Nathan and Pavel who were willing to step into leadership roles. Both Ian and I hope you will be back as leaders next year and we hope the trend toward new leaders for Field Day continues. Mark and Bill are looking to retire from the leadership role with the GOTA station. I would be happy to place the VHF/6m station in new hands. And then, there is always the Field Day chair.....

73 and both Ian and I want to thank all of NFARL for a very successful 2017 NFARL Field Day.



## ***A Note From Our President***

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June and early July are always active for NFARL. The club celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Atlanta Hamfest with three tables for NFARL, NFARES and a celebratory table with balloons and cake! It was great to share the celebrations with club members, local clubs and the attendees! A special thanks to Terry Joyner, W4YBV, and his wife for arranging and serving the cake and refreshments.

We continued the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at Field Day. Our focus this year was to showcase Amateur Radio and Emergency Preparedness to the public and, of course, score as many points as possible! A big thanks to our 2017 Field Day Chairman, Ian Kahn, KM4IK, and his able staff. As many of you know, Ian had a family emergency the week before Field Day which required him to be out of town. Dr. John Kludt, K4SQC, stepped in to take us to the finish line and ensure another successful Field Day. Thank you John! It wouldn't be Field Day without food! Lynn Kahn, N4MSK, and her team did an outstanding job of coordinating food and continuing the celebrations on Saturday night. Of course, Martha Muir, W4MSA, delighted the overnight operators with Sunday breakfast featuring Belgian waffles and bacon!



**Mark - KK4FOF  
NFARL President**

It was also great to see the participation of new members and youth this year. New band captains include Nathan Wood, K4NHW (SSB/SWING), and Pavel Anni, AC4PA (CW). The Field Day team also appreciates the turnout on Friday for setup and especially the tear down on Sunday. Ian Kahn and John Kludt will provide an update on the 2017 results in this issue of eNews and at the July meeting!

August is shaping up to be another busy month for NFARL! NFARL will have a table at the Huntsville HamFest on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't attended, the Huntsville HamFest is unique in that the dealers and entire flea market are indoors in the enclosed Von Braun Center air-conditioned hall. Plan on joining us to promote the club, HamJam and continuing the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration!

The W/VE Island QSO Party is August 26<sup>th</sup>. The NFARL US Islands team lead by Terry Joyner, W4YBV, is planning to activate on Pine Island with the goal of placing first place in the contest. The NFARL Executive team is planning a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary picnic in conjunction with the activation and would like to know how many members would be interested in attending. We would also like to identify a few volunteers to assist with the planning. Please email me at [kk4fof@nfarl.org](mailto:kk4fof@nfarl.org) if you are interested in attending and/or could help with the planning.

I will be traveling next week on business so Daryl Young, K4RGK, NFARL Vice President, will be leading the meeting and introducing our quest speaker Jim Sorenson, KA4IIA, and his presentation on Fox Hunting!

73's,

*Mark*, KK4FOF

NFARL President

## ***NFARL & HamJam Go To Huntsville / John Kludt, K4SQC***

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In support of HamJam and the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League we have secured a club table at the upcoming Huntsville Hamfest, August 19-20, 2017.

By the rules of the Von Braun Center we cannot serve cake so instead we will be handing out 40th Anniversary buttons. HamJam tickets will also be on sale.

In case you may not have heard we have our first two major HamJam prizes. Icom has generously provided us with an IC-7300. FlexRadio Systems has graciously provided us with a Flex-6300 SDR.

Talk about two great prizes right out of the gate!

We are of course pursuing the rest of our regular HamJam vendors for even more great prizes. Please recall that there is no admission fee to HamJam but rather you are encouraged to purchase raffle tickets for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. We have some great speakers lined up – please see our website [www.hamjam.info](http://www.hamjam.info) for details. All proceeds go to support youth activities.

We will be there both Saturday and Sunday. If you would like to lend a hand at the club table for an hour or two please contact [johnnykludt@gmail.com](mailto:johnnykludt@gmail.com). If you will be at the Hamfest, please stop by our table, say "Hello", pick up a button and maybe buy a few more HamJam tickets!

73 and see all y'all in Huntsville!

*John*, K4SQC

## ***Activities Update / John Tramontanis, N4TOL***

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### **TechNet**

Have you checked into the NFARL TechNet? The TechNet convenes every Monday night at 8:30 PM. You can check in on the 145.47 & 444.475 repeaters, via EchoLink, or the NFARL chat room at [dodropin.org](http://dodropin.org).

The net is moderated by Steve Hull, KW4HQ, who is handling the net with fine aplomb as the successor to Bob Beeman, K4BB. Bob was net control for many months and did a fabulous job. All are encouraged to participate with questions or answers related to ham radio and technical topics that are of interest to the group.

### **GQP - Georgia QSO Party**

The results of the NFARL GQP "Challenge" are in the books. Award certificates will be presented to participants at the July meeting. In this year's GQP, the club posted its highest point total ever!





## ***Digital Modes - What Sideband? / Neil Foster, N4FN***

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Recently, there was an offline discussion that had originally started on the NARFL reflector as to what sideband to use in RTTY and other digital modes. I decided to do some research and the following information is what I discovered. This was not a simple yes or no subject, so here goes.

Let's start with some of the basics. The usual RTTY AFSK Mark tone is 2125Hz. The Space tone is 2295Hz for 170Hz shift. The older 850Hz RTTY shift used the same 2125Hz Mark tone, but the Space tone was 2975Hz.

Changing sidebands, USB to LSB or LSB to USB, does not cause a change in the software or terminal unit AFSK Mark and Space tones. Think of it this way. You are operating on 40 meter phone (LSB), then decide to switch to 20 meter phone (USB) to chase some DX. Does your voice change/reverse when changing band and sidebands? No, it doesn't. The same applies with the RTTY AFSK tones when changing sidebands. The Mark tone remains 2125 Hz and the Space tone remains 2295 Hz. The "transmit" signal changes, but NOT the software or terminal unit Mark and Space tones. What causes the change to occur is a change in the sideband "carrier generator" frequency by the MODE switch. The RTTY AFSK tones from the computer digital software/sound card or terminal unit flow through the same speech amplifier your microphone voice does on phone.

LSB had been the standard RTTY sideband for many years. There are MANY stations that operate RTTY on USB. The key is both stations must be operating on the same sideband. However, if one station operates RTTY on USB while the other station is on LSB, for the two stations to communicate, one station must "reverse" the tones but not the tone frequencies. Normally, in RTTY, with no data being transmitted, a steady Mark is transmitted. However, by using "Reverse", with no data being transmitted, a steady Space is transmitted. Turning "diddles" ON causes a constant mark/space shift to be transmitted when there is no data being transmitted. The same occurs in "reverse" except the diddles produce a constant "space/mark" shifting signal when no data is being transmitted. This is accomplished in the computer software configuration or with older terminal units by selecting "Reverse" or turning TX Reverse and RX Reverse "ON". This change allows both stations to communicate with one on USB and the other on LSB. The default TX Reverse and RX Reverse setting is "OFF" in terminal units or reverse is left "unchecked" in computer software.

Normal PSK (BPSK) does not care what sideband you are on. If you are on LSB BPSK, a station on USB BPSK can copy you without making any changes to his/her software configuration. This is the only digital mode with this characteristic. QPSK, however, requires BOTH stations to be operating on the "same sideband".

DM-780 is from the same author of HRD and DM-780 is included with HRD. I use DM780 and have for many years.

The old definition of AFSK is a set of tones, modulating a carrier, such as in FM AFSK, or AFSK tones on an AM radio.

The use of a sound card to produce tones that are fed into a SSB transmitter produces two RF carriers that are separated by the difference between the modulating tones in the tone pair. For

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all intents and purposes, the RF that is transmitted over the air is identical to that which would have been produced by a directly keyed and frequency shifted VFO.

One thing I should clarify here. In the "old days", the tone pairs were 2125 and 2295 for 170 Hz shift, or 2125 and 2975 for 850 Hz shift. But with today's modern "point and click on the waterfall" software, the modulating tones can just about be anything within the pass band of the transmitter, as long as they are either 170, or becoming more common, 200 Hz apart! In fact, software such as DM780 will copy either a 170 or 200Hz shift.

The reason 2125 and 2295 or 2795 were used in the early days of Teletype communications, was because many of the early and popular Terminal Units such as the ST 6 or the Desktop Teletype RO 28. I started with used surplus toroid coils from the Telephone company, tuned with high grade capacitors to those frequencies. It would have been very unusual to see a TU with any other frequency pairs beside those two mentioned above.

Nowadays, that is all different. Many RTTY programs can be changed at a push of a mouse button, or by typing in the desired frequencies in the "setup" screen.

It depends on your AFSK mark and space frequencies. On the RF side, mark is the higher frequency and space is the lower frequency. Some programs may produce AFSK that has the high frequency (typically 2295 Hz) for mark and the low frequency (2125Hz) for space.

Before the advent of sound card programs, AFSK was sent with the mark as the lower frequency, and space as the higher frequency. This meant that you would use LSB so that mark and space would be correct on the RF side.

There are historical reasons for this, having to do with modifying VFOs to produce mark and space in days gone by.

If you are copying and sending RTTY and you can decode the distant station and the distant station can decode you, everything is good. The only thing to remember is that the mark RF frequency is the proper way to report your operating frequency. All that being said, the majority of stations today send RTTY in USB. It is rare for me to see one using the opposite or "upside down" sideband.

There are differing opinions on the sideband issue. Sholto Fisher, the digital Guru at West Mountain, advocates USB all the way. Many others agree. In all fairness, there are others who disagree. It is like "tom-a-toes or to-mahtoes".

So now you have more info than you will ever need..... Just work some new ones. NFARL is blessed with having many members who are digi savvy, so do not be afraid to ask one of the mentors.

73,

**Neil Foster** N4FN

We have three highly interesting speakers for our event this year. Starting this month in our eNews we will be highlighting each of our guests. This month's column will focus on Bob Schmieder, KK6EK.

Bob is the founder and Expedition Leader of Cordell Expeditions, a nonprofit research group begun in 1977. The group is responsible for the creation of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and for numerous research expeditions to remote oceanic sites. Professionally he is a research physicist, with about 100 publications and four patents. He is the founder of NanoLogic Inc. He is a Fellow of the Explorers Club and former Chairman of its Northern California Chapter. In over 30 years he has been listed in most of the major Who's Whos. He is the owner and operator of a research vessel, the Cordell Explorer.



**Bob Schmieder - KK6EK**

### **AMATEUR RADIO**

Licensed since 1962, he holds Extra Class license KK6EK. His specialty has been very difficult DXpeditions and developing new technology for DXpeditions and DXers. He was the inventor (for XRØY/Z) of the online log server and DXA, the real-time log website (for K7C and VK0EK). Other callsigns he has used include: XF1/KK6EK, VP8CPK, 4K1/KK6EK, CEØ/KK6EK, and VK6EKK. He is listed in the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

### **HAMJAM Topic**

Bob intends to tell us about the "Future of DX" as he sees it. Bob is highly confident the future of DX and ham radio in general will be driven by more and more technology related advancements, and has demonstrated one such advancement with his DXA real-time contact display over the Internet. Whilst on Heard Island (VK0EK, a very rare DX entity in the Southern Indian Ocean) in 2016, anyone that worked the Expedition could see their callsign scroll across the VK0EK website as a real-time confirmation of their QSO. Pretty exciting stuff; ask anyone that actually worked them!

Additionally, the Expedition also had one of their stations set up to be operated remotely, and indeed one of Bob's friends was able to operate the station on Heard Island from California!

Bob's DXA real-time log server operated flawlessly during the Heard Island expedition, and Bob intends to make it available to future DXpeditions free of charge. There will be some cost associated with the Internet access; that is expected to be less than \$1000 for a satellite connection from anywhere in the world.

Mark your calendars now for the event to take place on the morning of November 11th at the Mill Springs Academy and stay tuned to <http://hamjam.info> for more info. We already have a FLEX 6300 and an Icom IC7300 as raffle prizes and there will be lots more!

*Wes,* W3WL

## ***US Island Club Contest Update / Jim Paine, N4SEC***

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Terry Joyner, W4YBV, and I added three islands last month to our Club Anniversary Islands Challenge. This is part of the US Islands Awards Program. For more information, check out [www.usislands.org](http://www.usislands.org).



**“Nix Island” GA040**



**“Big Junction Island” GA042L**

These Islands were worked at Lake Lanier using one of my boats on Thursday June 15.



**“Taylor Island” GA041L**

We operated on 20 and 40 meters with a tripod mounted dipole made from two mobile antennas. Our radio is a Yaesu FT-857D powered by a separate marine battery. All equipment worked well but the propagation was very poor that day so we only had a few contacts from each island.

Needless to say, we had a lot of fun combining two of our hobbies, boating and ham radio. The weather was good (I got a little sunburned) and the thunderstorms at the south end of the lake never reached us.

*Jim*

## ***A US Islands Message From Terry***

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Our congratulations go out to Bill Cobb, K4YJJ, for qualifying his first US Island in our club contest! Bill activated Duck island on the Holston River in Tennessee on June 17th with 67 qso's. ***GREAT JOB BILL!***

This puts our club at 21 islands activated this year towards our goal of 40.

We will be rewarding club members Jeff N1KDO, Scott KB4KBS, Jim N4SEC, Bill K4YJJ, Grant KK4PCR, Daryl K4RGK and Lori K4UPI with US Island patches at our July 18th meeting for taking part in the club contest.

We will still have a list of US Islands locations in Georgia at our sign-up table for club members to utilize.

*Terry,* W4YBV

## ***NFARES Update / Mike Cohen, AD4MC***

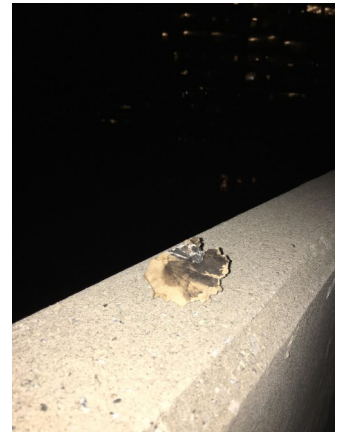
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NFARES again provided fire spotting for the 2017 Sandy Springs Fireworks Event.

Sandy Springs held its fifth annual Fireworks Event on July 2nd and for the fifth consecutive year, NFARES was there to help.

This is a "tough" assignment....at least it was for me the previous years. We are stationed on the top levels of the parking decks and other ground locations in the Sandy Springs Concourse area.

Our task is to spot and report by radio any out-of-blast-area hot embers that could start fires when they land on the ground or other buildings. See the picture (right) taken by Steven, KW4HQ, of a hot ember that landed on Deck 5.



**"Fireworks "Frag" on Deck 5"**

What make this "tough" is that when everyone else is looking up at the fireworks, we are supposed to be looking down. I must admit that I couldn't help myself from looking up at the fantastic show. That's why it's good to have enough spotters at each location so that the task can be alternately shared with one (or more) looking down while another is "allowed" to look up.



This year, we teamed up with the Sandy Springs Fire Corps (SSFC) and had a record total of 27 volunteers, including 15 amateur radio operators, 8 SSFC volunteers plus family "helpers".

As many of us have been experiencing lately, ham radio support for public service events is a lot of fun. Well...helping with a fireworks show is a ***really super*** lot of fun!

**Peanut Power Sprint** – The North GA QRP Club is sponsoring their 4th Peanut Power Sprint on October 1st this year. If you are not familiar, there is something for everyone in this one – even QRO! But there is emphasis on QRP (of course). There are 5 competition categories – there is the Goober – 1w Portable, Salted – 5w Portable, Boiled – 1w Home Station, Roasted – 5w Home Station, and Raw – over 5 watts (QRO). There is CW and SSB on 40, 20 and 15 meters. It's only 2 hours long from 4 to 6PM that Sunday. For full rules, go to:

<http://www.nogaqrp.org/PeanutPower/rules.pdf>

**Solar Eclipse QSO Party** – I received my August QST today and the eclipse is all over the cover. Page 94 covers the details. On August 21st the eclipse in our area will run from approximately 1 PM to 4 PM, peaking about 2:36 PM. While this is a partial eclipse for us it will be very close to a total eclipse.

The eclipse QSO party will run from 10 AM to 6 PM on August 21st. The exchange is RST and your 6 digit Grid Square number. There are bonus points for reporting all matter of observations. Check it out. As always, if you do not have an HF station, you are welcome to come to my shack and operate. If you are a Tech, we'll try to have a control operator present. (I plan to operate mobile up in north GA where the eclipse is "total").

**Tech Talk** – Have you checked in lately? Our new net control station, KW4HQ, Steven has had some great topics to bring each week. There's quite a menagerie of things we use on Tech Talk – all the repeaters on Sweet Mtn are linked together so you can check in on various bands, there is EchoLink and we use a chat room ([nfarl.dodropin.org](http://nfarl.dodropin.org)) where we see lots of photos and links that go along with the chatter on the repeaters. If you miss the net, be sure to look for all the links (and often photos) on the club reflector:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/nfarl/info> .. look for messages entitled "Tech Talk Links".

**QST – August issue** – I've mentioned the Solar Eclipse QSO party, but there are a number of things you should take note of. Page 24 has a Letter to the Editor that says it all (IMHO) about why we should support the ARRL. George Allison, K1IG, presents 5 reasons, each of which is worth the full membership each year. Then there is the annual coverage of hams (and organizations) having made "over and above" monetary support of ARRL activities beyond the normal operations. This includes contributions to tax deductible categories such as Spectrum Defense, Education & Technology, and Legislative Issue Advocacy. You'll even see some NFARL members listed but look closely, you'll see that the North Fulton ARL was a big contributor in 2016. This is made possible due to your support and promotion of HamJam.

**HamJam** – Speaking of HamJam, it's scheduled for November 11th this year and will be held at the Mill Springs Academy, one of several educational investments. We have 3 great speakers lined up again – Sean Kutzko, KX9X, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager, Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, DXpeditioner extraordinaire, and Ward Silver, N0AX. This is Ward's second visit as a HamJam speaker. Why? Well, Ward is one of those folks who is involved in many, many aspects of ham radio. But you should recognize his call as it appears in QST every month on a variety of articles. He writes the Hands On Radio column each month, for example. He has also edited the HUGE ARRL Handbook for many years. And more! Ward spoke at HamJam #2 and we welcome him back again. Don't miss it – mark your calendar.

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## Club Repeaters

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Frequency—Description	P.L. Tone	Location
145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 56086 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES Repeater	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with MATPARC	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell Water Tower
444.475 (+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
927.0125 (-)	146.2 Hz	Sweat Mountain

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