



NFARL eNEWS

April 2013

www.nfarl.org

eNEWS is "what's happening" in **North Fulton** and surrounding area! Check out each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrl.org for national news, but here is this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Monday – Tech Net** – 8:30 PM – 145.47 MHz (PL 100) – 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 Sunday – NFARES net** – 8:30 PM – 147.06 MHz (PL 100)
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** – April 9, 7:00 PM and dinner at 5:55 PM – Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs
- **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** – April 13, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** – April 16, 7:30 PM – Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. **Christian Kutzt, AK4VV**, will explain all the ins, outs, ups and downs of the exciting new Summits On The Air (SOTA) program
- **Georgia QSO Party** – April 13-14 – Check [NFARL website](#) for details
- **Technician HamCram Class** – Saturday, April 20 – 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. For details, check [HamCram](#)

Program Update



At our April meeting, NFARL member **Christian Kutzt, AK4VV**, (photo at left) will tell us about Summits On The Air (SOTA), which is a worldwide award program for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas and contacts with those who operate from a mountaintop. Christian is Association Manager for Georgia for SOTA. Please join us to learn how you can take part in the fun (even if you don't want to be a mountaineer) in this rapidly growing program.

President's Corner / John Kludt, K4SQC

If we could ever get by winter, it would be a nice spring. For those of you who insist the only time to put up an antenna is in the dead of winter in the cold and wind and rain, you are running out of time! And it isn't even staying dark as long, so those difficulty points are on the decline as well!

March was a busy month here at NFARL. Our major effort was the support of International Day at the Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library in Johns Creek. This is the third year that we have supported this event. Using amateur radio to contact various countries around the world fits nicely with the theme of the event. I thank all of the individuals who supported this successful activity.



We also had a very interesting presentation on Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) at the monthly club meeting. For those of you who were not there, our presenters, **John Burningham, W2XAB**, **Kevin Swanson, N8WHG**, and **Kevin King, KC6OVD**, brought a DMR repeater in a rolling case. The highlight of the presentation was a quick QSO with a KH6 talking with us through a DMR repeater (that may not be the correct technical term, but you get the idea) located in Hawaii on the rim of Diamond Head. Pretty cool stuff!

There are an increasing number of public service opportunities. One of the reasons the FCC gives us radio spectrum is our long history of support of the community. Some of these activities are sponsored by NFARL. Spruill Oaks International Day is such an example. Other activities are sponsored by other organizations that nonetheless need your help to support all of the things going on in the Atlanta area. I encourage you to click on the Activities button (it's the third from the top on the left) on the [NFARL website](#) and locate an event or two to support. Almost all activity is via 2-meter HT and almost all of us have at least one of those. The radio procedures are usually simple and you can learn them easily "on the fly." Please find something that interests you and join in these public service activities.

While not a contest club, NFARL has many members who enjoy contests. After a one-year absence, we are back in the hunt for the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) gavel that goes to the highest scoring club in Georgia. It really is interesting to be the DX for one weekend. It adds at least one S-unit to your signal strength without the expense of a new antenna or adding an amplifier! Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter or on the [GQP website](#) and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage your participation. Even if you make just a few contacts, please turn in your log and indicate NFARL as your club. NFARL is the proud sponsor of the gavel for the highest scoring club outside of Georgia.

Our own **Christian Kultz, AK4VV**, will present the April program on Summits On The Air (SOTA) in Georgia. Christian heads up the Georgia activities for SOTA and has been very active in this new and exciting endeavor. In May, **Neil Foster, N4FN**, and **Ian Kahn, KM4IK**, will present a program on Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) version 6.0. Both Neil and Ian have been beta testers for this release and are very knowledgeable on the subject. Please join us for these presentations.

See you all at the meeting!

Field Day GOTA Station Is for YOU! / Scott Straw, KB4KBS

Even if you are not eligible to operate the Get On The Air (GOTA) station, you still should make it an important part of your Field Day plans the weekend of June 22-23. Field Day is an ideal time for you to bring friends and family members who might be curious about our hobby to a working, hands-on demonstration of amateur radio where they can take part. At the GOTA station, we will have skilled and trained control operators who specialize in helping visitors who have never seen, much less touched, a ham radio to make an SSB contact (or several). Maybe they will decide that it is “cool,” but not something for them, or maybe it will be the spark that ignites the desire to get licensed. Whatever the outcome, whether it is your wife, your children, grandchildren, a co-worker, friend, or the “dude” at the drive-thru who makes regular comments about your mobile antenna collection, the GOTA station is the perfect chance for them to not just hear about our great hobby, but actually participate. Don’t overlook this great opportunity.



To be eligible to operate the Get On The Air (GOTA) station at Field Day this year, you must be unlicensed, have been licensed after June 24, 2012, or have been “generally inactive” per the official rules. NFARL has chosen to interpret this term as having been off the air for more than two years. If you qualify, and if you make 25 contacts, you will receive a commemorative GOTA pin (above left). If you make 50 or more contacts, a special commemorative award will be presented to you at a future club meeting. You need not make all of your contacts at a single sitting, but anytime over the course of the weekend-long event. We will keep track of your contacts for you. If you would like to reserve the GOTA station for an hour-long operating window for your exclusive use, be sure to visit the [sign-up page](#).

Dress in Style With This Year’s Field Day Shirt



If you would like to sport this stylish top that is also a collectible treasure, visit the NFARL website and go to the [MART](#) section to place your order. Deadline for orders is May 24. The \$17.00 price includes shipping. Sizes available are Adult Small through Adult 4XL and shirts will be available at Hungry Hams, the June club meeting, and at the Field Day event. But why wait, order yours now!

NFARL Brings Radio, Fun to Library / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

A group of 14 NFARL members provided a fine demonstration of amateur radio during Johns Creek International Week events at Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library on March 23.



The club members set up a fully operative ham station with an R5 vertical and an Elecraft K3 system that wowed the visitors. Contacts were made with dozens of countries using the club call sign K4JJ. Guests were given the opportunity to see amateur radio in action first hand, and were also able to operate the station and make their own international DX contacts.

There was also a table featuring CW operation which was a hit with some of the younger visitors, as well as an Internet kiosk

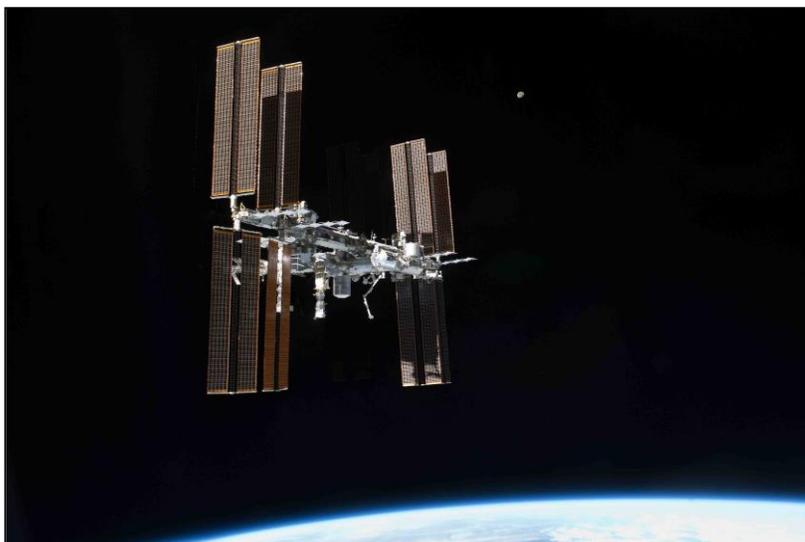
which complemented the station operation well by utilizing amateur radio websites to enhance the experience.



Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, (upper left photo) checks for DX with help from Sam Wolff, KK4NVJ, during International Week activities at the Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library in Johns Creek. While dad Pavel Anni, AC4PA, looks on (photo above), his son Erick takes a turn at the keyer as Jim Stafford offers encouragement. Sam, a member of the Mill Springs Academy club, also gave the keyer a whirl (photo, above right). Can anyone spell E-S-T-O-N-I-A? Photos by Jim Paine, N4SEC

Space Station Program (ARISS) Comes to Milton

As many of you are aware, the club has been working with Mill Springs Academy in Milton. The school now has three students with ham licenses as well as their adviser/science teacher, **Martha Muir, W4MSA**. Mill Springs is now on the air using school club call **KK4OVR**.



On another front, some NFARL members have been active in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. This program, sponsored by NASA, AMSAT and the ARRL, gives schoolchildren a chance to talk with the astronauts on the international space station either via direct RF or via a telebridge (phone patch). Each year, NASA opens a window for proposals and a few schools are selected to participate.

Martha and NFARL President **John Kludt, K4SQC**, recently collaborated on such a proposal. They were joined in the application process by Brandon Hall School under the direction of **James Vaught, KK4IZN**, and by Crabapple Elementary School under the direction of **Scott Dunbar, N4SBD**.

Mill Springs was one of 10 schools selected to participate in the next round of ARISS contacts. There is no set schedule but the contact will probably occur in the fall. While no formal decision has been made, this is a great opportunity for NFARL to assist with providing equipment and technical expertise to make this a very successful direct RF contact.

There is much to do over the next weeks and months. If you would like to participate, please drop a line to [John Kludt](#).

Wanted: A Few Good Guys or Gals Named 'Elmer'



Remember how you got your start in amateur radio? Chances are there was somebody named Joe or Bill or Fred or Marcia. Nowadays, we know them all as Elmer. Join the NFARL Elmers program and help someone get a start in our wonderful hobby, or help a "newbie" grow. If you need an Elmer or want to be one, please start at the NFARL [Elmers link](#) or send us an [email](#).

Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO

(Re)Introducing the NFARES Website



One of the goals of NFARES for 2013 is to revitalize the [NFARES website](#).

The home page resembles a blog page, featuring recently updated items of interest. The focus of the blog is to highlight upcoming and ongoing NFARES activities, such as monthly meeting notices, updates about Public Service Events or anything else of interest to the group.

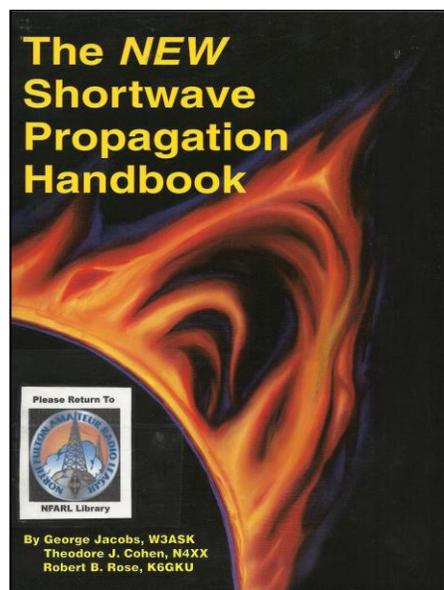
There are pages for pre-arranged emergency frequencies, net control scripts/schedules/logs, and links to software of interest to NFARES. In the coming weeks, additional content should be posted and the software that runs the site should be upgraded.

A special “thank you” goes to NFARL Webmaster **Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**, for his efforts to support the underlying infrastructure for both the NFARL and the NFARES websites.

Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl K4KRX

The “**NEW Shortwave Propagation Handbook**” by Jacobs, Cohen and Rose, has arrived in our library. The handbook begins by covering the principles of ionospheric propagation. It discusses the sun and the sunspot cycle. It explains sunspot cycle predictions along with master propagation charts. The book goes into detail about ionospheric forecasts, HF propagation prediction programs and unusual HF and VHF ionospheric propagation. This work has charts that hams can use to predict when, in time, to try to contact places and on what band for best results.

This book is great for those who want some guidance on how the solar cycle works, how the diurnal cycle works and when is it best to hunt DX. If you don't have or don't want to take 10 to 15 years to learn by experience, but want quick gratification, this might be just what the doctor ordered. NFARL has this book in the library. Check it out.



Show Us Your QSL Card / Fred Moore, N4CLA

For those of you who are new to the club, as well as some of our older members (has nothing to do with age), there is a tab on the left side of the NFARL.org website home page called QSL Cards. Once you click on the tab, you will find three subsections: [Member Cards](#), cards received by [NF4GA](#) and cards



received by [K4JJ](#). If you have a QSL card that does not appear on the website, please send it to the NFARL post office box in an envelope (so it won't get damaged); or bring it to me at a meeting, indicating it is to be posted to the website; or scan it as a JPG image and [send it to me](#).



Please send only JPG files, no GIF or any others. If possible, please scan it so that the longest edge of the image is at least 640 pixels. Our photo album software will reduce it to something close to 640 x 480 as it is published. Please [email me](#) or call me at 404-434-4499 if you have any questions.

Hungry? A ham? You Qualify!



Hungry Hams is a weekly NFARL activity at Slope's BBQ on 34 East Crossville Road in Roswell. No reservations required – just show up on Wednesdays at 11:15 AM (or so) to “chew the fat” and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow hams. It's a great way to meet others in the club and to get answers to life's deepest questions, such as, “My SWR is 15:1 on 40 meters, what should I do?”

Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES repeater	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	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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