



## **NFARL eNEWS**

**July 2013**

[www.nfarl.org](http://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](http://arrl.org) for national news, but here is this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



### **Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates**

- **Every Sunday – NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
- **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 - Slopes BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell
- **13 Colonies Special Event** – Monday, July 1, 9:00 AM, to Saturday, July 6, midnight. A team will be operating Georgia's K2G station. Contact [Jim W4QO](#) to volunteer.
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** - July 9, 7:00 PM and dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs
- **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** - July 13, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** – July 16, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Triple Play Program. NFARL Library opens at 7:00 PM.

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### **Program Update / Joe Camilli, N7QPP**

A different type of program called "The Triple Play" will be featured this month. The Triple Play focuses on three topics, each presented in a short 15-minute format. The speakers will be available before and after the program at info tables for Q&A.



**Jim Stafford, W4QO**, (left) will cover the purpose and use of some common test equipment;

**Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, (right) will discuss the ins and outs of baluns and chokes, including construction;



**Roger Shaddick, N7BU**, (left) will fill us in on home weather stations.

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## ***President's Corner / John Kludt, K4SQC***

Certainly the big event of the month of June was Field Day and here at NFARL we had a pretty successful one. The bands were good (6 meters could have been a bit more helpful), the weather was excellent and the camaraderie was top notch. A big "thank you" goes out to everyone who participated in this year's adventure. Details and pictures can be found elsewhere in this copy of the NFARL eNews.

From Field Day we flow right into the Thirteen Colonies operating event. As one of the original colonies, Georgia will be represented under the call K2G on both phone and cw. I'd like the NFARL operators who have signed up to "be the DX" and keep Georgia on the air. If you have never participated, and even if you have, this is a fun operating event running July 1 to July 6 and I encourage your participation. Details can be found [here](#).



Summer has arrived and it is hot and humid here in Georgia. Along with the humidity comes the inevitable afternoon thunderstorm. In the summer I think my rigs spend more time disconnected than connected but that is just the way it is. Whatever your routine for lightning protection for yourself and your equipment, please make sure you follow it. And to "survive" the direct strike on the shack, it is a good time to make sure the insurance is paid up!

In September per our Bylaws I will be appointing a Nominating Committee to construct the slate of officers and Board members for NFARL for 2014. There are many new members in our organization and more than a few seasoned members who have never taken a turn in a leadership position. NFARL is your club and we need your active involvement to keep the club vibrant. If you have ever thought, "Well, I would have done that differently," this is your chance. Please take the opportunity over the next couple of club meetings to talk to any of the current club Board members as to the roles and the responsibilities of the various positions we need to fill.

Each year NFARL has donated a portion of the proceeds from HamJam to the ARRL Foundation to be used in the scholarship program. We were recently notified that the first NFARL Scholarship has been awarded to **William Probst, KJ4RXM**, of Milledgeville. The scholarship in the amount of \$900 will help William pursue his studies. Congratulations, William, on behalf of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League.

This month we are going to try something a little different for the program. Rather than having one speaker, we are going to have three hams each doing a short presentation. Some of us are skeptical that you can use the word "short presentation" and "hams" in the same sentence but we are going to give it a try. Please join us for several interesting topics in a new format and let's see if they can keep it "short."

See you at the meeting.

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## ***Field Day 2013: Great All Around / Scott Straw, KB4KBS***

The North Fulton Amateur Radio League's 2013 edition of ARRL Field Day has been declared by many to be one of the best ever. It certainly was blessed with some of the best weather – not a drop of rain, but skies filled with light puffy clouds that filtered out the sun and moderated the heat. Antenna deployment, station assembly, operation, and tear down were all much easier without the oppressive temperatures.

It certainly was one of the best social gatherings ever, with over 100 folks enjoying wonderful barbecue, burgers, and hot dogs, as well a staggering potpourri of delicious salads, vegetables, casseroles, side dishes, and desserts provided from the kitchens and hearts of our club membership. The theme of this year's event was "Family Reunion," and all past and current club members were encouraged to join us for dinner Saturday evening. The response was phenomenal and the fellowship was outstanding. After dinner, the attendees began a time of socializing and story swapping that continued until well after dark. Accolades and kudos once again go to **Lynn Kahn, N4MSK**, and her team of "grub masters" for making it all happen throughout the entire weekend.



This was one of the best attended Field Days ever, with 205 confirmed registrations. The registrants were split about evenly between those who signed in with a call sign and those that didn't. A bit over one-third of those that checked in marked the "club member" box. That means that just over 10 percent of those who signed in with call signs weren't club members. We have a growth opportunity staring at us in the face. Forty-seven of the registrants were under 18 years of age, another opportunity for growth. Several of those youth registrants were Boy Scouts, but we were graced by a visit from the Roswell High School Robotics Team who were keenly interested in ham radio and were interested in how they could incorporate elements of radio into their projects.



We also were pleased to give four young men from the nearby neighborhood their first introduction to our wonderful hobby.

From a scoring standpoint, it was one of the most active events ever. The K4JJ call sign team hit a six-year high, besting our QSO count from last year by 1,100, and beating our 2011 contact count by 11 percent. To pull a reference from "This is Spinal Tap," we "turned it up to '11'" this year!

Of course, this is exclusive of our Get On The Air (GOTA) station that used the NF4GA call sign. The GOTA station gave 22 unlicensed and newly licensed operators a chance to make HF radio contacts. These neophytes were able to mark off 37 of the 50 states on the map at



the station and conversed with three foreign stations in Germany, Venezuela, and Argentina. The final tally on the GOTA log was 264 entries, another record. Last year, the club began a program that awarded a commemorative pin to any qualified GOTA operator who made 20 contacts. In the inaugural year, we gave out four pins. This year we awarded six of these cherished prizes. A special mention goes to new ham and club member **Mike Birmingham, KK4LJG**, who logged 67 contacts, between 7:00 AM and 8:00 AM Sunday morning.

We ran four transmitters that “counted” and used generators to power them so our classification was 4A. Two of these four radios focused on CW and Digital modes exclusively. The other two used voice and shared the HF bands between them. The CW station was captained by **Jim Stafford, W4QO**. The three HF voice captains were **John Tramontanis, N4TOL**, who managed the 40- and 15-meter bands and co-captains **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, and **Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**, who wrestled the 20- and 75-meter bands.



Making a return to the NFARL Field Day effort this year was a 6-meter station. It was a “freebie,” but captain **Bob Dallis, AK4O**, maximized it by monitoring this fickle band like a hawk for 24 hours and grabbing every wisp of a band opening. With the novel use of a trailer-mounted “cherry picker” boom lift, the 6-meter station antennas were hoisted aloft and maneuvered with minimal effort. Those antennas, in concert with a state-of-the-art software-defined-radio, really maximized the capabilities of this station and demonstrated its value.



Back for the third time, and getting better each year, was the other “freebie” point contributor, the satellite station. With multi-element booms pointed skyward and connected to a computer system specially optimized for tracking the host of satellites (affectionately called “birds”) in the heavens above, station captain **John Kludt, K4SQC**, was ever vigilant for those fleeting moments when the orbits would bring them into range and contacts could be attempted. While our number of log entries this year was down by small amount, for the first time we made two Morse code contacts via satellite.

Chuck Catledge also deserves mention as the leader of the Field Day Antenna

Design and Assembly Special Interest Group. This team started meeting months before the Field Day event and under Chuck’s tutelage, learned about antenna design and how to model performance predictions using a software program. They built a collective software model of all the antennas that were proposed for the Field Day site and studied their interaction and parasitic characteristics. Slowly they crafted a deployment model that afforded the best possible positive characteristics while minimizing negative interactions. Finally, they put what they learned to practice and actually built the bulk of the antennas that were used by the various stations then they deployed them on the Friday afternoon before the event. The success of this team is reflected in the phenomenal scores and the fact that there were nearly no instances of interference reported during the event.



You can see the proof of how well we did with each of the three modes, and on each of the bands, in our final tally of 11,574 points. In all, we made 921 CW contacts, 2,640 on phone and 200 digital. To see a band/mode breakdown, see the chart below. The key take-away from the numbers is the fact that we had over 65 different operators at the various helms over the course of the 24-hour period and every one of them was vital to the success of the operating event.

Make your plans now to join us again for Field Day next year. The dates are June 28 and 29, 2014.

#### NFARL Field Day 2013

	CW	Digital	Phone	Totals
80/75M	69	23	204	296
40M	340	65	603	1008
20M	414	112	1183	1709
15M	94	0	294	388
10M	0	0	0	0
6M	2	0	76	78
2M	0	0	0	0
SAT	2	0	16	18
GOTA	0	0	264	264
Totals	921	200	2640	3761
Mult:	x2	x2	x1	
Points	1842	400	2640	4882
Emergency Power 2x Bonus:				9764
Bonus Points:				1810
Total Claimed Score:				11574

## ***FIELD DAY 2013***

### ***GOTA Station Active, Popular / Bill Weathers, K4WSW***

The GOTA station was very active during FD13, surpassing a number of FD12 achievements while providing an easy-to-use environment for newly licensed operators and unlicensed individuals seeking to explore and discover amateur radio. The following summarizes key highlights:

- 30 participants: 22 GOTA operators and 8 Boy Scouts
- 260 QSOs: 37/50 states, 57/83 ARRL sections and 3 DX (Germany, Venezuela and Argentina)
- 8 operators under the age of 18



- 6 GOTA Pin recipients (minimum 20 QSOs)
  - **Mike Birmingham, KK4LJG**
  - **Martha Muir, W4MSA**
  - **Betty Buran, KK4QPY**
  - **Nick Martino, KK4RZU**
  - **Jacob Altarkawi, KK4RZT**
  - **Darren Nelsen, K4DMN**

I want to recognize **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF**, for assisting with set-up/breakdown, mentoring the GOTA participants and also designing the new 80 meter loop antenna suspended over the soccer field; as well as **Roger Anders, AA2HT**, for working with Nick and Jacob to accomplish the 20-plus QSOs - truly a team effort. The GOTA station is dedicated to introducing amateur radio to individuals interested in exploring the hobby and providing the opportunity for newly licensed hams to experience the next level of operating. Thanks again to the entire NFARL membership and Field Day Committee for making FD13 successful - see you next year.

## ***CW Station Enjoys 'Hot' Bands, Cool Trailer / Jim Stafford, W4QO***

WOW, did we have fun at the air-conditioned CW station or what! Thanks again to **Joel Myers, W4JNM**, for the use of his trailer. It worked perfectly. After installing the 80-meter loop over the baseball field and a "one legged" (one radial) 40-meter vertical, we went to work on 20 meters at the sound of the gun and I think we stayed there for 8 or 10 hours. The contacts just kept coming!

We worked all bands from 80 to 15 and ended with 919 contacts. The bands were very hot and loads of fun.

Our stated objective for this year was to use operators of all skill levels. We always have this objective but this year we seemed to convince several new operators to give it a go. We always just ask folks to do their best and let the QSOs come in at whatever rate works.

We worked all states except Nebraska and we missed only four other sections. We were called by Alaska and Hawaii early on.

The vertical performed well and would make a solid low-profile wire antenna. But the loop was always equal to it or better. And we had no discernible interference from other stations.



**Mark Coleman, KJ4YM, (right) and Philip Specht, K4PQC, operate the CW station.**

Our CW team this year consisted of **Ron Gill, NV4U; David Kirschner, K4BWV; Jim Smith, W4JDS; Reed Fisher, W2CQH, John Tramontanis, N4TOL; Wayne Rand, W4CJV; Philip Specht, K4PQC; Mark Coleman, KJ4YM;** and me. Thanks to all and we hope you'll investigate joining this team next year. Oh, yes, you do need to know CW – but not really fast! Try it, you'll like it.

## ***FIELD DAY 2013***

### ***Scouts Have Fun, Earn Badges / Jon Wittlin, K4WIT***

There were 28 Scout attendees at the BSA Radio Merit Badge clinic on Field Day. Radio Merit Badges (including Emergency Preparation Merit Badge requirement 7a) were earned.

The following troops were represented:



Troop 27 Johns Creek  
Troop 40 Roswell  
Troop 69 Alpharetta  
Troop 429 Alpharetta  
Troop 477 Dunwoody  
Troop 714 Mountain View  
Troop 841 Alpharetta  
Troop 1035 N. Canton, OH  
Troop 1459 Alpharetta  
Troop 2143 Johns Creek  
Troop 3143 Johns Creek



Instructors were:  
**Jon Wittlin, K4WIT**  
**Cathy Freeman, KI4SBK**  
**Christian Kultz, AK4VV**



Special thanks to the operators who helped the Scouts make contacts.

Next Events – August 17 Merit Badge Clinic; 56th Jamboree-on-the-Air JOTA is October 19-20.

## ***FIELD DAY 2013***

### ***NFARES Puts on a Live Demo / Tom Koch, W4UOC***

Members of the North Fulton Amateur Radio Emergency Service (NFARES) set up a live demonstration area to display emergency communications equipment and demonstrated worldwide voice and digital communications utilizing VHF D/Star radios and laptop computers.

In addition to the CERT trailer, the display area included an inflatable structure to house the communication equipment and operator positions, a 32-inch video monitor set up to play videos of the

2011 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) and the 2012 CERT Simulated Emergency Test provided by Sandy Springs Chief **Jeff Scarbrough, KK4ATX**. We also set up two CERT tents to promote CERT activities and general information pertaining to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and amateur radio in general.

Unfortunately at about 11:00 AM, the inflatable building developed a leak which resulted in a loss of pressure to the structure and it slowly collapsed on the five or six of us operating inside. We were able to hold up the top of the structure sufficiently to remove the tables, AC unit, chairs and personnel with no damage to either personnel or equipment. We reassembled the communications equipment in the second CERT tent and continued the event. We continued operating our demonstration area until 6:00 PM.



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## ***NFARL Aids Bike Riders / Wayne Chapman, KG5WU***

NFARL members, as well as volunteers from North Fulton ARES and DeKalb ARES, provided communications support for the Georgia 400 Hospitality Highway Bike Ride on June 30. Twenty-three hams were assigned among seven rest stops, three SAG (Support and Gear) vehicles, two motorcycles and the communications tent near the finish line. As a group, more than 140 hours were volunteered to the effort.



New for us this year was support for the SAG vehicles and we expanded our use of motorcycles to cover large sections of the course. Several times, the motorcycle marshals helped find riders who got off course and guided them back to their routes. Ham-occupied SAGs handled about 20 calls for pickup. Some riders needed help with broken bikes while others just needed a ride back to Start/Finish.

About 1,800 riders (50 percent more than last year) took to Georgia 400 southbound from Holcomb Bridge before venturing out onto city streets and rural roads. Cyclists could choose among five different distances: 9, 22, 45,

62 or 101 miles.

NFARL and NFARES provided a valuable service to the community by providing outstanding communications support for this event. There were a number of positive comments from the organizers and especially the participants. A special thank you went out to NFARL for the use of the 145.470 repeater for most of the day. The repeater provided the coverage needed (the ride course covered about 150 square miles) and performed flawlessly. Our ham radio volunteers had a great day of public service!

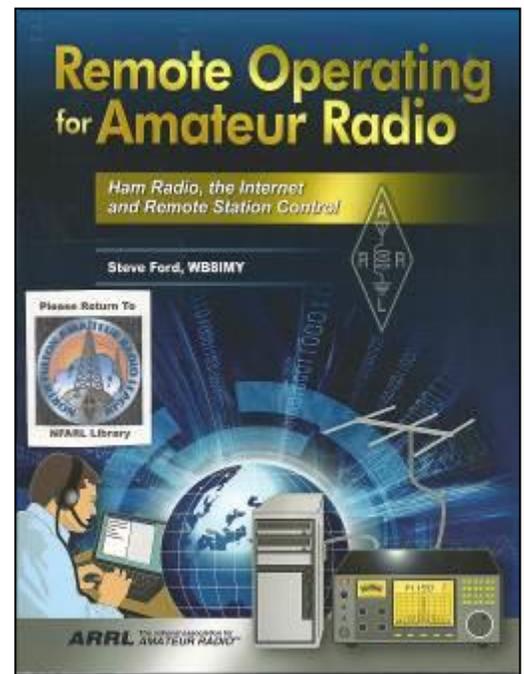


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## ***Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl, K4KRX***

**Remote Operating for Amateur Radio** by **Steve Ford, WB8IMY**, is a resource that explains how to get on the air from anywhere. As many amateur radio operators are discovering, it has become increasingly difficult to enjoy our hobby at home. Some hams have been driven off the air altogether by antenna restrictions, local interference and other limiting factors. Thankfully, the widespread availability of high-speed Internet offers a powerful solution. It is now possible to set up a complete station at a remote location and operate via the Internet just as though you were actually in front of the radio. That radio could be just across town or 2,000 miles away!

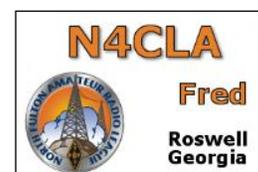
This book guides you through the process of establishing your own Internet-controlled station. This resource covers the basics of how the Internet works, how home networks operate and how to interconnect amateur radio hardware and software for remote Internet control. You'll find station diagrams, software tips and much more. This book also addresses the legal aspects of remote station control, as well as the unique issues of remote operating as it applies to activities such as DXing and contesting. With more than 100 pages of solid practical advice, **Remote Operating for Amateur Radio** is a guide to getting back on the air even if you live in an apartment!



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## ***Need a Name Badge?***

Go to the [NFARL Mart](#) and order one of these magnetic badges!



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## ***Membership Update / Bill Weathers, K4WSW***

Please welcome the following new NFARL members for May and June:

**Christopher Anderson, KK4RGG**

**Dale King, KK4RGJ**

**Daryl Young, KK4RGK**

**Gerald Werber Not Licensed**

**Jason Karner, KK4QQA**

**Nancy Draheim, NK4U**

**Brent Allen, KK4RMC**

**Rene Campbell, KF4ZYN**

**Patrick Bevon, KK4QPZ**

**Fred Harrell, K4CLJ**

Thank you to everyone for renewing your memberships on time. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns related to NFARL membership.

Also direct any new prospective members to me. I will be glad to assist them with the membership process.

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## ***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.



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## **Club Repeaters**

<b>145.470 (-)</b> EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain
<b>147.060 (+)</b> Primary ARES repeater	<b>100 Hz</b>	Roswell Water Tower
<b>224.620 (-)</b> Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain
<b>443.150 (+)</b>	<b>No Tone</b>	Roswell Water Tower
<b>444.475 (+)</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain
<b>927.0125 (-)</b>	<b>146.2 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain

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