



NFARL eNEWS

August 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 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
- **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** - August 10, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** – August 13, 7:00 PM and dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs
- **Saturday and Sunday** – August 17 and 18, Huntsville Hamfest and Alabama ARRL State Convention, Von Braun Civic Center, Huntsville, AL. Click on [NFARL website](#) for more information and directions.
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** – August 20, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Lt. Gary Robinson of the Alpharetta Department of Public Safety will speak on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Program Update / Joe Camilli, N7QPP



Some of us are CERT members and the rest are asking ourselves: "What is CERT and what role can I play as a licensed radio amateur operator?" Lt. Gary Robinson of the Alpharetta Department of Public Safety will speak at the August NFARL meeting on what you need to know about the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) whether you participate in this activity or not.

President's Corner / John Kludt, K4SQC

The last meeting found me out of the country visiting South Africa as a participating member of the Chattooga Gymnastics squad at the Second Gym for Life Challenge in Cape Town. There were 1,500 participants from 19 countries and we were the only U.S. team in attendance. We had a great time and South Africa is a fascinating country. Nelson Mandela's birthday fell toward the end of our trip and it was a real privilege to be there to see and to participate in the celebration. On "Mandela Day," everyone is encouraged to do something nice for a stranger. Our contribution was a short performance at a nursing home in Johannesburg. Rather a disappointment to come home to the rancor and ill will here in the States, but I drift into politics, where one should not go.



By all reports the July meeting was a great success. Congratulations to our presenters on a job well done! I understand they gave **Joe Camilli, N7QPP**, a 15-minute timer to keep them honest and by gosh and by golly they stayed right on time! It has been suggested that at some point we might want to try a similar format on the topic of basic operating technique. The fear of doing something "wrong" can keep the newcomer off the air. With some simple tips maybe we can reduce that fear and encourage more folks to "get on the air."

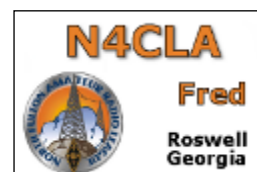
It seems that the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) made more digital contacts than we did during Field Day, and so for the first time in a long time we will be delivering the ice cream to them. Their meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at the Briscoe Field EAA hanger. If anyone would like to accompany me as we pay our respects for a job well done, please contact me [here](#).

Some have asked, "What's a CERT and why do I care?" This is the subject of our next program and it is a fair question. The **Civilian Emergency Response Team** is a federally sponsored program administered by the Department of Homeland Security and run at the local level. It recognizes that in many situations, the people in the area need to be trained to function as team to offer assistance until more formal resources can arrive and to augment more formal resources once they arrive. As radio amateurs we bring to the table knowledge of radio operating procedures that are needed to keep the operations moving. Part of the reason for the allocation of precious radio spectrum to the amateur radio service is our commitment to public service. And becoming a CERT member nicely fits into that role.

Please join us at our August meeting to learn how you can participate in this needed and valuable activity.

Need a Name Badge?

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



Technician HamCram on Tap / Bill Weathers, K4WSW

Do you know a friend, neighbor or relative who is interested in ham radio but needs a little extra help to make the leap? Here is your opportunity to introduce that person to a lifetime of learning, making new friends and just plain great fun!

NFARL, in cooperation with Brandon Hall School in Sandy Springs, will conduct a Technician HamCram on Saturday, October 19. The cost is \$25, which includes a full day of classroom instruction, lunch, snacks, drinks and the FCC license examination. Make special note, anyone passing the test will be offered a complimentary one-year NFARL membership. See additional information on the class and registration at the [NFARL HamCram](#) link. The cutoff for enrollment is September 21.



A team of NFARL volunteer instructors will lead the students through a review of all that's required to pass the FCC license exam. Each student will be provided with a free set of study materials plus recommendations for additional low-cost self-study guides.

You know how much you enjoy ham radio. How about encouraging someone you know to take advantage of this great opportunity to join the hobby!

NFARL (Again) Tops QSO Party Clubs / Jim Stafford, W4QO

We did it again!

NFARL came in with highest score for any club in Georgia in the Georgia QSO Party for the third time. We won in 2010, 2011 and 2013. We sat out in 2012 to give other clubs a chance and had our own internal club competition. But this year, we were back with a vengeance! We had several first-time players among our 29 entrants. We've publicized these after the contest and at the May meeting. This time, we'd like to point out that in addition to the club winning score, we also had seven folks who took individual category plaques. Congrats to all who played and to the following who won category plaques. Go to the [Georgia QSO Party website](#) to see all the scores.



Bill Barr, N4NX, GA Mixed, Low Power

Mountain Amateur Radio Organization, W4IZT, GA CW, High Power

Bob Dallis and Larry Gispert, K4M (AK4O+KR4X) GA Multi-Multi, Low Power

Jim Stafford, W4QO/QRP GA Mixed, QRP

Chuck Catledge, K4JJ/AE4CW GA Phone, High Power

Scott Straw, KB4KBS, GA Rover, Phone, Single Op

Ron Gill, NV4U, GA Rover, Mixed, Single Op

Preparations Under Way for SET / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

We are starting to plan for our 2013 NFARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET), which is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. (Other Georgia ARES groups always hold their SET on the first Saturday in October and we'd like to join them this year.)



We would like to have you join us. All hams are welcome. You don't need to be an ARES member or be experienced in emergency communications. A special welcome goes out to newly licensed hams!

Our goal is to address the strengths and weaknesses of last year's SET and to again improve our performance. We had a great SET last year, but we can certainly improve. The 2012 SET Results from the July 2013 QST, pp 70-72, listed North Fulton County (W4UOC) with 604 points, eighth out of the 204 entries in the USA (top 4%).

Here are links to [ARRL SET information](#) and to an [NFARES file](#) we will use for our 2013 SET planning. This file will be continually updated for your review so you will see the latest version whenever you are viewing the link. The volunteer info shown in gray is from the actual 2012 SET and in black for 2013 SET volunteers.

Let me know if you would like to sign up for the same or a different location as last year or if you would like to sign up for the first time at any location. If this is your first time, we can team you up with an experienced SET volunteer. Helping for only part of the event is fine too.

We'll discuss our plans by e-mail, at our next NFARES and NFARL meetings and on our Sunday night NFARES 8:30 PM nets, 147.06 (+) PL 100.0Hz.

Please let us know by replying directly to [Mike Cohen AD4MC](#) or by calling me at (404) 981-8624 if you are interested in taking part. All locations are available plus any new incident or shelter sites that you would like to create.

We know that it is too early for many of you to make a firm commitment, but it is not too soon for us to start planning.

Thanks from your 2013 NFARES SET Planning Team: **Tom Koch, W4UOC; Wayne Chapman, KG5WU; Jim Paine, N4SEC; Stuart Williams, AK4EX; Scott Dunbar, N4SBD; Jim Stafford, W4QO; Bob Gross, KE3EM; Chuck Catledge, AE4CW; John Kludt, K4SQC; Wayne Rand, W4CJV; Clyde McClain, AK4TL; Bill Hatherley, W2ASL; Stu Mitchell, KK4KKF; Jeff Scarbrough, KK4ATX; George Olive, AI4UR; and Mike Cohen, AD4MC.**

NFARES Digital Training Nets / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

For everyone who would like to use digital messaging during our upcoming 2013 NFARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 5, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, please join us on our NFARES Digital Training Nets.



You are welcome to join us even if you are not planning to volunteer for the 2013 SET.

We will be holding the nets on Tuesday nights from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM and will be using the 145.47 (-) PL 100 Hz repeater. (Once the 147.06 (+) PL 100 Hz repeater is confirmed to be at full signal again, we'll send out an announcement and will hold subsequent nets on that repeater.)

Here is a [link](#) to a PDF file that includes all the information you will need to get the FLdigi system installed.

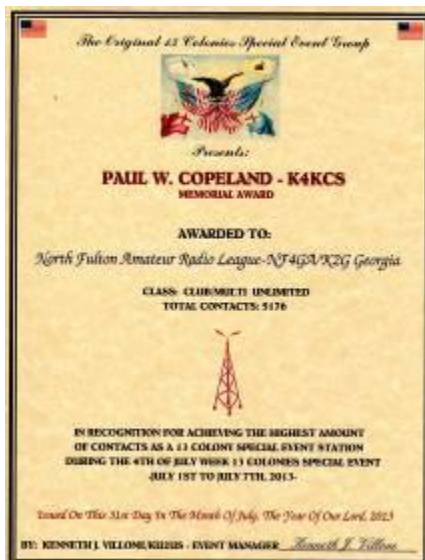
You can start on any Tuesday net even if you missed a previous net. We'll get you up to speed. We had 100% success last year and we will work with everyone who is interested to get you up and running. Even if you were proficient with the FLdigi system last year, please join us on these nets to get familiar with the latest updates.

We passed 114 messages during last year's SET and 86 of those were digital.

NFARL Plays Hard Ball in 13 Colonies Event

/ Jim Stafford, W4QO

NFARL members were big players in the 13 Colonies special event.



First, we supplied a team of operators who actually “handed out” contacts as K2G special event call sign. In that capacity, our team worked 5,176 stations. Award certificates are presented to the top performing team and, you guessed it, NFARL came in first. If you’d like to know more about this event, go to 13colonies.info. Our team consisted of the following operators (along with number of contacts):

Chuck Catledge, AE4CW: 1,344

Bill Weathers, K4WSW: 1,275

Scott Straw, KB4KBS: 238

John Tramontanis, N4TOL: 261

Joe Camilli, N7QPP: 12

Wes Lamboley, W3WL: 365

Jim Stafford, W4QO: 904

Tim Lemmon, WK4U: 777

As a reward, we received the above certificate.

Also, we had 30 members who made a Clean Sweep of all 13 original colonies. It was a lot of fun for a lot of NFARL members. Let's do it again next year. OK?

NFARL members with a clean sweep included:

KK4LOV/QRP, Aaron Melton; N4NX, Bill Barr; K4WSW, Bill Weathers; AK4O, Bob Dallis/FL; KE4EM, Bob Gross; N3HJX, Brian Dunn; W4GKZ, Chaz Cone; KM4IK, Ian Kahn; N1KDO, Jeff Otterson; W2OKQ, Jim Clark; N4SEC, Jim Paine; W4QO/QRP, Jim Stafford; K4DLI, Jim Streible; W4JNM, Joel Myers; N4TOL, John Tramontanis; AE4LZ, John Weber; W4AX, Mack McCormick; KJ4YM, Mark Coleman; KK4FOF, Mark Schumann; KK4LJG, Mike Birmingham; N4FN, Neil Foster; WA4ZXV, Norm Schklar; N7BU, Roger Shaddick; NV4U, Ron Gill; KF4TJY, Shane Kelley; KS4KJ, Steve Mays; W4YBV, Terry Joiner; WA4TA, Tom Amour/VA; W3WL, Wes Lamboley; and K8EAB, Wey Walker.

A Blast From the Past – Re-introducing Gil, W1CJD

/ Jim Stafford, W4QO

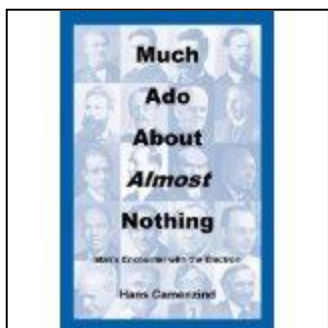
While cleaning up recently, I came across a book from ARRL featuring the work of famous QST cartoonist **Phil “Gil” Gildersleeve, W1CJD**. For more than 40 years, Gil's 1,500 cartoons and drawings filled the pages of QST. When I got my license in 1958, he was regularly featured as a cover artist. The first QST I received when I subscribed was February 1958 and had one of Gil's cover cartoons. As I leafed through the ARRL book, I had to chuckle a number of times. I'm including one here for your amusement, with full attribution to the ARRL in promotion of their book on “Gil”.



For you old timers, you'll recall his famous line of cartoons about Jeeves, an English butler, who was called on by his employer to handle all kinds of death-defying acts to help said employer work “more DX.” But he also handled all the TVI complaints generated by the monster station. One of the lines under the cartoon said, “If that's the battle axe down the street (at the door) that called about TVI ... we aren't home”. I'll leave to your imagination the measurements and garb of the aforementioned neighbor and the look on Jeeves' face!

Local hamtoonist **Jim Massara, N2EST**, has a nice [web page about Gil](#) where you can find even more of this man and his work. And, you can check out the [ARRL book](#) of Gil's cartoons. I would put my copy of the book in the club library but until I no longer enjoy viewing a few of Gil's cartoons, you'll just have to borrow it directly from me!

Browsing the Library / Wes Lamboley, W3WL



I found this book absolutely fascinating! Not only does it trace the beginnings of human interaction with the electron, but the stories behind the discoveries and the giants who spent their lives in the understanding and practical applications utilizing the electron are amazingly interesting. The author, Hans Camenzind, is a giant in his own right, having invented the 555 IC. You may find, as I did, that you want this book for your own library.

Braves Tickets Available! / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT, has generously donated (again!) to NFARL about 50 tickets for the Atlanta Braves vs. the San Diego Padres game on Sunday, September 15, at 1:35 PM. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis.

To claim up to four tickets, please go to [NFARL Mart](#).

If more than four tickets are needed, please [contact me](#).

Please indicate the number of adult and children's tickets you are requesting. Tickets will be available for pickup at the club meeting on August 20.

There should be about one free parking pass per every four tickets. We are trying to acquire some type of Braves gift for any kids, so we will need a count on the number of kids. It is also Bark in the Park Day, but you CANNOT bring your dog in on these tickets as special ticketing is required for that event. It is also Braves Alumni Sunday and Bruce Benedict, Darryl Chaney and Gene Garber (great trivia answer as to him: He struck out Pete Rose to end the game to end Rose's bid to catch Joe DiMaggio's consecutive game hit streak) will sign autographs before the game, and kids can run the bases after the game. As always, NFARL will be acknowledged on the side scoreboards, usually around the fifth inning. These are upper deck tickets, third-base side, that have a great view of the field and are available to NFARL members and their guests on a first-come, first-served basis.



Attendees will have access to the exclusive 755 Club for refreshments and a cool atmosphere and the ability to bring food and drink that will fit under a seat. This would be a great time to invite some of our youth or prospective youth members to ride with you to the game. What a great way to get to know them better! And, of course, this is an opportunity to share some baseball with family and friends. I hope to see you at the ball park on the September 15!

Huntsville on NFARL Radar / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

This month's featured activity is the Huntsville Hamfest, August 17-18, in Huntsville, Ala. This is widely considered to be one of the premier hamfests in the Southeast. Many of the major amateur radio vendors will be present. In addition to the wide array of commercial vendors, there will be an extensive flea market with the added feature of being all indoors in air-conditioned comfort! There are many forums covering various aspects of amateur radio throughout the weekend. Please join your fellow NFARL members at the Huntsville Hamfest 2013. Check out the [website](#) for full details.



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.



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](#).

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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