



## ***NFARL eNEWS*** ***September 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
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** – September 10, 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** - September 14, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
- **Sunday – NFARL Club Outing** - September 15, 1:35 PM - Atlanta Braves vs. San Diego Padres baseball game. Click on [NFARL Activities website](#) for more information and directions
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** – September 17, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. John Kludt K4SQC will present the NFARL Satellite Adventure
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Committee Board Meeting** – September 24, 7:30 PM - IHOP at the corner of Windward Parkway and Highway 9, Alpharetta

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



As we go to press, several NFARL members are in the final stages of preparation for the contact between the students of Mill Springs Academy (MSA), Brandon Hall School and Crabapple Elementary School and the International Space Station. The contact is scheduled to begin at 14:15 UTC, Wednesday, September 4. The pass will be a 40-degree pass basically running from NNE to SE.

You are invited to listen to the downlink on 145.800 MHz +/- 3 KHz Doppler.

## ***Program Update (continued)***

**John Kludt, K4SQC** will update the club members on the NFARL Satellite Adventure focusing on the progress NFARL has made with our Field Day satellite efforts beginning with an Arrow and a FT-817 running through this year's effort that was very much more "full boat." We will talk a bit about the MSA contact and what did or didn't work. We will look at the "birds" presently on the air.



Perhaps most importantly, we will look at a flock of new satellites just on the horizon. Satellites are not dependent on sunspots and as the solar cycle peaks and begins to decline, satellites represent another way to "play radio." There are contests to be entered such as AMSAT Field Day. If you are a paper chaser, there is VUCC Satellite for working and confirming 100 grids. Technical challenges abound – how about working some DX with a "mutual visibility window" of less than a minute. What is a "mutual visibility window"? We will answer that question.

Some of the old birds and all of the new ones have been designed with simple equipment in mind. Learn what you can use, key pieces of equipment that you probably already own, to make some QSO's on the birds.

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



As summer comes to an end and fall approaches, things tend to settle down a bit and time for Amateur Radio increases for many of us. The decrease in thunderstorms is another most welcome event of this time of year. Summer E's on six-meters that by all reports were not all that great this year become a historical item and for many of us it is time to start thinking about 160 meters. Hal Kennedy, N4GG, will be giving us some tips in October on using your exiting antennas on 160, so do not despair if you don't have a 5-acre lot for that Low Band antenna.

By the time you read this eNEWS, the NFARL supported ARISS contact with Mill Springs Academy will be in the books. These contacts are always an experiment and the outcome is never quite known in advance. For all of you who helped make this possible, thank you for your time and support. This is a wonderful opportunity that as Radio Amateurs we can give our students.

Please check out the Activities Calendar [here](#) as there are numbers of things going on including a HamCram, VE testing, the Stone Mountain Hamfest and HamJam. HamJam this year is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Metropolitan Club in Alpharetta. No, even though it is right around the corner from my QTH I had nothing to do with the location! The speakers are on tap and we are building an excellent prize list. We really hope to see every one of you there. Your contribution in the form of the purchase of raffle tickets supports the NFARL Scholarship administered by the ARRL as well as local youth activities. More information can be found at the HamJam website, [click here](#)

## ***President's Corner (continued)***

It is the time of year when NFARL elects a new slate of officers. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who have served as well as those identified by the Nominating Committee who have graciously agreed to stand for office for next year. In addition to being reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the nominees will be presented at the September meeting. The floor will be opened to any further nominations and we will take a vote at the October meeting. These are the two most formal meetings that NFARL has!

Speaking of which – one of the things we do at NFARL is keep business at the monthly meeting to a minimum. Our Executive Committee Board meetings are always the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at the IHOP on the corner of Windward Parkway and Highway 9. They are open meetings and if you would like to see the sausage made and/or participate in the process, these meetings are open and as NFARL members anyone is welcome to attend. We are always looking for volunteers and folks present may find themselves with a project or two. Not a bad thing, at all!

73 and Good DX

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## ***HamJam – 2013 / Wes Lamboley, W3WL***

Mark the date – November 9, 2013 – for the Fantastic Fifth version of HamJam! The prizes so far include an ID-51A from **Icom**, an FT DX 1200 from **Yaesu**, a TS 590S from **Kenwood**, a CrankIR from **SteppIR**, a Buddipole from **Buddipole**, an Iambic keyer from **Vibroplex**, a \$400 value antenna from **Diamond Antenna**, and several books and publications from **CQ**. And – the prize list is still growing! Plus, we have 3 extremely interesting speakers lined up for the event, and admission is **FREE!**

The bottom line is we are selling raffle tickets for the prizes and all net proceeds go for youth scholarships and activities. Raffle tickets are available from the NFARL mart ([http://www.nfarl.org/mart/HamJam\\_2013\\_Raffle\\_Tickets](http://www.nfarl.org/mart/HamJam_2013_Raffle_Tickets)), or from your NFARL officers. Please check out <http://hamjam.info> for more info on this significant event here in the Atlanta area!

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## ***NFARL Nominating Committee Report / Wes Lamboley, W3WL***

The election of NFARL officers will take place at the October meeting. The nominating committee consisting of Steve Knittel- KC4YBO, Mark Schumann- KK4FOF, and Wes Lamboley-W3WL has met and is recommending the following NFARL members to the officer positions for the 2014 year:

President	Neil Foster-N4FN
Vice President	Walt Woron-KJ4HE
Secretary	Mike Birmingham-K4LJG
Treasurer	Fred Moore-N4CLA
Membership	Bill Weathers-K4WSW
Activities	John Tramontanis-N4TOL

All of the above recommended officers have agreed to serve if elected; nominations from the floor will be received at the October meeting prior to each officer position standing for election.

Please plan to be at the October meeting and cast your vote and be there for an outstanding program provided by Hal Kennedy-N4GG, a local antenna guru!

## ***Club Equipment Available for Loan / John Tramontanis, N4TOL***

NFARL has equipment available for loan. The equipment includes HF radios, power supplies and test equipment. The loaner program is ideal for potential licensees as it provides a chance to listen to the bands.

New licensees can have the opportunity to exercise their privileges while assessing the type of radio they wish to buy. There is also test equipment available for short term loan to help club members with specific projects.

Click on the [NFARL Equipment Loan Program web site](#) for more details.

Contact: John Tramontanis, N4TOL ([n4tol@nfarl.org](mailto:n4tol@nfarl.org)) with any questions.

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## ***Helpers Needed for October 19 JOTA — Save the Date***

***John Tramontanis, N4TOL***

The Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is an annual Scouting event that uses amateur radio to link Scouts around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. Held on the third full weekend of October each year, this worldwide jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby radio amateur's ham shack. Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers.

Please mark your calendar for October 19th and plan on supporting the Scouts this year.

You can visit [October JOTA website](#) for more details.

Please contact Jon Wittlin, K4WIT ([k4wit@nfarl.org](mailto:k4wit@nfarl.org)) for more information and to volunteer.



## ***October 19th Technician HamCram / Bill Weathers K4WSW***



NFARL in cooperation with Brandon Hall School in Sandy Springs will conduct a Technician HamCram on Saturday, October 19th. The cost is only \$25 which includes a full day of classroom instruction, lunch, snacks, drinks and the FCC license examination.

See additional information on the class and registration at [NFARL Ham Cram](#) link; the cutoff for enrollment is **September 21st**.

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

material 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! Make a special note, anyone passing the test will be offered a **complimentary one-year NFARL membership**.

## **NFARES 2013 SET / Mike Cohen, AD4MC**

We are continuing with the planning process for our 2013 NFARES SET (Simulated Emergency Test), which is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013, 9 AM - 2 PM. (Note that other Georgia ARES groups always holds their SET on the 1st Saturday in October and we'd like to join them this year.) ***As of now, we still need another 20 volunteers, so please read on...***

***We sure would like to have you join us this year. 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 this year. Yes, we had a great SET last year, but we can certainly improve. 2012 SET Results from the July 2013 QST, pp 70-72, listed North Fulton Co (W4UOC) with 604 points, 8th out of the 204 entries in the USA (Top 4%).

Here are links to ARRL SET information and to a file we will use for our 2013 SET planning:

- [ARRL/ARES Manual for Simulated Emergency Test \(SET\)](#)
- [NFARES 2013 SET](#)

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 9 AM - 2 PM event is fine too.

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

Please let us know by replying directly to Mike - AD4MC ([ad4mc.mike@gmail.com](mailto:ad4mc.mike@gmail.com)) if you are interested in being part of our 2013 SET program. All locations are available plus any new incident or shelter sites that you would like to create.

Thanks from your 2013 NFARES SET Planning Team: Tom - W4UOC, Wayne - KG5WU, Jim - N4SEC, Stuart - AK4EX, Scott - N4SBD, Jim - W4QO, Bob - KE3EM, Chuck - AE4CW, John - K4SQC, Wayne - W4CJV, Clyde - AK4TL, Bill - W2ASL, Stu - KK4KKF, Jeff - KK4ATX, George - AI4UR and Mike - AD4MC

### **NFARES Digital Training Nets**

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

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

We will be holding them on **Wednesday nights from 8:30 - 9:30 PM** and will be using the **147.06 (+) PL 100 Hz repeater, starting on September 4<sup>th</sup>**.

**Simulated Emergency Test**  
**October 5th, 2013 9AM - 2PM**

**Tornado !**

North Fulton County Metropolitan Area  
NFARL Service Area

Alpharetta  
Milton  
Roswell  
Sandy Springs  
Johns Creek  
Dunwoody

The image shows a map of the North Fulton County Metropolitan Area with a green line indicating a simulated tornado path. The map is titled 'Simulated Emergency Test October 5th, 2013 9AM - 2PM Tornado !'. A legend on the right lists volunteer locations: Alpharetta, Milton, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Johns Creek, and Dunwoody. The map also shows the 'NFARL Service Area' and various geographical features.

Here is a link to a PDF file that includes all the information you will need to get the Fldigi system installed: [Fldigi Instructions rev 8/8/2013, with <NUL> fix](#)

You can start on any Wednesday net even if you missed a previous net. We'll get you up to speed. That's what the nets are for... 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.

BTW, we passed 114 messages during last year's SET and **86** of those were digital.

See you on radio on Tuesday nights.

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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

## **Contact Us**

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