



NFARL eNEWS ***November 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**.



HamJam 2013: Saturday, November 9

Outstanding Speakers, Fantastic Prizes Highlight Event

Three top-notch speakers and an impressive array of prizes make this year's HamJam an event you won't want to miss. It all takes place on Saturday, November 9, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta.

Attending HamJam won't cost you a penny and, just for being there, you will get a chance to win a \$100 HRO gift certificate.

And, if you want to help the club's scholarship fund and youth activities, you can purchase raffle tickets for a \$5 donation (five for \$20). Click [here](#) to visit the NFARL Mart to purchase tickets via the internet. You may also purchase raffle tickets from NFARL and SEDXC officers and at our ticket sales tables at the Stone Mountain Hamfest and until the mid-morning break at HamJam. You do not have to be present to win one of the top three prizes. You must be present to be awarded one of the other raffle prizes.

Three Great Speakers

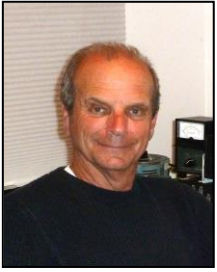
HamJam, which is sponsored by NFARL and the Southeastern DX Club, is known for the quality of its presentations and this year is no exception. Here's a brief look at the lineup of guest speakers.



Bob Allphin, K4UEE, has been a ham for more than 55 years. He is one of the best known operators and DXers in the world, and has significantly impacted the DX side of ham radio with his abilities as an organizer and participant in numerous expeditions, nine of which received the coveted "DXpedition of the Year" award. Bob will share some of his highly interesting "behind the scenes" stories. For more on Bob please click [here](#).

Dan Henderson, N1ND, has been a ham for more than 43 years, and is the ARRL's regulatory information manager, where he strives to help hams operate legally, safely and appropriately. Dan has been involved in many facets of the hobby, which supports his broad range of interests in general. Dan will share some of his insights into the fascinating hobby we share. For more information on Dan, please click [here](#).





Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has been a ham since 1960 and after earning his law degree served in several capacities with the FCC, from which he retired in 2008. In his words "I enjoyed every day of my career at the FCC, but my last 10 years there in the amateur radio enforcement segment was the greatest privilege of my life and gave me an opportunity to pay back in some way all of the joys and rewards amateur radio gave me." Riley has many interesting stories to share from his FCC days. Please click [here](#) for more information on Riley

Many Great Prizes

Here's a look at just some of the prizes:

Kenwood TS-590S HF transceiver (below, top right)

Yaesu FT-DX1200 HF transceiver (below, bottom right)

Icom ID-51A Dual Band VHF/UHF transceiver with

D-STAR (below, left)

Diamond Antenna (anything in catalog up to \$400)

Buddistick Deluxe Package

SteppIR CrankIR

TenTec FG-01 antenna analyzer

Begali keyer

MFJ SWR/watt meter #868

Vibroplex iambic keyer. PLUS numerous ARRL manuals and CQ books and subscriptions!

All of these prizes are being donated by the manufacturers, with proceeds going for youth scholarships and activities.

**For full info on
HamJam 2013,
go to
www.hamjam.info**



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 – Slope’s BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell
 - **First Saturday and Sunday – Stone Mountain Hamfest, sponsored by the Alford Memorial Radio Club** – November 2, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and November 3, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Contact [John Tramontanis, N4TOL](#) to participate
 - **Second Saturday – 2013 HamJam** – November 9, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at The Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta. Admission is free and a raffle with many great prizes will generate funds for youth scholarships and activities. More details and directions on the [2013 HamJam website](#)
 - **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** – November 9, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
 - **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** – November 12, 7:00 PM and dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs
 - **Second Tuesday – NFARL Executive Committee Board Meeting** – November 5, 7:30 PM - IHOP at the corner of Windward Parkway and Highway 9, Alpharetta
 - **Second Saturday – Manufacturers Day at HRO Atlanta** – November 16, 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM - 6071 Buford Highway, Atlanta
 - **Third Tuesday – No NFARL Club Meeting** – HamJam will replace the November meeting
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President’s Corner / John Kludt, K4SQC



While it may be Fall, things are certainly not dull here at the North Fulton Amateur Radio League. The Stone Mountain Hamfest happens this year the week before HamJam. NFARL will be there, sharing a double space with SEDXC. Drop by and say “hello” if you have the opportunity. Maybe even stick around and greet your fellow NFARL members and area hams you may not see very often. And buy that last, and winning, HamJam raffle ticket!

HamJam will replace the usual meeting and program in November. This is a great opportunity to meet with hams from the metro area and beyond, hear three excellent speakers and contribute to a very worthy cause. We are having some real success bringing young people into the amateur radio community and the proceeds from HamJam have helped make that success possible. The raffle prizes are great, thanks to a number of very generous commercial sponsors. This year, as an added benefit, thanks to HRO Atlanta, everyone who attends will be given a ticket that enters them in a door prize drawing for a \$100 HRO gift certificate. Details can be found at [HamJam](#) and elsewhere in this newsletter.

So that covers the first and second weekends in November. To finish the hat trick, November 16 is Manufacturers Day at HRO. It is a real treat to have an amateur radio “candy store” just down the road. The XYL is sometimes not so sure of that as another HRO invoice is added to my already extensive stack accumulated over the past 20 years! Representatives from Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu along with several other companies will be in attendance to answer questions, talk about their new products and maybe demonstrate a feature or two on that rig you already own but did not know existed. Am I the only one who falls into that “I didn’t know it could do that” category? There will be a drawing for some slick door prizes, various goodies to eat (Ah! Free food!). And who knows, maybe the GARS popcorn machine will be there, too. It is a good time, so please stop by and say ‘hi!’ at the NFARL table.

At the October meeting we elected the NFARL officers for 2014. Beginning on January 1, NFARL will be ably led by **Neil Foster, N4FN**, as president. **Walter Woron, KJ4HE**, will be vice president and program chair, and **Mike Birmingham, K4LJG**, will be secretary. **Fred Moore III, N4CLA**, continues as our erstwhile treasurer. Rounding out the Board are **Bill Weathers, K4WSW**, as membership director and **John Tramantonis, N4TOL**, as activities director. Welcome to all of you and thank you for volunteering your time and efforts to lead NFARL through another year of adventures in amateur radio.

And, be sure to mark December 14 on your calendars for the annual NFARL Holiday Party!

NFARL HamCram Mints 13 New Hams / Bill Weathers, K4WSW

On Saturday, October 19, at the Brandon Hall School in Sandy Springs, 13 students became hams by earning their Technician licenses. For these students, HamCram culminated six weeks of self-study with a review of the exam material, an opportunity to ask questions and have points clarified, a practice exam and then the official FCC exam. A common theme among the attendees was interest in supporting public safety and emergency preparedness.

All 13 have been extended complimentary one-year NFARL memberships. We look forward to having them participate in our many club events.

As always, we appreciate the Brandon Hall School and **James Vaught, KK4IZN**, for hosting HamCram in their outstanding facility. Special thanks also go to the HamCram instruction team: **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF; Bryan Gay, KR4MM; Chuck Catledge, AE4CW; Mike Cohen, AD4MC; Neil Foster, N4FN; and Ian Kahn, KM4IK**. Also, a “thank you” to the NFARL Volunteer Examiner team: **Ian KM4IK; Chuck AE4CW; Neil N4FN; Roger Anders, AA2HT; and Verne Fowler, W8BLA**.

HamCram Graduates: Fall 2013

- **Tammy Waggoner**
- **Judy Kruger**
- **Lisa Charlton**
- **Rhonda Wilson**
- **Kimberly Peters**
- **Melanie Wood**
- **Douglas Waggoner**
- **Steve Waggoner**
- **Gerald Werber**
- **Donald Zackery**
- **Herman Albertie**
- **Kyle Stadele**
- **John Sampson**

The next HamCram will be in April 2014!

NFARES Simulated Emergency Test / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Thanks to the 2013 NFARES SET Team and everyone else who helped during this year's event, we have had another successful Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

Although this national event is not a contest, the ARRL does request that we complete a form listing specific accomplishments. Last year, we broke all previous records and, this year, we again showed significant improvements. Twenty-six of the 45 hams who volunteered for the SET were licensed less than five years. That's more than half and a major win for our SET and for our hobby's future.

This year, we passed 117 messages and 104 of those were digital, including eight Red Cross safety and welfare messages. These were sent from 36 locations, including police, fire, hospital and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) sites in six cities. We have received compliments from the fire and police personnel who were monitoring our SET.



Let's continue to review this SET at future NFARES meetings to discuss not only what we did right, but even more importantly, what we can do better next year. Thanks again for all of your support to accomplish this team effort.

Some of the hams taking part in this year's SET included: **Lynne Birmingham, KK4PMY** and **Betty Buran, KK4QPY** (above); **Grant Register, KK4PCR** (below left); and **Bob Gross, KE4EM** and **Bruce Nicklin, KI4WOQ** (below right).



NFARES Active on Many Fronts / Tom Koch, W4UOC

Bret Arnold, N4BTA, provided communications support on both HF and VHF for the North Fulton Hospital's emergency communications test with the Tenet Hospital Headquarters in Texas. Bret used SSB and digital modes during this communications exercise with the Tenet headquarters and other local Tenet hospitals in the metro area on VHF.

Also, a new permanent amateur radio station has been set up at the Baptist North American Mission Board headquarters on North Point Parkway in Alpharetta. The installation includes new VHF, UHF and HF antennas on the roof of the headquarters building as well as the permanent location/room for the HF, VHF/UHF analog and D-Star equipment and digital interface equipment and computers. This task was completed with the help of a team of NFARES members including **Mike Cohen, AD4MC; Tim Lemmon, WK4U; Garry Brass, AK4NA; and Tom Koch, W4UOC.**



November Activities / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

The largest hamfest in Georgia is upon us. The [Stone Mountain Hamfest](#), sponsored by the Alford Memorial Radio Club, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3, at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Our club will have a table at the hamfest to promote NFARL and HamJam 2013. All are encouraged to help staff the table and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow club members. This hamfest sports a huge boneyard both indoors and outdoors, as well as many vendor exhibits.



On the following weekend, [HamJam 2013](#) will take place on Saturday, November 9. This is one of the premier amateur events in the Southeast. Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter,

Another fine event you will not want to miss is Manufacturers Day, which will be held at our local Ham Radio Outlet on Saturday, November 16. NFARL will be supporting our good friends at HRO by having a table on site. This is another chance to promote our club to the local ham community. In addition, this day provides a chance to visit with representatives of many of the vendors of the gear sold by HRO, as well as to learn more about their products, services and future developments.

If you can help at the Stone Mountain Hamfest or Manufacturers Day, please [contact me](#).

Treasurer's Report / Fred Moore, N4CLA

There are five categories of monies for which we account.

1. Checking
2. Youth HamJam budget
3. Monies collected via PayPay for NFARL club renewals, HamJam, HamCram, ARRL renewals and various other purchases
4. Cash transactions
5. Savings account

Below are the totals for each category as of 10/22/2013.

Checking	\$ 10,546.74
Youth HamJam budget	\$ 934.80
PayPal	\$ -
Cash on hand	\$ 56.29
Savings	\$ 40.61

Total	\$ 11,578.44
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*HamJam Ticket sales to date	\$ (1,905.20)
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Net Total	\$ 9,673.24
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* The \$11,578.44 total includes \$1,905.20 in HamJam ticket sales, which cannot be counted as club revenue as it will be disbursed three ways after the event. The first portion goes to cover event expenses, the next part will be divided 50/50 between the two sponsoring clubs, NFARL and SEDXC. Each of the two organizations then provides for an annual student selection by the ARRL for college, and the remaining NFARL funds are then placed in the Youth HamJam bucket for disbursement toward local youth activities, not to be touched by the general fund.

The officers of NFARL thank you for your continued support of HamJam and the future of ham radio.

Please go to HamJam.info and make a selection to purchase your raffle tickets to support this worthy cause. You do not have to be present to win the first three prizes.

Mills Springs Academy Enters School Club Roundup

/ Chuck Catledge, AE4CW

Members of the Mill Springs Academy Amateur Radio Group hosted more than 200 of their fellow students as participants in the ARRL School Club Roundup (SCR) during the week of October

21-25. This was the club's first entry in the SCR, and the overall results were outstanding. The goal of the event is to have students contact as many other students as possible. Using call sign W4MSA, the students made 86 contacts with school clubs and individuals in 26 states and six DX countries. Participants included students from grades 4 through 12. Each student who made a contact was awarded the special MSA GOTA pin.



Martha Muir, W4MSA, and faculty advisor to the MSA club sent this report: "Everyone has had a blast with the school club roundup this week, whether or not we made many contacts when they were here. I'm hearing reports from all over the school. Headmaster Robert Moore came by yesterday afternoon and saw (one of our students) working on the radio.



He commented that (a founding board member) would be so proud (to see students working with the radio)." NFARL members **John Tramontanis, N4TOL; Mike Cohen, AD4MC; Neil Foster, N4FN; Jim Stafford, W4QO; John Kludt, K4SQC; and Tim Lemmon, WK4U**, volunteered as coaches and control operators throughout the week. Thank you all!

NFARL Aids JOTA, Merit Badge Classes / Jon Wittlin, K4WIT

Troop 1818 Mini Merit Badge Clinic and Jamboree on the Air were held at Johns Creek United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 20.

JOTA 2013 was another fun event. NFARL teamed up with Troop 1818 to offer the following merit badges: Radio Merit Badge (NFARL); Electronics Merit Badge (NFARL); Game Design Merit Badge (Troop 1818); and Photography Merit Badge (Troop 1818).

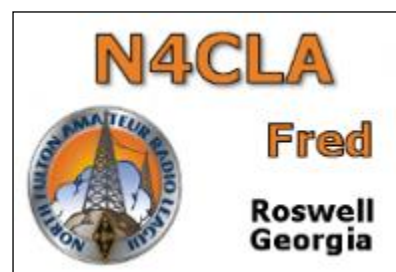
About 50 scouts attended this event. Unfortunately, this was also the Illinois QSO Party weekend and there was a substantial amount of contest activity to contend with. We did, nevertheless, make several out-of-state contacts.

Amateurs who participated were: **Jon Wittlin, K4WIT**, coordinator; **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, **Ron Gill, NV4U**; **Steve Henke, W9SH** - Electronics Merit Badge; **Dave Ritchie, N4DJS**; **Tim Lemmon, WK4U**; **Scott Straw, KB4KBS** - Radio Merit Badge; and **Bill Perkins, KB4KFT**; **John Kludt, K4SQC**, **Jason Dutremble, K1OGR**; **Karen Mallory, AK4TR** - Control Operators.



Need a Name Badge?

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



For a Fun Weekend, 'RadioSport' Rocks! / Scott Straw, KB4KBS

I enjoy the pastime known as "RadioSport". This is the Madison Avenue marketing term for ham radio contesting. However, ever since I was a guest at the mega-station at NR5M in Houston, my paradigm has been shifted. I was able to watch a group of skilled operators perform a series of choreographed duets in a contest that allowed only two stations on the air at a time. With four radios, two each on one contesting band, these wizards worked as two teams. At each position, one operator was the run station, the other was the search and pounce multiplier station. The run station called "CQ" and worked all responders, and the other station searched out stations that would be multipliers to the score. When he found one, he would motion to the run station operator who would pause for a moment while the multiplier station made his call and logged the contact. In this fashion they worked the bands until the frequencies were exhausted and then they would move to another one and continue the assault. Relievers were brought in with regularity to spell one or the other operators and keep the assault at full force.



As exciting as it was to watch these contesting veterans practice their craft, I got as much enjoyment, or more, conversing with the team members on break and listening to their war stories and recollections of past campaigns. These gentlemen were kind enough to share with me some of their philosophies and strategies, and in the process, instilled in me an appreciation for the joys of team competition in the world of RadioSport. It is this camaraderie and companionship, this working as a team for a common goal that I yearn for every time I sit down alone at my home station to compete in one of the many weekend contests throughout the year.

With a convergence of life events, the likes of which I have not seen in a long time, it dawned on me that I was going to be "free" the entire weekend of the SSB version of the CQ Worldwide DX Contest. To that end, I put out a broadcast on the club reflector, suggesting that we get together and assemble an ad hoc station and "make a go of it." Getting little response, I then posted a note saying that the idea was dead. However, **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, took pity and offered to let me host an event at his Roswell QTH. Thinking that the challenge of assembling a station was the off-putting point, I put out another broadcast message through the reflector inviting responses to this modified opportunity. I had a few more responses, but still was underwhelmed by the seeming lack of interest in a team contesting effort. Undaunted, I committed to do the contest at Jim's house and hoped that I would have last-minute relievers.

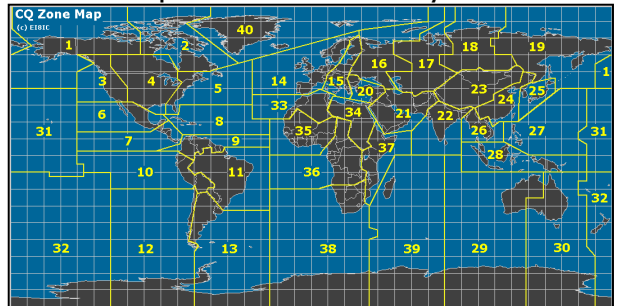
As I started out on Friday night, I was discouraged. I was not doing very well making contacts and busting through the raucous pile-ups that seemed rampant on every band and every frequency. Because of the rules for CQWW, it is not as advantageous for U.S. stations to park on a frequency and call CQ. First of all, CONUS-to-CONUS (continental U.S.) contacts are worth zero points, and since that makes DX the only quarry worth pursuing, everyone in the lower 48 is battling for the same foreign stations on the two "night time" bands, 80 meters and 40 meters. I also had no real prospects of any other club members joining me.

I knocked off at 12:30 AM Saturday, resolved to be back early the next morning. With new and more band possibilities (little did I know), I hoped that I would have at least a few more contacts in the log, but also prepared myself for the potential of ending the torture and quitting early, especially if was going to be a near-solo effort.

While I slept, the sun brought dawn to Asia, then Europe and finally North America. I was back behind the microphone at 7:00 AM and along with the entire globe, I was shocked and in disbelief over how wide open the upper bands were, especially 10 meters. Right away, I began working Europeans on 15 meters and before long went to 10. Unlike the night before, the DX stations were

more spaced out and therefore easier to hear and work. I enjoyed a bit more success and my spirits were lifted. To this point, however it was a solo effort, and not the collegial coordinated effort I had hoped for. I did get a visit from a new ham, **Mike Birmingham, K4LJG**, who was hoping to observe, but quickly found himself in the pilot's seat. He did remarkably well; his Field Day experience came in handy. Later in the afternoon **Tim Lemmon, WK4U**, an adept CW operator, stopped in and tried his hand at a contest where you use your voice to send messages. Our host, W4QO, also a CW aficionado, spent some time in the chair and on the mic as well. We continued to plod along and by late Saturday afternoon, began to realize that we actually had an "OK" score.

The objective of this contest has two parts: First, work as many DX stations as possible on as many bands as possible. Secondly, optimize the score by collecting as many multiplier points as possible. The globe is divided into 40 "zones." Work as many of these zones as possible, on as many bands as possible and in the process, work as many of unique countries as possible on as many bands as possible. Add together the total of number of zones worked and the total number of countries worked; that is the multiplier. Multiply that sum by the number of unique contacts, and that is the final score.



At the end of Saturday, my spirits regarding the contest were in better shape, but I was really discouraged by the lack of interest in a group contesting effort in a club of more than 250 members. Sunday was going to be another near-solo effort (Jim operated a little in the afternoon), and so I set my mind to making the best of the situation.

I was helped by a wealth of stations from Greenland and Iceland to New Zealand and the islands of the South Pacific. I began attacking the bands, using the spotting network and the N1MM contesting software to set them up, so that I could knock them down. My personal goal of 250,000 points quickly faded in the rearview mirror as I crossed the 300K, 400K, and 500K thresholds. By early afternoon, 600K had come and gone and 800K was looming. I had nearly exhausted the supply of available multiplier stations, so I plowed into the list of non-multiplier stations with a vengeance.

By sorting the stations on the spotting list by beam heading and using Jim's Yagi antenna to focus my signal, I began plucking off the list. The propagation on the high bands was favorable to Europe and to South America. I started up north, and worked several Norwegian and Swedish stations, then adjusting the beam southward 10 or 12 degrees more, I began to work German stations. I must have worked two dozen or more in a row with a few Eastern Europeans as well. Moving on I began working English, French, and lots of Italian stations. Unfortunately there weren't a lot of African stations on the air, and the few that appeared were immediately besieged by high-powered stations that rendered my efforts futile.

My next beam heading was the Caribbean, and then on to South America where the number of Brazilians and Argentinians rivaled the number of Germans and Italians. Picking them off one-by-one, and watching the score jump up with every entry, served to spur me on and soon the score was just over 900,000. Bouncing between 10 meters and 15 meters, with occasional forays to 20 meters just to keep that list of available stations depleted, eventually led to an exhausted list of "reachable" stations. But just as I reached that point, the band began to shift toward the West. The spotting network was now reporting Hawaiian, Japanese, and Australian stations. So, swinging the antenna around to the north again, I began working down the west side of the beam. Collecting Canadian and Alaskan stations, then picking up Hawaiian stations, I had to bide my time for the band to fully envelope the Japanese stations. By the time they were workable, I was on the cusp of 1,000,000 points. All in all I had a wonderful time. A perfect storm of fortune!

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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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