



NFARL eNEWS ***December 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 – Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell. **There will be no Hungry Hams lunch on Christmas.**
 - **Second Saturday – NFARL Holiday Party** – December 14, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. Location is the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. We encourage everyone to bring a gift for a youngster who is spending the holidays at Children's Hospital. Donations in lieu of a gift are also welcome. More details and directions on NFARL's Club Activities [website](#)
 - **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** – **There will be no VE testing session this month.** First session of 2014 will be January 11.
 - **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** – December 10, 7:00 PM - North American Mission Board - Disaster Relief Center, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta. Talk-in station on 147.06 Repeater
 - **Third Tuesday – NFARL Executive Committee Board Meeting** – December 17, 7:00 PM - IHOP, corner of Highway 9 and Windward Parkway, Alpharetta
 - **Third Tuesday – No NFARL Club Meeting** – NFARL Holiday Party will replace the December meeting
 - **2014 TechFest** – January 11, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Gwinnett Medical Center, Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville. More details elsewhere in this newsletter.
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Make Plans Now for December 14 Holiday Party



The NFARL Holiday Party will be held at the Alpharetta Adult Center beginning at 6:30 PM on December 14. The menu this year has been modified to include eggplant parmigiana for folks who prefer vegetarian. The rest of the menu includes Italian sausage, fish, chicken, salad, desserts, baked ziti, the joy of being with your ham friends and significant others, the pleasure of being present when NFARL special awards for the year are presented, and just a good time to kick off the holiday season! **Bob**

Citronberg, KI4GHT, has again arranged the catering, so you know the food will be excellent!

Remember to bring a gift for the hospitalized children at Children's Hospital – it means more than you can imagine. And – do sign up NOW at the [Mart](#). Cost is \$20 per person; we need to know if you will be there so we can get the correct amount of food.

Program Update – January / Walt Woron, KJ4HE

If you have ever thought about becoming a serious contester or wanted to be part of a DXpedition, our January program may be the talk you need to hear.



Wes Lamboley, W3WL, (left) **Jim Paine, N4SEC**, (left in photo below) and **Terry Joyner, W4YBV**, (right in photo below) have just returned from a QCWA cruise on the high seas. Enjoy an encore presentation by Wes on the health concerns and preparations that are important when traveling great distances and operating for long periods of time.

And enjoy a presentation by Jim and Terry as they recount QCWA activities enjoyed aboard ship in addition to being able to operate at sea.

This is a "Double-Header" you don't want to miss at our next regular meeting on January 21. **Remember, there will be no regular meeting in December because of our Holiday Party on December 14.**



President's Corner / John Kludt, K4SQC

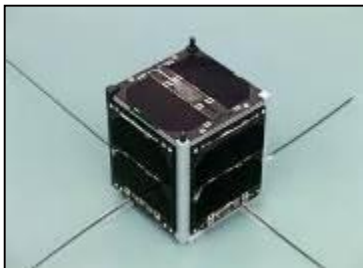
Already into the holiday season – where did 2013 go? By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be on us, or maybe past us and Christmas will be fast approaching. I am told it is a short shopping season this year. Time for my XYL's annual sojourn to HRO to buy that gift that makes no sense to her but is just what her spouse needs!

In the spirit of the holidays, please do not forget the annual NFARL Holiday Party. In addition to camaraderie and good food, we will be announcing the NFARL Ham of the Year as well as announcing a couple of Distinguished Service Awards. We will again be meeting at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center and **Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT**, has again lent his considerable skills to the catered menu. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and I hope to see you there.



Congratulations are due to **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**, our 2013 Field Day chairman. You may already know we were fourth in category 4A with 3,761 QSOs and 11,574 points. What you may not know is we again were overall Number 1 in the contest in terms of participation. To Scott and all of you who participated in the NFARL 2013 Field Day effort, thanks for a job very well done. Plans are already in the works to become even more competitive next year ... stay tuned.

Field Day is just one of the many activities that the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sponsors for the amateur radio community. As a Special Service Club, we have distinguished ourselves in the eyes of the ARRL as a club that goes the extra mile in service to the many aspects of amateur radio. One of the requirements of Special Service Club status is showing that 51 percent of the membership of the club is also enrolled with the ARRL. By our figures, we are at 51.7 percent and that is way too close for comfort! If you are new to amateur radio, please consider joining ARRL. If you have been at it for a while but maybe your ARRL membership has lapsed, please consider rejoining. You can join for as little as \$39 per year by going to the ARRL website [here](#) or, even better, by going to the NFARL Mart [here](#). Either way works and when you go through the NFARL site, the ARRL gives a percentage of the ARRL membership dues back to NFARL. As a long-time ARRL member, I am happy to answer any questions you might have about the organization. Please consider joining or renewing your ARRL membership and helping NFARL at the same time.



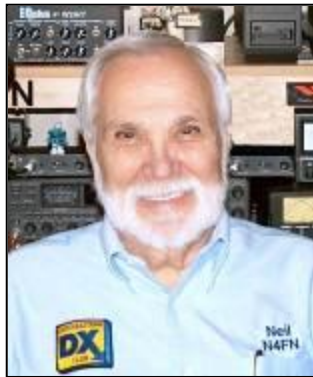
In passing, I'd like to note that AMSAT-UK and AMSAT-NL have given us a wonderful holiday gift with the successful launch of FunCube -1, now officially AO-73. Yours truly copied telemetry from orbits 13 and 14 and by all reports the new "bird" is functioning as expected. Be it on a satellite, on HF or over the repeater I hope to meet each one of you on the air.

73 and Happy Holidays!

Meet Our New Leadership / First in a Series

Incoming President for 2014: Neil Foster, N4FN

I was first licensed in 1960. In 1984, I upgraded to 20 wpm Extra and when vanity licensing became available, I became N4FN (my initials reversed). I have been active in the Atlanta ham community for many years having served as president of the QCWA, Atlanta Radio Club (twice), the Southeastern DX Club as well as other offices in those



clubs. I am still an active member of the SEDX Club. I served as the coordinator of ARRL VEC testing at Georgia Tech for several years. As an active DX'er, I have 344 countries confirmed and eight DXCCs. I am still interested in chasing DX, but currently my main interest is in PSK and RTTY. Of all the ham radio awards I have, and there are a bunch, I am proudest of the Arabian Knights Award (number 568 in the world) and the Royal Jordanian Silver Award (number 191 in the world) from the Arabian Amateur Radio League issued and personally signed by King Hussein of Jordan JY1, as well as The Commonwealth DX Award (number 332 in the world) issued by the RSGB. I also hold the British Class A license call sign

G0NBJ (my original call was G5DKW), having taken the British RAE years ago. I have operated from 13 DXCC entities, and I am member of the DXCC Honor Roll. Like many hams, I took a hiatus from ham radio for about 10 years, missed it, and came back to our great hobby. The station at home is a Yaesu FT-5000 with micro tune units for 40/80 meters. For HF, I use a K4KIO Hex beam antenna, a GAP Challenger, and an Inverted "L" trapped for 40 and 75 meters. When required, I can add a bit of power with the Alpha 99. For VHF/UHF at home, an old reliable Kenwood TM-731 is used. Actually, I could use a wet noodle for an antenna since I can look up at Sweat Mountain and see the repeater site. A graduate of the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and a Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, I retired in 2000. Although my wife is not a ham, she totally supports and encourages my interest and participation in ham radio. Fifty-four great years of ham radio in January 2014!

Warm Up With Winter Activities / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

Be sure to mark your calendar for a premier event in January as the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society [TechFest](#) will be held on January 11 at the Gwinnett Medical Center in Duluth at 9:00 AM. Admission and lunch are free!

Loads of interesting technical and ham radio-related exhibits will be featured, as well as prizes awarded, and the best for last, the famous "Chili Cook Off" for all to enjoy.

NFARL will have a booth where we will conduct a beginner's kit build and also have an exhibit/presentation on Logbook of the World (LoTW) and the art of QSLing. Please [contact me](#) if interested in being a part of the event for the club.

HamJam Another Great Success / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

Our fifth HamJam was an unqualified success this year! Three great speakers were on hand to inform and entertain us, and those in attendance truly appreciated the threesome. The venue, the Metropolitan Club, was the best ever, and we have begun the process to get it as our site for next year.

Additionally, the camaraderie was fantastic, and members of 11 area clubs were in attendance. Over \$6,600 in prizes were awarded, and over \$4,400 was realized for youth scholarships and activities. HamJam is quickly becoming the place to be on the second Saturday of November, so mark our calendar now for November 8, 2014!



Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO

If you have suggestions for next year regarding speakers, please let us know. Also, we are also open for comments on how to improve HamJam; please send your comments [to me](#).

NF4GA Triple Play Update / Dave Higdon Jr., KD4ICT



You may remember NFARL achieved DXCC for the club and we were presented with our certificate from the ARRL by none other than the president of the ARRL, **Kay Craigie, N3KN**. That was a great achievement in a short period of time. There is another award that we are close to achieving.

With your help, we have reached the point of needing just 16 contacts to earn our Triple Play award. Several of our club members have done this individually. At one point NFARL had about 1 percent of the total number of award winners. That was a great point for us.

So, what is the Triple Play? This ARRL award is given for working all U.S. states using three modes - CW, Phone and Digital - and using Logbook of the World to confirm the contacts.

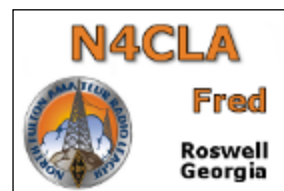
You can help by checking the status chart below to see which slots need to be worked and confirmed in each of the modes. Then, using our club call NF4GA, work a needed state and [email the details](#) and the contact will be uploaded to LoTW. Once we receive the award, a replica will be given to everyone who participates in this activity.

Any questions, contact me at the email link above.

State	CW	Phone	Digital
Alabama	NEED	OK	OK
Arkansas	NEED	OK	OK
Connecticut	OK	NEED	OK
Delaware	OK	OK	NEED
Hawaii	OK	OK	NEED
Idaho	OK	OK	NEED
Kentucky	NEED	OK	OK
Louisiana	NEED	NEED	OK
Mississippi	NEED	OK	OK
North Dakota	OK	OK	NEED
Rhode Island	OK	NEED	OK
South Dakota	OK	OK	NEED
Utah	NEED	OK	OK
Vermont	NEED	OK	NEED

Need a Name Badge?

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



NFARL Membership News / Bill Weathers, K4WSW

As we approach the end of another trip around the sun, thank you for contributing to another fantastic year for the NFARL and the amateur radio community during 2013. With HamJam, Field Day, HamCrams, International Day, JOTA, Girl Scout STEM Expo, 13 Colonies, MSA contact with the ISS and much more – we were very busy indeed. The 2014 agenda looks to be equally active.



As we plan and look forward to 2014, I respectfully remind everyone to renew your NFARL and ARRL membership – both renewals can be easily performed at the [NFARL Mart](#). If you have any questions or issues, please contact me to discuss further – the membership goal for 2014 is to exceed 300.

How are we doing? Please accept the following Membership and License Class summaries:

NFARL Membership 2013 Breakdown:

- Membership 263
- New Members in 2013 55
- Youth Members 31
- Licensed Educators 6

NFARL Membership License Class Breakdown:

- Technician 70
- General 53
- Advanced 10
- Amateur Extra 118
- Not licensed 12

Pertaining to individual ARRL Membership, NFARL continues to maintain ARRL Special Service Club status. One of the criteria to retain SSC status is the club maintains at least a 51 percent membership in ARRL. Historically, ARRL membership within NFARL has been 65 to 70 percent; currently the percentage is about 52 percent, ever so close to the minimum criteria. The ARRL has provided valuable representation, services and materials across the broad landscape of amateur radio for 100 years – your membership will support the next 100 years.



Contest SIG Wants You for the 10 Meter Action!

/ Jim Stafford, W4QO

As we look toward the new year, NFARL would like to breathe some extra energy into the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) we have used so successfully in the past.

One of the groups we are planning to reactivate is the Contest SIG. **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**, and myself have stepped up to take ownership of this activity.

If you are curious about contesting, there is no time like the present to get started, especially with the popular ARRL 10 Meter Contest coming up on December 14-15. You can find full details on the [ARRL website](#).

Would you like to try your hand at operating a contest? Here is what we propose: Those who would like to try their hand at contesting on HF could come to my shack on some time slot during the weekend and, using your callsign, work some 10M stations. Doesn't have to be many. But you will learn logging and technique; actually just about anything you would like to discuss. Don't know anything about contesting? No problem. Come on over to my shack and join the fun! Just drop an [email to me](#) even if there is a slight possibility that you'd like to come by and use the station. We'll work out a time when you can come by and, with the help of an Elmer, have some HF fun!

We Had a Blast During the CQ WorldWide

This leads me to a recap of what four club members did in the CQ WW contest in late October. We each took time slots, working the phone station at W4QO. Scott did a review from his standpoint in the last newsletter. Here's mine:

Scott found **Tim Lemmon, WK4U**, **Mike Birmingham, K4LJG**, and myself to operate and **Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ**, and **Greg Todd, KK4UBP**, as observers. The plan was to use my 30-year-old Kenwood TS-940 at so-called 100 watts (it was more like 75-90 watts) to work the contest as what is called a Multi-Single – Multi Operator/Single Transceiver. I have a tribander (20/15/10) at 60 feet along with a wire 80M loop at 75 feet and a few other wires here and there. We borrowed the club contest call K4JJ. I don't think I've ever said "Japan Japan" so much in my life!

Don't understand some of the terms used in this article? All the more reason to come join us for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest on Dec. 14-15.

I did "tidy" up the shack a bit (you couldn't tell if you didn't see the before/after) and with a plan to use N1MM as the logging program there were some groans that the old 940 didn't have a computer interface. That's not quite true – I've had one for a few years (PIEXX) but never installed it as I'm mostly QRP (95 percent). So I thought it would be a good idea to get the computer interface installed. After all, the wise ones (that means Internet) said it was not difficult. I opened up the 940. Had to unscrew some modules and fold them out of the way to get to the location to install the chip and interface board. True to form, it only took 45 minutes.

Kind of ruined my back while doing it but hey, no pain, no gain, right? Now the real test would be – does it work or does the rig go up in smoke due to a “short” that I might have accidentally introduced. Plugged it up, assigned it to COM 7, turned it on in N1MM, and voila – worked great the entire contest. What a difference rig control makes when our plan was to be a “little fish” at 90 watts using the HUNT and POUNCE method. With this, you see the spots in N1MM, click on one with the mouse and the rig jumps right to the frequency; you work ‘em and on to the next. Well, not quite!

Scott showed up at 7:00 PM Friday night (the contest runs for 48 hours – 8:00 PM Friday to 8:00 PM Sunday) to get oriented, match microphone hookups, etc. Scott had an adapter for the Kenwood that provides power to the Electret mic so that the computer gaming headsets can be used directly.

We had a Plantronics headset available which has received many great reports in the past with this rig but in the end we used the popular (with hams) Yamaha CM-500 which performed like a champ. These headsets are “hot” in that they provide a lot of audio so we had to adjust and watch carefully the compression control so that we didn’t over drive the audio string in the transceiver. From what we can tell, it worked great.

Scott got on about 15 minutes after 8:00 PM as I had told him not to get too excited about Friday night since the bands are a huge “zoo” on Friday night with thousands trying to be the first to work Bonaire, which would be easy on Sunday afternoon. He did a great job but by midnight he might have been a bit discouraged. But not Scott; he was back at the station by 6:00 AM, ready to hit it hard on Saturday. By noon, he had made 214 contacts and was ready for more.

History of Headsets

The headset was invented in 1910 by a [Stanford University](#) student named Nathaniel Baldwin. Baldwin was not able to interest anyone in mass-producing this communication tool. Not until [World War I](#) did the U.S. Army purchase 100 headsets for their pilots. Hence the early uses and markets for headsets were mainly for aviation. [Plantronics](#), still a large manufacturer of headsets, was started by two pilots whose initial goal was to develop headsets which were lightweight and comfortable for pilots.

Band	QSOs	Pts	Cty	ZN
3.5	26	53	17	8
7	65	169	40	17
14	160	450	82	24
21	209	591	89	27
28	388	1115	104	28
Total	848	2378	332	104

K4LJG, Mike, a new ham just one year ago, took over the mic in midafternoon, keeping the string going. Later, Tim, WK4U, came on board and made a run of successful contacts. By the end of the first 24 hours, the contact total stood at 366, not bad when Scott’s initial target was a mere 250 for the entire weekend. In the end, the totals stood at 848 contacts. The multipliers are the total band/zones (in other words, you count the same zone worked on different bands) times the total band/countries for a total score of **1,036,808**.

This was arrived at through the stats shown. What really made us take notice was that we worked 104 “countries” on 10M. Adding in those countries not worked on 10M, gave us a country total of 116. You can work countries too if you come by the shack during the ARRL 10 Meter Contest the weekend of December 14. But, please, no operating during the club Holiday Party that evening!

NFARES to Meet at Disaster Center / Tom Koch, W4UOC

The next meeting of the North Fulton Amateur Radio Emergency Service will be held on December 10 at the North American Mission Board's national office located at 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, starting at 7:00 PM. Fritz Wilson, director of the Disaster Relief Operations Center, will be the main speaker. He will describe how this organization helps with disaster and emergency operations in the United States and abroad. Included in the program will be a tour of Disaster Relief's new command center, including the amateur radio station NA4MB.



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



Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO

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](#).

Contact Us

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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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