



NFARL eNEWS

May 2014

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**.



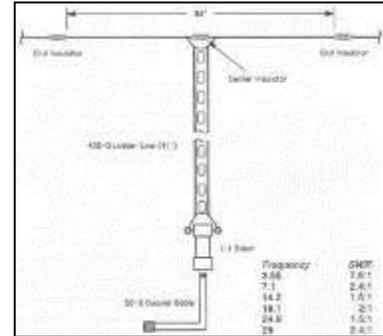
Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **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
 - **Every Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG)** - 9:00 AM - Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta (at Sandy Plains and Shallowford). Everybody's welcomed: You don't have to be "old" or a "geezer" to join this breakfast get-together.
 - **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** - **May 20**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. NFARL Library opens at 7:00 PM. Our in-house experts explore "Wire Antennas You Can Build."
 - **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting** - **May 27**, 7:00 PM - Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.
 - **Combined Kennehoochee/Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest** - Saturday, **June 7**, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM -- Jim Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road, Marietta. For more [info](#).
 - **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** - **June 10**, 7:00 PM with dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. Talk-in station on 147.06 Repeater
 - **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** - **June 14**, 10:00 AM -- Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
 - **Sixth Annual Georgia 400 Hospitality Highway Bike Ride** - Sunday, **June 29**, 7:00 AM till finished. Contact [Wayne Chapman KG5WU](#) for more details or to volunteer.
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Program Update / Walt Woron, KJ4HE

May: Wire Antennas You Can Build

Get ready for a program that all licensed hams need to hear. **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, Wes Lamboley, W3WL, Jim Smith, W4JDS, and Jim Stafford, W4QO** are all Extra Class hams, seasoned by years of experience, contesting and building antennas. Our panel of “experts” will be taking a look at every ham’s options when designing and building OCF (off-center-fed) antennas, basic dipoles, wire verticals, and stealth/attic antennas (for the HOA-challenged radio amateur). Better bring a pen and pad for some note-taking!



June: Field Day 2014

The June meeting rolls out the final plans for our Field Day strategy. NFARL Field Day Chairman **John Kludt, K4SQC**, will moderate presentations on the planned GOTA station, Jim Stafford’s cw team, Chuck Catledge’s review of the phone operations, and Wes Lamboley’s summary of the newly-created “swing” group. For the latest on NFARL’s Field Day preparations, see John’s article elsewhere in this edition of the eNews.

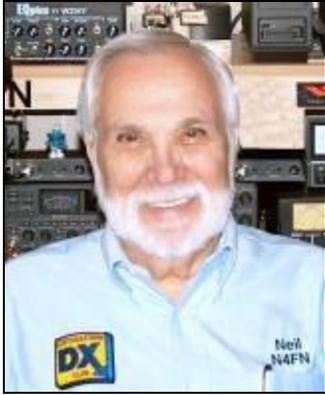


President’s Corner / Neil Foster, N4FN

By the time this gets to you, the Dayton Hamvention will be under way. I will be making the annual pilgrimage to this great event, car-pooling with three good friends. I hope this year to be able to find a really nice Hammarlund HQ-170A or even the HQ-180 general coverage model. Saw one a few years ago in Dalton, and he who hesitates, has lost. The fellow who had it left early without selling it, my loss. I do not think I will make that mistake again.

Recently, we had one of our periodic HamCram sessions, and I am pleased to say that not only did we have a full class, but a very high pass rate. Thanks, **Bill Weathers, K4WSW**, and his staff. So, if you see someone new at the meeting, please say hello and welcome them to NFARL. When we were at Brandon Hall School for the

HamCram, I saw a clever framed quote in the Media Center: "Everything will be alright in the end. If everything is not alright, it is not yet the end." **Ron Gill, NV4U**, says the quote was used in the movie, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. I like it!



Do not forget that the combined Kennehoochee/Atlanta Hamfest will be June 7 at Jim Miller Park. A few weekends later, June 28-29, will be another major event, Field Day. Lots of help is needed for this annual activity to be successful. Please be sure to sign up to play an active role. If someone on a committee asks you to help, please be sure to do so. Events like this do not happen by themselves. I know that Field Day Chairman **John Kludt, K4SQC**, and his staff are planning on a great event. The ice cream is coming back to NFARL, provided by our neighbors at Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, in our friendly annual Field Day challenge with them!

At this month's meeting on Tuesday, May 20, we will have another excellent program by our "Narfilite" resident antenna gurus: "Wire antennas you can build."

Our IT wizard, **Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**, has indicated that he needs to ease up on some of his IT and publishing responsibilities. So, if you have expertise in this area, please touch base with Bill. See if you can help fill a niche in this area.

While writing about this, it reminds me that NFARL is NOT like the military where the adage is "never volunteer." An organization like ours can exist only when folks volunteer to help. It is sad to see the same few folks carry the ball all the time. Step forward, get involved. You will probably enjoy it, and learn something new at the same time.

HamJam 2014 will again be a joint venture in November between NFARL and the Southeastern DX Club. **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, will have more details soon. It is activities like this that make our club a shining light for others to follow (even the ARRL).

If you do make it to Dayton, please join NFARL members and other metro Atlanta hams for lunch on Saturday at noon in the Hara Arena seats up behind the Ham Radio Outlet venue. We usually gather there to catch up on our Dayton adventures. It's a very informal, bring-your-own-food gathering that has become a tradition.

One last reminder about my Dayton experience: If you are looking for something related to ham radio and you cannot find it at Dayton, one of several things applies -- It never existed; if it did, you can't afford it; or you really did not need it anyway!

See you back here on the 20th for another great meeting!

For More Field Day Fun, Take an Active Role

/ John Kludt, K4SQC

As many of you know, my daughter, Katie, is a Special Olympian. Over the years I have been to many, many gym meets as a driver, parent, and general kibitzer. About a decade ago we went to a very special event in Austria called [Gymnaestrada](#). As usual,



I went as driver, parent and kibitzer. Much to my surprise there were a number of folks in their 60s, 70s and even 80s who were there as participants! I thought "Nuts, if they can do it, so can I!" I have now been to Austria, England (three times), Switzerland, Estonia and, most recently, South Africa as a participating member of the team. And I have to tell you, it has been so much more rewarding to go on all those trips as an active member of the group and not just as a "tag-along."

The North Fulton Amateur Radio League boasts something in excess of 280 members. As of the end of the last meeting, 11 members plus two spouses have signed up to help NFARL put together what is by all accounts the premier North American amateur radio event of the year. Yes, much as when I was "tagging along" with the gymnastics team, you can show up on

Field Day, visit with the folks there, eat supper and be on your way. But it will be so much more fun if you participate.

And there is so much to do.

Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, will need help getting the HF antennas in the air. **Joe Camilli, N7QPP**, has generously stepped up to be the 6-meter band captain. He has a 4-element beam to erect as well as a station to set up. With Joe running 6, he is going to need help keeping our networked logging computers up and running. There must be at least one other person among our 280 members who understands the ins and outs of an ad hoc computer network.

Jim Stafford, W4QO, will need help getting the wires in the air for the cw station. **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, and **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**, are going to need help with our "swing station." That is something new this year as we are setting up our third transmitter for phone, cw, or rtty: wherever we need to go to get the Qs. Somebody has to get the signs approved by the City of Roswell that direct visitors to Waller Park Extension. We need help with gas for the generators and I am sure **Lynn Kahn, N4MSK**, can use help with the fuel for humans.

Newly licensed? **Bill Weathers, K4WSW**, and **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF**, will have wire to string and a station to set up for the Get On The Air (GOTA) activity, designed just with you in mind. Stick around and you can help us accumulate bonus points

toward our final score. Click [here](#) to register for an operating time; click [here](#) to ask Bill K4WSW a question about GOTA.

Are you a competitive, seasoned operator? Our friendly challenge with Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society this year is to beat them in the number of Qs on the main stations. We are running 3A. They are running 8A. We need to keep those three stations on the air, phone, cw, and digital for the entire 24 hours.

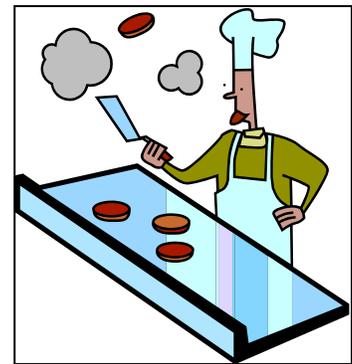
So, there is plenty to do. And it is so much more fun to participate than it is to just “tag along.” I know you have something that you can contribute to the effort. [Drop me a line.](#) And we will be at the next NFARL meeting, clipboards in hand because NFARL Field Day Needs You!

License (to Grill) Not Required!

Grill Master wanted for 2014 Field Day Picnic Dinner.

Shift from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Interested parties, please contact [Lynn Kahn, N4MSK.](#)



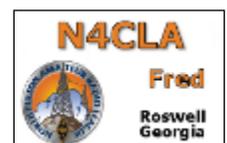
Help With Ga. 400 Bike Event / Wayne Chapman, KG5WU



The Sixth Annual Georgia 400 Hospitality Highway Bike Ride will be held on Sunday, June 29. Amateur radio communications support is being coordinated by NFARES and volunteers are needed to assist with rest stops, SAG vehicles and start/finish. The ride begins at 7:00 A.M. for routes covering 9, 27, 40, 62, or 101 miles. Last year, more than 1,800 riders took to the roads of north Fulton with excursions into Forsyth and Cherokee counties. Please contact [Wayne Chapman, KG5WU](#), to join in the fun!

Need a Name Badge?

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



NFARL + Teachers Workshop = Good Science and Good Karma / Martha Muir, W4MSA

If we get science teachers interested in adding aspects of ham radio to their classes at the Atlanta Science Festival Exploration Expo, what do they do next? How can NFARL help these curious teachers do that? Hold a workshop.

On May 3, members of NFARL met with nine public school teachers, mainly from Fulton County schools, for a day-long series of sessions to show them why and how to incorporate ham radio concepts into their classes. The workshop was held at Mill Springs Academy.

Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, organized the program and also presented “Electricity is *Magnetic*,” (at right) a session showing the relationship between electricity and magnetism.

Jim Stafford, W4QO, followed with “What Makes Radios Tick?”, an introduction to the basic concepts and components of radios and antennas.

Wes Lamboley, W3WL, presented a session titled “Ham Radio = Science,” which correlated the Georgia Performance Standards, the state curriculum requirements for science classes, to ham radio.



During lunch, groups of teachers were tantalized with the magic of making radio contacts under the guidance of **Tim Lemmon, WK4U**, and **W4QO**. When their group was not at the radio station, the rest of the teachers had a roundtable discussion (at left) with Chuck, **Mike Cohen, AD4MC**, **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, **Jim Wingate, WA2EIU**, and **Steve Garrison, N4TTY**. In addition to conversations about what was working and what was not working in the sessions so far, the main conversation was the upcoming Field Day – what it is and why they and their students should get involved.





Next up was “Ham Radio is *Digital!*” presented by Mike Cohen (at left). In this session, Mike talked about his successes with the ACE students at Mill Springs Academy this semester from getting them comfortable working with the handy-talkies that were issued to each student, using the radio mobile program to figure out the antenna requirements for everybody in the class, and net protocols. He used FLdigi with FLmsg to send an ICS-213 "test" emergency message between radios and computers. Ham radio may have its origins in the past, but advances in technology keep it current and useful, especially when other technologies fail.

John Kludt, K4SQC, discussed ham radio and satellites. John showed a portion of the video of the ARISS contact at Mill Springs last September and

passed around a model of a FUNcube. Each participant received an AMSAT-UK FUNcube Handbook.

Jim Wingate, from the Lovett School, joined Martha, from Mill Springs Academy, in explaining the different ways they incorporate amateur radio at their schools. Jim and Martha are both alumni of the ARRL Teachers Institute.

All of these sessions were wrapped up with a presentation of various resources teachers can use to find information, support, lesson plans, and websites to help them further their investigations into how they can bring aspects of amateur radio into their classrooms. And, the good karma? It turns out that one of the workshop participants also was a teacher of Jim Stafford’s grandson!

HamCram Produces 16 Techs / Bill Weathers, K4WSW

Sixteen participants became hams by earning their Technician licenses at our April HamCram at Brandon Hall School. For these individuals, HamCram culminated six weeks of self-study with a review of the exam material, an opportunity to ask questions, a practice exam and then the official FCC exam. A common theme among the attendees was interest in supporting public safety, emergency preparedness and radio control devices.

Congratulations to the NFARL Spring 2014 Ham Cram Honor Roll:

Rob Medwed, KM4AVA; Ana Maria Marin, KM4AUP; Charles Srour, KM4AUS; James Huneycutt, KM4AUX; Don Heard, KM4AUV; David Beaulieu, KM4AUT; Dick Gapen, KM4AUQ; Robert Moore, KM4AUL; Scott Brown, KM4AUR; Glenn Harper, KM4AUZ; Debora Furce, KM4AUN; Steve Corrigan, KM4AUY; Sarah Wilson, KM4AUW; Thomas Luthman, KM4AUO; Sarah Kent, KM4AUM, and Steve Kent, KM4AUU.

All 16 new hams have earned a complimentary one-year NFARL membership. We look forward to having them as members and having them take part in our many club events very soon.



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 instructor team: **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF, Mike Birmingham, K4LJG, Grant Register, KK4PCR, Mike Cohen, AD4MC, Neil Foster, N4FN, Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, and **Ian Kahn, KM4IK**. Additional thanks to the NFARL VE team: Ian, Neil, **Lee Juckett, AF4IA**, and **Steve Mays, KS4KL**.

The next HamCram will be in October!

NFARL Heats up the GQP; Hamfest Coming June 7 ***/ John Tramontanis, N4TOL***

The Georgia QSO Party is in the books and NFARL had a great effort again this year. Many members have submitted scores to the GQP, and also competed in the NFARL internal club GQP challenge.

Our folks warmed up the bands in many categories. We had rovers, **Mike Roden, W5JR** and **Steve Knittel, KC4YBO**, spanning counties across the state. And there were single station, multi-op entries from **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, and **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, who each hosted students from Mills Springs Academy at their stations. We even had some rookie operators, along with QRPers, high power and low power with a blend of cw, phone, and mixed entries.

Thank you for your support!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 7 for the [Kennehoochee/Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest](#) to be held at Jim Miller Park in Marietta. The club will have a booth at the event so be sure to stop by and share in the fun.



Satellite Antennas Ready to Go / John Kludt, K4SQC

Mark Schumann, KK4FOF, Cathy Freeman, KI4SBK, Bob Freeman, KI4SBL, Mike Clark, KK4YDQ, and Mike Parrott, N4MEP, finished construction of the NFARL Arrow (or is that Arrow-oid?) antennas at the QTH of **John Kludt, K4SQC**, on May10. The antennas consist of a three-element 2-meter beam and a six-element 70 cm beam on the same boom. The other piece of the puzzle is a 2/70cm diplexer to allow a single feedline as is common on most HTs.

The antennas themselves were built using a jig that made cutting the parasitic elements and bending the driven elements very straightforward. All of the builders thought the use of the jig made assembly “really easy.” Not so easy was tuning the antennas. It turns out the dielectric effect of boom, while easy enough to ignore on 70 cm, was very much in effect. Many thanks to Bob, KI4SBL, for the use of his most excellent VNA:



Measure the resonant frequency, cut off 1/8 of an inch, repeat. With six antennas under our belt (sixth being the “prototype” belonging to K4SQC) we now have the formula, and replication should be even easier.

For several of the builders the diplexer was their first experience with surface mount technology. Amazingly, no parts were lost in the construction of these diplexers. A couple of the builders opted for part-by-part building using a soldering pencil. Mark, KK4FOF, and Mike, N4MEP, decided to go for it and try the “toaster oven” approach. For those of you not familiar with the concept, a 400-watt toaster oven from Fry’s served as a poor man’s reflow-soldering machine. The parts were stuck to the circuit board using solder paste and then into the oven they went. The magic happens when the solder turns nice shiny silver at which time the “cookies” are done. Pretty exciting to watch and it actually seems to work!

With an HT and these antennas, five more NFARL members should be able to get active on SO-50, the currently operation FM satellite. The proof is in the eating: K4SQC used this antenna and an FT-817 to make successful contact via SO-50. Some of you had previously indicated an interest in building one of these antennas. Should there still be interest, we will get more materials and proceed to a second round of building. If interested, please contact [K4SQC](#).

Ian Kahn, KM4IK, Leads Volunteer Examiner Team

Ian Kahn, KM4IK, is now the Volunteer Examiner liaison for the North Fulton VE team, taking over from **Verne Fowler, W8BLA**, who has stepped aside to focus on his growing business venture. The club holds VE sessions on the second Saturday of each month. To help with the VE test sessions or for more information, contact [Ian](#).



LOTW vs. On-Line DXCC Submissions / Neil Foster, N4FN

The ARRL is not only blessed with a fantastic lady serving as Madame President (**Kay Craigie, N3KN**) but, also a number of other great ladies on the staff. Two such gems are **Sharon Taratula** and **Kathy Allison, KA1RWY**. Whenever I have had a question concerning LOTW or DXCC, they always have the answer. Recently, I made an LOTW awards request and then an On-Line DXCC submission that **Bill Barr, N4NX**, checked the cards for. My LOTW credits showed the new band contacts, but I did not see anything about my on-line submission. Sharon assured me that I had gotten credit. Several days passed, and I still did not see anything on the on-line submission. A call to Sharon cleared up the issue: The DXCC department considers the two submissions as totally separate items. An on-line submission does not show in your LOTW page. In order to see the credit for the on-line submission, you need to look at the matrix to see if your credits have been applied. I was not aware of the way the accounts were handled. Now I am, and so are you.

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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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