



NFARL eNEWS

June 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**.



Field Day Fun Is Weekend of June 28-29
Details in This Edition and at [NFARL website](http://www.nfarl.org)



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](http://www.nfarl.org) 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 – June 17**, 7:30 PM – Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – June 24**, 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.
- **ARRL Field Day is Saturday and Sunday, June 28-29 at Waller Park Extension, Roswell** – Set-up of antennas, radios, power sources, tents, etc. will start on Friday, **June 27**, at 8:00 AM and run to the start time of Field Day operations at 2:00 PM on Saturday. Operations will continue until 2:00 PM on Sunday. Take-down of antennas, radios, power sources, etc. will start at 2:00 PM. For more info: click [here](#)
- **Scout Radio Merit Badge Class, Saturday, June 28**, starting at 8:00 AM at the Field Day site. Click [here](#) for more information about the Radio Merit Badge Class, including how to register.
- **Sixth Annual Georgia 400 Hospitality Highway Bike Ride** – Sunday, **June 29**, 7:00 AM till finished. Contact [Wayne Chapman KG5WU](#) for more details and to volunteer.

- **AJC Peachtree Road Race on Friday, July 4**, needs ham radio volunteers. For further information, click here: [Information and sign-up](#)
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting – July 8**, 7:00 PM with dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs.
- **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session – July 12**, 10:00 AM -- Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta

Program Update / Walt Woron, KJ4HE

Our June program will be an update on Field Day 2014 from **John Kludt, K4SQC**, chairman, and team leaders **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, (“swing station”), **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, (phone), and **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, (cw).

The meeting will also feature a mini-presentation by our Electric Professors, K4SQC, AE4CW, and W4QO, called “Electricity is Magnetic.”



We're sending out a special invitation for young hams to attend.

In addition to the special presentation, there will be some activity just before the meeting, around 7:15 PM, they might not want to miss - it involves FOOD!

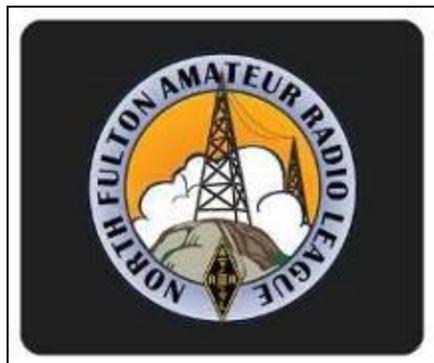
We are asking all young hams to make a special effort to attend. We'd like to renew our friendship and find out what our younger amateurs have been doing with ham radio and

how we might help.

Come by and meet us again. Also bring a friend or a Scout or neighbor. Any questions, email [Jim Stafford, W4QO](#).

New NFARL Mart Items Coming Soon

Soon you will be able to order via the NFARL Mart two new logo items sporting the newly designed NFARL logo: a full-color mouse pad and a full-color coffee mug. Pricing is TBA so please do not try to order before we establish pricing. Orders will likely be held so as to maximize quantity discounts and minimize shipping costs. Once pricing is



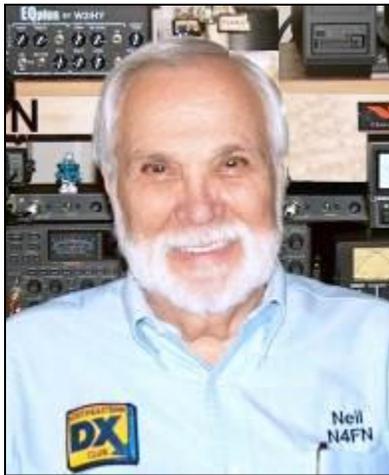
established, it will be announced on the NFARL Yahoo group and in the eNEWS.



President's Corner / Neil Foster, N4FN

Two hamfests are under our belt since the last newsletter: Dayton and now the Atlanta Radio Club/Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club combined shindig. Dayton is the granddaddy of them all. Why Dayton, it beats the heck out of me. Hara Arena is a mess and a hodge-podge of slapped-together buildings. It really gets to be fun when the sewers back up into the flea market as they did a few years ago. But, it is still Dayton, and one needs to experience the pilgrimage at least once!

This year, I set my goal to find a cosmetically (and hopefully working) nice Hammarlund



HQ-170A receiver. I did succeed with one out of two criteria ... not bad. Why I wanted that is a whole other story. Well, I found it, and with the aid of **Brian Dowd, W1DOC**, and a golf cart to handle the 38-pound monster, we got it to the car. It reminded me why they are called "boat anchors." This beast could likely anchor the *Queen Mary*. Now, to get it functional and the "phun" begins. It was fun to see the expression on the face of **Steve Knittel, KC4YBO**, when he saw the flea market at Dayton. Huge does not begin to describe it.

Recently, NFARL members were present at the ARC/KARC Hamfest at Jim Miller Park in Marietta. We unveiled our new banner with the redesigned logo, beautifully done by

Catherine Moore, the wife of **Fred Moore, N4CLA**. The banner will be at each meeting. I personally view a hamfest as a place to visit and socialize with old friends and to meet new ones. I normally have enough "toys" at home. I enjoyed this part of the gathering. I was disappointed at the number of commercial tables that were vacant. Some ARC/KARC staff I spoke with expressed the same regret. Perhaps it is a sign of the times. I can remember when the ARC hosted the National Convention in 1987. It was a two-and-a-half day, sold-out event. There was also a time when the grand prize was a mobile radio, complete with the car to go with it. Not any more! The event was also held at the World Congress Center other times as well. Frankly, I am glad we do not have a hamfest to sponsor. HamJam is our spot to shine.

Jim Stafford, W4QO, who said he has too much time on his hands (don't believe it), posted a very interesting item. The posting compared the size of some clubs. As you know, we broke 300 plus members recently, and that put us in the top 10 in the U.S., excluding "specialty" clubs like DX and contest groups. Not bad for a club that was considering shuttering the doors a few years ago. But, thanks to the efforts of a few hardy souls, we are still very much active and are in great shape today. Our new goal should be for a minimum of 75 percent ARRL membership. That is a worthy goal and easily attainable. If you are NOT a member, you should be and can join the League via the club. Doing it this way gets the club a bonus from the ARRL.

Martha Muir, W4MSA, has been honored at Mill Springs Academy as a recipient of the Nelle Lewis Memorial Award for her work with students. There will be more on that

honor elsewhere in this newsletter and at the meeting. You will also enjoy the "goodies" at each meeting. Those are courtesy of Martha, and I know she will have something special at the June meeting.

The other activity I really look forward to is Field Day, June 28-29. Setup will start on Friday, June 27, so please come out and help. Field Day is a great time to operate radio, meet with friends, and enjoy great food prepared by **Lynn Kahn, N4MSK**, and her dedicated staff. If you like brownies, you had best be fast and get to them before **KC4YBO** and **Ian Kahn, KM4IK**, do! Invite friends and neighbors and be sure to sign in since the club gets points for number of attendees. This will be a major effort, and we hope to trounce our friends at GARS with our annual friendly competition for the ice cream treats. The GOTA station will be in full operation, so if you have never operated HF and are a new or recent ham, this is your chance for some great fun.

Be at the meeting on June 17 when **John Kludt, K4SQC**, details Field Day 2014. It is guaranteed to be a blast!

FIELD DAY 2014

Field Day 2014: Ready, Set ...Go! / John Kludt, K4SQC

Field Day, the largest North American operating event, is less than two weeks away. All is in readiness. "Murphy" has a way of coming to Field Day as well, but that is something we just have to deal with. As **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, likes to say, "We will just use some ham ingenuity" and we will work our way around Mr. Murphy and his laws.

As always there will be good food, lots of friends and some superb operating opportunities. In addition to the stations devoted to phone and cw, we will have our third HF station moving between phone, cw and RTTY. The emphasis this year will be on teaching people how to "run." Running involves sitting on a single frequency, calling CQ and letting them come to you. Perhaps it is nerve-racking at first but you will have help and it is a whole lot of fun watching the QSOs pile up.



Swing Station: **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, and **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**, have the lead here. The rig is a K3 with DM780 for the digital work. As an added extra, through a sophisticated network, this station will be sharing the beam with the phone station. That piece of plumbing assembled by Wes is in itself worth a

look-see. There are plenty of operator slots open so just go to [Field Day](#), click on the swing station signup tab and reserve your mode(s) and slot(s).

Six Meters: **Joe Camilli, N7QPP**, is running the station. The rig is a Yaesu FT-2000 pushing RF into a 4-element beam. We are also looking at having one or more of the square halo antennas (“squalos”) several NFARL members built a while back available for omni opportunities. Summer is 6-meter time and Field Day should see many stations on the air. There really is “magic” in the “magic band” and this is the weekend to look for it. Again, go to [Field Day](#), click on the VHF signup and pick your operating slot. For new Technicians this is a wonderful opportunity to use a good rig and antenna to check out the “Magic Band.”

Satellite Station: We will again be sporting the satellite station under the leadership of **John Kludt, K4SQC**. This is an all-up effort as we would really like



to contribute to the NFARL ARRL Field Day activity and it sure would be nice to win AMSAT Field Day. The two run concurrently however, a cw contact for AMSAT Field Day is worth *three* points, not just the miserable *two* points the ARRL hands out. Any NFARL cw ops up to the challenge of working some satellite cw? Sure hope so. Go to [Field Day](#), click on Satellites and help us win this contest within a contest.

Setup and Takedown

If you do not want to operate, we very much need folks to help setup, beginning at 8:00 AM on Friday, resuming at 7:00 AM on Saturday. Always a problem is take-down. It begins at 2:00 PM on Sunday and is best done by as many people as quickly as possible. If you can't make setup, we could use your help at take down.

Whatever role you choose to play, even if it just to come and visit, Field Day is always a great adventure. We hope to see you at Waller Park Extension June 27-29.

Club Logo Wearables

Club member **Jerry Sullivan, KD4LZL**, wife, Janice and daughter, Paige, operate Classic Monograms & More. They can embroider on just about anything. They can provide items from a huge [catalog](#), or you can provide your own item. They are located at The Shops of Shiloh, 3940 Cherokee Street, Suite 406, Kennesaw. For details, call 770-425-4545.



Make This Your Year to 'Get on the Air'

/ Bill Weathers, K4WSW

Reminder to all newly licensed Technicians (and unlicensed individuals): The GOTA station is the perfect opportunity to experience operating above your current license class! Grab a friend or two, reserve time, prepare to learn and gain exposure to the next level of operating under the guidance of myself and **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF**. We are making it easy for you to "Get on the Air" -- register, attend, operate and experience Field Day the NFARL way.



The station operates for 24 hours so don't think no one will be operating at 2:00 A.M This annual event is 24 hours and hundreds of stations will be on the air!

Any GOTA station operator making 20 or more logged contacts will receive a GOTA Field Day pin in recognition of the achievement "on the spot." We had six operators earn the pin last year and we want to exceed that number this year.

See the [GOTA Registration link](#) to preview the operating schedule and secure your operating time. Contact either Mark or [me](#) if you have any questions about GOTA or Field Day. We look forward to seeing you!



FIELD DAY 2014

NFARES Ready to Do Its Part / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Field Day also provides a way to show how the Amateur Radio Emergency Service can aid the community.

This year, **Grant Register, KK4PCR**, is heading up North Fulton ARES Field Day support. We will be using the Sandy Springs Police Department tactical trailer (at the request of **Tom Koch, W4UOC**) and the Alpharetta mobile command vehicle (at the request of **Jim Paine, N4SEC**) to set up demonstrations of community service, including providing emergency communications for north Fulton police and fire departments, local hospitals and shelters.



Stop by these vehicles to see voice and digital message handling of ICS-213 (civil service) messages and NTS Radiogram messages (ham radio). D-Star radio will also be demonstrated along with Solar Powered backup systems (Grant and **Stuart Williams, AK4EX**).

NFARES will be working hard to earn 300 bonus points for NFARL in the contest portion of Field Day.

FIELD DAY 2014

Amateur Radio Week in Roswell / Jim Paine, N4SEC

The City of Roswell is proclaiming the week of June 23 as "Amateur Radio Week in Roswell." A proclamation will be read by Mayor Jere Wood at the City Council meeting June 23 at 7:00 PM. at Roswell City Hall. The proclamation will recognize the benefits of amateur radio to the community, the accomplishments of NFARL, and the Field Day event being held in Roswell June 28 and 29.

All amateur radio operators, friends and family are encouraged to attend. The presentation will be at the beginning of the meeting and should be done in about 20 minutes. The printed proclamation will be presented to NFARL after the reading. Roswell has long supported the club by offering free use of one of its parks for Field Day.

NFARL Member Recognized as Teacher of the Year

/ Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, and Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Martha Muir, W4MSA, NFARL member and Georgia Assistant Section Manager for Youth, received the prestigious Nelle Lewis Memorial Award during the Honors Day Assembly at Mills Springs Academy (MSA). This award recognizes outstanding teachers and is named for the mother of the school's founder, Tweetie Moore. Martha is one of only two recipients of the award this year.



As headmaster Robert Moore presented the award, he recounted several notable events that led to Martha's selection, including: 1) the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) event; 2) the ARRL School Club Roundup; 3) the October NFARES Simulated Emergency Test participation; 4) her students' success in the Future City contest; and 5) their

"experimental physics" trip to Six Flags. During an on-stage chat with Martha, he asked about the number of hams at MSA (13), the challenging physical science labs and classes, and the successes her students have achieved through her motivation.

Those of us who have worked with Martha know that she is an exceptional teacher and person. We are proud to have Martha as a member of NFARL and thank her for the leadership she is providing to engage youth in the ham radio experience throughout the Georgia section.



June Activities - Come On Out, the Weather's Fine

/ John Tramontanis, N4TOL

The Kennehoochee/Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest on June 7 was well attended by club members and the NFARL table was a central point for coffee, doughnuts, and amateur radio tales. It turned out to be a perfectly mild day for early June which created a pleasant boneyard experience, which induced several NFARL members to splurge on a variety of "needed" items for the shack.

This same weather has been put on order for the NFARL Field Day event, June 28-29, so be sure to come out and enjoy the club's biggest activity of the year (details elsewhere in this newsletter).

Mini DXpedition to Pepperfish Keys / Jim Paine, N4SEC

Two NFARL members, **Terry Joyner, W4YBV**, and **Jim Paine, N4SEC**, set out on a fun adventure to qualify three new islands off the west coast of Florida in early May with the [U.S. Islands Awards Program](#).



Our island transportation was Terry's 26-foot Carolina Skiff Center-Console fishing boat. We packed a Yaesu FT-450, three 12-volt boat batteries, a 40-10 meter fan dipole, a bunch of those hamfest military surplus fiberglass poles, along with a table and chairs. Also, lots of water and snacks. We had everything ready to head out from Steinhatchee, Florida, on our 27-mile round trip.

Planning started several months earlier by looking at tide tables, the operators' availability, and

other factors. However, one factor that could not be anticipated was the weather. Our first day, Friday, May 2, it rained. We were able to get out about 2:00 PM and set up on the first island. Band conditions were as bad as the weather! Fortunately, we were able to exceed the 25-contact minimum required by the program.

Saturday was the same weather and departure time. However, the fishing was good and we caught five really nice speckled sea trout.

Sunday, the final day, we got a weather break and worked more stations. We totaled 148 contacts in 32 states and 10 foreign countries.

Our only regret is that we were unable to work all of you back home who were listening for us. We sincerely appreciate the time you took, but the right band conditions were just not there.

But there are many more islands to explore. We hope to catch you "next time!"

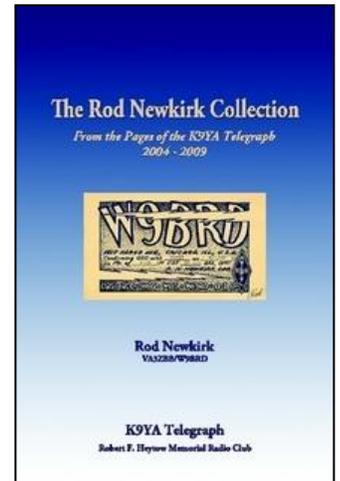


An Interesting Read – The Rod Newkirk Collection

/ Jim Stafford, W4QO

When I was a young ham, [Rod Newkirk, W9BRD](#), wrote the “How’s DX?” column in QST. I, of course, read QST from cover to cover and that included Rod’s coverage of all the exotic DX in various parts of the world. He passed along reports from readers about DX worked and when I worked my first German DL, I dutifully sent in my report. Then I waited and watched for my call sign, KN9MAF, to appear in the pages of QST, which, it did, a couple of months later. I always assumed that Rod had a high-powered station with a 100-foot tower but I now know that he operated with very meager stations and antennas. He was just a reliable columnist for over 30 years.

A few years ago, I discovered the [K9YA Telegraph](#) newsletter. It is a well produced 8-page monthly product filled with a lot of nostalgia. It is free but you must subscribe in order to receive a monthly email telling you how to download the current issue. I did not enroll soon enough to catch many of Rod’s articles, published between 2004 and 2009, but when I saw a compilation of his works, *The Rod Newkirk Collection*, was available on [Lulu](#), I went searching.



I asked on the reflector if anyone had the book that I might borrow. I got no takers but one friend sent back “It’s only \$6.84, so why don’t you just buy it?” I ordered the book and found it filled with amazing stories from just before World War II and on for 60 years. Rod was a great and entertaining writer.

One chapter, “The Original Invisible Antenna,” caught my eye. In the early 1950s, what with TVI being rampant and neighbors almost up in arms for any form of interference they could blame on the young ham down the street, hams went underground, not giving the world any hint of their ham radio operation. In this story, Rod recalls an article in QST by W6ZMZ about getting on the air “unobtrusively.” When the popular gauge for wire antennas was 12, 14, or 16, W6ZMZ pushed the boundaries by installing a 40-gauge wire antenna. He found it more robust than anticipated and quite usable.

In Connecticut, Rod installed a similar antenna using 32-gauge wire and, sure enough, with a few watts, he worked the DXpedition to Marion Island (ZS8) on 40 meters! Here’s a quote: “We’re talking extreme stealth here. The job must be done surreptitiously and quickly. Best to prepare some kind of explanation if, during the project, a friend or neighbor should happen along to find you waving your arms at nothing in mid-air. How about having your family out practicing diversionary *Tai Chi*?”

I am a QRP aficionado. What I have not done is use a really stealthy antenna. So I’ve added using a very fine wire antenna to my “bucket list” and seeing what kind of results I can obtain.

The 44 articles in *The Rod Newkirk Collection* are a quick read and if you’d like to borrow the book, just [let me know](#). Better yet, I think I’ll make a “loan” to the club library for a year or so, maybe permanently, so you can enjoy the book as I have. Or for \$6.84, you can purchase your own. Enjoy!

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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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