



NFARL eNEWS

July 2015

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 Thursday – YL Net** – 8:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 - Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
- **Every Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG) Lodge No. 1** - 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 – July 21**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Pre-meeting activity starts at around 7:00PM.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004 [map](#)
Talk-in: 145.47+ (PL 100)
Meeting Topic: *Scott KB4KBS* is very excited to announce that *Bob Mantell, W4GA*, will be presenting the program at our regularly scheduled July 21, 2015 meeting. His program will be titled "Fun on TV Channel One" and will be a primer on Six Meters.
He will talk about the frequencies that are commonly used by the various modes on that band, the role of propagation on this, the "magic band", and the atmospheric characteristics and conditions that cause "eSkip". He will touch on the VUCC program and explain grid squares for the uninitiated. For show-and-tell he will have a few 6-meter antennas to demonstrate that even small and challenged QTHs can support a six meter antenna, and also show how easy they are to construct.
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – July 28** 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.

Coming Events

• August 2015

Third Tuesday - NFARL Club Meeting - August 18 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. For August, **Scott KB4KBS** is working on having someone give "equal time" to TV Channel Two. An engineer for WSB-TV (who is a Ham) has been asked to check his schedule and put together a presentation for us Amateur Radio Operators on being a Professional Radio Operator.



President's Corner / Bob Beeman k4bb

Are you over the month of June, yet? It seems like Field Day was just yesterday. The North Fulton Amateur Radio League made more contacts than ever before. Even with operators falling sick or not being able to fulfill their operating commitments, the Field Day team managed another record year.

A big thanks to Dr John Kludt, K4SQC and his very able team. The event was well planned, and the plan worked. One of the highlights was the food. Lynn, N4MSK, did an outstanding job along with her OM, Ian, KM4IK. You can't have Field Day without barbecue and all the fixin's.

Planning is already starting for next year's Field Day. This year we put a focus on the Radio Sport part of Field Day, and our efforts were successful. Next year, we may want to improve on our number of contacts, or we may want to go in another direction. It is up to you to give direction to your club's leadership.

How about Megan Brown's picture on the front cover of the August QST! Megan's call is KM4HFY, and she is a student of Martha Muir, W4MSA, at Mill Springs Academy. Martha does great work for Amateur Radio among her students and other youth. Both Megan and Martha are members of NFARL, and exemplify what we need to accomplish by encouraging a new generation of Amateur Radio Operators.

The NFARL is an ARRL Special Service Club (SSC). We often take this affiliation for granted, but it is a classification that brings benefits and responsibilities. Every two years we make application for renewal of the classification, and now is the time. It is worth reviewing the definition of an ARRL SSC.

"A club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio is what defines a Special Services Club (SSC). They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities."

Our Youth Education, Scholarship and Activities team (YESA) led by Wes Lambole, W3WL, is something that makes NFARL different from many other clubs. The team works with Martha Muir, W4MSA in her program, sponsors HamJam, and participates in several education and youth related events during the year. Look for HamJam activities to start real soon, now.

Thanks to everybody who turned out for Field Day, and thanks to all the club members volunteering their time, over and beyond, to further the interests of Amateur Radio and the North Fulton Amateur Radio League.

I think NFARL is, indeed, a special club.

73

Bob Beeman
k4bb

***ARES / Mike Birmingham* K4LJG, EC of NF ARES**

Welcome to the North Fulton NFARES!

We have entered our busy season with several upcoming events.

Field Day

Field Day has come and gone. It was a great event this year.

ARES successfully made 300 bonus points thanks especially to Mike Cohen, AD4MC.

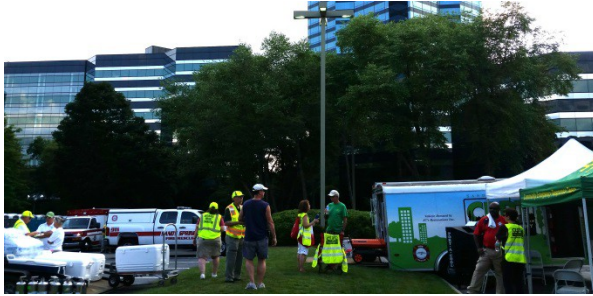
The Alpharetta command center hosted for the first time an open HF station where anyone could come by and get on the air! Thanks to Jim, N4SEC who, in cooperation with the city of Alpharetta, hosted the new HF Open Station. Oh, and did I mention that it was air-conditioned! What a blast! Next year we hope to do the same and get some signage up to attract more members and visitors.

The city of Sandy Springs provided needed shelter. Rain began right at the official start of Field Day! Thanks to the city of Sandy Springs and especially Tom, W4UOC.

Peachtree Road Race July 4, 2015

Despite the weather at the start of the race, the race went on and thanks to all who volunteered.

Sandy Springs Fireworks July 5, 2015



The Sandy Springs Fireworks show went off flawlessly. The weather was great with no rain and no fires. I was especially impressed with the professionalism of all the volunteers. Thanks especially to Mike Cohen, AD4MC who organized this event. We had seventeen ham radio operators and six helpers.

Georgia 400 Hospitality Bike Ride July 12, 2015



Wayne, KG5WU did an outstanding job organizing and running this event. We had eighteen hams working 120 hours to support this event. We had hams in the SAG vehicles and we had three motorcyclists. It was a hot day so having hams in the SAG vehicles expedited the needed services for bikers.

July 14, 2015 Meeting was on the repeater!

We held our Tuesday night meeting on the repeater this month. I think it worked out very well. We got everything accomplished that we anticipated and stayed safe and out of the strong line of storms that came through that night. We had fifteen people check into the net. Thanks to everyone for your participation. Thanks again to the NFARL who provides the repeater for our use.

Sunday Night Weekly Nets / Digital Training

Every Sunday night at eight-thirty local time we have our weekly ARES NET. Also, Mike, AD4MC will be having a digital training net right after our regular net on the first Sunday of every month. This is a great opportunity that Mike is providing for anyone interested in digital communications.

We want to thank the NFARL Exec Committee for approving a new ARES banner and the NFARL for providing it for our use! It is just like the new NRARL banner but has

added ARES. It will be a great addition to our ARES events.

I would like to thank our AECs for all their great work and dedication. Mike, AD4MC, Wayne, KG5WU, Jim, N4SEC, Jim, W4QO, Tom, W4UOC, Mike, KK4YDQ and, Tim, K4RA. Thanks so much for all you do! I hope to see everyone at the next ARES meeting as well as our regular ARES Net on Sunday nights!

Check our website at <http://www.nfares.org>

Join our Yahoo group at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/nfares/info>

***SOTA Summits On The Air* / K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter**



Sisyphus the Activator

Activation Points Once Per Year

A SOTA activator can get points for activating a given summit once each calendar year. For example, if you ride the tram to the top of Stone Mountain and you make 4+ QSOs from the summit in 2015, you collect two points. If you activate Stone Mountain again in 2015, you get zero additional points. When 2016 arrives, you become eligible for 2 more points.

A Peculiar Activator

So why does one ham activate San Bruno Mountain and Mt. Davidson again and again? As of mid-2015, he's activated San Bruno Mountain alone more than a dozen times this year!

- Maybe he lives [there](#)? Unlikely. It's a typical radio/TV tower summit.
- Maybe he really likes San Bruno Mountain? Possibly, but he does something unusual from that summit... he makes summit-to-summit contacts.

[K6EL](#) is the leading summit-to-summit activator in the United States, with more than twice as many "S2S" contacts as his nearest competitor. (The superlative metric about K6EL is that he has the lowest points per climb of any activator in the world!)

A key appeal of these summits is that they are convenient to his home and they have strong cell signal. Cell signal is important, because it allows him to use [SOTAwatch](#) to

identify other activations in progress. With this information, he's able to call the other activator and make the contact.

Your Advantages

There are a number of hills near Atlanta with similar advantages, including [Stone Mountain](#), [Kennesaw Mountain](#), and [Pine Mountain](#). For Stone Mountain, you could carry a folding chair and your cooler!

Unless you've got a truly outstanding antenna at home, you'll find that you get better signal reports operating QRP from the top of a summit than QRO at home. You'll certainly get more pile-ups from a SOTA summit than your Atlanta-area shack. (Activators can get points for the same summit once per UTC day, so they'll call you each time.) QRM is low from most summits. (Get away from the building on top of Stone Mountain, to minimize QRM there.) If you're a VHF operator, line of sight is great on a summit.

QRP-to-QRP

Summit-to-summit contacts are often regarded as particularly challenging. You'll have two QRP rigs and two portable antennas on the QSO, and you'll be competing against QRO chasers with beams. A little patience is all that's needed! A SOTA pile-up typically lasts only 5 minutes or so. Once the fuss has died down, you'll be heard. When you send your call sign, be sure to state, "Summit-to-summit." Other stations typically yield when they hear this. (And you'll compete surprisingly well, given your elevation.)

See you on the summits! 73 DE K4KPK / Kevin

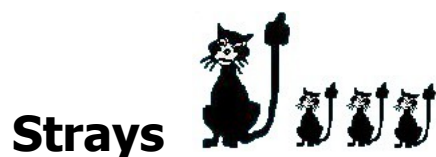
Where can I find out more?

- Official site: <http://sotadata.org.uk/>
- Mailing list: <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/summits>
- K4KPK's site: <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu>
- Email me (K4KPK). My email address is available via <http://www.qrz.com/db/K4KPK>.

Bio

K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat. His first QSO (ever) was on a backpacking trip to a 5300' summit. He has completed more than 140 activations.

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Additional photos from all events in the **NFARL eNEWS** can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NFARL/>

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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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