

DON'T FORGET: HAMJAM WAS THIS MONTH'S CLUB MEETING!



NFARL eNEWS ***November 2012***

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 Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM – Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell
- **Every Sunday** - **NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (PL 100)
- **Every Monday** - **TechNet** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) – Restarting Monday night, November 12. See information on [NFARL website](http://www.nfarl.org)
- **Second Tuesday** - **NFARES meeting** – November 13, 7:00 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club Meeting** – **No meeting this month, replaced with HamJam 2012**
- **VE Testing Session** – Saturday, December 8, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
- **NFARL Holiday Party** – Saturday, December 15, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM at Alpharetta Adult Activity Center. See details on [NFARL website](http://www.nfarl.org)

Save Your Spot Now at the NFARL Holiday Party

It's beginning to look a lot like Thanksgiving, but it's not too early to be thinking about the holiday season, specifically the annual NFARL Holiday Party.

This year's event will be held Saturday, December 15, at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center (our monthly meeting place) from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM.



Food will be catered by Babinelli's Italian Restaurant of Tucker and the menu will include antipasto salad with balsamic vinaigrette, garlic rolls, grouper Française, chicken in Marsala sauce, sausage with peppers, baked ziti, dessert (tiramisu, cookies), coffee, iced tea, soft drinks, etc. Attendance is limited to 100, so please get your reservations in early.

Cost is \$20 per person. Tickets will be on sale until end of day Saturday, December 8, and WILL NOT be available at the door. Click [here](#) to make and pay for your reservations.

All who RSVP by December 8 will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 HRO gift card that will be given away at the party.

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. Club volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children, and all are welcome to come along.

President's Corner / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

I got a huge awakening at the Stone Mountain hamfest last weekend! I spent some time in the Youth Lounge with Louis Hartlage, KF4PWI, (he has a card that says he is "Andrea's Dad." He and Andrea (KG4IUM, former ARRL Southeastern Division vice director) have been doing the Youth Lounge at hamfests for several years, including Dayton and Pacificon. We talked about how to get more youth involved in ham radio, and Louis had two concepts he shared with me. They were 1. Make sure the youth are having fun in whatever they are doing (You should have seen all the happy faces in the Youth Lounge!), and 2. Do not worry about immediate results.



There will be a few youth who dive into ham radio full speed ahead, but they are rare. The real payoff, according to Louis and the ARRL, comes around age 40, when that youth who was exposed to a ham radio seed gets involved. They now have gotten married, raised a family, maybe have some money put aside and remember some fun they had many years ago, and decide to get involved. I now have a different outlook on youth involvement, and am proud that NFARL has several programs ongoing to get youth involved, whether it pays off with immediate results or down the road 30 years from now!

As many of you know, the results are in for Field Day, and we did ourselves proud again. But the real bottom line is there were several clubs in the Atlanta area, notably the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, that had major participation in the event. Lots of evidence that ham radio is alive and well in the Atlanta area!

Also, thanks to all the club members who turned out at the October meeting to approve our new bylaws (you can read them [here](#)) and our 2013 slate of officers. Your participation in this important part of our club's business is greatly appreciated.

And finally for this month – please do join in the club's Holiday Party on December 15. You can sign up at [NFARL Mart](#) and I hope to see you all there!

73 - Wes, W3WL

HamJam 2012 Puts on Another Winning Show

HamJam 2012, held November 10 at the Georgia Gwinnett College Student Center in Lawrenceville, again presented hams with an irresistible mix of world-class speakers and quality door prizes.

Kicking off the day's presentations was Steve Galchutt, WG0AT, who entertained the crowd with tales and videos of his amusing adventures with Peanuts and Rooster, his four-legged companions on ham

radio outings in the great outdoors. He also explained the workings of the Summits on the Air program.



NFARL President Wes Lamboley, W3WL, welcomes the crowd attending HamJam 2012. Photo by Bill Cobb, K4YJJ.

Then, Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR, founder of Flex Radio Systems, described how his hobby became a business and tracked the development of software-defined radio from its infancy to now. With a nod to the future, he said it's not too far-fetched to think that you might be able to "work that rare one" from your smartphone while standing in the checkout line at the grocery store.

Finally, Doug Grant, K1DG, covered the finer points of contesting ethics ("Thou Shalt Not Cheat") and explained the elaborate planning that goes into setting up for hosting the World Radiosport Team Championship, an invitation-only contesting challenge which will be returning to the United States in 2014 for the first time since 1996.

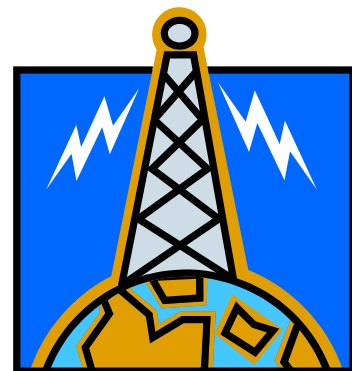
Add to that a fantastic array of valuable door prizes and it was a great day for all attending HamJam 2012, which is sponsored annually by NFARL and the Southeastern DX Club for the benefit of the clubs' respective youth scholarship programs.

TechNet Returns – But Wait, There's More! / Joe Camilli, N7QPP

Yes, TechNet is back, making its return on Mondays at 8:30 PM. But wait, we need more --- more hams to ask questions as well as more hams to answer questions.

TechNet is a program to help ALL hams, no matter if you were licensed back in the Stone Age or just yesterday. One of the great aspects of this hobby is the diverse backgrounds people bring to a program like TechNet. So just don't be a listener -- be a participant by answering a few questions.

How can I participate? I am glad you asked. If you are in metro Atlanta, our repeater team links the 900, 220, 440 and 2 meter repeater systems together on the RF side. The folks at the Dodropin group are kind enough to provide TechNet with an Echolink conference connection as well as a chat room at <http://nfarl.dodropin.org/>.



Finally, I have a big favor to ask. This will be my fourth year as net control and as many of you know I have also taken on the role of club vice president in 2013, which also entails the program chairman role. I really need some additional NCOs for TechNet throughout the year. Please let me know if you would like to take the helm, especially on the nights we have the club officers' meetings.

Questions, comments or suggestions: please contact me at n7qpp@nfarl.org.

NFARES Has Big Turnout for 2012 SET / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Thanks to the NFARES SET team and everyone else who helped, we had another successful Simulated Emergency Test (SET) this year on October 14.

Although this national event is not a contest, the ARRL does request that we complete a form listing specific accomplishments. The results are now official and have been sent to the ARRL. Last year, we broke all previous records and, this year, we again showed significant improvements. Over half (28 out of 51) of our hams who volunteered for the SET were licensed less than five years. That's major for our SET and for our hobby's future.

Last year, we sent 66 messages.

This year's number was 114 and 86 of those were digital. The messages were sent from 27 locations, including police, fire, hospital and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) sites in six cities.

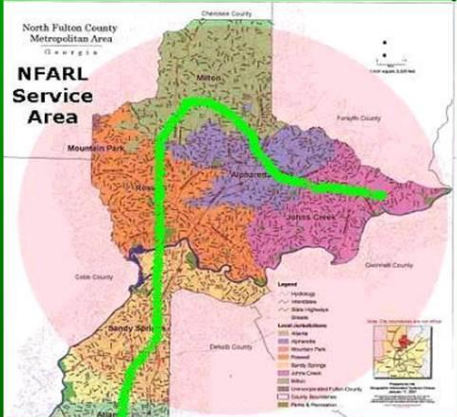
We have received compliments from the fire and police personnel who were monitoring our SET.

We will do a review of this SET at the next NFARES meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 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.

**Simulated Emergency Test
October 14th, 2012 3-6PM**

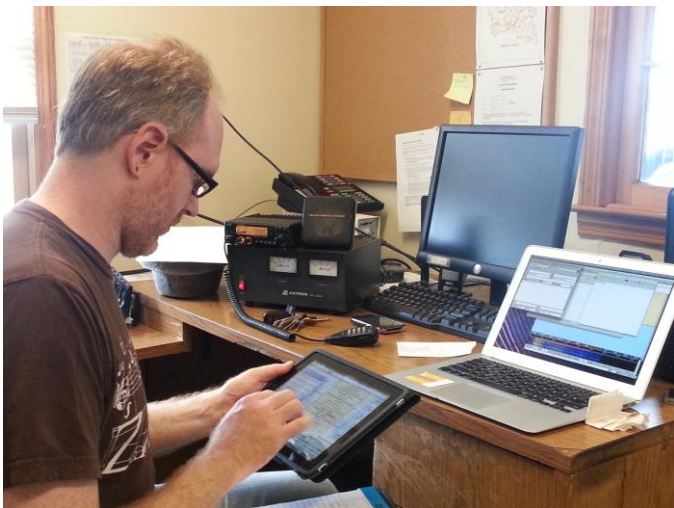
Tornado !



Alpharetta
Milton
Roswell
Sandy Springs
Johns Creek
Dunwoody

<http://nfarl.org/ares/ares.html>

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Darren Nelsen, K4DMN (above, left), and Aaron Melton, KK4LOV, take part in the Simulated Emergency Test at Roswell Fire Station No. 4 on October 14. Photos by Tim Lemmon, WK4U.

Scouts Enjoy JOTA Activities / Jon Wittlin, K4WIT

JOTA 2012 was another fun event with the scouts. NFARL members who participated in the October 20 event included:

Jon Wittlin, K4WIT, (coordinator); Keith Plossl, K4KRX, Jim Stafford, W4QO, Laura Northrop, KJ4ECA (Geo-Caching Merit Badge); Brian McCarthy, NX9O, Cathy Freeman, KI4SBK, and Bob Freeman, KI4SBL (classroom trailer and RV); John Kludt, K4SQC (satellite setup); Roger Anders, AA2HT, and Ron Gill, NV4U (band occupation); Tim Lemmon, WK4U, Dave Brackett, AK4CL, Mark Wolozin, WO4MW, Alan Stern, N4QXH (support and help); and NFARL/NF4GA for the radios and support.



We set up at the Milton District Scout Expo in Johns Creek with several hundred scouts running around. We made many contacts around the United States, Caribbean, Philippines, Malaysia, Greenland and Europe and got quite a few scouts on the air.

For our first attempt at Geo-Caching Merit Badge, nine scouts completed classroom and first cache search requirements.



NFARL members assist scouts at the JOTA station and teach Geo-Caching skills at the Milton District Scout Expo in Johns Creek on October 20. Photos by Bob Freeman, KI4SBL, and Jim Stafford, W4QO.

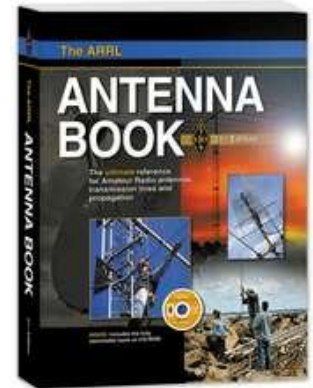
Quick NFARES Response Draws Praise

At about 8:30 AM on October 19, the Fulton County radio frequencies Sandy Springs emergency responders use went down. Sandy Springs contacted the North Fulton ARES group for assistance. Within an hour, ham radio operators were deployed in the city. The ham radios that ARES had placed in the fire stations and at the Sandy Springs EOC were used during the event to quickly become operational. The Fulton radio system came back up shortly after the hams were in place, but the operators stayed on site a couple of hours while the radio system was evaluated. Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Senior Deputy Fire Marshal and EMA Coordinator Jeff Scarbrough expressed gratitude for the partnership the city shares with ARES. He said the city “appreciated the support of ARES members and your willingness to use your skills and abilities to help us protect and serve our community.”



Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl K4KRX

In the 21st Century, we have excellent radios and many members are using QRP to make contacts around the world. Our radios are second to none but QRP really requires maximum gain from an antenna and maximum transmission from the antenna system. The antenna and transmission line make up the antenna system. It must receive the signals and transmit maximum signal for best results. The antenna itself is, however, only one part of the antenna system. If you want to study the antenna part of the antenna system, we have real help in the library. Explore a copy of the ARRL Antenna Book.



A second book you might want to check out is Low Band DXing. It covers transmission lines and signal propagation which all DXers must understand. Our library has both books for our members to make use of.

NFARL Activities

Chris Balch, KS4MM, is looking for volunteers for the Children's Hospital of Atlanta Christmas Parade December 1 from 6:30 AM to noon in downtown Atlanta. If you can help, please contact Chris at chris@balchlawgroup.com.



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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