



North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS June 2016

www.nfarl.org



FIELD DAY ! | FIELD DAY ! | FIELD DAY !

Final Thoughts on Field Day – John Kludt, K4SQC, 2016 Field Day Chairman

By the time you are reading this Field Day will be somewhere between one and two weeks away. We always say it is the “Biggest ARRL North American Operating Event of the Year.” Let’s look at the numbers: the January 2015 VHF contest saw 645 logs submitted, The June VHF contest saw 1,060 logs submitted, The November CW Sweepstakes saw 1,350 logs submitted and the November SSB Sweepstakes saw 1,826 logs submitted. And 2015 Field Day? A whopping 2,720 logs! It really is the biggest, by far, non-contest contest that we have under the ARRL banner.

We have talked in past issues of the eNEWS about all of the different ways to participate. Everything from set up on Friday to tear down on Sunday has been presented. And lots of operating opportunities as noted on the NFARL reflector, the NFARL website and our Facebook page. There are still plenty of opportunities open and we would love to have you as an active participant on the NFARL team.



**Dr. John Kludt, K4SQC
NFARL Field Day Chairman**

There are at least a couple of other ways that people enjoy Field Day. One is the time honored tradition of the “eyeball QSO.” Field Day is a great opportunity to meet old friends and catch up on the events of the day. It is a time to spin yarns and talk about the DX catch that you almost had in the log. One caution is in order: our operators will be working very hard to pull signals out of the din that is Field Day. Even though they have headphones on, it is probably best not to stand right behind them and swap tall tales with each other. Let’s make sure they get their contacts in the log and eyeball QSO’s are swapped but not in the same ten square feet of real-estate. ‘Nuff said.

Saturday night at Field Day is always special. Lynn Kahn, N4MSK, as has become traditional puts on a great spread for our Saturday evening Field Day picnic. You should have gotten an email from her inviting you to the picnic, asking you how many folks you are bringing, and asking what you are bringing as your dish to pass. Much as some of us would probably like it, we really don’t need 100 deserts and no vegetables. So please respond to Lynn’s email so she can better plan what is always a great meal.

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This year we are doing something a little different – when you register on site in our Field Day Visitors log you will be given a ticket for dinner. The goal is to make sure everyone signs in to the event. We have led the nation in Field Day visitors for the last several years. Operators, spouses, kids, strangers wandering through Waller Park – we want everyone to sign in! You might even want to try the GOTA station – it’s right there – when you have finished eating and visiting. Why even my wife made some Q’s after the picnic last year! Her comment – “So that is what you have been doing for the last 40 years – it’s actually kind of fun!”

And fun is ultimately what Field Day is all about. We each may have a somewhat different definition of “fun.” The beauty of Field Day is that it is broad enough to accommodate them all. So, please come, and enjoy the “Biggest ARRL North American Operating Event of the Year” with NFARL.

73 es culfor the non-ham in the family that is CW for Best Wishes and See You Later



Field Day 2015

NFARL Member Wins QST Cover Plaque/ Anonymous



Jeff N1KDO

It was announced at the May meeting that our own Jeff Otterson, N1KDO, had won the QST cover plaque.

First, it is not easy to get published in the magazine and second, only the "best" article is chosen to win the cover plaque. Jeff did this with his article entitled "A Field-Portable Multi-Band Rotatable Dipole Antenna" in the May issue.

Jeff’s photo was submitted without his knowledge since we knew he would never have given eNews the photo shown. Congrats Jeff!

NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Sunday — NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
- **Every Monday — Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
Also please contact [Bob K4BB](#) and learn how you can support the net.
- **Every Wednesday — Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM
Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Every Wednesday — *Youth Net** - 7:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
* The Youth Net is in "Pause" while the students enjoy their summer vacation !
- **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). Everyone is welcome: You don't have to be "old" or a "geezer" to join this breakfast get-together.
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - 7:00 PM
Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - **June 21st**, 7:30 PM.
Pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00PM.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Meeting topics: Field Day! With John K4SQC
& a youth presentation of digital radio
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting**
June 28th, 7:00 PM
Location: [Arbor Terrace at Crabapple](#)
12200 Crabapple Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Meetings are open to all NFARL members. Space is available on a first arrival basis.
- **Second Saturday – VE Testing**
NFARL provides Amateur (Ham) Radio test sessions once per month at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center. Please check our [website](#) for up to date testing information.

Annually at Field Day our friend Jim N4SEC creates and provides a press release to the media promoting our Field Day activities. We are very fortunate to have Jim working on these promotional tasks for us each year. Here is this year's press release.



NORTH FULTON AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE NF4GA

Information Release

June 25 and 26, 2016 - Amateur Radio Field Day in North Fulton County

North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL) is hosting a "Field Day" Amateur radio demonstration event Saturday June 25 through Sunday June 26 at Waller Park Extension, 160 Dobbs Dr., Roswell GA 30075. This free 24-hour event starts at 2:00 PM Saturday, and amateur radio operators will demonstrate their operating skills and emergency communications capabilities. This is not the "Ham" radio you may think about from years past! See the latest technology in radio equipment communicating to other ham stations across the world using the new digital modes, as well as voice and Morse code. See a station communicating through an orbiting satellite!

Field Day is an annual event nationwide for amateur (Ham) radio enthusiasts to show their skills at communicating by radio. Hundreds of clubs are involved across the country, using their personally owned radio equipment and providing their own back-up electrical power. This network of Amateur radio operators has been crucial to maintaining reliable communications during hurricanes, blizzards, tornados, floods and other events that may disable normal communications.

For this year, the North Fulton Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) team will operate on the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands, demonstrating the many ways radio amateurs can get the word out "when all else fails". NFARL is extremely pleased and excited to have ARES join them again this year, including a City of Sandy Springs and Alpharetta Public Safety Emergency Communications Vehicles.

For the last several years, the North Fulton group has been awarded first place in "Best Attended Field Day" nationally with over two hundred fifty visitors to the event site, including many local elected officials. If you have interest in electronics, computers and technology in general, this is the event for you! Bring the family. Club members will personally show you their radio gear and explain how it works. You can even get on the air and participate as a guest!

For more detailed information and location map, check out www.nfarl.org

Getting Involved /Jim Stafford, W4QO

This interesting and useful piece was in a recent edition of ARRL Contest Update:

*“If you have an opportunity to participate in a club Field Day effort this year, take a moment to look around and see if you can identify those individuals that are making it happen. They volunteered to contribute their time and effort to make and be a part of something larger and different than just “1D.” If you are so inclined, you might even look for somewhere to jump in and help. Maybe there's a job that would be easier with a second person. **Whether it's helping to pull stations from a pileup, or filling in for someone who called in sick, extra hands are always useful at events that require a lot of logistics.***

Clubs with strong records of successful events realize that official recognition of consistent contribution is key to staying strong, and developing new volunteers.

While volunteers do it for their own reasons, it's never wrong to simply say, one way or another, “Thank you for helping make this possible.” It's always appreciated.”



Why not join the #1 Class 3A club (NFARL) from 2015 to make this one another goodin'

Jim/W4QO - *Doing FD for most of my 58 years a ham*



Eli and Zach's Excellent Hamventure

Martha W4MSA

NFARL members and Mill Springs Academy students Eli Musgrave, KM4HFZ, and Zach Haidari, KM4QIV, attended this year's Dayton Hamvention and had a busy but great time every moment they were there. The Mill Springs Amateur Radio Club is an ongoing project of mentoring, teaching, and financial help from the North Fulton Amateur Radio League.

On Thursday, prior to the Hamvention, Eli and Zach joined over three hundred enthusiasts at the QRP Amateur Radio Club International's Four Days in May convention. A highlight of the convention was an attempt to set a world record by having the most number of kits built at one session. Rex Harper, W1REX, designed a kit to build a radio receiver that would not require a single solder joint, since getting enough soldering irons for the 300 folks in attendance would be a terrific challenge. Eli and Zach quickly put the parts for their receivers together, verified that they were working, and then went on to help some of the other folks sitting nearby with their kits.



Rex W1REX helps Zach and Eli at the QRP ARCI kit build



Zach and Eli control Tesla as they duke it out

The next day was the first day of the Hamvention. Eli had been before; Zach had not. None the less, they both entered Hara Arena with eyes and jaws flung wide open with awe and excitement. Everywhere they looked there was something new and exciting to see, perhaps to fiddle with. Early on, they enjoyed the Tesla vs. Edison video game and picked up some 'Tesla was right' bumper stickers to bring home. They went by the ARRL display where they saw Wes W3WL talking with ARRL Education Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ. Soon it was time for Zach to head off to take the General class license exam offered at the

Hamvention. Great news! He passed and now joins Eli as a General class operator. (They are now in a race to see who can earn his Amateur Extra class license first.)

They met Carole Perry, WB2MGP, director of the Youth Forum and attended her Instructor's Forum. Seeing how the presenters there had to hold the microphone, it was decided that they needed to practice using a microphone and passing it between them in



Zach receives congratulations from Gordon West after passing the General exam

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preparation for their presentation during the Youth Forum the next day. So, that night, in the hotel room, Eli and Zach practiced their presentation again, this time with a deodorant bottle representing the microphone. Rather than simply prattle off a quick list of names and calls of our friends and mentors in NFARL, they decided to add some slides where they could thank the club and show images of our mentors helping us.

It took all of the first day to see most of the Hamvention's displays inside the arena complex. Eli and Zach returned to the hotel and after rehearsing for their Youth Forum presentation, went down and got involved in the QRP ARCI FDIM Vendor's Night. They each came back from that with a box of small parts that can be used to build various electronic gadgets. Zach also brought back a CW book after talking with some of the veteran hams about the joys and benefits of communicating via CW.



Eli & Zach Practice



**Eli & Zach explain
a screen shot of Fldigi**

Saturday morning brought 'show time,' the time for them to make their presentation at the Youth Forum. Chuck AE4CW and Wes were there to wish them well and to watch the forum. This year, Carole had assembled twelve young hams to speak at this forum. Working together, Eli and Zach presented "Discover the Fun and Magic of Digital Radio Communication" to the crowd that overflowed the room. Members of the audience seemed to really enjoy their presentation. "I'm glad that's over" remarked Eli as he was coming off the stage. Carole heard that and repeated it to the audience. The audience laughed, understanding the stress

that this public speaking has on these young hams. Eli and Zach did great, a sentiment graciously expressed by many folks who came up to them afterward. Students who spoke at the Youth Forum were given an armload of great gifts, including an ICOM ID 51-A Plus HT, two MFJ antennas, and a jacket and backpack each with their name and call sign embroidered on it. Some of the audience members walked away with fabulous door prizes as well.

After a short lunch with Chuck, Wes, and Eli's father, Bill, who showed up to surprise Eli, their time at the Hamvention was nearly up. Chuck took Zach out for a quick tour of the boneyard. Eli gave Bill a quick tour of the inside displays before meeting Zach back at the Radio Club of America booth, where Carole had requested the Youth Forum speakers go to answer questions anyone had about their presentation. Primarily, though, they just spent time hanging out with the other young speakers. Eli, Zach, and Bill spent the little remaining time wandering through as much of the boneyard as they could. Zach found a CW straight key that he bought and hopes to use at his home station that he is still in the process of setting up.



**Zach displays the
door prizes he won!**

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After one final swing by the monitors that posted the ticket numbers drawn for Hamvention door prizes, it was time to leave the Hara Arena.

Ed Engleman, KS8O, coordinator of the YACHT (Young Amateurs Communications Ham Team) group, had organized a pizza party for Saturday night for all the young hams at the Hamvention. It's hard to say if all the young hams at the hamfest attended, but the pizza party was pretty packed with young folks with their common interest of Amateur Radio. Eli and Zach enjoyed great conversations, laughs, and pizza throughout this final gathering for them at this year's Hamvention.

Though the Hamvention continued for one more day, Eli's and Zach's participation had come to an end. It was time to hit the road to get back to the reality of school on Monday. Driving back towards Atlanta, they reflected on how much fun they had there and how they hope to go back the next year. While they represented a minor segment of the demographics of the attendees at the hamfest, there were plenty of opportunities for them to get fully involved in everything and learn much more about this hobby that fascinates, entertains and educates them.

Our great appreciation and thanks to all who put together and welcomed us to all the Hamvention festivities.



Meeting Program Update / Mike Birmingham, K4LJG

Our monthly club meetings continue to feature presentations of interest to club members. Here is a quick review of our upcoming programs.

June

The June meeting is about Field Day. Dr. John Kludt, K4SQC, the Field Day chairman, will discuss Field Day, 2016. Let's all help John out this year and make this another great, fun time!

Also, two students from Mill Springs Academy will be presenting Discover the Fun and Magic of Digital Radio Communication. They did this presentation at the Dayton Hamvention this year. I look forward to hearing from Eli and Zach!

July

Are you wondering about what all the excitement is about DMR Radio? John Burningham is an expert on DMR radio. You won't want to miss this!

August

I am still working on a speaker for August. I have a couple of ideas but nothing finalized yet.

September

If you are looking for a complete logging software package, then Ham Radio Deluxe is for you! Our very own Neil Foster, N4FN is a beta tester and an expert on Ham Radio Deluxe. This is a great program. If you are already using the program, Neil will show you many of the features that you might not be using. So whether you a beginner or an old pro, you need to be there!

October

Barry Kanne, W4TGA, will present "Stone Mountain Holiday Present". "It tells the story of the RF interference caused by the holiday decoration lights on the TV tower. It details how we found out about the problem, how we defined the extent of the problem and the measurements and impact on operations on the mountain."

NFARES Update / Mike Birmingham, K4LJG, EC of NFARES

The busy season for North Fulton ARES is here! The next big event of course is Field Day. We expect to have the Alpharetta Command Center on Saturday again. It is always fascinating and I look forward to seeing it again this year.

The Sandy Springs Fireworks is coming up on July 3. I don't have all the details yet but it is a great event and you get to watch a great show!

The Georgia 400 Hospitality Bike Ride on July 10 starting at seven o'clock. This is a lot of fun and we will need volunteers!

On our weekly ARES net we continue to practice and learn more about digital communications. Join us Sunday nights at 8:30 PM on the 147.06 repeater, PL tone 100. You don't have to be a member of ARES to participate.

The second Tuesday of the month is the ARES meeting at seven o'clock at the Fellowship Bible Church. It is easy to get to and parking is never an issue. Everyone is welcome! Check out our website at www.nfares.org for details.

Atlanta HamFest Remembered / Lori Young, K4UPI

The Atlanta HamFest offered its participants a wide array of events in one location. On June 4th Jim Miller Park came alive with newcomers looking to pass their first tech exam in order to earn the right to be called a ham. Some tested to upgrade their license status to the next level.



Lori K4UPI

The rain held off for those who wished to find a bargain in the boneyard. Many a deal could be made on everything from connectors to vintage style radios. As the crowd meandered to the front of Building A, Daryl K4RGK, gave them the experience of what it's like to make contact with a satellite moving at 16,000+ miles per hour. Right outside the entrance to the building, the NFARL MAST or Mobile Automated Satellite Tower, stood tall while holding a pair of circular polarized beams which tracked the satellites with the help of a program called SatPC 32. John K4SQC and Lori K4UPI assisted in offering information on Satellites and the ARISS program (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) to those stopping by.

Many clubs were well represented during HamFest. NFARL members welcomed patrons of the event by offering friendly conversation, brochures and membership sign up opportunities. Neil N4FN, Mike AD4MC, Steve KM4AUU and his daughter Sara KM4AUM, Chuck AE4CW, Fred KK4JYO, Bob KI4SBL, Cathy KI4SBK, Fred N4CLA, Pavel AC4PA, Tim K4RA, Alan N4QXH and John N4TOL were among others present to showcase your club at the NFARL club table!

Throughout the day vendors exhibited their products while some presented their original amateur radio related craftsmanship. One of these talented vendors was Nathan K4NHW who offered his intricate wood carvings and custom pens.

In addition to selling his wares, Nathan and his spouse Kari celebrated her passing the technician exam. Listen for Kari KM4ULQ on the airways! Congratulations to Kari and all those who passed their licensing exams at the HamFest.

For all those who didn't make it to the 2016 Atlanta HamFest, there will always be next year. Remember, your participation in ham radio events is what keeps the hobby going so get involved, spin the dial and call CQ!

Fun in Ham Radio / Terry Joyner, W4YBV

Okay, It's time for me to toot my own horn!

For the second time in 2015 and 2016 I came in first in the QCWA QSO party phone contest. Please go to qcwa.org/qso-party.htm

Also for the first time our club qualified it's first island for the U.S. Island awards program using club call NF4GA.

Jim N4SEC and I went to Kenton Beach FL. Island Number FL525S on April 27 2016 and put it on the air.

Using a new antenna I built called the "Green Bean" we made over 50 contacts!

The award will be presented to the club at the July meeting.



Emergency Generators / Tim Romashko, K4RA

What if the nature of the emergency does not require you to leave the house? If you plan on staying home during a crisis, you need to be ready for city water, power, and natural gas outages. Water shortages are easy enough to deal with if you plan ahead. Water can be stored for quite a long time and good water filters are readily available and work well if you have access to water, even dirty water. Remember that you need a minimum of 1 gallon per person per day of water. You can't live without water for very long.

You can live without power if you are willing to forego certain comforts. Things like air conditioning, washer, dryer and electric cooking appliances are nice to have but not absolutely necessary for survival. Heating the house can be done in other ways. If you are now saying "I'm not living with those things" then you are a prime candidate for a backup generator.



Tim K4RA

There are a few things to know before you invest in a generator. First of all, you will be the envy of the neighborhood if you have power when everyone else goes dark. That also means you are going to be the neighborhood gathering place in times of crisis.

This can be good and bad. This is particularly bad if all your new friends expect you to feed them too. Pretty soon you can't get rid of the neighbors. Be careful about being too flashy with your preparedness measures. I once asked a neighbor what they would do if a crisis occurred. They flatly said that they were coming over to my house! Train your neighbors NOW so you don't need to support them later.

So now you have decided to buy a backup generator. Before you do, do your homework. You need to decide how much power you need. The greater the capacity, the higher the cost. In addition to the initial cost is the operational cost. More power output means higher the fuel consumption as well. A generator that is large enough to run the whole house can burn 2 to 6 gallons of fuel per hour of run time. Once you know the amount of power you need (expressed in Watts), double the number and go shopping. If you don't know how much power you need, watt meters are cheap (\$30 range) and can tell you how much power your favorite appliances draw. Generators are rated in running watts of output power but are not designed to run at 100% capacity. The fuel burn numbers each brand will quote are almost always at 50% output. 5000 watts will run most appliances, one at a time. 10,000 watts will run a few things at once but there are limits. A/C needs 15,000 watts or more if you expect to cool the whole house. If you need to run electronics, you will need a better quality power output. Computers don't like dirty power. You can run lights, power tools and most appliances on dirty power but not sensitive electronics. Dirty power is usually seen from less expensive generators.

Generators run on fuel, you need to decide what kind of fuel you can keep up with. Gasoline is common but you can also get Diesel, propane and natural gas versions. Natural gas is the easiest since you hook it to the home supply. That is great until that supply stops working and

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suddenly your generator does too. You want a fuel supply that you can control. Gasoline and diesel are easy to get (until a crisis hits) but both of these age and go bad so you need to rotate the stored fuel. You can dump the older stored fuel in your vehicle as long as it burns the same fuel. Don't get a diesel generator if you do not have a diesel vehicle of some sort to share fuel with. Propane is good because it is in sealed containers (cylinders) and does not go bad like gas or diesel. Propane is my choice but you need to have a few full propane cylinders sitting around just in case you need to run the generator for an extended period of time. You need to decide what fuel you want when you buy the generator. Changing the fuel later can be difficult and expensive.

Please remember that you can NOT just connect your generator to the power panel at the house when the power goes out! If the power comes back on while the generator is connected you are going to have two power sources feeding into each other. This will destroy the generator and may start a fire! You need a "Transfer Switch" to keep the generator and regular power separate. You need an electrician to install this.

The last thing I will say about generators is that they require planning and careful operation. Be sure to follow all safety pre-cautions! Keep the running generator away from the house. Generators get hot and produce carbon monoxide. Both of these can cause more problems for you. If you are unsure of anything mentioned here, consult a licensed electrician.

Plan ahead, live well and be safe!

Ruth Wins Scholarship from ARRL ! / Wey Walker, K8EAB

In addition to participating in the 2016 Youth DX Adventure trip to Saba, Ruth is a 2016 recipient of an ARRL Scholarship ...

The ARRL General Fund Scholarships, \$2,000 each

Georgia K. Belmont, NY2GB, New York, New York

Michael J. Currie, KF5ZAP, Bedford, Texas

Skyler T. Fennell, KD0WHB, Denver, Colorado

Bejamin H. Jacobs, KC9ROI, Osceola, Wisconsin

Magdalena L. Moses, KM4EGE, Falls Church, Virginia

[Ruth A. Willet, KM4LAO, Lawrenceville, Georgia](#)

Outstanding, Ruth ... Congratulations !

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Club Repeaters

Frequency—Description	P.L. Tone	Location
145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 56086 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES Repeater	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with MATPARC	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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