



*North Fulton  
Amateur Radio League  
NFARL eNEWS  
July 2016*

[www.nfarl.org](http://www.nfarl.org)



**ANOTHER GREAT  
NFARL FIELD DAY!**

North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL) has been on the go over the last month. I hope those who braved the 99 degree temperature (123 degrees in the parking lot) and high humidity had a great time! It was

great to see everyone at Field Day displaying club pride by wearing the Jim Stafford W4QO designed t-shirt. I was also pleased to see the participation of many new members and youth. While we are tabulating our final 2016 Field Day score, the preliminary numbers are:

QSO's – 4041    Points – 14,482    Participants – 216

While these are unaudited numbers, I understand our effort was on par or slightly better than 2015!

Join me in thanking, Dr. John Kludt, K4SQC Field Day Captain and his dedicated team execute on their well-defined plan to defend our class 3A first place in 2015. Of course it wouldn't be Field Day without an emperor's buffet of food, drinks and treats!



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

With Military precision, Lynn Kahn, N4MSK did an outstanding job of coordinating logistics with the assistance of Ian Kahn, KM4IK and her father Steve Knittel, KC4BYO. Martha Muir, K4MSA delighted the overnight operators with Sunday breakfast featuring Belgian waffles and bacon!



**NFARL President  
Mark - KK4FOF**

We also capitalized on new bonus points by having a safety officer and utilizing social media. You may have seen Tim Romashko, K4RA on his four wheeler ensuring everyone was following safe operating procedures, hydrating and monitoring the weather. He was assisted overnight by two of our youth members Sarah Kent KM4AUM and Johnny Kent. Bill Cobb, K4YJJ also deserves recognition for coordinating our social media efforts on FaceBook and the NFARL website. Also check out the Field Day pictures on the NFARL website.

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Speaking of media, did you see John Kludt and NFARL on the front page of the Roswell XXX or see Daryl and Lori Young accept the Amateur Radio Week proclamation from the City of Roswell? Thanks to Jim Paine, N4SEC for coordinating our public relations efforts. NFARES also demonstrated Amateur Radio coordination of emergency communication in times of emergency with our local public safety first responders. Thank you Mike Birmingham, K4LJG for coordinating another great display!



**Field Day 2016**

It seems that Field Day had just ended and it was time for 13 Colonies Special Event. NFARL's own Nathan Wood, K4NHW coordinated Georgia's, K2G efforts. Thank you Nathan and NFARL operators for continuing this tradition. I hope everyone had fun and obtained a clean sweep. I was able to work all 13 Colony's and WM3PEN but GB3COL remained elusive! Nathan and the Executive Team will be reaching out in the coming weeks to solicit member's assistance in processing the QSL cards.

Coming up, NFARL will be activating Chattahoochee National Park for NPOTA. Terry Joyner, W4YBV and Jim Paine, N4SEC will provide more details at the August meeting. Also mark your calendar for HamJam 2016 on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Metropolitan Club in Alpharetta. Wes Lamboley, W3WL will update everyone in the coming months! The Executive Team has also been hard at work planning the 2016 Holiday Party on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the July meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>!

73's

*Mark*

KK4FOF - NFARL President

## ***NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates***

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- **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** - **July 19th**, 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 topic: DMR Radio  
Presented by John Burningham
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting**  
July 26th, 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.

## ***Field Day GOTA Wrap Up / Bill Weathers, K4WSW***

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Another great time at GOTA!

The "Get On The Air" station at Field Day 2016 was once again a very busy and popular venue. GOTA is the designated station for anyone interested in Amateur Radio to gain an introduction, new hams to explore the next level in operating or any licensed ham not active in recent years to rejoin the fun.

In summary, the GOTA station operating statistics:

- 377 QSO: 317 Phone, 60 Digital
- 19 Operators
- 9 Operators under 18
- 12 GOTA pins awarded (63% of operators)
- 9 Operators with 20+ QSO, 2 Operators with 40+ QSO and 1 Operator with 60+ QSO
- Worked 67 sections, 44 states and 3 DX stations
- Station Open for 22 hours

Assisted 20+ Boy Scouts achieve Radio merit badge

Selected highlights from GOTA during FD 2016:

- Special shout out to the Kent family: The Kent family contributed from end-to-end this year – setting up and operating GOTA. Steve Kent N4SMK and son, Johnny, assisted with set-up on Friday and Saturday, Sara KM4AUK assisting overnight with Safety Operations. Johnny also operated to become the first GOTA pin recipient this year; followed aggressively by younger brother, 9yr old Jacob, also achieving a GOTA pin.
- Digital operations for second year: Josh Drew KM4MVK operated Digital mode overnight, cranking up operations around 12:30AM and ceasing at 5:00AM with 60+ QSOs, while his father Jay Drew KC4JD was operating one of the K4JJ stations overnight.
- NFARL generations: no surprise, many familiar last names operated GOTA this year, including Drew, Wittlin, Kahn, Schumann, Lamboley and Kent.
- New hams achieving a GOTA pin: Kari Wood KM4ULQ, Glenn Fell KM4PUB, Mike Bengtson W4WHB and Dale Frye KM4UMB
- Other non-licensed participants achieving a GOTA pin: April Fell, Daniel Wittlin, Spencer Kahn, Kiley Schumann and Kathryn Lamboley.

Sunday morning started slowly, however closed strong with a pile-up achieving 73 QSOs in the final 80 minutes of FD 2016, spanning 3 operators and 2 coaches....maintaining the frequency with operator and coach shift changes was truly a radio sport experience of "park and run". Congrats to operators Kari, April and Vivian.

There are many, many additional stories from the GOTA Station and Field Day 2016. I hope you enjoyed the few highlighted above – we look forward to many more next year and anxious to see who will make the GOTA Highlights for FD 2017.

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Above: Jacob Kent operating with Bill K4WSW....working on his GOTA pin.

Right: Late night with Josh Drew KM4MVK, operating Digital PSK31 with Bill K4WSW



Below: One more QSO to a pin....Kiley Schumann working with proud father Mark KK4FOF



## ***NFARES at Field Day / Mike Cohen, AD4MC***

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### **NFARES earned 300 Bonus points for the 2016 NFARL Field Day Event - *Again !***

Once again, NFARES supported the NFARL Field Day Team chaired by John, K4SQC by earning 100 bonus points each for 1) Message Origination to Section Manager, 1) ARRL Radiogram Message Handling and 3) Copying the W1AW Special Field Day Bulletin. A special thanks to Stuart - AK4EX, Fred - KK4JYO and Grant - KK4PCR for setting up and configuring the radio and computer equipment to achieve these tasks.

NFARES had the support of the Sandy Springs Fire Department and Alpharetta Police Department by their providing the Sandy Springs Fire Corps and Alpharetta Tactical Support Vehicles. Thanks to Tom, W4UOC, Jim, N4SEC and Mike, KK4YDQ for getting permission to use these vehicles and delivering them to our Field Day site.

Bravo for another outstanding NFARL Field Day Event.

73,

NFARES Team



## ***New Member Welcome / Fred Moore, N4CLA***

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Please join me in welcoming these new members of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League Family. All of these Hams joined NFARL in 2016.

Michael	Adams	KG5HUU
Randal	Kirkpatrick	KM4SWK
Joe	Culbreth	N4AIK
Jim	Kauffman	N7TTO
Paul	Buckholdt	N4FBN
Edem	Atsu	KM4PQG
Glenn	Fell	KM4PUB
Bill	Abler	KM4RKU
Jordan	Prather	KC4JTP
John	Norris	N4IHV
Earl	Freeman	N4ERL
Ruth	Willet	KM4LAO
Mike	Bengtson	KM4QHH
Kevin	Kitchen	N9PBW
John	Thomas	KM4QIS
Mark	Bundy	W4UTX
Roger	Bousselot	KM4QPB

Let us also welcome these new members.

Robert	Gordon
Ron	Cheslock

And let's also welcome back a returning member.

Mike	DiLuigi	KJ4PQY
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## ***Quote of the Month***

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*"Welcome to Amateur Radio, where the learning opportunities are endless and the contacts you make turn into friendships."*

Lori , K4UPI

## ***Program Update / Mike Birmingham, K4LJG***

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We have a great lineup of speakers so far for 2016.

### **July**

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

### **August**

We have two presentations for August. Pavel Anni, AC4PA will be doing a presentation on CW. If you went to Field Day this year, maybe you got a chance to learn some CW with Pavel.

Jim Paine, N4SEC and Terry Joiner, W4YBV will be discussing National Parks on the Air. This is a yearlong ARRL even that I suspect that everyone may know about.

### **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. Bill Morton, W4ASE will be joining Neil. He is also a senior beta tester for HRD. This is a great program. If you are already using the program, they 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."

That's all for now.

Mike Birmingham, K4LJG  
NFARL Vice President/Program Chairman



## ***Dry Tortugas DXpedition / Tim Lemmon, WK4U***

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Why do some people pack all kinds of ham radio gear in their vehicle, drive over a thousand miles one way, take the chance of getting sea sick on a nearly three hour boat ride, setup radio gear on a remote island in the hot sun and sleep in tents camping primitive style while eating MRE's? Because they're crazy! Right? Nope. They love the thrill of adventure with each other, and the huge radio pileups on HF. I just returned from a trip exactly like this. Some would say that I am crazy though...

Five of us traveled to the Dry Tortugas island for three nights and four days in May (look it up if you don't know about it). The team operated as K4T. Two from Atlanta, two from St. Louis and one from Titusville, Florida. One team member is a paramedic, and he brought a large bag of supplies in case we needed help. We had two stations. Two wind



turbines providing power into our batteries, along with solar panels. Both stations ran 50 watts power, and we even had a hex beam for 15M, 17M and 20M. Lower bands used wire antennas up about 25 feet. All antennas were from RadioWavz. Icom donated numerous radios for us to use. Weather was always sunny during the day, and windy all the time.



Make a contact with us, and you earned six numbers right away. One of them was the popular National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) award. Our number was from a park that is quite rare, so we had a bunch of people trying to make a contact with us for that number alone. We experienced the joys of a geomagnetic storm during our activation. We'd call CQ for 15 minutes straight with no replies. Tough going. But when the propagation gods cooperated with us, the amount of stations calling us was so great, we had to operate split. I was playing CW and estimate most of the time I had a dozen people calling me – at the same time! Most hams don't experience the thrill of having so many people calling YOU. That's a main reason we go through all the effort to play radio from a remote location. And there was more.

We made 39 unique contacts on an FM walkie talkie through the SO-50 satellite when it passed overhead. One morning, the park ranger joined us at our tents around 4:45am. He's a ham too. We all climbed to the top of Fort Jefferson (look it up if you don't know about this amazing place!) and worked a number of folks on that pass. When it was all over, the sun was just rising in the east. We all stood in awe at the most beautiful sunrise we've EVER seen. No clouds and all ocean.



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Spectacular. Did I mention the night skies? No electricity on the island, and no light pollution. In fact, it was a new moon during our visit there. Wow! On the boat ride back to Key West, we had a final satellite pass of about 57 degrees. We made numerous contacts on the satellite "maritime mobile", which was kind of hard. The boat was rocking and rolling while cruising at 30 mph! Try holding that hand held beam on a moving satellite and trying not to fall down at the same time :) You really need three arms.

Our operation location was on the north end of the fort. Great location for best winds and unblocked view to the north. We were probably 50 feet from the ocean water. About the same distance were two boats recently confiscated by park rangers that Cuban refugees used getting to the island. Looking inside was eye opening. We were told refugees make it to the island about once a week.

We all got to enjoy night life in Key West on Duval Street. It's an adult environment for sure, but we all had a blast, great laughs, food and pictures to remember.

If you get to the point that you can easily operate a radio and a computer keyboard quickly, you're a good candidate for contesting. Give it a try. You need those skills to do an expedition like this. Believe me, the thrill is worth all your efforts. You'll enjoy a new part of our hobby like we do. The traveling part is just icing on the cake.

*Tim*, WK4U



## ***North Fulton ARES Update / Mike Birmingham, K4LJG***

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Field Day is now history but what a day it was! Other than "fun" another one word to describe Field Day is "hot"! Despite the hot weather we had a great showing at the ARES portion of the event. Thanks to Mike Cohen and his team, ARES added 300 points to the NFARL score!

This year we had for the first time a safety office. ARES member, Tim Romashko, K4RA was the safety officer and what a great job he did. Not only did we get another 100 points, but also he did a wonderful job keeping everyone safe and well hydrated. Thanks to Jim Payne, N4SEC and Mike Clark, KK4YDQ the Alpharetta Command Center was a big hit this year especially since it had air conditioning!

The new Sandy Springs Fire Corp vehicle made it debut thanks to Mike Cohen and Tom Koch. The Sandy Springs Fireworks went very well although it was a hot night. Thanks again to Mike Cohen for spearheading this event. I wasn't able to make it but we had 15 volunteers at the event.

Wayne Chapman, KG5WU, headed up the Georgia 400 Hospitality Bike Ride on July 10. I will write about this event next month.

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](http://www.nfares.org) for details.

## ***A Special Trans-Atlantic Connection / Lori, K4UPI & Martha, W4MSA***

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On May 2, Lori received an email that would turn out to be the beginning of a very special Trans-Atlantic connection. The author of the email, John Hislop G7OHO was reaching out across the miles in hopes of finding youths that were interested in ham radio. He took a chance and contacted Lori using the club officer information on the NFARL website. With great curiosity, Lori immediately replied to John in anticipation of a new opportunity for our club.

John is the chairman of the Hilderstone Radio Club in the UK (<http://www.g0hrs.org/>). "The club has 45 licensed amateur radio enthusiasts and one short wave listener in Italy. They have a wide variety of interests including construction of electronic projects, using computers in amateur radio and entering contests. We are keen to advance our knowledge of radio communications as well as passing on that knowledge to local schools and organizations."

He and his team are helping a local school get into Amateur Radio and while researching our NFARL website they noticed our Youth Incentive program. John mentioned they were *very* impressed with our website. He asked if our club had DStar or digital capabilities. Soon our conversation turned to Echolink and the test sessions began. Their first test run to see if they could get into our Echolink node was successful. This was at 10:30 UTC so naturally they didn't get any responses! John suggested it would be good to set up a sked for the pupils in the UK.

On Thursday, June 23, the Hilderstone Radio Club in the UK was having a National Women in Engineering Day and the club was setting up some activities for the local schools at about 1500 UTC. They were hopeful some young girls would come along and that it would be great if they could chat to youngsters at our end. The event was to be held at Wellesley House school which had an ARISS contact with the British astronaut Tim Peake. Only 10 schools in the UK have been allowed to do this so, of course, everyone was very excited ***to have this additional opportunity to get students talking on the radio***. You can see the school and the contact at <http://www.wellesleyhouse.org/>.

John G7OHO and Lori agreed the idea of setting up a sked to connect the youths together was a good one. This was the perfect time to introduce John and his team to Martha W4MSA. As you all know, Martha facilitates the Youth Net and is responsible for the success of the Mill Springs Academy ham radio program (along with other NFARL members who work tirelessly to excite youth in ham radio). The plan was starting to come together and it was hoped that by introducing John to Martha, we could all work together to bring the UK and US ham radio youths together!

Unfortunately, June 23 hits in the summer vacation time for students in our schools. John had originally anticipated having students at Wellesley House talk with students at Martha's school during our school day. However, Martha's students had scattered to the summer wind. Most of them were traveling with their families and/or involved in summer programs that tied them up at this proposed time. None the less, two great young hams were able to join in this contact. Zach KM4QIV was involved in a Web Design program at Kennesaw State at the time but arranged

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with his instructors to step out of the class to join in this amazing opportunity. Ruth KM4LAO was back in town from her trip to Virginia and Washington, DC and had already returned to work completing some of her home school classes before she heads off to college. She interrupted her studies to join in this contact.

Also joining in on the actual contact were Lori, Martha, and master youth mentor Jim W4QO. At the designated time, John called out to us on the radio and introduced us to Steve Brett (club call sign G0HRS). Steve served as the actual facilitator for the students talking on the radio. It turns out that the Hilderstone Amateur Radio and Electronics Club had arranged to have six different engineering-related activities for the young gals to do that day; talking on the air was just one of those. After the original 'hellos' were exchanged, John went off to help the students make and investigate "Squishy Circuits," an activity that NFARL might do with guests at the Maker Faire next fall.

As the official activity began, Steve oriented the young students about what they were about to do. Meanwhile, they heard those of us on this end chatting among ourselves on the radio. Soon a young gal would come on the air with a question. The nature of the question determined who on our end would answer the question. Lori handled many of the early questions while her work schedule allowed. The students responded well to Zach since he was near their age but he also had time restrictions; his teachers had kindly given him some time to make these contacts but the exchange took much longer than we had anticipated. While driving, Ian KM4IK heard the ongoing conversations and joined us in answering the questions coming in from the British students. By the time Zach had to get back to his class, Ruth got a break in her studies and joined us. She was an immediate hit with both the young gals and the engineers helping out from Hilderstone. The students asked Ruth why she wanted to become a ham, what she enjoyed doing with ham radio, and what her college plans are. The young students were totally fascinated by her responses to their questions. Ruth became an Amateur Radio operator to explore her interest in Morse code. CW is one of the modes she is using to pursue one of her big interests in ham radio: the National Parks on the Air program. Ruth will be heading off to Kettering University in the fall to study engineering.

Soon all the groups had completed their rotations through all the activities and it was time to say goodbye. Everyone said this was so much fun on both sides of the Atlantic. A series of follow up emails exchanged between Lori, Martha, and John reinforced those comments about how much fun this had been. John also indicated that several of the young gals expressed interest in getting involved in Amateur Radio and perhaps in getting their license.

About a week after the original contact, John emailed Lori and Martha saying that they would like to set up a series of these radio exchanges between the students at the Wellesley House and Mill Springs Academy in the fall, when both schools are back in session. Plans are currently underway to help connect the youth to each other on both sides of the pond and to continue to plant the Amateur Radio seed.

## ***My New 30 Meter Dipole / Gary, AK4NA***

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At a recent NOGA Meeting I said I was going to build a 30 meter dipole so I did. I thought I had an old Budwig center section and two insulators in my junk box but I couldn't find them so I drove over to HRO and bought an Alpha Delta Model Delta-C Antenna Hardware Kit which included two end insulators and a center insulator with strain reliefs for the antenna wires, a hoisting eye and an SO239 socket for my coax. Its a pretty sturdy piece if kit. I have a 500 foot roll of vinyl coated, 14 gauge, solid copper house wire that I bought from Lowes (about \$30) back when I was thinking about building a trapped 40 meter dipole for the attic. Too much trouble winding those coils so I dropped that idea. I am planning a long distance sailing trip and I am looking into a system called PSKMail (<http://www.pskmail.org>) which allows remote stations, like a boat in the middle of the ocean, to send and receive e-mail via HF at no cost. The system has a number of land stations around the world which send and receive e-mail and are connected to the internet. PSKMail uses PSK250 or PSK500 for message traffic and they do it mostly on - you guessed it - 30 meters. Hence the 30 meter dipole to get my feet wet (so to speak) before going to sea.

To start with, I cut two pieces of my 14 gauge wire to 26 feet and stripped about 3/8 of an inch at one end of each wire. I know that's too long but I wanted plenty of room for trimming and for connections at both ends. The Alpha Delta Kit comes with solder-on eyes to attach the antenna wires. I learned a lesson after soldering the eye on the first piece of wire - the eye won't go through the hole in the center section. Rats! Be warned that you should run the wire through the hole in the center section before soldering on the eye. I had to run all 26 feet of wire through the hole from the other end - then I had to do it again because I forgot and soldered the other eye on before running that wire through the hole too. Twenty six feet of fourteen gauge solid copper is pretty twisty stuff.

With wires connected to the center section I put the insulators on the ends of the wires with three or four twists around the wire to hold them in place. I then went out beside my house and used a weighted tennis ball (the projectile from my spud gun) to throw lines over two appropriate branches. I attached the coax that I had been using for an unsuccessful experiment and hooked up the whole shebang until it was fairly flat and about a quarter wave or a little bit less in the air. Now for the test. I applied my MFJ antenna analyzer and was very pleased to see the SWR at 1.0:1. Unfortunately I had just made a nearly perfect 31.5 Meter antenna. Too long. So down she came. The SWR minimum was at 9.555 MHz so I divided that by 10.115 MHz (the center of the band), multiplied by 25 feet and got around 23 feet 6 inches so I figured I needed to shorten each side by about 16 inches. Out came the wire cutters and I snagged off the requisite amount then back up she went and she was still not quite right. I know I'm being a bit anal at this point but I pulled it down and shortened it 3 more inches a side. Up she went again and now I had a 1.0 to 1 SWR across the whole 30 meter band.

Well that's the story so far. As a recent development there are now two versions of the jPSKMail software. Version 1 uses FLDIGI but version 2 has ported the FLDIGI modems over to JAVA and doesn't require FLDIGI. I have not tested either yet but I have already used FLDIGI a lot so I'll try both versions. Next I'll hook up the FT857 and the SignalLink and start learning the PSKMail system. More later. *73 Garry AK4NA*

## ***NFARES Provides Fire Spotting / Mike Cohen, AD4MC***

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NFARES provided fire spotting for the 2016 Sandy Springs Fireworks Event. Sandy Springs held it's fourth annual Fireworks Event on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and for the fourth consecutive year, NFARES was there to help.

This is a "tough" assignment....at least it was for me the previous years. Our task is to be stationed on the top levels of the parking decks and other ground locations in the area of the fireworks display to spot and report by radio any out-of-blast-area hot embers that could start fires when they land on the ground or other buildings. What make this "tough" is that when everyone else is looking up at the fireworks, we are supposed to be looking down. I must admit that I couldn't help myself from looking up at the fantastic show. That's why it's good to have enough spotters at each location so that the task can be alternately shared with one (or more) looking down while another is "allowed" to look up. This year, we had 15 volunteers.

...and, it's always nice to be appreciated. Received thank you notes from the Sandy Spring Deputy Fire Marshal, Mark Duke, and the Sandy Springs Fire Chief, Keith Sanders:

*"Again thanks for all the hard work and tremendous support. As I said last night, we could not come close to doing this without each of you and the help you bring. Have a great 4th and we will see you soon!"*

Mark Duke"

*"I echo Mark's remarks, I so appreciate your dedication and hard work! Your efforts made it another successful event. Keith*

Keith Sanders  
Fire Chief  
City of Sandy Springs"

As many of us have been experiencing lately, ham radio support for public service events is a lot of fun. Well...helping with a fireworks show is a ***really super*** lot of fun.



## **Hot Tips ! / Jim Stafford, W4QO**

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Have you entered an ARRL contest lately? If you do, please support your club. Report your results to this list to encourage others to enter contests. Also, if/when you send in an entry to ARRL be sure to indicate:

### **North Fulton ARL**

as your contest club. See the list here; we are in the right hand column.

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-club-list> One of the benefits of being a Special Service Club.

**You do belong to ARRL don't you? If you join the ARRL through the club's MART page, we get a portion of your dues, especially if you are a new applicant. JOIN TODAY at:**

<http://nfarl.org/mart/index.php>

Other contests you might want to mark on your calendar:

**Skeeter Hunt - August 21** <http://www.gsl.net/w2lj/>

**Peanut Power Sprint - September 25** <http://www.nogaqrp.org/pickett/rules.pdf>

You will need to apply for a "number" to have the most fun. Details on the web links.

**Next** contest of general interest is the Rookie Roundup on August 21.

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

If you were licensed in 2014, 2015, 2016 (for the first time/no retreads), you are eligible to enter the contest. Others will be glad to work you but cannot enter. **Let us know you will be entering so we can work you.**

Need help figuring out how to do RTTY (the most common mode for digital contests although PSK31 can work as well)? Just find a digital mentor/elmer in the club:

<http://nfarl.org/elmers/ElmerList.html>

NFARL (your 2010 Dayton Hamvention "club of the year") is tops in "Elmering"; why not avail yourself of our help? We won't know if you don't ask. You have to **ASK to GET!**

**And finally** here is a good tip (in my opinion): If you apply for a vanity callsign but you live in this area, ask for one that has a "4" in it. You'll thank me! Or go ahead and suffer all the questions:

Do you live here or are you just passing through? Or, you must be from somewhere else; where did you move from? Or, (from a DX station) I had my beam pointed toward Chicago, now I see you are from...

Until next time, happy contesting!



## ***13 Colonies Event Update / Nathan Wood, K4NHW***

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First, I would like to thank the North Fulton Amateur Radio Club for asking me to step up and be the club and state manager for the 13 colonies event back in January of this year. It was a humbling request being that I knew how near and dear this event was to Jim's, W4QO, heart.

If you aren't familiar with the event, it's an annual event that takes place the week of July 4th. It celebrates the original 13 colonies by putting each of them on the air using an unique special event callsign. Georgia was K2G. This year the event took place from July 1st through July 6th.

The primary way to participate in the event is to chase down and make contact with all 13 colonies and 2 special event stations. If you make contact with all 13 colonies, you earn a clean sweep award! This event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators, domestic and international. On the other side, there are a select few operators in each colony who use the special event callsign for others to contact. It was my privilege to coordinate the operators and such for Georgia, K2G.

This year, we added 7 new operators to the roster along with the Atlanta Radio Club. This brought our roster up to 5 independent operators and 3 clubs. All together, we submitted a total of 11,357 contacts for 2016!!! (NFARL members were responsible for 4200 of those.) To put the total QSO's in perspective, in 2015, we submitted 9160 and in 2014 we submitted 8365.

Thank you to NFARL for being the QSL manager for the state. The QSL cards are ordered and a few of us will be getting together soon to respond to all the incoming request.

And Congratulations to Ian, KM4IK, for making the single most contacts in the North Fulton ARL team with 1,074 contacts!

### **Last minute Update:**

As I'm typing this article, the state numbers have come out for the 13 Colonies event! In 2016, Georgia (K2G) placed 4th!!!! (We placed 8th last year) K2G also topped the awards list with Top High Power Operator N4PN.... and.... NFARL's own, W4QO, who won the Top QRP operator for the event! Way to go guys!

## ***Field Day Remembered / Nathan Wood, K4NHW***

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In the shadows of the 13 colonies, Chuck, AE4CW, asked me if I would consider a co-captain position of the phone station at the 2016 Field Day. Again, feeling very inadequate for the consideration, after some creative coercion, I graciously accepted. Chuck did assure me that I would be working with some very awesome people, and he was definitely right!

I had the privilege of scheduling the operators for the phone station for this years Field

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*(Continued from page 17)*

Day. This wasn't the easiest feat given that several of our operators were out of town or otherwise were unable to participate this year. But in the end, we pulled off keeping someone in the chair every minute of field day!

Let me just say something about these operators. We had an awesome team this year that I would put up against any challenge. They were operating in triple digit heat battling fatigue and dehydration, all in less than desirable conditions. And when the last minute scheduling changes came up, the team pulled together, being flexible, working above and beyond and doing whatever it took to keep the station running at all times. I couldn't have asked for a better group of talented operators.

In the end, the phone station made a total of 1431 contacts. That's right at a 60 q's/hr rate! I'll defer to John, K4SQC, for his analysis of previous years but I am absolutely proud of every one that we had on our phone team this year. I, for one, will be on pins and needles till around October when we see how we stacked up to other clubs in our category. Regardless of the outcome, the professionalism and the fun factor at NFARL was second to none.

I want to give a HUGE thank you to Bill, K4YJJ, and Chuck, AE4CW, for their assistance with setting up the station and making sure that all of the parts were where they needed to be and were working adequately. They did so much of the hard work behind the scenes.

Can't wait to see what 2017 has in store for us!

### *A Plug For Kari !*

If I may borrow a few lines for a special comment. I'd like to thank Bill Weathers, K4WSW and Mark Schumann, KK4FOF for their continued stewardship of the GOTA station.

My YL, Kari, K4ARI, got her tech ticket at the Atlanta Hamfest. She jumped in with both feet at the GOTA station on Sunday afternoon and totally ROCKED IT! She made 42 contacts in approximately 30 minutes. Both Bill and Mark were both very good with Kari and even allowed me to coach a bit at the GOTA station. That experience definitely sparked interest in the new ham. She is currently studying for her General and will be taking that test soon! Thank you to Bill and Mark for setting that stage for her and allowing her to rock out some QSO's as a brand new ham!



**Kari, K4ARI**

*Nathan* ,K4NHW

## ***OMG - He Heard Me ! / Stew Tarkington, W8LLX***

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Log for W8LLX, 7/1/16, 22:38z - I was setting up a fresh install of Fldigi on a new computer due to losing everything when the old one died. I am the true definition of "hunt and peck" - mostly "hunt!"

I intended to setup several macros but I clicked on 14.070 just to see if the connections were working. The left panel lit up like a Christmas tree. Then I saw K2G calling CQ and pushed his call to the Call screen. I went to the Answer macro to see what default was loaded and "Left Clicked" by mistake. Well, you all know that "Right Click" means "show me what's in the macro" but "Left Click" means "EXECUTE".

I didn't have any macros set up and I didn't know the "exchange" so I was relieved when I saw the Flex-1500 set at 50% drive and the tuner meter barely moving with just 2.5 watts. I was thinking, "Whew, he probably didn't hear me." Not so fast - K2G answered in a flash and I thought "OMG - now I have to type something ...." The K2G operator was extremely kind and I got through the exchange. (I don't know who you are but "Thank you".)

K2G was my first 13 Colonies contact this year. The Hams that operate the colony stations are terrific. As I finished up my log on 7/5-16 with GB13COL working split on 40 meters, I was truly amazed at the patience and consideration exhibited by all the 13 Colony operators. Thanks guys (and gals) - you exhibit the best in ham radio.

## ***Managed to Get 13! / Bob Coleman, AB4VT***

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I managed to get 13 + 1 bonus station this year, WM3PEN, during the 13 Colonies event.

Snagged Ian Kahn, KM4IK, during one of his 40m SSB shifts and Scott, KB4KBS, during one of his digital shifts for K2G. I don't know about everyone else, but with only rare exceptions, only 40m was workable for me.

73 de AB4VT, Bob C.

## ***Note From the Editor***

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Our many thanks go out to all the radio enthusiasts that contribute to eNews, both past and present. You make this publication possible!

We continue on our endless journey in search of new material, interesting stories and pictures! Please email [enews@nfarl.org](mailto:enews@nfarl.org) anytime you have something interesting for eNews. We are a vibrant, active club and we love to show that off in eNews! We look forward to hearing from everyone!

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## Club Repeaters

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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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