



North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

July 2018

***Over 40 Years Promoting
Service | Friendship | Education | Fun***

www.nfarl.org



NFARL July Meeting Boots On The Ground in Puerto Rico

Program Presented by: Wey Walker, K8EAB

Wey was among the first to respond to the American Red Cross request to ARRL for amateur radio operators to provide emergency communications in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in September, 2017. He will share the story of his experience at the NFARL meeting on Tuesday, July 17th.

Hurricane Maria, designated as such on September 9, 2017 intensified from Category 1 to 5 within an 18-hour period, and made its first landfall on the island of Dominica (J7) on the 18th of September. It crossed the island of St. Croix, VI (KP2) with 175 mph winds on the 20th, losing some strength before making landfall in Puerto Rico (KP4) later that morning.



Wey Walker - K8EAB

Maria crossed the length of Puerto Rico from the southeast to northwest as a Category 4 storm with 155 mph maximum sustained winds and extremely heavy rainfall producing catastrophic flooding and leaving the island's transportation, power, and communications infrastructure virtually totally destroyed. The total number of storm-related deaths remains unresolved as of the current date, over nine months later.

Part 97 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, consisting of telecommunication rules, that governs the Amateur Radio Service lists the five basic purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. The first of the basic purposes listed, relates to providing emergency communications, which Wey and 21 others from the "Force of 50" supplied while on the island.

Guests and visitors are always welcomed at our meetings. See page #2 for date, time and location of the July NFARL club meeting. See you there!

**John Tramontanis, N4TOL
NFARL VP & Program Chairman**

NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Sunday — NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
All licensed Hams are welcome, you do not need to be an ARES member!
- **Every Monday — Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
NFARL's flagship technical based "non check-in" net. The net is always better when using the web based chat room but Internet is not required to join the net. Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for more information and "how to".
- **Every Wednesday — Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM
Meet with your fellow club members every Wednesday!
Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Every Thursday — YL OP Net** – 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
OM's (guys) are welcome to listen in to this YL net.
Great opportunity to get your YL's on the radio!
- **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 Saturday – VE Testing** - 10:00 AM
NFARL provides Amateur (Ham) Radio test sessions on the second Saturday of each month - Walk-ins are welcome, no appointment is necessary. All exam modules are offered at all sessions.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Please check our [website](#) for more information.
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell.
Check [NFARES.org](#) for more information.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - **July 17, 2018**, 7:30 PM.
Pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00PM.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Program: "Boots On The Ground In Puerto Rico" by Wey Walker, K8EAB
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting**
July 24, 2018, 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. Please contact the [President](#) to ensure available space.

Georgia QSO Party - Results Posted !

The results for the Georgia QSO Party are now available on the GQP webpage at georgiasqso.org

NFARL scores submitted (per the GQP webpage) indicate a record for our club

with a total of 993,640, a 70% increase over the prior year!!!! An amazing accomplishment at this stage of the sunspot cycle. Perhaps the one million figure is in our future.

Several club members earned 2018 GQP plaques:

N4N - operators: Mike Roden - W5JR, Tim Lemmon - WK4U, and Max Faulkner - N5ZZ

K4F - operator: Scott Straw - KB4KBS

N4R - operator: Bob Beeman - K4BB

N4A - operator: John Tramontanis - N4TOL

We would also like to recognize club members who finished first in the "NFARL Challenge" for the "DX" and "Out of State, W/VE" categories.

First place DX: David Sturm - HC5DX

First Place Out of State, W/VE: Rick Black - K4RAB



NFARL Challenge awards were presented at the June meeting and will also be available at the July meeting as well. We look forward to seeing you then

73 John Tramontanis N4TOL

NFARL Field Day 2018 Recap / Scott Straw, KB4KBS

Our Field Day weekend is now in the books and by all measures, it was a success. The weather turned out to be great and the propagation was fabulous. We had a great picnic dinner with plenty of food, fun, and fellowship. We had new operators on the GOTA station who were evidently not just bitten by the operating bug but swallowed! (Read this story elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Thanks to the efforts of Pavel, AC4PA, and the registration program he wrote on a Raspberry Pi, we logged 159 attendees, 91 of whom were Scouts, family, and friends. We had 53 folks registered that indicated this was their first Field Day with us and we also had 34 folks indicate that they were under 18 years of age. While we have had as many as 200 registered attendees in the past, this was a respectable crowd, and everyone had a good time. Speaking of the Scouts, there were two dozen boys and girls from 14 different troops who earned their Radio Merit Badge on Saturday morning. A big shout-out to Jon Wittlin, K4WIT, for making this happen!

At 2:00 on Saturday afternoon the green flag dropped and the operating event where a score is kept was underway. We operated as Class 3A again this year as we have in the past, meaning that we had three HF radios on the air. In addition, we had the 6M station, the satellite station, and the GOTA station staffed. Between all six transmitters we were able to log over 4,100 QSOs – More than we have ever logged in our history! Between our HF Phone station, our 6M station, our satellite station, and our GOTA station, there were 2,098 PH QSOs. The two HF CW stations and the 6M station logged 2,014 CW QSOs. While the total number of PH QSOs is less than our all-time record, remember that in years past we had two HF PH stations, not one. Of course, with two HF CW stations for the first time, we did set an all-time record for CW Qs.

Please note that when we discuss GOTA Qs, we are only able to count the first 500. There were actually 590 QSOs logged on the GOTA station.

Here is a breakdown of the QSOs by band/Operation:

	PH	CW	DIG	TOTAL
80/75M	197	202	0	399
40M	215	709	0	924
20M	451	660	0	1111
15M	331	267	0	598
10M	337	174	0	511
6M	39	2	0	41
SAT	28	0	0	28
GOTA 80M	24	0	0	
GOTA 40M	193	0	0	
GOTA 20M	224	0	0	
GOTA 15M	53	0	0	
GOTA 10M	6	0	0	

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As would be expected, 20 and 40 meters were again the “money bands” as over half of all HF QSOS were on those bands. When you add in the GOTA numbers, the number jumps to 62 percent. The significant band opening worth noting was the 10M band which was wide open on Sunday even though “the experts” tell us that we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle and “10 meters is dead”. Ian Kahn, KM4IK, was the operator that logged the first 10M PH QSO at 14:16 UTC (10:16 EDT) Sunday. Over the next 105 minutes there were 205 10M PH QSOS entered in the log.

We were helped beyond measure by the NFARES members who were on hand to do tours and demonstrations, as well as promote the important public service aspect of our hobby. Additionally, they were vital and significant contributors to our event as they helped us to garner many of the Bonus Points that were available in the event. They sent a message to the ARRL GA Section Manager then sent and received 10 NTS-formatted messages. They also were able to copy the ARRL Special Bulletin which was worth bonus points.



The honor roll of operators include Andrew, KT2UU, who logged 554 CW Qs, Charlie, AA4CF, with 380 CW Qs, RJ, WF4W, with 344 CW Qs, John, N4TOL, with 267 PH Qs, Ian, KM4IK, with 227 PH Qs, Steve, KS4KJ, 226 PH Qs, Lee AA4GA, with 211 CW Qs, Ralph, K1ZZI, with 211 CW Qs, Jim, W4QO, with 188 CW Qs, Chuck, AE4CW, with 145 PH Qs, Lori, K4UPI, with 132 PH Qs, and Jay, KC4JD, with 132 PH Qs. Also worthy of mention are GOTA operators Diane, KN4KSD with 154 PH Qs, and Colby, KN4KSE, with 239 PH Qs.



We will have to wait to see if our efforts will list us as the best of all the 3A entrants, but there is no doubt that this event was one that will be long remembered as a highlight in the history of the club. With that being said, records are made to be broken and Field Day 2019 is only 11 months away. Mark your calendars for June 22 and 23, 2019 and make plans to be a part of another record-setting event.



Editor note: See <https://groups.io/g/NFARL/photos> for many more wonderful NFARL Field Day 2018 photos taken by our members.

Fun with Contests and Special Events / Jim Stafford, W4QO

Now that many of us have had fun "playing" in the 13 Colonies event, some of you may be looking for even more FUN!

I've been asked if there was anything like the 13C event coming up. My mind immediately went to upcoming contests. And yes, there are nice ones coming up almost every weekend (and sometimes during the week). A good place to look is WA7BNM Contest Calendar: 8-Day Calendar. It lists all the known contests coming up in the next 8 days. As I've said before, a contest is not just for "winning". It is a great place to test your equipment, antennas, and skills. And please note, you do not have to submit your score for others to benefit from your contacting them. I'm speaking of the big guns who actually enter to win each time. In fact, the ARRL publishes a bi-monthly magazine called the National Contest Journal with lots of suggestions for little guns! Several folks in NFARL subscribe to this magazine so if you'd like to see a copy just post a request on the reflector.

Another good place to get FREE info on contests is the ARRL semi-monthly Contest Update. If you are an ARRL member (oh, please, be a member), you can get this very nice online newsletter covering a lot more than just contests by logging in and go to your profile page. Then look at your subscriptions and sign up for the Contest Update. If you'd like to see a recent copy, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues?issue=2018-07-11>

But then I realized that a contest is not "like" the 13 Colonies event, which is more of a Special Event station (only 13C has a bunch of operators). Special Event Stations (SES) are more laid back for all the rest of us. SES are done all the time and are usually done with a 1x1 callsign such as K2G or N4O. To see what SES are coming up here is a site: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> Just put in a date range, say for this weekend, and hit SEARCH. It will show you a list. Many have QSL cards or certificates. To look for the callsign of a specific SES while they are active, go to dxsummit.fi and enter their callsign in the box on the upper right. Example... the EAA AirVenture special event (W9W) will operate through this weekend. Enter W3W in dxsummit.fi and tada! where they are operating on the bands at the moment will appear!

So bookmark these links and try your hand at either contesting or special event station contacts. To generate interest and activity, it is perfectly fine to post your achievement right on this reflector and/or on the repeaters so your friends can know they could have fun too!

Thank You Tony !

At the end of a NFARL club meeting, attendees are asked to help fold up and put away all the chairs we just used for our meeting. We leave the room completely empty of the chairs and tables we used. Have you ever wondered who set them up in the first place?



Month after month, Tony K4AWF arrives to the meeting room several hours early and sets everything up – 80 to 100 chairs aligned in laser straight rows along with tables as needed. Then he helps Fred N4CLA sign folks in and give out the door prize tickets!

We at NFARL would like to thank Tony, K4AWF, for his intrepid work setting up the meeting room for our monthly club meetings.

GOTA Field Day / Diane Pete, KN4KSD

On the same day that my son Colby and I became acquainted with amateur radio during NFARL's 2017 Ham Jam, Martha Muir, W4MSA, told us about the ARRL's annual Field Day. She explained that there's a radio specifically available and dedicated to giving new hams (as well as unlicensed folks) the opportunity to Get On The Air and see what ham radio is all about. Martha suggested that Colby take the overnight shift for this 24-hour event, and he was sold on that idea.

NFARL's 2018 GOTA station was operated under the supervision of many experienced Control Operators who helped us newbies learn the ropes of making a proper radio contact. Many thanks to these Elmers for sharing their wisdom!

So what did we learn?

- The protocol for the information exchange which included the GOTA station callsign NF4GA, NFARL's Field Day operating class 3A, as well as our section, Georgia
- How to use the N3FJP logging software
- How to find an available frequency; this was a bit tricky as the airwaves were crowded
- How to fine-tune a signal
- Keep calling CQ so as to not lose the frequency to someone else
- Be sure to confirm the information exchanged, and be persistent when dealing with those weaker signals
- Time flies when you're on the radio!



Field Day Chairman Scott Straw, KB4KBS, compiled the final GOTA stats. The eight operators in the GOTA log made a total of 590 contacts! Only the first 500 count toward Field Day points, but the extra contacts were just as much fun to get. Colby's late night lasted until 2:30am and that, combined with some more time on the radio on Sunday, resulted in 239 contacts. On Sunday I was able to make 154 QSOs and even work through a bit of a pile-up of people responding to my CQ.

Field Day was a blast and we appreciate the hard work of everyone who made it and the GOTA station possible!

Hungry Hams - Wednesdays at Slopes/ Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI

For several months, Ray Schwartz, K4GRR, has been coming to Hungry Hams with his daughter Arlene, KE6GFI who is visiting him from Southern California. Hungry Hams is a lunchtime gathering of hams held at the Roswell Slope's Barbeque restaurant every Wednesday.

Ray is a World War II veteran who served in the Army Air Corps, 315th Troop Carrier Command, 34th Squadron as a radio operator on a C-47 plane. The Army Air Corps was the precursor to the Air Force. He received his training in radio operations, electronics, radio repair, and Morse code. As a private, he was known as a radio mechanic and later after promotions, was called a radio operator.



Ray Schwartz , K4GRR
(at Hungry Hams !)

He served from 1942 -1945 and was stationed in England. Some of the operations he participated in were Market Garden, Battle of the Bulge, Operation Overlord – D-Day, and Operation Varsity. The C-47's he flew on brought both troops and supplies to the front. After the war, Ray became licensed as an Amateur Radio operator. Initially, his call sign, assigned when he was in Boston, was W1EBI – "working one electrically bungled instrument." When he moved back to Atlanta, where he had grown up, he was required to change his call sign so he became K4GRR, "Georgia Rebel Radio."

Ray took the skills learned while serving his country and enjoyed Amateur Radio as a hobby, operating CW, helping with phone patches, building a Heathkit radio, and operating mobile. He even built a code oscillator for his daughter, Arlene, to learn code, something she didn't master until almost 50 years later!

Ray really enjoys going to Hungry Hams and meeting the hams there. As it turns out, one of the regular attendees, Fred K4CLJ, knew one of Ray's good ham friends. Yes, it is a small, small world. Fred and Ray remember fondly a mutual friend who was both a TV repairman, radio amateur, and builder of airplanes.



A Few of the HH Lunch Group
(from Rays vantage point)

Wednesdays at Hungry Hams is a happy place to be, a place to enjoy good food and good company. Smiles that may be hard to get on other days come easily on these special days.

Ray's visits to Hungry Hams have been so special to him that his formerly CW resistant daughter Arlene, now KE6GFI, chose that location as the place for Ray to celebrate his 97th birthday. Four NFARL members along with other veterans and community members shared in the celebration.

*Editor note: Ray, thank you for your service, and thank you for being a part of our community!
- NFARL Members*

Sandy Springs Fireworks and NFARES / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Sandy Springs held it's sixth annual Fireworks Event on July 4th, 2018 and for the sixth consecutive year, NFARES was there to help.

This is a "tough" assignment....at least it was for me the previous years. We are stationed on the top levels of the parking decks and other ground locations in the Sandy Springs Concourse area. Our task is 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 makes 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 again teamed up with the Sandy Springs Fire Corps (SSFC) and had a record total of 33 volunteers, including 15 amateur radio operators, 9 SSFC volunteers plus friends & family "helpers".

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.



[For more information on the Sandy Springs Fireworks event go here.](#)

2018 W/VE Island QSO Party / Terry Joyner, W4YBV

Jim N4SEC and I are putting together this year's Island QSO party team for our club and we need your help.

This year's island is Powers Island, #GA026R, located in the Chattahoochee river just north of 285. This is a walk on island.

We need a CW station and a Digital station for our team this year. I will be at the July club meeting with more information on this event. Please go to usisland.org for QSO party rules. You may also go to eNews Oct 2017 for island photos and Oct 2016 and Sept. 2017 for island QSO party story's.

The contest lasts for only 15 hours but if you can operate just a few hours we still need your help. Contest times are from 1200z Saturday Aug. 25 until 0300z Sunday Aug.26.

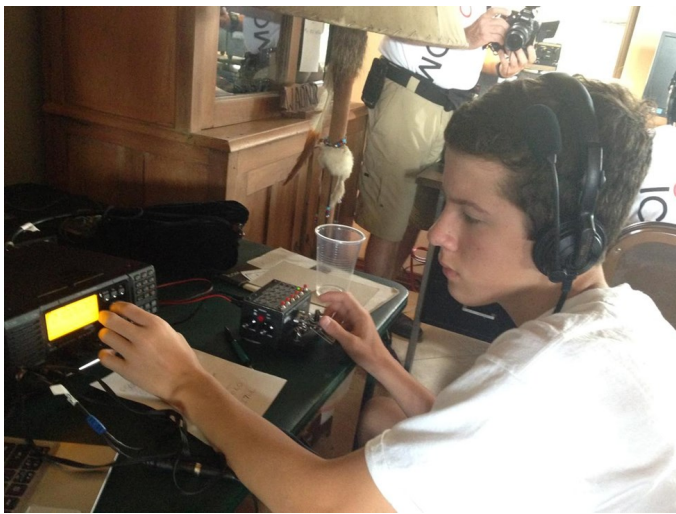
Call Jim or Terry for more information of if you can help.
See you on the island!

Jim: 770-335-3018 Terry: 770-993-8502
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HamJam 2018 Update / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

Our event is well underway for the year, with three (actually four) very interesting speakers on the roster. Please see <http://hamjam.info> for more details on the speakers. The prize list is continuing to grow; mark your calendar for November 10 for our big fund raiser for Youth Education, Scholarships and Activities. The event will be held at the Mill Springs Academy again this year.

Thus far this year the NFARL HamJam treasury has donated \$2000.00 to the ARRL Teachers Institute and \$1000.00 to the ARRL Scholarship Fund. The ARRL commissions an unbiased special committee to determine the most worthwhile recipients of the scholarships, and this year one of our own was selected for our scholarship! Pictured right are NFARL members Steve Kemp, WB4CVB and the scholarship winner, his daughter Alexandra Kemp, WD4BDQ. Alexandra is currently in graduate school working toward a doctorate in Aerospace Science (photo by the inimitable Steve Mays, KS4KJ).



Other donations this year include \$250.00 to the Youth DX Adventure (see www.qsl.net/n6jrl for some exciting details about what these youth are doing!) and \$250.00 to Bryant Rascol, KG5HVO. Bryant is an amazing young man with many accomplishments realized during his young age of 15; do take the time to look him up at QRZ.com. Bryant will be one of the operators at the World Radio Team Championships (see <http://wrtc.info> for more details) being held in Germany this year, and is among the very first youth to be invited to this world-class event. Bryant is pictured left; he sent a thank you letter to NFARL upon receiving our contribution, stating "Thank you so much for the generous donation! Please

pass to the club that I am excited about the opportunity to compete as a youth in WRTC 2018 and I am humbled by all the support and encouragement from the ham radio community".

Many other youth related activities are also funded from the raffle ticket sales at HamJam, such as MakerFaire and TechFest.

Tickets will soon be on sale. Last year we sold out, so be sure to get your tickets early!

Our Visit to ARRL HQ / Diane Pete, KN4KSD



While visiting family in Berlin, CT, my husband, Brian, sons Colby KN4NSE, Landon, and I spent an afternoon visiting the epicenter of all things Amateur Radio in this country: ARRL headquarters in the next town over in Newington CT.

Tucked into a residential neighborhood, we knew we were close to the ARRL offices when we saw the great array of antennas on the lawn and the buildings. When we entered the main lobby, we were greeted by the

receptionist and a volunteer ham who is available to give tours. The lobby is full of ARRL merchandise for sale, from t-shirts to ARRL gear to a wide assortment of books.

The first stop on our tour was the area where the ARRL stores the supplies it uses for deployments. We saw an example of their Ham Aid HF kits that they sent to Puerto Rico to provide radio communications support during the aftermath of hurricane Maria this past fall. Nearby was the office of Dan Henderson N1ND so we popped in to say hello. I reminded him that we met briefly at

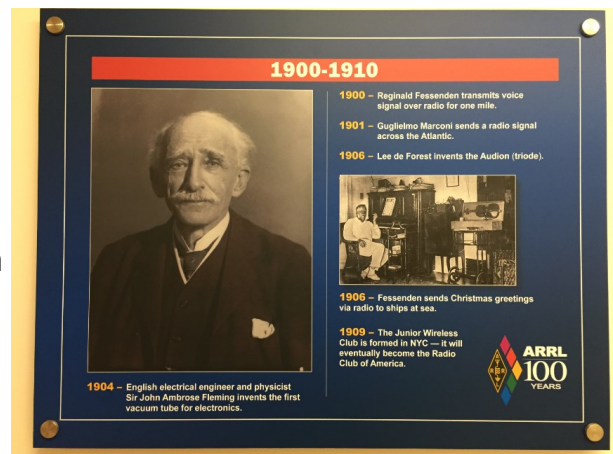


Dan Henderson, N1ND & Wes Lambole, W3WL
At HamJam 2017

our family's first encounter with ham radio, NFARL's 2017 Ham Jam. After chatting for a bit, Dan offered to give us the tour.

The main hallway that goes through the center of the building is lined with framed posters highlighting the long and interesting history of ham radio. The first entries highlight the year 1831 when Michael Faraday demonstrated that electricity and magnetism are related and 1838

when Samuel Morse developed the code that bears his name. Further down the hall, we learned that in 1940 U.S. amateurs were prohibited from talking to other countries due to war. After Pearl Harbor in 1941, all Amateur Radio activity was suspended. In 1946, hams got most of their privileges back though 5 and 2.5 meters were swapped for the 2 and 6 meter bands.



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We saw several ARRL teams hard at work. The editorial team was preparing an upcoming issue of QST and had mock-ups of the copy and images along the walls. The Testing Center had several folks at work examining various equipment and doing some soldering. Tucked in the corner was a prototype of OSCAR 1, the first amateur non-military satellite. Turn on the switch and you hear the word "Hi" in Morse code.



One of the most interesting areas is the long room chock full of antique and vintage radio gear in all different shapes, sizes, and configurations. We also saw some vintage QSL cards from the 1940s that had been donated to the ARRL. There's also an



impressive library with hard copies of amateur radio and ARRL publications old and new. Dan showed us a very old pamphlet he described as the first comprehensive guide to amateur radio; it was a grand total of three pages.



The finale of the tour was the visit to W1AW, a station that opened in 1938 in memory of Hiram Percy Maxim. In the entry is a display with more vintage gear including Old Betsy, the



1912 rotary spark-gap transmitter that belonged to Hiram Percy Maxim. It was used at his Hartford CT home until it was retired from service soon after World War I. Station manager Joe Carcia NJ1Q fired her up and she had one of her good days, generating some big sparks.



The main portion of W1AW has a large equipment rack that houses the ICOM, Kenwood, and Yaesu transmitters used for the bulletins on seven bands. There are also three studios where visitors may operate at select times during the day.

If you ever have the opportunity to visit central Connecticut, a trip over to the ARRL headquarters in Newington CT is a must-see.

6-Lander Operating Field Day with a 4-Land GA Club

/ Arlene Schwartz, KE6GFI

I remember going to the Atlanta Radio Club's Field Day with my father and family when I was a child still in elementary school in the mid 1950's. It was held in Dahlonaga. My main memory of that Field Day was all the cooking and food involved. I never touched a radio there.

I earned my Amateur Radio license in 1994 and have been officially participating in Field Days ever since – touching lots of radio equipment along the way. First of all, I must say that I learned my contesting skills from my two Elmers: K6TV, Tom Van Buskirk, and W3SE, now ZL3TE, Wes Printz. I have worked with clubs that participated as class 4A, 7A, 1B, 2A, and 3A. The population density and the number of Field Day sites in southern California is much greater than stations operating within Georgia. There are more than 100,000 licensed operators within the state of California. Within the LAX and ORG sections there are probably close to 100 field day stations.

For the past 17 years, my husband John WO1S and I have operated as N6L, as part of the Laguna Beach Emergency Communications Team. Our group, my husband, myself, and other members of this group, operated along a fire road, in a wilderness park, or in a city park. Our operations are quite modest when compared to the North Fulton ARL operations. Our strategy was to operate completely off the grid with batteries powered by solar panels since we were generally set up in a fire prone area of Southern California - actively living out one of the goals of ARRL's Field Day: that we learn and demonstrate how our equipment can operate in adverse conditions. This, of course, allowed us to hone our operating skills and learn about power requirements and antenna capabilities.

It was a great privilege for me to operate from the NFARL site this year. I knew that NFARL has won their class in Field Day previously and I wanted to contribute to that effort. NFARL Field Day chairman Scott KB4KBS graciously let me have a two-hour slot and I worked 2 AM- 4 AM. This came after a 4 hour stint of coaching and observing the GOTA station operation. (Hey, Diane and Colby!)

The NFARL SSB phone station was outfitted in style: canopy, electric light, electric fan, PC for logging, Elecraft K3 radio, panadapter, large screen monitor, headset and foot pedal. All this is as opposed to the LBECT set up that I used for the last 17 years: ARRL log sheets, pens, scratch paper, handheld mike, headlamp on hat after sunset, etc. I haven't logged on a computer since logging for my mentor Wes ZL3TE years ago as he operated CW on a 7A station in Buena Park, CA.

In addition to all that, one of the big differences I noticed about participating in NFARL's Field Day compared to participating in California is the operating hours. Everyone participating in ARRL's Field Day operates during the same 24 hour period. In California, our operating hours are 11:00 am to 11am, while in Georgia, this is 2:00 pm to 2:00 pm. The 11 am ending makes for far less active operating times and far fewer visitors at parks and wilderness areas.

So, in short order, as I sat down at the SSB station, I had to learn how to log call sign K4JJ, station class and section, plus familiarize myself with the PC (at home I use primarily a touch screen PC). Also I had to get comfortable with using the foot switch. We have one at the home

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QTH but this one was different and was resting on a block of wood from which it would slip off - all a bit frustrating at times. At least I was familiar with the radio, the K3.

Another difference at this Field Day was a band I almost never work, and have never worked during a Field Day. But given that it was Field Day the band was filled with stations and for quite a long time I managed to hold the frequency and stations kept on coming. It was easy once I got the rhythm down and the logging just followed. In fact, as far as logging goes, it gets even easier to log since the PC's were linked so when a station had been worked previously on another band or mode the logging software automatically filled the class and section and I just had to hit enter to complete the contact. Simple!

Now operating from the east coast, specifically, in Roswell, GA, was great fun working so many stations from the Northeast! I never knew there were so many stations in Connecticut! Rhode Island! Maine! Western New York! Those stations are rare working from Southern California with low power. Although we operate in a concentrated ham community, our neighboring states such as Oregon, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, and Utah are sparsely populated, especially as far as hams are concerned.

And - really operating from 2 am – 4 am here in Georgia, which would have been 11 pm – 1 am in California, we generally had stopped operating by then. When the sun went down, we had to wait until sunup to power up the batteries.

Toward the end of my two-hour slot, the band propagation changed and I had to change bands, but clearly there were plenty of stations operating the whole night through. Who (on the west coast) knew???

I recommend this experience for all operators. It's interesting to see the propagation shift from northern New England to the upper Midwest and then the Midwest, and parts of Texas. Contesters always know the band openings by time of day. I'm sure many stations operating from home had opportunities to work all sections and all states. In addition there is the added opportunity to work many grid squares for this year's ARRL grid chase program.

Kudos to all the NFARL members who put this Field Day site together - setting up radios, linking pc's, pulling power lines, keeping generators operating, electric lighting, fans. It's a lot of work. I must confess I did feel a bit guilty just sashaying in at 9:30 pm and leaving at 9:30 am, without lifting a finger for station set up, tear down, etc. I know it is a lot of work.

As always, Field Day in my opinion, is an amazing opportunity to improve one's radio skills, learn about propagation, types of radios, bands, antennas, etc. It's just 24 hours of terrific radio fun and camaraderie.

Looking forward to seeing the final score and the activity on each of the stations. Thank you NFARL for giving me this time slot. It was great fun.

Arlene, KE6GFI

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eNews can be located online at:

<https://www.nfarl.org/enews/eNewsIndex.html>

Club Repeaters

Frequency—Description	P.L. Tone	Location
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 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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