



ACORN

August 2011

ANDY Club Officers

President: Bill Woodhead N1KAT
 Vice President: Earle Gilmore N1SVB
 Treasurer: Ivan Lazure N1OXA
 Secretary: Dick Knight N1NYW
 Trustee: Norm L' Heureux W1SCM

Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

P.O. Box 1, Auburn ME 04212-0001

<http://www.w1npp.org/>

Repeater 146.610MHz – No pl tone
 Goff Hill, Auburn Maine

Please submit articles, corrections and suggestions by the 16th of the month to David WE1U we1u.david@gmail.com

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Coming up ...

2011 National Night Out Tuesday August 2, 2011 <http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/about.html>

2011 ARRL UHF August 6th and 7th 2011 <http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf>

2011 Lighthouse Week August 1st to 7th 2011 <http://arlhs.com/page2.html> <http://illw.org/>

2011 Maine - Bike MS: Great Maine Getaway August 6th and 7th 2011 Standish ME
http://bikemam.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/MAMBikeEvents?fr_id=15421&pg=entry

2011 Beach-to-Beacon Saturday August 6th 2011 Cape Elizabeth ME
<http://www.beach2beacon.org/>
 Ham Contact: Ivan N1OXA N1OXA@arrl.net

2011 Maritime DX Forum in Nova Scotia August 5th and 6th
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/may2011/maritime_dx_forum.htm

Keep an eye on <http://w1npp.org/pages/events.html> too.

Andy Club Meetings

Wednesday August 3rd 2011 1900EDT
 Andy Meeting at LaPage Conference Room
 99 Campus Avenue, Lewiston, ME

Off until September
 Androscoggin ARES/RACES Meeting
 Androscoggin Unified EMA Office
 Basement of Central Fire Station
 2 College Street Lewiston

Wednesday August 31st 2011 0730EDT
 Monthly Andy Breakfast
 Ramada Inn, Pleasant Street
 Lewiston, ME

Wednesday August 31st 2011 1900EDT
 Andy Club On-air Meeting and Net
 on the Auburn Repeater
 146.610MHz no pl. tone

ARES/RACES Comments by Ivan N1OXA Androscoggin EC

First, of all just a reminder, that the 146.61 is still down and will be for at least week to ten days. I'm hoping that by the time you receive this newsletter the repeater will be back on the air. Until then all nets have been and will continue to on 146.46 Simplex. So the Androscoggin ARES/RACES net is still on every Thursday at 1900 hours, so listen for the 146.61 first, if nothing is heard than go to the 146.46 simplex and sign in. If the ARES/RACES group is to be effective you need to get on the nets and practice your operator skill, and be prepared for what ever emergency that may present itself. Remember, there is a state wide SET (Simulated Emergency Test) on Oct 8, 2011 between 8am and noon. The scenario is being written right now, and will be out in a few weeks.



I have been talking about a free software called Fldigi, for use in emergencies to send bulletins, messages, and other types of traffic, other than voice. Each Thursday night after the ARES/RACES Net we practice sending messages with FLdigi to familiarized and get better working with it. we have a half dozen members that are learning the system. we need at less that many more so that we have a core group of operators that would be available and trained in Fldigi. Now that summer is slowly winding down, lets have some new people sign on and get the training with this software. With the SET in Oct it would be great to have many operators to work with the FLdigi to pass and receive traffic. There is another net on Friday night between 8:30pm and 9:30pm that also has Fldigi and its on 146.88 repeater.

So go to the W1NPP website and get the address and download the software and contact Dave, WE1U, Pete, N1ZRL or myself about how to set it and be ready for a net.

Our contact info is in the newsletter. So until next month, enjoy August and the summertime, and check into the Thursday night net.

Download **fldigi**, **flwrap** and **flmsg**: <http://w1hkj.com/download.html>

Windows Files:http://w1hkj.com/downloads/fldigi/fldigi-3.21.12_setup.exe

http://w1hkj.com/downloads/flwrap/flwrap-1.3.1_setup.exe

http://w1hkj.com/downloads/flmsg/flmsg-1.1.6_setup.exe

Note: For rig control download the appropriate xml file: <http://w1hkj.com/xmlarchives.html>

ADS-SR1-Simplex Repeater/T2-301 Digi by David WE1U

Last month I presented a proposal for the Club to buy a Simplex Repeater setup and a Digipeater/Tracker from Argent Data Systems. The purpose of both units is to provide emergency or expanded communications. One application is for remote locations without (digi)repeater coverage or with dead spots. Another application is to establish an addition channels to reduce congestion. The Simplex Repeater is a digital recorder, like voice mail with a DTMF(touch-tone) controller.

The ADS-SR1 Simplex Repeater connects to an external radio. I recommend getting a Puxing PX-777 for use with the ADS-SR1. It listens for traffic and retransmits on the same frequency when the traffic is complete or when traffic is longer that a set limit. The ADS-SR1 can be used for a Fox Hunting Transmitter to train operators in Radio Direction Finding.



Simplex Repeater Cost Breakdown

Argent Data Systems ADR-SR1	\$89
HT Radio Puxing PX-777 PLUS VHF Handheld Radio	\$85
Puxing PX-777 Extended 1600mA battery	\$19
¼ wave mag-mount whip antenna w/BNC Connector	\$15
PX-777 SMA to BNC Adapter	\$ 5
Total (except shipping and Batteries)	\$213



The T2-301 Digipeater/Tracker is VHF Transceiver with a APRS Modem. It requires external 9 to 15 vdc for digi operation via th Serial/Power Cable. Tracker mode requires an additional external GPS Receiver(ADS-GM1). The USB-to-Serial Adaptor, Config Cable and Serial Splitter facillitates programming. The Byonics All-in-One Tracker is more compact and cost less (\$260+shipping) but is ONLY a tracker and has no receive function to reduce packet crashes.

Digipeater/Tracker Cost Breakdown

T2-301 VHF Transceiver with Integrated Tracker2	\$229
ADS-GM1 GPS receiver	\$ 45
Serial/Power Cable	\$ 10
Serial Splitter	\$ 8
Config Cable	\$ 4
USB-to-Serial Adaptor	\$ 15
7-Inch VHF BNC Rubber Duck Antenna	\$ 7
VHF Magnetic Mount Antenna AN-VM-1	\$ 15
Total (Except shipping and Batteries)	\$333



Argent Data System Simplex Repeater Page:

<https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=27>

Puxing PX-777 VHF Radio Page:

<https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=25>

T2-301 Digi/Tracker Page:

<https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=22>

Cable Page:

<https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=21>

Byonics All-in-one Tracker Page:

<http://www.byonics.com/mt-aio>

Secretary's Report by Dick N1NYW

A meeting of the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club was held Wednesday July 6, 2011 at the Lepage Conference Center in Lewiston Maine. There were fourteen in attendance: N1KAT, N1OXA, N1JD, KB1DOI, W1SCM and SON Charles, WE1U, W1OKS, N1NYW, WA1SKP, KU1U, W1LTX, K1WTX, KB1QHR. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Bill Woodhead. Andy KB1DOI made a motion to approve the Secretary's report as printed in the ACORN. Bob W1LTX seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

Ivan gave the Treasurers' report mentioning receiving money from the sale of one membership and the temporary holding of money from two VE sessions before sending it to the VEC and expenses from the field day including a tarp and food. Bob w1ltx made a motion to approve the report and was seconded by Andy kb1doi. Vote: approved.

Bill gave a status report on the repeater: "it is fatally ill". Leo N1BOK has donated a repeater to the club, Bill and Ivan picked it up last week. It is in Tom Potos hands getting checked over, crystals installed etc. before installation soon.

Ivan gave a report on Field Day, Andy Club did better than last year, 200 CW contacts, 12 digital, 46 phone, 300 for operating on emergency power, media publicity 100 points, set up in a public place 100, NTS traffic two messages 20 points, site visited by agency official from an agency we serve 100 points (Red Cross), submitted via the web 50 for a total of 670 bonus points to add to the contacts makes a total of 3020 points. Well done!

Ivan says the league has switched insurance carriers so the premiums are fifty to 70 dollars less, and he handed out brochures.

Future public service events were discussed: Beach to Beacon August six, SET October 8 and the Dempsey Challenge on October 9TH. Ivan says this year there will be 5 courses for bikes, 10 mile, 25 mile, 50 miles, 70 miles and 100 miles.

Ivan told about the conference at CMMC about the June 20 hospital drill while David WE1U showed pictures of it on the screen. The hospital officials think there is a need for this back up communications. The crowd was impressed by an FLDIGI demonstration, Ivan N1OXA and David WE1U sent each other a message that was projected on the screen in the conference room.

Bill mentioned that N7TLW visited the breakfast meeting last week. Most of us remember him as Tom Whiting N1HWN. He is visiting from Arizona where he works as an IT Systems Integrator.

Cory KU1U suggested sending the news letter digitally before the next on air meeting. Happy Birthday to Cory!

The meeting ended with a discussion about how to better prepare for and serve the public service organizations at their events like Beach to Beacon. David WE1U showed a power point presentation about a simplex repeater a digipeater / tracker and their prices. Cory suggested something called Echo Station for use at Beach to Beacon. There was no motion to buy any of the units, just discussion this time and probably at the next meeting and maybe a vote.

At our next meeting a guest speaker talking about "Easy Sat" satellite communications August third.

DX News by Earle N1SVB

During the past month we made 38 DX contacts representing 24 different countries. Countries contacted were:

RZ3QL/p, Russia; OS8A, Belgium; UN7QF, Kazakhstan; A61K United Arab Emirates; LZ2011KM, Luxembourg; TF3IG, Iceland; DR1A, Germany; A41OO, Oman; OJ0B, Market Reef; S53IV, Slovenia; LZ1DLZ, Bulgaria; LA4UOA, Norway; HZ1BO, Saudi Arabia; UX6IA, Ukraine; J48O, Greece; V25TP, Antigua; ES1TU, Estonia; YV5BED, Venezuela; F6IGS, France; SP4XGN, Poland; HG2011E, Hungary; JY4CI, Jordan; OZ2SPACE, Denmark

We had no Pacific contacts this month. .

There are several DXpeditions to various parts of the world coming up in August. Some haven't been assigned a call as yet or the operators will use the country prefix and their home call.

Aug. 05 to Aug. 10 V31`UB Belize.

Aug. 05 to Aug. 14 TY1KS Benin

Aug. 11 to Aug.15 PJ7/ St. Maarten

Aug. 13 to Aug. 20 OJ0UR Market Reef

Aug. 17 to Aug. 24 T32JB East Kiribati

Aug. 19 to Aug. 28 E51AAO So. Cook Is.

Aug. 22 to Aug. 30 TA4/ Turkey

Aug. 29 to Sep. 30 SV9/ Crete

The above DXpeditions are correct to the 10th of the month prior to printing The A.C.O.R.N. For additions after that date, go to my web page and click On the link "Reported DXpeditions by NG3K.

I invite any club members that have a computer to visit my web page. The address is:

<http://www.qsl.net/n1svb/>