



# ACORN



### ANDY Club Officers

President: Bill Woodhead N1KAT  
 Vice President: Cory Golob KU1U  
 Treasure: 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 – PL 88.5  
 Goff Hill, Auburn Maine

Please submit articles, corrections and suggestions by the 16th of the Month to Ivan Lazure and he will send them to n1llu.

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### Coming up...

#### Contesting

Dec 13, 0000Z, to Nov 14, 2359Z, ARRL 10M Contest. Rules: [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

Dec 27, 0000Z to 2359Z, RAC Winter Contest. Rules: [www.rac.ca/rac/programmes/contest](http://www.rac.ca/rac/programmes/contest)

Dec 27, 1200Z, Dec28, 1159Z, Iron Ham Contest. Rules: [www.araucariadx.com](http://www.araucariadx.com)

### SPECIAL EVENT STATION

See December QST page 94 for details

**Andy Club Meeting****Wednesday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 1900 EDT**Meeting held in Potvin Room  
99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.**ARES/RACES****Cancelled for December**Androscoggin ARES/RACES meeting  
Androscoggin Unified EMA Office  
Basement of Central Fire Station  
2 College Street Lewiston, Me.**Andy Club Breakfast****Wednesday Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 0730 EDT**Held at the Ramada Inn Pleasant Street  
Lewiston, Maine**On Air ARES/RACES NET****Every Thursday night at 1900,  
Weekly ARES/RACES Net 146.610 Mhz  
with a PL 88.5****NOTE: New time.**

## Comments for and about the club by Ivan, N1OXA

So far the new 61 machine is working good. The D-star 440 machine is working good and the Internet connection will be added soon. We are planning to use the Kenwood VHF radio at the EMA as the connect point. Tim, WT1A, has approve the use of this set up. It should be up and working by middle of December. Two changes for ARES/RACES, net time is 1900 vs. 1930, and the monthly meeting time is now 1730 vs. 1800. don't forget the Christmas party at December meeting. No ARES/RACES meeting this month, so enjoy the Christmas time.

### LIST OF UP COMING EVENTS IN MAINE FOR 2014

None at this time.

**November Secretary's Report**      **By Dick Knight Secretary N1NYW**

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club held a meeting Wednesday November 5, 2014 at the Potvin Room of St. Marys' Medical Arts Building in Lewiston. In attendance: wa1skp, kb1doi, n1dot, n1oxe, n1oxa, n1nyw, wt1a and xyl, w1ltx, k1wtx, kb1qhr, kb1lam, n1wfo, n1jd, ku1u, and kb1zid.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Cory ku1u at 7:04 p.m. Bob w1ltx made a motion to approve the Secretaries' report, and David n1oxe seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

Ivan n1oxa read the Treasurers' report and mentioned the major expense of the month was the \$500 to buy the DR-1X repeater. A motion to approve the report was made by Tim wt1a and seconded by Andy kb1doi. Vote: approved.

From old business: At the October meeting action on a proposal to buy a 440 antenna for the DStar repeater was postponed so we could do more research to find out what the prices are and to choose an antenna. The decision was made, and a new Hustler G6 440 antenna with a 6 db gain was purchased and installed. The coverage has improved, reportedly n1zrl used to need 50 watts to get into the repeater from his house but now just 5 watts makes it work very well. Dave n1oxe made a motion to pay Ivan back for the cost of the antenna, the motion was seconded by Dick n1nyw. Vote: approved.

Plans for the Christmas party: A sign up page has been created by Tim wt1a on line to sign up to let other club members know what you are bringing to the Christmas party, so we can avoid everyone bringing the same thing. A link to the sign up page can be found at the club web site [www.w1npp.org](http://www.w1npp.org).

Cory ku1u talked with the landlord of the 147.315 repeater and found out she will be happy with \$ 120 per year paid in advance for the rent that includes the site and the electricity. After some discussion Cory ku1u made a motion to have the tech Paul Michaud check the condition of the repeater, if it is in good condition buy it from Brian k1aam for \$ 500. The motion was seconded by Dave n1oxe. Vote: approved.

In the November newsletter Ivan wanted suggestions from club members about what to do with the FTM 400 mobile radio that Yaesu sent with the DR-1 repeater the club beta tested. The only suggestion he got was to have members take turns using it and sign it out like it was a waiting list for an in demand library book. Ken n1dot has the radio to use until the next meeting. He promised to upgrade the firmware in the unit while he has it.

Cory said Walter agreed to build band pass filters for all bands to use at Field Day if the club buys all the parts for \$ 100. Ivan said that Pete n1zrl returned a check from the club for 159 dollars so we will spend it instead for band pass filters. Tim wt1a make a motion to buy the parts, motion seconded by Dave n1oxe. Vote Approved.

We did a round of introductions followed by Cory ku1u making a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Dave n1oxe. Vote: approved at 7:45 p.m.

DX News Notes  
November, 2014

Our last DX contacts was in January, 2014. At that point in time we lost all use of our high frequency capabilities. We worked on the problem off and on all spring and summer and finally on September 7, 2014 Dave Lowe, WE1U made another trip to our shack and we solved the problem. Thank you again Dave. The first DX contact that I made that day was JA3YRK, Japan.

The month of September we made 41 DX contacts which represents 31 countries.

Countries worked were:

JA3YRK, Japan; CT1ATM, Portugal; EG2EIB, Spain; EI1100D, Ireland; SV9CVY, Crete; G0AWV, England; OH4MDY, Finland; OM3TWM, Slovak Republic; IW0GWT, Italy; DL1KFS, Germany; 4Z1RS, Israel; RK9UN, Russia (Serbia); A61DJ, United Arab Emeritus; Y03FGO, Romania; 9A2DQ, Croatia; YW5RYL, Venezuela; VA3AAA, Canada (ON); TY1AA, Benin; OK2RZ, Czech, Republic; F5JD, France; KP2/K9VV, U. S. Virgin Is.; HZ1DG, Saudi Arabia; 3V8SS, Tunisia; PB25D, Netherlands; PR7CPK, Brazil; TF3AFT, Iceland; 4L4WW, Georgia; YT1A, Serbia; SP4WRF, Poland; TT8II, Costa Rica; VU2VID, India;

We made 2 Pacific contacts in September: JA3YRK and JH1GEX both in Japan

The month of October we made 47 DX contacts which represents 36 countries.

Stations worked were:

UT1WR, Ukraine; MN0CCG, No. Ireland; S58N, Slovenia; DL1REM, Germany; G4HPD, England; TM77AR, France; ZL4IR, New Zealand; KL7/W1AW, Alaska; VU2PBT, India; HZ1CL/m, Mobil in Saudi Arabia; FG5HD, Guadeloupe SG8X, Sweden, OZ2PBS, Denmark; RC5A, Russia; Y060AH, Romania; OH8L, Finland; JW5X, Svalbard; LW5HR, Argentina; J67ZF, St. Lucia; VA3AAA, Ont. Canada; LZ2LP, Bulgaria; YV4NN, Venezuela; 7X2ARA, Algeria; YT1A, Serbia; P43E, Aruba; HC2AQ, Ecuador; 5R8M, Madagascar; ZS60AJ, So. Africa; PY2XU, Brazil; P33W, Cyprus; JV5A, Mongolia; VK9LM, Lord Howe Island; S01WS, West Sarah; CT9/DL6YFB, Madera Is.; HS50RAST, Thailand.

We made 3 Pacific contacts in October: ZL4IR, New Zealand, VK9LM, Lord Howe Is. and HS50RAST, Thailand

There are several DXpeditions taking place in December. Some haven't been assigned a call sign so they will use the listed prefix followed with another call sign.

Dec. 01 to Dec. 06	E6XG	Niue
Dec. 01 to Dec. 09	8Q7UX	Maldives
Dec. 04 to Dec. 09	JD1BOX	Ogassawara
Dec. 09 to Jan. 08	EA8/	Canary Is.
Dec. 11 to Dec. 14	7P8NH	Lesotho
Dec. 12 to Jan. 08	D44TWO	Cape Verde Is.
Dec. 26 to Jan. 01	VK9N	Norfolk Is.

The upcoming DXpeditions are as of the 10th of the month for any additions visit NG3K web page.

*“Rare Birds and Cheat-ahs”*

A few different sources list the “Most Wanted” DX entities and rank them according to how many amateurs from all over the world either have never worked them or do not have the entity confirmed. Pretty much all those lists put Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea (North Korea) at the top of that list. That’s not likely to change anytime soon. But second on those lists is usually a tiny, uninhabited island off the western tip of Haiti in the Caribbean that is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This disputed little chunk of land is home to several species of rare and endangered birds and tropical plants which is why it has for years now been off limits to mere mortal humans.

Since 1993, several groups have requested permission to visit Navassa (promising not to step on any birds or stuff) but were all denied. Finally, this past October, the U.S.F.W.S. finally granted permission to a group known as the KP5-1 Project led by four American hams, K4UEE, W0GJ, K5QUI and NA5U. The group had been organizing and attempting to get permission since 2002. In the letter which at last granted KP5-1’s request from an earlier appeal of denial, U. S. Fish and Wildlife stated that they will not be granting another such request for at least 10 years.

The effort by the KP5-1 organization should be applauded for its perseverance. The group actually got legislation enacted in 2005 which required the U.S.F.W.S. to allow limited access to the islands of Desecheo and Navassa, paving the way for these DXpeditions. KP5-1 led a group to Desecheo in 2009 that some of you may have worked, but it took another five long years of permit denials and appeals before Navassa could be conquered.

What does that mean for us as DXers? Well, for some of us this means that this may be the last good chance we ever have to work an extremely rare one. For others of us this will mark the very first time this entity will have been active since we became hams, or even perhaps the first time in our lives. The KP5-1 fellows will be on the air in January 2015 and, if they follow their Desecheo activities, will be active on all HF bands in most of the popular modes. On Desecheo, they made 115,787 contacts taking it from #6 down to a lowly #47 on the Most Wanted list. See, <http://www.kp5.us/>

On the contesting side of things, I hope some of you ventured into at least one of the more popular contests these past couple of months. I took part in CQ World Wide SSB in the Single Operator All Band Assisted Low Power category (say that five times real fast), and both ARRL Sweepstakes CW and SSB contests as Single Op Unlimited (assisted) Low Power.

For those of you not familiar with the various categories in contest operations, generally speaking they are broken down by:

- 1.) How many people are at your station to operate in the contest. This is either single operator (just you) or multi-op, meaning you and one or more friends (well, friends at least at the beginning);
- 2.) What power you’re using (>100 or 150 watts being high power, below that low power, and 5 watts or less QRP);
- 3.) All band or single band (speaks for itself although not all contests recognize separate single band categories);
- 4.) Assisted (also sometimes called Unlimited) or unassisted (meaning whether or not you used

the DX Cluster or other computer-aided spotting methods to find potential targets); and 5.) Mode (some contests, such as ARRL 10 meters, allow CW, SSB or both, all in the same contest and recognize all three as separate categories or classes. Most are just one mode at a time, however).

Beyond that there are many other distinctions, or categories, including Classic (such as in CQ World Wide where you must use only one radio, have no assistance and operate just 24 out of the 48 hours of the contest), Multi-Two (using as many ops as you wish but only two radio signals may be on the air at once), Multi-Multi (also known as Multi-Unlimited, where you may have up to six signals, all on different bands, on the air at the same time), and so on.

What category one enters is a matter of personal preference and capabilities. Your station may not be set up to operate on all bands, it may not be set up for high or even low power, you may not know code, you may not have or understand how to use spotting, and so on. The Assisted or Unlimited category has only been around in most contests over the past 5-10 years but is growing in popularity. In 2012 CQ WW CW, for example, entrants in the High Power Assisted category outnumbered those who chose not to use the DX Cluster by some 30%. Similarly, there were 166 entrants in last year's ARRL November SS phone Single Operator Unlimited Low Power as compared to 121 in 2011, the first year that the Unlimited category was divided up into High and Low power divisions.

This brings me to my second reference in the title of this article, "Cheat-ahs." There remains the group of "purists" who say using the DX Cluster during a contest is "cheating." But as noted contesteer and multi-time world champion Randy, K5ZD, said last year on the CQ-Contest reflector, "Even with all single ops in one category, each person has the option to operate however they wish... ham radio in the past 15 years has embraced the DX Cluster as a normal tool for DXing and operating. Perhaps contesting should start accepting that." Most contests have now separated those who choose to use the Cluster from those who do not as a way of comparing apples to apples. There are also restrictions, such as not spotting yourself or asking someone to spot you, but the controversy over the use of the DX Cluster in contesting remains. In the end, whether or not you choose to is entirely up to you.

I choose to operate most contests now as Assisted or Unlimited because I happen to think it's a skill unto itself and it's fun. Some might compare using the Cluster to a professional athlete using Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs). The difference there is who stands to get hurt? Even if you see a station spotted on the Cluster doesn't mean all their information was typed in right, or that they are still on frequency or that someone else wasn't just posting that to throw everyone else off track. (Yes, believe it or not, there are some unscrupulous contesters out there, as well as those you just despise contesting and contesters.) You still have to tune, listen, get through the pile-up and double check the information to make sure it's right. In my opinion, using the DX Cluster is more like using an octane booster in your car: Why not do whatever you can to maximize your performance and get the most out of your equipment that you can?

Then there is also a group who utilize two transceivers during contests, known as operating SO2R (Single Operator 2 Radios). The way this works is usually that the op has his headphones wired so he can listen to one radio in his right ear and the other in his left. While he calls CQ (or more often transmits a recording of himself calling CQ) on one radio, he tunes around and listens for stations on the same or other bands with the second radio. SO2R requires hardware that allows the operator to quickly switch his microphone from one radio to the other, and to switch between multiple antennas or to use the same antenna on both radios at once. For whatever reason, SO2R is viewed much more as a skill by the contesting purists than operating assisted, and is seldom referred to as "cheating." Some

contests do not have a separate category for SO2R; they are grouped together with those entrants using just one radio with the same power, mode and so on. Others make the Multi-Single distinction. Perhaps it's just because SO2R has been around a lot longer and has gradually become a more widely accepted contest practice. Whatever the reason, one will often read in the soapbox or equipment list postings of the highest scoring operators in the various contests and categories that they were operating SO2R. I say, "Good for them. I have a hard enough time pulling out calls on one radio."

Upcoming contest:

ARRL 160-Meter	2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7
ARRL 10-Meter	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2400Z, Dec 14
ARRL RTTY Round Up	1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4
CQ 160-Meter CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z Jan 25
ARRL Jan VHF	1900Z, Jan 24 to 0359Z, Jan 26

As always, 73 and Gud DX,  
Tim, WT1A