



ACORN

December 2015 Newsletter



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Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

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

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

Repeaters

146.610MHz – PL 88.5
 D-STAR 443.300
 Goff Hill, Auburn Maine

147.315 PL 103.5
 Poland Springs, Me

ANDY Club Officers

President: Tim Bubier WT1A
 Vice President: Cory Golob KU1U
 Treasure: Ivan Lazure N1OXA
 Secretary: Dick Knight N1NYW
 Trustee: Tim Bubier WT1A
 Newsletter Editor: Harold Hartley N1LLU

Andy Club Meeting

Wednesday Dec 2nd 2015 1900 EDT
 Meeting held in Potvin Room
 99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

ARES/RACES

CANCELLED for Dec.
 Wednesday Jan 20th 2016
 Androscoggin ARES/RACES meeting
 Androscoggin Unified EMA Office
 Basement of Central Fire Station
 2 College Street Lewiston, Me.

Andy Club Breakfast

Wednesday Dec 30th 2015 0730 EDT
 Held at the Ramada Inn Pleasant Street
 Lewiston, Maine

On Air ARES/RACES NET

Weekly ARES/RACES Net is every Thursday at 1900,
 on club 146.610 pl 88.5, plus Weekly Training net
 follows. Digital will be part of training net.

UPDATE TO 147.315 PL 103.5 REPEATER BY IVAN, N1OXA

The repeater is back up and working, thanks to members of the club who worked on this, Dave, WE1U, Rex, K1PN, Richard, K1RLT, Dave, N1OXE, Bill, N1KAT, Ivan, N1OXA, Jerry, K1WTX, and Tim, WT1A.

The work was done over two days, the first day was Nov. 18, they lower the existing antenna and installed Bill's, N1KAT, antenna up and it worked OK. Second day Nov 19, the old antenna was checked for it's SWR and it was 1.08, excellent. So we put the antenna up to the opposite side and ran a new coax run, which was 1/3 the length of the old coax run. Than removed Bill's antenna down, Everything checked out with the repeater. So we set the power up to 50 watts. Early result were good, Bruce, W1ZE in the Brunswick area checked in with a S4 - 5 signal with Q5 audio, good start.

Androscoggin ARES / RACES

By Paul Leonard / KE6PIJ
 EC Androscoggin County

The holiday season is upon us and as such we are taking things slowly. Between Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years, it can be a very busy time for us all. As a result, there will not be a face-to-face meeting at the EOC in December. We will, however, be hitting the ground running in January.

Our Face-to-Face meeting on January 20th at 1730 in the UEMA office will feature familiarization with equipment. The group's battery of FT897 radios will all be powered up and on the table. We'll have members team up and go through programming each radio to insure they are set up in a like manner, while also allowing us all to gain some familiarity with their operation.

Please join us and bring a radio or two of your own for similar setup. It's much easier to do with plenty of helping hands, and minds!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year de Paul / KE6PIJ

November Secretary's Report

by Dick Knight N1NYW

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club held a meeting Wednesday November 4, 2015 at the Potvin Room in the St. Marys Medical Arts Building in Lewiston Maine. In Attendance: kb1cdu, n1dot, wa1skp, kb1doi, ve1aws, wt1a, n1oxa, n1nyw, n1jd, kc1aih, n1oxe, kb1qhr, w1lwt, k1wtx, ku1u, n1zrl, kc1ddx, ke6pij, kb1zlv, kc1amc, dc1dnu and wn1i.

The newsletter for this month was sent out in the mail by the US Post Office but not by email. A copy was sent from Harold n1llu and was uploaded to the w1npp.org web site. Dave n1oxe made a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting "as written". The motion was seconded by Ivan n1oxa. Vote: approved.

Ivan n1oxa read the Treasurers report that included the \$500 expense for the new System Fusion repeater. Miriam kc1aih make a motion to approve the report that was seconded by Jerry k1wtx. Vote: approved.

Old Business: President Tim wtia elaborated about the chances of place a new repeater on a tower owned by the town of Leeds on Quaker Ridge. Most of the details are in the November newsletter so I won't spend the time here to explain. The site should provide great coverage to the north end of Androscoggin County and if I remember right is about 12 miles from the 146.61 repeater in Auburn. Miriam kc1aih made a motion to "pursue an agreement with the town of Leeds." Ivan n1oxa seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

Ivan reminded the club that in order to get the repeater on the air there will be other expenses including the "cans" and antenna, maybe a back up battery etc. After some discussion about which antenna would be best Miriam kc1aih made the motion to "turn the selection of equipment for the repeater over to the repeater committee. Looking back at the minutes of the August 2015 meeting, the repeater committee members are:

Ivan n1oxa, Cory ku1u, Ken n1dot, Fred wa1skp, Miriam kc1aih, Jason kb1rsd, and Dick n1nyw.

Discussion turned to finding a frequency for the Leeds repeater. It was decided that 146.775 may be abandoned

so Cory ku1u has been dispatched to start the coordination process to see if that frequency really is available or maybe one better.

Andy kb1doi gave his report about n1d, the Dempsey Challenge special events station.
Forty contacts on 20 meters.
Forty Two contacts on 40 meters.
On 80 to 10 meters there were 220 CW contacts.

Next we talked about the clubs fourth place ranking at Field Day.

Lee w1lwt announced that he will be at the Lisbon Falls Legion Hall again on Veterans Day November 11 operating a special events station. All hams are welcome to attend and join in.

New Business: Next month the meeting happens on December second. Bill Woodhead thought it would be a good idea to invite hams from the area who are not members to that meeting. Ivan n1oxa made a motion that the club provide the postage for the invitations. Motion was seconded by Jerry k1wtx.

It was mentioned that Howie Feldman w1how has a son who would like to take his ham radio exam in the next few months. Ivan will see if the club can have the meeting room for an exam session.

Miriam kc1aih made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Dave n1oxe. Vote: approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

November DX Notes

_by Earl Gilmore N1SVB

The month of October we made 84 DX contacts which represents 51 countries.

Stations contacted were: YV4KW, Venezuela; ZS3Y, So. Africa; S79SP, Seychelles; 9AHA8RT, Croatia; EA8AXT, Canary Is.; TM300SM, France; OX8WW, Finland; SA8C, Sweden; 9G5GH, Ghana; PY70FEB, Brazil; P40JW, Aruba; PD3ED, Netherlands; HG8ITU, Hungary; FY5HB, French Guyana; 3Z4Z, Poland; DL3SDN, Germany; HZ1SK, Saudi Arabia; LU7FSM, Argentina; VK2015TDF, Australia; CN8MAA, Morocco; CP6CL, Bolivia; HB9HLM, Switzerland; SV3AQR, Greece; CT1DQV, Portugal; 9K2WA, Kuwait; A61AQ, United Arab Emirates; Z62FB, Kosovo; 9H5BZ, Malta; FM/VE8DX, Martinique; T77LA, San Marino; D4D, Cape Verde Is. 9Y4D, Trinidad & Tobago; XO6QA, Chile; PY0F/AA4NC, Fernando de Noronha; C5LT, The Gambia; 5J0B, San Andres & Providence; A71CV, Qatar; EU6AF, Belarus; HO2C, Panama; HK1NA, Columbia; V26B, Antigua; FR4NT, Reunion Is; RK0UT, Asiatic Russia; ES5TV, Ethiopia; KL7RA, Alaska; C37N, Andorra; MX0TGB/p, England; 4S6NCH, Sri Lanka; TA1AJJ, Turkey; R2015AA, European Russia; 7W6A, Algeria;

We made two Pacific contacts in October. We contacted VK2015TDF and VK4BR both in Australia

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. 03 to Dec. 10 | 3D2RJ | Fiji |
| Dec. 03 to Dec. 09 | KH2/ | Guam |
| Dec. 03 to Dec. 10 | E51XGI | So. Cook Is. |
| Dec. 05 to Dec. 12 | 8P9EZ | Barbados |
| Dec. 06 to Jan. 06 | 3D2A/p | Rotuma |
| Dec. 09 to Jan. 10 | EA8/ | Canary Is. |
| Dec. 10 to Dec. 13 | KH0/ | Mariana Is. |
| Dec. 12 to Dec. 17 | FJ/ | St Barthelemy |
| Dec. 16 to Nov. 23 | VK2IAY/p | Lord Howe Is. |
| Dec. 16 to Jan. 08 | FR/ | Reunion Is. |
| Dec. 22 to Dec. 29 | T88RY | Palau |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|---------|
| Dec. 26 to Jan. 12 | 6W/ | Senegal |
| Dec. 27 to Jan. 13 | YJ4AO | Vanuatu |

The above DXpeditions are accurate to the 15th of the month. For later additions visit NG3K web page.

President's Report

by Tim WT1A

As the end of the year approaches, I think most of us tend to look back and do a quick evaluation of how things have either improved or deteriorated in our lives over the course of the last 12 months. I was fortunate enough to have been chosen by you to lead this club through a time of transition and innovation in our hobby, and for that I am most grateful. I have very much enjoyed myself over the past year and I am proud of all we, as a group, have accomplished. I can take little credit for most of our achievements but I can point out all the good things we've done as a club.

In 2015, the Club has gained somewhere between 15 and 20 new members. For a group this size associated with what some call a "dying hobby," I'd say that says a lot for who we are and how we have promoted ourselves. Our vice president and others have gone out of their way to reach out to the large percentage of licensed hams in our community who upon receiving their tickets either immediately lost interest or truly didn't know where to go from there. We've recognized a trend where once a new ham is licensed, he/she is unsure where to go next in terms of volunteering, exploring the many different modes and niches of the hobby, or even to whom to ask questions. I've personally found from talking to new hams that they are actually a bit embarrassed to admit that while they spent all that time studying the license manual for their exam, they have no practical knowledge of such things as how to program that new handheld, or how to join a net, or even what certain modes, such as APRS and other data, are capable of.

With that in mind, I'd like to propose a club-sponsored "new hams" class as a sort of graduate course to address the more practical side of the hobby building on the theoretical information we've crammed in our brains studying for the exam. This offering would not be limited to those who have only recently been licensed, but to all of us who know there is much more we could learn about the hobby, or perhaps realize that we could benefit from a little refresher course. I personally know that when I read articles or hear others talking about certain technology that I'm way behind the curve in certain areas such as digital modes and even the full utilization of my own equipment. This proposal is not my idea alone, some of us have tossed around the idea for some time now, but I think the time has come to take some action in making this become reality.

We, as a group, have also come a long way this year in improving communications in the area, especially on 2 meters. I say this in the wake of a recent work session at the Poland Spring repeater site where, hopefully, a small and relatively inexpensive adjustment to the antenna system will pay dividends not only in terms of communications for this and our neighboring counties, but also in goodwill for us as a group by providing better coverage in some areas that have been underserved in the past. This is also my hope for the pending new site in Leeds which should also be a great improvement in coverage for not only the northern part of the county but also up into Kennebec and southern Franklin Counties, as well.

We've also enjoyed a great resurgence in interest in the social aspects of our hobby demonstrated by the improved turnouts and involvement in our Field Day effort, attendance at monthly meetings, and especially this fall with our first ever Club Picnic and Fox Hunt. Our last Wednesday of the month breakfast is another gathering that has grown in size with a need for overflow seating in our gathering area at times.

But we can't stop here. Going forward we need a continued effort to engage and keep the interest of our

new members along with those of us who have been here longer than we care to remember. As always, I am open to your comments and criticisms of how the club is run and of the projects and events we take on. The executive committee is really just the organizer and a conduit through which the efforts of the club are funneled. This club runs on your support, efforts, ideas and enthusiasm. When you see it going in a direction to which you do not agree, or when you see it not moving forward at all, please contact me and give me your ideas for improvement or redirection. After all, that's what you've elected me to do.

Thanks and 73,