



# ACORN

November 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  
Poland Springs, Me

### ANDY Club Officers

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

### Andy Club Meeting

Wednesday Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 1900 EDT  
Meeting held in Potvin Room  
99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

### ARES/RACES

Wednesday Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 1730 EDT  
Androscoggin ARES/RACES meeting  
Androscoggin Unified EMA Office  
Basement of Central Fire Station  
2 College Street Lewiston, Me.

### Andy Club Breakfast

Wednesday Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## List of upcoming Events in Maine

The season is over for now.

## Androscoggin ARES / RACES

By Paul Leonard / KE6PIJ  
EC Androscoggin County

The month of October saw much activity; Near-Fest, The Dempsey Challenge, and the annual statewide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Near-Fest was cold, but still worth going too. I hope those who made the trip found the treasure they hoped to find. The Dempsey Challenge was also a bit chilly, we had snow (just flurries). There were a few hiccups, but it was a good event to have just prior to the SET.

This years SET went very well. The training we have been doing through the past year was evident in the number of successfully passed messages and the ease with which anomalies were handled by the group. We did note some problems with HF abilities from the EOC, and that will have to be addressed in the coming weeks. Over all we have improved as a group and I'm looking forward to raising the bar next year and making it even more interesting.

November starts the holiday seasons, so many of us will be busy with family and related events. There are no big ARES/RACES events in the near future, but our weekly nets and monthly meeting at the EOC are still ongoing, and we hope to see and hear you all. 73

## September Secretary's Report

by Dick Knight N1NYW

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club held a meeting Wednesday October 7, 2015 in the Potvin Room of St. Marys' Medical Arts Building Lewiston Maine. In attendance: wa1skp, wt1a, kb1cdu, n1nyw, n1dot, n1oxa, kc1aih, kb1doi, w1ltx, w1lwt, n1zrl, kc1bep, kc1ddx, kb1qhr, kb1rsd, n1wfo, k1wtx, ve1aws, n1jd, kb1iek, n1oxe, ku1u, and ke4ucw.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tim Bubier wt1a. A motion was made by Dave n1oxe and seconded by Ken kb1cdu to accept the Secretaries' report as printed in the newsletter. Vote: approved.

Ivan n1oxa read the Treasurers report, Miriam kc1aih motioned to accept the report, Jerry k1wtx seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

The President reported on the good attendance at the club picnic, it was decided that it may have been more fun watching the fox hunt than being in it. Tim reported that over the past few months we have gained 15 new members and he has not yet received any feed back on the signal report survey. Tim showed us that an app has been made to show the signal strength, now all that is needed is data.

Tim reminded us that the SET is scheduled for October 24th and that they are hoping to use a site in Livermore that is up high and good for VHF and UHF.

Ivan reported that he still needs operators to work the Dempsey Challenge on October 18. Andy kb1doi has 3 operators for station n1d and could use another for 40 meters.

There was talk at prior meetings that we may need to move our meetings to a larger room because we may need more room for new members. After some discussion with the group present Miriam kc1aih made a motion to keep the meetings here in the Potvin room for now. Jerry k1wtx seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

Tim mentioned again that there is concern that the

north end of the county does not have good communication with the south end. He talked about possible locations to put a repeater and told the group that Yaesu still offered a DR-1X repeater for \$500. The club applied and was approved to purchase a unit at that price. Dave n1oxe made a motion that the club spend the \$ 500 for the new repeater. Miriam kc1aih seconded the motion. Vote approved.

Walter ve1aws asked for a moment of silence for the crew of the ship El Faro that went down at sea in a Hurricane.

Keith ke4ucw talked about ARMY MARS he has been involved with.

Dave n1oxe made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Miriam kc1aih. Vote: approved.

After the meeting Dave n1oxe won the \$ 17 50/50 drawing.

**October DX Notes**

by Earl Gilmore N1SVB

The month of September we made 56 DX contacts which represents 42 countries.

Stations contacted were: S51MA, Slovenia; CT1ASM, Portugal; HG8/G8OFQ, Galapagos Is.; HT7C, Nicaragua; HP1MAC, Panama; SV3GLL, Greece; ZD7FT, St. Helena Is.; A61SM, United Arab Emirates; EM9WFF/p, Ukraine; OE3WMA, Austria; CE2SDC/1, Chile; V31TA, Belize; SE2E, Morocco; UA0S, Russia; 9M4DX, West Malaysia; CP6CL, Bolivia; FG5DH, Guadeloupe; VA7DP, Canada, B.C.; CO6LC, Cuba; NC2AO, Ecuador; HB9CA, Switzerland; EC2DX, Spain; DJ7EO, Germany; GM6Y, England; UI2K, Kaliningrad; EQ3L, Madeira Is.; MJ5O, Jersey Is.; 4O3A, Montenegro; GW4BLE, Wales; F4DXW, France; GM6X, Scotland; YV4CEG/7, Venezuela; HK3C, Columbia; J85K, St. Vincent Is.; ZW10RDX, Brazil; LU3MCJ, Argentina; XE1/N4DMH, Mexico; I2EXPO, Italy; PJ7/KR\$NV, St. Martins Is.; HH2AA, Haiti Air Ambulance; CU6GT, Azores; 9A7DA, Croatia;

We made one Pacific contacts in September. We contacted 9M4DX in West Malaysia. New Country for me and I have sent for his QSL card.

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

Nov. 01 to Dec. 12	5R8IC	Madagascar
Nov. 02 to Nov. 07	PJ4/	Bonaire
Nov. 02 to Nov. 16	YJ0BJ	Vanuatu
Nov. 03 to Nov. 10	P4/	Aruba
Nov. 04 to Nov. 11	3W/	Vietnam
Nov. 04 to Nov. 08	5Z4HW	Kenya
Nov. 07 to Nov. 14	J68KF	St. Lucia
Nov. 09 to Nov. 18	VP2/	Anguilla
Nov. 09 to Nov. 15	E51KIK	So. Cook Is.
Nov. 10 to Nov. 18	PJ4/	Bonaire
Nov. 12 to Nov. 23	3C7GIA	Equatorial Guinea
Nov. 13 to Nov. 16	9H3YY	Malta
Nov. 14 to Nov. 23	VK9WA	Willis Is.
Nov. 15 to Nov. 23	S79C	Seychelles

Nov. 18 to Dec. 02	9X0NH	Rwanda
Nov. 23 to Dec. 05	XV2D	Vietnam
Nov. 24 to Dec. 02	CE0Y	Easter Is.
Nov. 24 to Dec. 03	T2TT	Tuvalu

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW Nov. 28-29, 2015

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

**President's Report**

by Tim WT1A

At the October club meeting, you voted to purchase another DR-1X repeater from Yaesu at a greatly reduced price. In my last newsletter article, I pointed out that one of the best uses of a new repeater might be to locate it in the northern part of the county to improve coverage, particularly in Livermore, Livermore Falls and North Leeds. One suggestion was to locate the repeater on Moose Hill in Livermore Falls, however, the Bass Hill Repeater Group, W1BHR, already operates the 147.225 MHz (123.0 Hz tone) machine on that site, which is also linked to their Mosher Hill, Farmington site (147.180 MHz 123.0 Hz tone) via UHF.

After investigating a few additional sites I discussed the matter with the Leeds Fire Chief and Sheriff's Office Lieutenant, Glenn Holt, knowing that both the Fire Department and ASO have repeaters located on a tower on Quaker Ridge Road in that town. At the time, I was under the assumption that the site was still owned by the cellular provider who originally built it about 15 years ago. I have to report that I was delighted to find out that the Town of Leeds has since taken over ownership of the facility and is currently renting space on the tower to two commercial entities, a paging service and a cellular provider.

The Quaker Ridge site consists of a 140' tower built at 622' elevation ASL. It is 12 miles northeast of the Goff Hill 146.610 repeater and has a nice clear shot north into North Leeds, East Livermore and Livermore Falls

where we have difficult coverage with our existing repeaters.

There are currently three buildings at the site – one for each of the two commercial tenants and one shared by the Leeds FD and ASO. The property is protected by a security fence and the Town of Leeds has a 16 KW propane-powered generator with a 250 gallon tank as backup power for the two public safety repeaters. The Town of Leeds keeps the short access road plowed in the winter. The building which houses the FD and ASO repeaters is a commercial hut left there by a previous cell provider tenant and is climate controlled. We have been invited to collocate in that building with generator back-up. There is also a possibility that we can utilize an existing run of hardline and cross arm located about 80' up the tower. It is unknown if internet access would be possible but it is not currently provided to the public safety structure.

I have an appointment to present a request to use the site to the Leeds Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, October 28 with the support of the Fire Chief who sees this as a great addition to help support the emergency services for their town. So, hopefully by the time we have the new DR-1X, we'll have a very nice site on which to locate it. I've also now learned that the deal we got on the unit has been extended by Yaesu to December 31, 2015 – food for thought.

As discussed at our last meeting, we are continuing to attempt to collect data about the coverage of our two existing repeaters, Poland (147.315 MHz, 103.5 PL) and Auburn (146.610 MHz, 88.5 PL). I use the word "attempt" because I still have not received any written reports. The link to the new online form, however, should now be posted on our homepage, [www.w1npp.org](http://www.w1npp.org). The form is simple to use and can be accessed through your computer and most mobile devices; it is very easy to use. You enter your name, call sign, equipment used and then the report (i.e., S1 to S5) in the box below the name of the repeater about which you are reporting: Poland Spring Analog, Poland Spring Digital, Auburn Analog or Auburn Digital. The app will not automatically record the time; you must use the date and time section to post that correctly. You may also fill in the military time, if you wish, in the box below it.

Next, you may record the location details but if you look below you'll see that there is a section titled "Set Location." There you can search a street address, put in

longitude/latitude or, if you are using a smartphone with GPS enable, you may simply press the "Locate Me" button under that section and the app will automatically post your present location on the report. There is even an interactive map in this section which will allow you to click on your location and submit it that way. Finally, there is a comments section and even a way to attach a file which would allow you to take a photo of where you're reporting from and send it along with your report.

When you're done, you simply click the "Submit Entry" button at the bottom of the page and it will automatically post to the online map. Then you can see your report, along with all the others that have been posted, as a blue dot on the map. Click on the dots and you'll get the corresponding detailed reports. The locations of the repeaters are indicated by black dots with blue towers. When we have collected a sufficient amount of data, we will create final map with all the reports overlaid as varying colored dots with the stronger signals darker and the weaker ones lighter in order to have a visual reference to the areas where we have a lack of coverage.

The online coverage survey map with the link to the submission form can be found at:

<http://anema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/GeoForm/viewer.html?appid=d92017a9e2ad4d078e07fdcce6b2a821>

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of you who have volunteered for various events over the past months. Our local hams, and particularly the members of our club, have put in some incredible hours of community service during a variety of activities. We have developed a reputation as a valued resource to event planners and public safety. With the conclusion of the Dempsey Challenge, the event season has pretty much ended for the year. I know that I have personally enjoyed being more involved this year and have certainly learned a lot by operating during these events. It is practice that can make us all better operators during an actual emergency and it's these sorts of things that ham radio was created for in the first place. I look forward to seeing many more of you at the various events planned for 2016 but in the meantime I hope to see you all at the club meetings.

73,