



ACORN

October 2015 Newsletter



Table of Contents

Secretary's Report..... 2
 President's Notes..... 3 & 4
 DX Notes by Earl Gilmore..... 3

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

Treasure: Ivan Lazure N1OXA

Secretary: Dick Knight N1NYW

Trustee: Tim Bubier WT1A

Newsletter Editor: Harold Hartley N1LLU

Andy Club Meeting

Wednesday Oct 7th 2015 1900 EDT

Meeting held in Potvin Room

99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

ARES/RACES

Wednesday Oct 21st 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 Oct 28th 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

Near-Fest Hamfest, Deerfield, NH,
Friday, Oct 16 and Saturday Oct 17

Dempsey Challenge, Sunday Oct 18, 2015,
Lewiston, Me., Starts around 7am till 5pm.

Maine SET, Saturday Oct 24, 2015,
Androscoggin County, 8am to 1pm.

Androscoggin ARES / RACES

By Paul Leonard / KE6PIJ

EC Androscoggin County

Our practice Simulated Emergency Test (SET) displayed the proficiency our team has developed in message handling and controlling a net through the training provided by our weekly nets. Participation is key and we are seeing plenty of that. It seems we are well prepared for the Statewide SET in October, in which we will expand the role we all take and add new challenges. I'm confident the team will step up to the task.

The guidebook and the standards we are deciding to adhere to is also gelling quite well as the exercises and training is making more clear what we need to focus on to accomplish our mission of supporting our served agencies. By the end of the year we expect to have everything in place.

The membership is growing and we are thankful to have our new members. We could always use more and encourage those who are already affiliated with us but may not have been active, to think about getting back into the habit of checking into the net and participate in the training.

September Secretary's Report

by Dick Knight N1NYW

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club held a meeting September 2, 2015 at the Potvin Room of the St. Marys Medical Arts building in Lewiston Maine. In attendance: kb1cdu, n1dot, w1ltx, w1lwt, kb1qhr, we1u, k1wtx, wa1skp, kb1doi, kc1aih, ke6pij, kc1chw, wn1i, w1oks, ke4ucw, n1jd, kb1iek, kc1ddx, n1oxe, wt1a, n1nyw, and George from Greene who has no call sign yet. I think I missed a couple of calls, next time we will have to say them slower so my ears can catch up.

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m. by President Tim Bubier wt1a. Dave n1oxe made a motion to approve the Secretaries' report and Ken kb1cdu seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

The Treasurer Ivan n1oxa read his report, Miriam kc1aih seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

For those who did not read the September newsletter yet, it is official, the Androscoggin Club is the official owner of the Poland Spring repeater on 147.315 with a pl tone of 103.5, and Vice President Cory ku1u got the paperwork done so the frequency is officially coordinated in the Andy Club name.

David we1u wants the c4fm digital on the Poland Spring repeater shut off so it is a strictly analog repeater. The idea will be taken to the repeater committee. The power output setting was also mentioned, the repeater in Poland Spring is set at 20 watts.

Tim wt1a reports that the BBQ and fox hunt will be held at his new house in Turner, many dates were discussed. To avoid confusion I will not mention all the dates discussed but just say the date had NOT been decided yet.

Miriam kc1aih reports that she has had one ham sell an antenna on the Sunday night swap net at 6:30 on the linked system. I also mentioned we have a swap page on the w1npp.org web site that members can buy, sell swap and trade ham equipment.

Ivan told the club that the liability insurance came

due, one year for \$300, Dave n1oxe made a motion to pay the bill, a second was heard from Miriam kc1aih. Vote: passed.

Tim wt1a and Paul ke6pij discussed the SET coming up in October and the practice SET on September 26. The October SET scenario is a hurricane comes to Maine, a priority will be to test the equipment at the different EOC around the state.

Paul kb1qhr asked how and where to get CERT training. It was explained the EMA will provide the training, there was also discussion of digital message handling.

Tim wt1a mentioned again that any member who needs help to get antenna projects done before winter should contact him and he will help round up members to help out.

The club is getting bigger and a member mentioned we should have a roster available to so we could contact each other with questions or get help. It was decided to start a web page with the members name, town and a link to their email address. Members who do not want to have their name on the list let us know so it will not be included.

I mentioned that our club web site is hosted by Dave kq1l, it has be on again and then off again since the August 12th storm. He knows about it so be patient. The web site was mentioned at this meeting because the System Fusion information and books are available from the news archive link that is near the swap page link. Also there is a PDF form we would like hams to fill out with signal reports about our repeaters. Also you can click on the icon that says "like me on Facebook" to see this clubs Facebook page and also further down the page is the link to sign up to volunteer to work the Dempsey Challenge.

Miriam kc1aih made a motion to adjourn, k1wtx Jerry seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: approved at 7:59 p.m. After the meeting I won the 50/50 drawing again and got \$ 11 dollars. I did not draw the ticket. Please be sure to show up at the next meeting and decrease my chances of winning or make what what I win more.

September DX Notes

by Earl Gilmore N1SVB

The month of August we made 62 DX contacts which represents 40 countries.

Stations contacted were: * E41WT, Palestine; TM200MN, France; RD1AH, European Russia; ON7TQ, Belgium; 9A1A, Croatia; XR2MIN, Chile; OM5XX, Slovak Republic; OA4CN, Peru; CP6AA, Bolivia; HB9EOU, Switzerland; CY0/VA1AXO, Sable Is.; OE6RLF, Austria; SP8K, Poland; HA9RT, Hungary; Z35A, Macedonia; TF2MSN, Iceland; LU7FSM, Argentina; EA1ALE, Spain, RW9USA, Asiatic Russia; VY0M, Canada, North West Territory; OK2RZ, Czech Republic; A61EK, United Arab Emirates; UX2IO, Ukraine; SV9CVY, Crete Is.; S51MA, Slovenia; T41C, Cuba; YV1JGC, Venezuela; HC8/G8OFQ, Galapagos Is.; HH8/KD8CAO, Haiti; ZY156CAT, Brazil; LA4UOA, Norway; TI5/WA8NJR; PJ4/AI5P, Bonaire; NH6Y, Hawaii; KH6CE, Hawaii; KL7AIR, Alaska; VP8LP, Falkland Is.; TC30AZB, Turkey; PY0F/PP1CZ, Fernandez De Noronha; G0DPG, England

*We have made contact with E41WT several times. I thought I might update my Palestine QSL card which we have had for many years. While talking with E41WT, I learned that he doesn't have a QSL manager and he is asking for \$7.00 for his QSL card to be sent to the United States. I am reluctant to send \$7.00 through the mail to Palestine as it might find its way into a terrorist's hands. I think I will keep my old Palestine QSL card until E41WT gets a QSL manager. We made two Pacific contacts in August.

We contacted NH6Y and KH6CE, both in Hawaii.

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

Oct. 02 to Oct. 12	SX5/	Chesterfield Is.
Oct. 02 to Oct. 14	SV5/	Dodecanese
Oct. 03 to Oct. 18	S79SP	Seychelles
Oct. 04 to Oct. 10	SV9/	Crete
Oct. 06 to Oct. 09	T88MZ	Palau
Oct. 06 to Nov. 06	V47JA	St. Kitts & Nevis

Oct. 07 to Oct. 18	J6/	St. Lucia
Oct. 09 to Oct. 23	KG4/	Guantanamo Bay
Oct. 01 to Oct. 30	TA3/	Turkey
Oct. 13 to Oct. 28	V73D	Marshall Is.
Oct. 16 to Oct. 23	3W2HCM	Vietnam
Oct. 16 to Oct. 28	XX9/	Macao
Oct. 17 to Oct. 24	D4D	Cape Verde Is.
Oct. 17 to Oct. 27	PY0F	Fernando de Noronha
Oct. 17 to Oct. 27	5J0B	San Andres & Providencia
Oct. 18 to Nov. 10	V63AH	Micronesia
Oct. 19 to Oct. 27	PJ2/	Curacao
Oct. 21 to Oct. 28	T42US	Cuba
Oct. 25 to Oct. 29	V6AAA	Micronesia
Oct. 26 to Oct. 31	3B7FA	Agalega & St. Brandon
Oct. 27 to Oct. 29	A52CUX	Bhutan
Oct. 27 to Nov. 03	T32DX	East Kiribati
Oct. 30 to Nov. 05	T88/	Palau
Oct. 31 to Nov. 10	3W3MD	Vietnam

President's Report

by Tim WT1A

Greetings Everyone and Happy Fall.

It's October and that marks the beginning of the HF contest season. I know that doesn't mean much to a lot of you but to those of us who enjoy that aspect of the hobby it means time to check out all the equipment and make sure it's working in top order for the upcoming events. It's also a good time to think about chasing some DX, if that's what you like to do. Earle's DX News Notes at the end of this newsletter are always a good place to see what's going on in the world of DX, and to see who has announced DXpeditions in the months ahead. But whether or not you enjoy either of those areas of ham radio, make sure you take the time now to look at your outside antenna systems to make sure everything appears in order before the nasty white stuff flies. Please remember that there are many members of this club who have extensive testing equipment and who are more than willing to help you out. All you need to do is ask.

I want to thank everyone who attended our First Annual Club Picnic, Fox Hunt and Swap Meet. I think it was a great success; we had about 40 attendees, more than enough food, great conversation, and some fun activities. I know the swap meet part was a bit impromptu but I did hear that a few things got exchanged, which is always fun too. I even had one ham who is not from the area and not a club member ask me if I thought the swap meet portion might carry on in years to come because he would like to come down and tailgate with us – something to think about. The Fox Hunt turned out to be a bit more challenging than most expected, I think, but in the end the “fox” was captured by Team Stanley (Cory, his son Stanley, and Jason Gawenus) who will be our reigning champions until the fox gets loose again. Special thanks again to Fred, WA1SKP, for use of his great Byonics Micro-Fox device. I had fun playing with it this week in preparation for the picnic.

The Repeater Committee has been busy debating the pros and cons of purchasing a third repeater from Yaesu with the discussion finally focusing on eventually deploying a new machine to a location that would help supplement 2 meter connectivity in the northern part of the county. The club was offered by Yaesu to purchase another brand new DR-1X repeater at the greatly discounted price of \$500 (\$1700 MSRP) so long as the appropriate paperwork was forwarded to the company by 30 September. After some online debate about the need for yet another repeater, the group identified the Livermore/ Livermore Falls area as a weak spot of VHF/UHF communications and voted that the purchase would be beneficial to both hams located in that area and for those assisting in times of emergency in the north. Paperwork has been initiated and this purchase will be presented to the club for a vote at our 7 October meeting. More details will be provided prior to the vote.

As a reminder, I’m still looking for information on our current repeaters’ coverage. I have not received any

feedback at all to this point. Please go to the club website and download the form to submit your observations. We are also looking at a handy online app what we can use to track repeater coverage and display it on an online map. More details to come.

I would like to note the passing of former club member and longtime area ham, Ray Michaud, N1VVM, who is also the father of local ham, Paul Michaud (N1RXF). Ray went SK on 19 September. Both Ray and Paul have been well-known in radio communications in our community for many years. I would like to send out condolences to the Michaud family on behalf of the club.

It has been noted by myself and others that we may be outgrowing our current venue in the Potvin Room at St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center. With the surge in membership and particularly meeting attendance, it might be time to look for a room with more seating and space. The tables seem to always be filled now and the overflow seating in the back is also getting to be at a premium. I’ll be looking for suggestions of other places where we might meet in the future if this trend persists. Finally, I’m always open to suggestions for presentations following our regular club meetings. If someone has something they would like to present to the group, or you have a topic that you would like to hear discussed, please email me. I’d like these presentations to be limited in time to about 1/2 hour for various reasons, and to obviously be ham-related and of general interest to most. Thanks.

Hope to see you all at the meeting.

73,