



ACORN

September 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

Treasure: Ivan Lazure N1OXA

Secretary: Dick Knight N1NYW

Trustee: Tim Bubier WT1A

Newsletter Editor: Harold Hartley N1LLU

Andy Club Meeting

Wednesday Sept 2nd 2015 1900 EDT

Meeting held in Potvin Room

99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

ARES/RACES

Wednesday Sept 16th 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 Sept 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.

List of upcoming Events in Maine

Windsor Hamfest

Saturday September 12th

Windsor Fairgrounds 8am to Noon

Loon Echo Hike and Bike,

Saturday Sept 19, 2015, at Pleasant Mountain,
Bridgton, Me

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

This has been a productive period for the ARES/RACES group; the antenna on the EOC is operational, though still undergoing testing, we've helped out at the Beach to Beacon Race, our nets and monthly face-to-face meetings have been well attended and seem successful as we continue to prepare for the up and coming Dempsey Challenge and the SET in October.

A lot of work has been put into all of these activities by many of our members, but there is one member in particular that I would like to spotlight now and introduce to you. It is my pleasure to introduce Keith, KE4UCW as he takes the position of AEC in charge of Training. Over the past several weeks he has implemented changes in our weekly net by combining the business part of it with the training. He has an established series of subject matter to present and guide us toward being better prepared as emergency communicators.

Our group is enjoying activity and participation. I hope others will see our enthusiasm and join in to help grow our group in numbers and capabilities.

August Secretary's Report by Dick Knight N1NYW

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club held a meeting Wednesday August 5th, 2015 in the Potvin Room at St. Marys Medical Arts Building in Lewiston Maine. In attendance: kb1cdu, n1dot, ke4ucw, w1ltx, kb1qhr, k1wtx, kc1ddx, wa1skp, n1jd, n1oxe, kc1aih, wt1a, n1oxa, n1nyw, w1lwt, kb1iek, kc1dny, ku1u and son Stanley.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tim Bubier wt1a. Tim made a motion to accept the Secretary's report that was seconded by kb1cdu. Vote: approved.

Treasurer Ivan n1oxa read the Treasurers report. Miriam kc1aih made a motion to accept the report as read. Ken kb1cdu seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

The President started old business with the purchase of the Poland Spring repeater on 147.315 with at 103.5 pl on the input. Tim reports that the controller has been removed and the first Yaesu repeater we got last June, the DR-1 model that has a self contained controller has been installed at least until the controller can be programmed with the correct call sign etc. Tim has put a new lock on the door and was advised by a technician that has worked on the school radio system that used to be in the same room that we should load the area up with mouse traps and mouse poison.

Cory ku1u reports that he has sent the frequency coordinators an application for new coordination for the repeater and the call sign change to w1npp.

Tim reported that some antenna work has been done at the county EOC and more will be done later this week. Also he is looking to upgrade the packet station to newer equipment. If you have something to donate to the cause please contact Tim.

Tim also told us our Field Day scores were lower than last year, about 1440 compared to 4600 last year.

There was more discussion about having a late summer picnic, Cory volunteered to be in charge of planning.

Ivan told us that the Beach to Beacon race went well, 79 people were treated at the med tent. The race was

done at 10 a.m, sweeps done at 10:30 and they were on the way home at 11.

New business: Ivan wanted to start a repeater committee now that the club has another repeater. Miriam kc1aih made a motion to form a committee, the motion was seconded by Ken n1dot. In case the Trustee, currently Tim wt1a our club President or other control operator, has trouble with a repeater and cannot get it shut down by remote control one of the committee members could go over to the repeater site and push the off button or pull the power plug. Committee members will be Ivan n1oxa - committee chairman, Cory ku1u, Ken n1dot, Fred wa1skp, Miriam kc1aih, Jason kb1rsd, and Dick n1nyw.

Miriam kc1aih has new duties as net control for the swap net on the linked system Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. If you have something to sell or trade or want to buy a ham radio item check in with Miriam. Just a note: the w1npp.org web site has a link to the club swap page for members or non members to use. Just follow the instructions on the page to buy or sell an item. Also there is a link on the home page that will take you to podcasts of episodes of hamradio shows to listen too. Let us know what you think about them.

Cory tells us that he was talking to Walter Rawle ve1aws about the need to start technician classes. More later on this.

Fred wa1skp inquired about the status of the installation of antennas at schools and shelters around the county. In a nutshell, there is still more to be done.

Cory reports he saw Norm w1scm the other day, and is sorry to report that Norms' memory is fading.

Ivan wants to sign up hams to work the Dempsey Challenge in October, it has expanded to a two day trek, also Loon Echo and Bike Maine is coming up in September contact Gary n1znpj to volunteer for those events.

Miriam kc1aih made a motion to adjourn that was seconded buy Dave n1oxe. Vote approved at 7:43 p.m.

After the meeting Cory ku1u did a talk about Band Plans and Calling Frequencies, emergency frequencies and repeater back up power.

August DX Notes

by Earl Gilmore N1SVB

The month of July we made 74 DX contacts which represents 47 countries.

Stations contacted were: DL1NKS, Germany; A61DJ, United Arab Emirate; UR6EA, Ukraine; E41WT, Palestine; 7X4RJ, Algeria; EU6AF, Belarus; HK3C, Columbia; HB9EYP, Switzerland; TG9IIN, Guatemala; SV3HHH, Greece; RL5A, Russia; A92HK, Bahrain; CE1TT, Chile; ME1YQQ, Mexico; VU2VID, India; CN8MAA, Morocco; TM200EN, France; 9K2FM, Kuwait; HZ1SK, Saudi Arabia; UN1HQ, Kazakhstan; A41NN, Oman; IT9BDW, Italy LU6YED, Argentina; VE4AXR, Canada; HC8/G8OFQ, Galapagos Is.; T77LA, San Marino; SU9VB, Egypt; SP8CUR, Poland; LY2BVQ, Lithuania; FG4NN, Guadeloupe; MM0EAX, Orkney Is.; OZ7TM, Denmark; OM5XX, Slovak Republic; CU4DX, Azores; VP8LP, Falkland's Is.; 4X6TT, Israel; OX4DAR, Uruguay; E50A, So. Cook Is.; EI7M, Ireland; HS0ZIN, Thailand; 9H5BZ, Malta; SV9CVY, Crete; OK4NN, Czech. Republic; OS22F, Belgium; S51MA, Slovenia; OE3WMA, Austria; LX1FC, Luxembourg;

We made two Pacific contacts in July.

We contacted E50A in So. Cook Is. and HS0ZIN in Thailand.

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

Sep. 02 to Sep. 09	ZA0I	Albania
Sep. 03 to Sep. 07	YJ0NH	Vanuatu
Sep. 04 to Sep. 07	JD1BOH	Ogasawara
Sep. 04 to Sep. 28	5H3DX	Tanzania
Sep. 04 to Sep. 19	K6W	Wake Is.
Sep. 05 to Sep. 07	OH0/	Aland Is.
Sep. 05 to Oct. 01	FO/	French Polynesia
Sep. 11 to Sep. 14	MJ/	Jersey
Sep. 13 to Sep. 16	T88KH	Palau
Sep. 13 to Oct. 18	5H3MB	Tanzania
Sep. 14 to Sep. 23	D67GIA	Comoros
Sep. 15 to Sep. 30	E6GG	Niue

Sep. 16 to Sep. 23	JW/	Svalbard
Sep. 18 to Sep. 30	Z21MG	Zimbabwe
Sep. 19 to Sep. 25	VK9C	Cocos Keeling
Sep. 20 to Sep. 22	T88QB	Palau
Sep. 23 to Sep. 28	3D2YA	Fiji
Sep. 24 to Sep. 28	V73/	Marshall Is.
Sep. 24 to Oct. 14	T2GC	Tuvalu
Sep. 27 to Oct. 29	E51MQT	No. Cook Is.
Sep. 29 to Oct. 27	E51MKW	No. Cook Is.
Sep. 30 to Oct. 16	NH0/	Mariana Is.

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY Sep. 26 - 27, 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

For those of you following the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 (HR 1301), support for the measure continues to grow with nearly 100 Congressmen now signed on. The complementary bill in the Senate has also been introduced, so now is the time to contact our representatives and senator if we have not done so already to express our opinions about how important this law would be for those living in areas with covenants, conditions and restrictions barring or limiting amateur radio structures.

Locally, we continue to make progress in strengthening our own communications by at last having full control of the repeater site, equipment and finally the frequency of the Poland Spring repeater. As posted by Cory on our Facebook page on 27 August:

As of 9:16 PM last night, the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club has been transferred coordination of the Poland 147.315 repeater. This repeater is now a Yaesu Fusion (C4FM) and Analog repeater with a PL tone of 103.5 Hz. If you do not own a fusion radio, we recommend that you program your radio as Tone Squelch versus just tone encode, that way if somebody

uses Fusion, you will not hear the digital hash on your radio. I appreciate everyone's patience during this time of transition.

Thanks, Cory, Ivan and everyone else who has worked so hard (really harder than it should have been) to make this happen. The repeater is and will be a great asset to the Club. Now that most of the formalities are out of the way we can conduct our informal coverage survey and share that information. Bill, N1KAT, has told me that he will borrow test equipment from CMP to assure that both the Goff Hill location and Poland Spring are properly grounded.

Our secretary, Dick, N1NYW, informs us that the web server for our club site, which also host the owner KQ1L's personal site along with others, has been offline intermittently since the storms that passed through the region about a month ago now. Dave Hawke is aware of this and we expect it to be remedied sometime in the near future. So, if you attempt to go to our site, w1npp.org, and can't, don't panic and try to contact Dave or someone else. We are aware of the issue.

Our monthly club breakfast at the Ramada has been well-attended the past couple of months especially. We've had nearly enough members present to conduct club business but I think everyone would just rather enjoy the time together with our brothers-in-arms and discuss current issues, radio-related or otherwise. If you have the opportunity and have not yet joined us, or just haven't been in a long time, we'd be very happy to have you. It's on the club calendar or you can find us at Fusion in the Ramada Inn, 490 Pleasant St. Lewiston, on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 a.m.

Plans for the Club's first annual fall family picnic continue to come together. Again, thanks to Cory for his efforts in making this happen. He and I have batted around a few potential locations before pretty much settling for my new location in Turner adjacent to Martin Stream. We have plenty of space and with our neighbors' approval can probably use their contiguous fields and woods for a fox hunt or whatever other activities we come up with. The timing of the event will most likely be early- to mid-October and will include BBQ and potluck, much like we do for Field Day. We

hope that it will be a low-key, relaxing family event where we don't have to concentrate of setting up stations, erecting tents and so on, like we do in June.

Finally, I'd like to extend a personal invitation to anyone needing antenna work, or any other help, before the snow flies. I know that there are certain of our members who have reached out to certain other members for assistance but it would be nice for others of us to know so that as many of us who are available can work together on projects. This is not only a benefit from the standpoint of safety and less work in numbers, but it also can give some of the less-experienced of us a chance to see what other members have at their QTH and possibly give us ideas and incentive to improve our own. I know that personally I never got the opportunity as a newer ham to visit many shacks outside of the club ones at the colleges where I was attending at the time. I know that personally my shack is always open to any other ham who wishes to see what I do and how I do it (although, having just moved, it will be a while before mine is up and functioning again). I hope that more of us welcome others into our shacks, large or small, simple or complex. To me, that's what the hobby and the club is all about – sharing knowledge, a common interest, and building friendships with our ham brothers and sisters.

73 and hope to see you at the Club meeting,