



# ACORN Newsletter



**Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club (AARC)**  
P.O. Box 1, Auburn ME 04212-0001  
<http://www.w1npp.org>

## Index

- Secretary's Report..... 2
- DX Notes..... 2 & 3
- President's Report.....3

## Repeaters

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Auburn</u>   | <u>Poland Springs</u> |
| 146.610 PL 88.5 | 147.315 PL 103.5      |
| D-Star 443.300  |                       |

## Club Officers

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

## Club Meetings

Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 1830 EDT  
Meeting held in Potvin Room  
99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

## ARES/RACES Meeting

Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 1730 EDT  
Androscoggin Unified EMA Office  
Basement of Central Fire Station  
2 College Street Lewiston, ME

## Club Breakfast

Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 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.

## **Adroscoggin ARES/RACES By Paul KE6PIJ**

April has started off well for our group. The weather has been good and we've already completed a SET, Fox Hunt, and exhibited and a conference. As of the time of this writing, we have not yet provided communications for the MS walk, but we will.

The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) took place on 10 April at 0900L. Thanks to KC1AIH / Miriam, KC1EHP / Deb, N1OXA / Ivan, and KE4UCW / Keith for joining me in this exercise. The scenario was a coronal mass ejection (huge solar flare) causing widespread disruption of power and communications in Androscoggin County. Through deployment we had both hospitals and each city visited and communications to the UEMA established by simplex either directly or via relay.

A Fox Hunt (hidden transmitter) event took place the following Sunday at Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary in Lewiston. WA1SKP / Fred kindly loaned us the use of his fox for this event. The weather was ideal and N1OXA / Ivan and KB1ZID / Travis both found the fox about the same time. We plan to do this again with the hope of a greater turnout. We all had fun doing this and we're sure you would too.

Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference took place 19-20 April at the Augusta Civic Center. We had a booth alongside Androscoggin CERT. It took RACES until Day 2 to get the booth to look right, but we got it done. CERT and RACES members showed in force and we had many good discussions, demonstrations, and meals. This was informative for us as well as allowing us to provide information about the service we provide. An excellent and well attended conference. Those attending from ARES/RACES were WT1A / Tim, N1DOT / Ken, KC1EHP / Deb, N1OXA / Ivan, WA1SKP / Fred, N1WFO / Rick, and myself.

The MS walk is happening the last week of April, so I'll cover that next month. We are planning to have a day for using and getting familiar with the RACES FT-897 radios at Beaver park in Lisbon.

While some are using those radios, others will be invited to try their hand at a fox hunt. Bring the family and stuff to BBQ or picnic in between events. We'll provide a few scanners and antennas to borrow for those unlicensed people who might like to participate. The tentative date/time is May 21 at 1400L. Stay tuned to the W1NPP web site and the nets for confirmation or changes in schedule.

So far we have a good deal of momentum going. Let's keep it rolling and enjoy the weather while we can.

73 de Paul, KE6PIJ  
ARES EC Androscoggin County



## Secretary's Report

By Dick Knight N1NYW

### April Report

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club held a meeting Wednesday April 6, 2016 at the Potvin Room at St. Marys' Medical Arts Building in Lewiston Maine. In attendance: kb1cdu, ke6pij, n1wjo, w1lwt, ke4ucw, k0ldo, w1ltx, kb1qhr, k1pn, wa1skp, kb1doi, k1wtx, w1wfo, kb1zid, n1vlz, n1jd, w1jiw ne1h, kc1aih, n1oxe, n1oxa, n1nyw, and ku1u.

Paul ke6pij did a talk on what ARES/RACES is along with CERT that started at 6:45 p.m.. The Club business meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by club President Tim wt1a. Miriam kc1aih made a motion to approve the Secretary's report as printed in the Acorn. The motion was seconded by Ken kb1cdu. Vote: approved.

Ivan n1oxa read the Treasurers report, Ivan reports that the NEAR FEST people will be making a donation to the Andy Club Scholarship program and told of the expenses of the hamfest and the profits. Miriam kc1aih motioned to accept the report and Dave n1oxe seconded the motion. Vote: Approved.

Tim reports that Ken n1dot send word that Yaesu will upgrade the Auburn DR-1X repeater to work with Wires X if we send it back to them for the upgrade. The shipping will cost about \$190 including the insurance. Miriam kc1aih made a motion to do the upgrade and Jerry k1wtx seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

Cory ku1u made a motion to buy an HRI 200 to get the repeater connected to the Internet. Motion seconded by Jerry k1wtx. Vote approved. Also it was discussed connecting the .61 to the Internet

with the mobile radio that Yaesu sent with the original DR-1 repeater.

Tim reports there has been no activity yet at the new Leeds repeater site but there will be soon.

Paul ke6pij reports Sunday April 10 at 9 a.m. there will be an SET Field Test on the .61 repeater. All are welcome to check in. Also there will be a hunt for a fox owned by Fred wa1skp on Sunday April 17 at 9 a.m. at Thorncraig in Lewiston.

Cory ku1u talked about Field Day and asked Jerry k1wtx to apply for the special k1p call sign. Cory is thinking about being 3 alpha and also having a VE session at Field Day.

Tim wt1a reported that there are twenty eight people from hospitals and medical centers who want to get licensed or upgrade their license. Cory is working on a class for them.

Bob w1ltx made a motion to keep all the club officers the same for the coming year. The motion was seconded by Andy kb1doi. Vote: approved by the members. The Secretary cast one ballot for the keeping the same club officers for another year.

Jerry k1wtx will talk about cutting the TV cord at the May meeting. Andy kb1doi made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Bob w1ltx. Vote: approved at 8:15 p.m.

## DX News Notes

By Earl Gilmore N1SVB

### April 2016

The month of March we made 67 DX contacts which represents 49 countries.

SV2HJQ, Greece; YT1A, Serbia; KL7RST/VY7, Canada; OT4A, Belgium; HG2DX, Hungary; 5T2AI, Mauritania; VK5CE/6, Australia; RT0F, Asiatic Russia; KL9A, Alaska; CK5UA, Uruguay; 9A1P, Croatia; EW6W, Belarus; UA2F, Kaliningrad; OL1X, Czech. Republic; LX7I, Luxembourg; OH2BAH, Finland; D4C, Cape Verde; HG6T, Hungary; G5W, England; YL3FT, Latvia; MM0EAX, Scotland; DR1A, Germany; 5D3A, Morocco; E7DX, Bosnia Herz.; LY3DA, Lithuania; S50K, Slovenia; TC3P, Turkey; UT3EV, Ukraine; OV9JO, Faroe Is.; RG4F, European Russia; 4X6TT, Israel; F6DLR, France; A65BP, United Arab Emerits; VR8E, Romania; TO66R, Guadeloupe; LY5A, Lithuania; NB9CZB, Switzerland; OH8T, Finland; ZD7VC, St. Helena Is.; 4S7GWC, Sir Lanka; OU5U, Denmark; Z35A,

Macedonia; SP3J, Poland; CWi3U, Uruguay; PT7ZT, Brazil; GP0STH, Guernsey Is.; HZ1HZ, Saudi Arabia; BG9GMX, China.

We made several Pacific contacts in March. VK5CE/6, VK3MO, and VK2GWK from Australia and BG9GMX/3 from China.

There are several DXpeditions taking place in May 2016. Some haven't been assigned a call sign so they will use the listed prefix followed with another call sign.

May. 01 to May. 05	T88RF	Palau
May. 01 to May. 08	PJ7BH	Sint. Maarten
May. 01 to May. 22	9Q0HQ	Dem. Rep. Congo
May. 01 to May. 27	YJ0CS	Vanuatu
May. 06 to May. 11	FM/	Martinique
May. 08 to May. 15	E44QX	Palestine
May. 11 to May. 22	J68GU	St. Lucia
May. 12 to May. 22	J68GU	St. Lucia
May. 13 to May. 19	9N3SQ	Malta
May. 13 to May. 23	PY0NY	Fernando de

Noronha

**Continue on page 3**

**Continued from page 2**

May. 15 to Jun. 01	YB9/ Indonesia
May. 16 to Jun. 06	VK9NT Norfolk Is.
May. 23 to May. 28	E51XYZ So. Cook Is.
May. 23 to Jun. 03	FM/ Martinique
May. 23 to Jun. 05	ZD7VDE St. Helena

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW May 28 - 29, 2016

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

**President's Report**  
By Tim Bubier WT1A

Greetings to All!

First of all, thanks for your support in reelecting your officers to another term. I trust that you've all been as excited and enthused as we have to see the direction that the club is taking. We will continue to strive to organize more, diverse ham-themed outings, activities and demonstrations, to hopefully keep you interested and invite others into the hobby. Membership has continued to grow. Now it's up to us to keep everyone interested and engaged.

We've recently been contacted by the Regional Resource Center at CMMC, an organization tasked with developing comprehensive plans for a coordinated healthcare response to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies within our region, because they had a number of people in the medical field who were interested in getting their ham tickets. Cory is currently working with this group to do online classes and eventually organize a test session. At last count there were about 33 people who had signed up. I'm also hoping to start doing our quarterly regional hospital radio tests again and having more licensed hams onsite would help boost that effort tremendously.

While I have been working to get our repeater on the air in Leeds, and hope to do so within the next week or two, our existing repeaters continue to be underutilized. This seems to be a trend with many 2 meter and 70 cm. (440 MHz) repeaters remaining silent the vast majority of the time. So, we need to start to reverse that trend in order to be able to justify keeping the repeaters on the air in the future. We want to continue to expand our coverage, increasing the number of available modes to include analog FM voice, DStar digital voice, Fusion digital voice (C4FM), and so on. But we also need to know that these modes will be used. Hopefully, we can have a presentation about the various modes including the advantages and disadvantages of each, at a future club meeting.

There's also a fairly rapid growth of interest in DMR emerging which was evidenced by the large attendance at Dave Hawke, KQ1L's, presentations on that mode at the State Convention. If this trend continues, we could have even less and less traffic on analog voice, DStar and Fusion systems leading us, as a club, to decide whether it's still worth our while to keep going in the direction we've chosen. Whatever mode you find that interests you, please continue to use our repeaters and don't let them sit idle

as much as they have been.

The New England QSO party is coming up the first full weekend in May (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), from 2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday) and 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday). New England counties are multipliers for this contest, so get on the air, make some contacts and activate your county. For full rules see: <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

The Spring version of NEAR-fest (New England Amateur Radio Festival), one of the largest hamfests in the Northeast which held semi-annually in Deerfield, NH, is this weekend, April 29-30. Our club has a vested interest in this event now because we have a verbal commitment from its chairman to donate part of the proceeds from the hamfest to our scholarship fund. If you can't make this one, the fall version is usually held the third full weekend in October. There is typically a little of everything for everyone, so get out and support a worthy event. <http://www.near-fest.com:8084/nearfest/>

Whatever you like to do with the hobby, get out and have some fun!

73,

Tim, WT1A