



ACORN Newsletter



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

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Adroscoggin ARES/RACES By Paul KE6PIJ

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 Nov 2nd 2016 1830 EDT
 Meeting held in Potvin Room
 99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

ARES/RACES Meeting

Wednesday Nov 16th 2016 1730 EDT
 Androscoggin Unified EMA Office
 Basement of Central Fire Station
 2 College Street Lewiston, ME

Club Breakfast

Wednesday Nov 30th 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.

October was a bright spot for Androscoggin ARES/RACES with two events unfolding in manner that it's members should be proud of. The first was support of the Dempsey Challenge which had problems that were identified and dealt with quickly to provide uninterrupted communications for all locations in the event. The scope of this event included both ARES/RACES hams and non-ARES/RACES hams. Those hams in our ARES/RACES group treated this as an exercise and it was a good learning experience and preparation for our second event of that month, The 2016 Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

This year's SET went extremely well and our goals of handling both voice and digital traffic on emergency power and without the use of Internet or repeaters proved we can do this smoothly if called upon. Thank you to all those who participated, N1OXA, N1ZRL, KB1DEB (formerly KC1EHP), WE1U, and N1DOT. Thank you also to WA1SKP who was observing the Net Control activities to expand his horizons, and Marilynn who came by to observe our debriefing. (I appologize for not remembering your call sign Marilynn).

Moving forward, we will begin to expand into areas that the group has not used for ARES/RACES yet. This will increase the number of channels and modes we have available to us to handle traffic. A lot of things to do before Spring returns!

Please take time to check out <http://EC.KE6PIJ.org> for up to date information on activities.

73 de Paul, KE6PIJ
 ARES EC Androscoggin County
 ec@ke6pij.org

Secretary's Report

By Dick Knight N1NYW

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club held a meeting on October 5, 2016 at the St. Marys' Medical Arts Building in Lewiston Maine. In attendance: kc1dny, ke6pij, n1dot, wa1skp, kb1doi, n1nyw, n1ty, kb1cdu, n1oxa, k1wtx, ke4ucw, n1wfo, ku1u and Simon, n0rdd, w1ltx, w1lwt, kb1ypz, n1jd, kc1aih.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Cory ku1u at 7:02 p.m. Bob w1ltx made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as printed in the news letter with a note that part of the report was repeated by mistake. Andy kb1doi seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

Ivan n1oxa gave the Treasurers report. Miriam kc1aih made the motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Ken kb1cdu. Vote: approved.

Ivan reports that parts and pieces for the Leeds repeater are arriving one at a time. We are hoping to find someone to do the tower work before the end of October.

Paul ke6pij reminded us the SET will be held October 22 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with communications during an ice storm with downed towers and repeaters. Please check into the net Thursday nights at 7 p.m. for details on ARES activity.

Miriam kb1aih told us of a New England Talk Group net on Monday nights using the DMR system.

Cory and Ivan report they are close to confirming an exam date of October 29 at the Auburn Public Library. When confirmed it will be posted on the web page.

Ivan did a recap of the Dempsey Challenge event. One SAG driver did not report and two hams canceled so there were only 7 SAGS. Also discussed, reception issues with the com van. Apparently the van does not have a surface that a magnet mount antenna will stick to very easy. Moving a personal vehicle next to the van and placing the antenna on the car roof saved the day.

The Dempsey Challenge Special Event Station N1D had competition for the frequencies from a contest in California according to the coordinator Andy kb1doi. The number of contacts was less than past years, only 139 total.

After very little discussion it was decided that again we should have a pot luck supper at our December meeting like we usually do. For new members not familiar with the tradition, bring a dish to share to the usual meeting place at the usual meeting time. We eat first and then have a short meeting then finish the leftovers.

Congratulations to Bob w1ltx won \$ 8 in the 50 / 50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Knight n1nyw Secretary

DX News Notes

By Earl Gilmore N1SVB

October, 2016

The month of September we made 28 DX contacts which represents 19 countries.

Countries contacted were:

3Z9DX, Poland; TM6U, France; 5B4AIF, Cyprus, YM2KY, Turkey; 5E3A, Morocco; 9H5BZ, Malta; 4X6TT, Israel; ZD8RY, Ascension Is.; VP8LP, Falkland Is.; PY2COY, Brazil; DF2BO, Germany; SV3AQR, Greece; PA1CC, Netherlands; RW1F, Russia; ZD7VC, St. Helena Is.; ES5/K7ADD, Estonia; AN400R, Spain; VP2ETE, Anguilla; SB9BT, Sao Tome & Principe;

We made no Pacific contacts in September

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

Nov. 01 to Nov. 11	PJ4L	Bonaire
Nov. 02 to Nov. 08	T88AB	Palau
Nov. 03 to Nov. 09	8P/	Bahamas
Nov. 04 to Nov. 12	J6/	St. Lucia
Nov. 04 to Nov. 14	XU7MDC	Cambodia
Nov. 05 to Nov. 12	J6/	St. Lucia
Nov. 06 to Nov. 13	PJ4/	Bonaire
Nov. 06 to Nov. 16	V63AJ	Micronesia

Nov. 06 to Nov. 16	6V1IS	Senegal
Nov. 07 to Dec. 02	5H3MB	Tanzania
Nov. 10 to Nov. 22	3B8/	Mauritius
Nov. 10 to Nov. 22	TL8AO	Cent. African Rep.
Nov. 11 to Nov. 18	PJ6M	Saba & Eustatius
Nov. 15 to Nov. 17	T88QR	Palau
Nov. 15 to Nov. 30	J5/	Guinea Bissau
Nov. 15 to Dec. 15	V47JA	St. Kitts & Nevis
Nov. 16 to Nov. 30	5Z4/	Kenya
Nov. 16 to Dec. 05	XU7AEZ	Cambodia
Nov. 17 to Nov. 20	KH2/	Guam
Nov. 18 to Nov. 21	PY0F	Fernando de
Noronha		
Nov. 18 to Nov. 25	TO2EE	St. Barthelme
Nov. 20 to Nov. 26	FJ/	St. Barthelme
Nov. 20 to Dec. 03	8Q7SP	Maldives
Nov. 20 to Nov. 23	9N7NZ	Nepal
Nov. 20 to Nov. 25	9Q0HQ/3	Dem. Rep of
Congo		
Nov. 21 to Nov. 29	PJ/2	Curacao
Nov. 21 to Dec. 01	ZD8V	Ascension Is.
Nov. 22 to Nov. 30	HR2/	Honduras
Nov. 24 to Dec. 01	ZL7/	Chatham Is.
Nov. 24 to Dec. 02	CE0Y	Easter Is.
Nov. 25 to Nov. 30	V63DX	Micronesia
Nov. 30 to Dec. 08	J3/	Grenada

CQ World Wide DX Contest, CW (Nov. 26 - 27, 2016)

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

President's notes

By Tim Bubier

How do we keep our Club interesting and relevant?

This group has been in existence now for well over 50 years. It has varied in membership and emphasis during the past 30 or so years that I have been affiliated with it, but it is now the largest and most active that I have observed. We have more repeaters under our trust, we are involved in more public service events, and we enjoy more activities as a group than ever before. But how do we keep this going and make our club even more interesting for everyone, draw in even more new members while retaining those we have now, and also remain an asset to our community?

With technology developing and changing so rapidly in the hobby it's easy to get sidetracked into one little niche or another and ignore the larger picture of why we have ham radio in the first place. This is a hobby that came about as a result of the recognition of a need for volunteers to assist professionals responding to all sorts of emergencies, disasters and public events. This Club has always been responsive to that need especially through its affiliated ARES/RACES group. Going forward we need to not only continue that effort but also expand the number of public events that we support and the number of our members who are involved.

Involvement can be in several different forms. The most obvious way to participate is to offer one's assistance as a communicator in support of a rest stop along a route, in a sag vehicle assisting participants, or in an aid station providing communications for a medical staff. We can also put our organizational and emergency communications skills to the test by acting as a net control operator or assistant, helping to keep everyone organized, informed and on task. We can participate from home or from our vehicles as relays, or we can volunteer in a non-communication capacity, assisting along the route, with logistics support or even planning. The more ways we find to help, the more our club fulfills its duty as a public service, not for profit entity by being an asset to the community and other similar organizations.

There are benefits to you, too. You learn to work as a team to achieve a common goal. You test your skills and the capacity of your equipment. You learn from others and see what they do differently to make things work better, longer and more consistently. You may earn a nice meal, a t-shirt or be individually recognized for your contributions. Most importantly you will gain the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to a worthy cause and, in doing so, promoted our hobby as a valuable service to the public.

Beyond volunteering our skills to assist with communications, how do we keep this interesting and relevant for YOU? With such

a wide variety of members with such varied interests, sometimes it's hard for us as your officers to plan speakers, events and activities that are of interest to all of you. As the hobby continues to diversify and modernize, our collective interests in radio also diverge. It's no longer as easy to provide information on a single subject that everyone is doing or interested in. We have to sometimes guess whether the presentation before the meeting will be of interest to the members. We continue to seek out topics and presenters that will pique your interest and make you want to learn more about the presented subjects. I also request that you contact me with ideas for topics and activities we can do to keep our meetings and other gatherings fun and interesting.

When I searched online for ideas, I came up with an article from the ARRL called "Tips and Tonics for Healthier Radio Clubs." Some of the suggested program activities were:

- Have a guest speaker. Topics can include ARES, Skywarn, antennas, radio history etc.
- Show a video.
- Show a Power Point.
- Have an auction. Club members can bring items, with a portion of proceeds going to the club.
- Go on a field trip. Visit local radio or TV stations, electronics firms or police communications center.
- Radio trivia game. Ask questions relating to radio, with prizes for most correct answers.
- Show and Tell. Members bring items and describe them.
- Homebrew night. Members bring a radio construction project and describe it.
- QSL night. Cards are shown and stories told relating to the contacts.
- Technology updates. Details of new modes (digital, APRS) and circuits.
- Equipment reviews. Owners of new ham equipment describe and evaluate it.

Many of these we have done in the past, some we have not. Please let us know which, if any of these things, you'd like to see, do and experience. We can also try other things like hands-on building projects or open discussions of such subjects as proper operating procedures. We just need your ideas to keep things interesting and relevant for you.

73,
Tim, WT1A