



# The ACORN



Put out by the

**Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club (AARC)**

P.O. Box 1, Auburn ME 04212-0001

<http://www.w1npp.org>

<u>Repeaters</u>			
<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Poland Springs</u>	<u>Leeds</u>
146.61 PL 88.5	443.300 D-star	147.315 PL 103.5	146.895 PL 103.5

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## Club Officers

President: Tim Bubier WT1A  
V. President: Lee Trask W1LWT  
Treasurer: Ivan Lazure N1OXA  
Secretary: Dick Knight N1NYW  
Trustee: Tim Bubier WT1A  
Newsletter Editor:  
Harold Hartley N1LLU

## Club Meetings

Wednesday Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 1830 EDT  
Meeting held in Potvin Room  
99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

## ARES/RACES Meeting

Wednesday Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 1730 EDT  
Androscoggin Unified EMA Office  
Basement of Central Fire Station  
2 College Street Lewiston, ME

## Club Breakfast

Wednesday Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 0730 EDT  
It will be at new location, Terry's &  
Maxine at Auburn/Turner line  
on route 4.

## 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.

## ARES/RACES HF net @ 1400

### Will start in September

40 m 7262+ or 28.46+ or – after  
Check Paul's website, for the new  
bands [HTTP://EC.KE6PIJ.org](http://EC.KE6PIJ.org)

## President's note

Things will be changing for the Androscoggin Radio Club repeaters in the coming months. As discussed in our May meeting, after decades of residing on Goff Hill in Auburn, the 146.610 MHz, W1NPP/A repeater will be moving to Gracelawn Road in Auburn within the next month or so. There will be a period where this repeater will be inactive as it gets settled in its new location and the antenna is installed on the City of Auburn's 180 foot tower. We have been offered space on that tower at no cost to us at the 70- to 80-foot level. Also being moved to that site will be the 443.300 MHz D-Star repeater.

Currently, these two repeaters are housed in a WWII-era hut with rodent issues on Auburn Water District property at approximately 450 feet elevation on Goff Hill. The 2-meter antenna is about 60 feet up the 70-foot tower that also supports the Sheriff's Department and L/A 911 public safety antennas. The antenna used for the UHF D-Star repeater is on a mobile antenna tower parked next to the hut and extended to a height above ground of about 40 feet. This puts the VHF antenna at about 510 feet above sea level and the UHF one at about 490 feet.

The Gracelawn tower is located in the Cities' public works gravel pit at approximately 350 feet of elevation above sea level. If our two

antennas are located at the 70- and 80-foot levels, this would put them at about 420 and 430 feet respectively. This may at first seem to be a disadvantage coverage-wise but there is the fact that in recent years the trees surrounding the Goff Hill site have grown to a height well above the level of our antennas. The Gracelawn Road site has no trees around the tower at all. So, we shall see, as they say. In the end, we were not given a choice between the two sites and the Goff Hill location will be completely leveled within the coming weeks to make way for the new hut and tower being built there.

At the same time, we voted at our July meeting to relocate the Poland Spring 2-meter repeater, W1NPP/P, 147.310 MHz, from its present location at Poland Spring Resort to the residence of new club member, Richard Marshall, KC1RHM, on White Oak Hill in Poland. Its current location is approximately 570 feet ASL, while the area around Richard's home is about 600 feet in elevation. With a reasonable effort to get the antenna above his roofline, we should see improved coverage from that repeater without the hassle of the resort's "cart barn" and administration. Plans and efforts are already underway to make this happen A.S.A.P. but we will need to organize a work day to take care of this.

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## UP COMING EVENTS

Beach To Beacon 10 k race, August 5, Registration is open, <http://www.beach2beacon.org/>

Loon Echo Bike and Hike Trek Saturday, September 16, 2017, Contact: Gary N1ZNJ  
[n1znj@yahoo.com](mailto:n1znj@yahoo.com)

Dempsey Challenge, Oct 8, 2017, register at [dempseychallenge.org](http://dempseychallenge.org)

## Secretary's Report

By Dick Knight N1NYW

A meeting of the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club was held July 5, 2017 at the St. Marys Medical Arts Building in Lewiston Maine. In attendance: kc1bep, kb1cdu, kc1fzb, wa1skp, kb1doi, ke6pij, kb1ypz, n1jd, n1oxa, n1ywf, kc1aih, wt1a, n1nyw, k1wtx, w1ltx, ku1u and Simon, and kc1rhm.

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Bubier wt1a at 7:00 p.m. Miriam kc1aih made a motion to approve the Secretarys Report as printed in the newsletter. Tim made an amendment that Walter has a new American callsign. Motion seconded by Andy kb1doi. Vote: approved with amendment.

Ivan gave the Treasurers report, kc1bep made a motion to accept as read, seconded by Miriam kc1aih.

Tim told about the Field Day activities that included working three transmitters and making a satellite contact, 416 contacts that added up to 1200 points. The MESH network worked well through the event, and the Minot Fire Department provided the portapotty.

Tim reported that the winner of the scholarship declined it according to a letter from the ARRL, just like the winner last year did. Despite the leagues' attempts to find another student the money will go back in the fund and wait until next year for someone else to apply.

Tim gave us a very short report on the Trek Across Maine, he said "no one died".

Cory ku1u introduced a new ham to our club, Richard Marshall kc1rhm, who has agreed to let the club move the Poland repeater to his home on White Oak Hill in Poland. The present location has access problems. Cory made the motion that he be paid \$ 10 per month to help pay for the electricity it uses and

get a free club membership while he is hosting the repeater. Miriam kc1aih seconded the motion. Vote: approved, he was signed up as a new member and paid a years rent for the next year at the meeting.

Bob w1ltx told us why the club Vice President Lee w1ltx was absent. Lee was next door at St. Marys' hospital recovering from surgery, we passed a get well card around the meeting for members to sign and send to Lee with our get well wishes.

Cory reported that Paul Michaud wants to get the Leeds repeater up and running soon, the next step, Paul and the club need to set a date. The next event that needs communications help is Beach to Beacon next month.

Miriam kc1aih made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by kc1bep. Vote approved at 7:50 p.m. After the meeting Tim wt1a won \$13 from the 50/50. Also there was a good "after meeting". We forgot to discuss moving the clubs breakfast meeting to a new location. Watch [www.w1npp.org](http://www.w1npp.org) to see where the meeting moves to, if it does.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dick Knight n1nyw Secretary

Paul Leonard / KE6PIJ  
ARES EC, Androscoggin County

After the Andy club meeting a few of us were discussing the success using mesh network at Field Day and the idea of using mesh at the TD Beach to Beacon to help overcome the problem of loud music interfering with communicating came up. Seemed like an ideal situation to try and expand the coverage area at the same time. On August 22nd, Ivan (N1OXA), David (WE1U), Pete (N1ZRL) and myself met at Fort Williams to test the feasibility of mesh in this terrain. The goals were; 1 can we mesh over the distance required and reach over the hills involved, 2 can the access points provide connection to the mesh at the endpoints, and 3. will IRC (Internet Relay Chat) work at each end to send messages.

The mesh network easily covered the area in question. and access point at Pete's site worked great to provide connectivity. IRC worked very well from smart phone and computer through the mesh. The only problem area was from my site's access point. A significant amount of time was put into troubleshooting this, and we left the day with the realization that there is a possible issue with the version of Windows on the laptop. Details will be posted on the site below. With the information gathered, the mesh will be exercised, unofficially, at Beach to Beacon in August. Thanks to the team for all the time and effort that day. We gained a lot of insight and experience while having wonderful weather at Fort Williams.

Enjoy what is left of Summer and stay tuned to <http://EC.KE6PIJ.org> for up to date information on activities.

73 de Paul, KE6PIJ  
ARES EC Androscoggin County  
[ec@ke6pij.org](mailto:ec@ke6pij.org)

## DX Report

By Earle Gilmore N1SVB

DX News Notes  
July, 2017

The month of June we made DX 18 contacts which represents 14 countries.

Countries contacted were EA5JE, Spain; TM5BBC, France; VX715O, Canada, BC; OE3IDE, Austria; CT1TT, Chile; 4X6TT, Israel; ZD7FT, St Helena; S500R, Slovenia; EA8TL, Canary Is.; PY6HD, Brazil; CT1ASM, Portugal; MM0CXZ, Scotland; E51QX, Estonia; OD5VB, Lebanon;

For the last several months the conditions have been very poor. I hear many European DX stations but they are working Europe and Asia and we in North America can't break through to make a contact.

We made no Pacific contacts in June.

There are several DXpeditions taking place in August, 2017. Some haven't been assigned a call sign so they will use the listed prefix followed with another call sign

Aug. 01 to Aug. 10	OY/	Faroe Is.
Aug. 01 to Aug. 31	HC8/	Galapagos
Aug. 03 to Aug. 13	4L0GF	Georgia
Aug. 05 to Aug. 11	GJ4PVM	Jersey Is.
Aug. 07 to Aug. 07	ZD8RA	Ascension Is.
Aug. 07 to Aug. 25	E51GHS	So. Cook Is.
Aug. 09 to Aug. 28	KL7/	Alaska
Aug. 12 to Aug. 19	OJ0/	Market Reef
Aug. 15 to Sep. 05	TX5EG	French Polynesia
Aug. 17 to Aug. 17	KH9/	Wake Is.
Aug. 17 to Aug. 22	A35JP/p	Tonga
Aug. 21 to Aug. 21	V7/	Marshall Is.
Aug. 25 to Aug. 29	ZA/	Albania
Aug. 28 to Sep. 04	V63KS	Micronesia
Aug. 29 to Sep. 03	4O7GXB	Montenegro
Aug. 29 to Sep. 14	YJ0AT	Vanuatu

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

Earle Gilmore, N1SVB

## President's note Continued

Meanwhile, we are still waiting to hear when Paul Michaud can climb the Leeds tower for us to install our 2-meter antenna there. We will be required by the City of Auburn to have a certified, bonded climber to install the Gracelawn antenna, as well. We have discussed at least temporarily starting up the Leeds repeater with the antenna mounted at a lower level. Again, a work party will be needed to make this happen and we can discuss this more at our next meeting.

So, 73 for now, and hope to see you at our new breakfast location this week and our monthly meeting, same bat time, same bat channel. Hope your summer is filled with relaxing moments and Tropospheric Ducting.

Tim, WT1A