



# A.C.O.R.N.

Put out by the

Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club  
(AARC)

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

<http://www.w1npp.org>



		Repeaters	
<u>Lewiston</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Poland Springs</u>	<u>Livermore</u>
146.61 PL 88.5	443.300 D-star	147.315 PL 103.5	146.895 PL 103.5
ON AIR	OFF AIR	ON AIR	ON AIR

### Take Note

The deadline for all articles for the Newsletter is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## New Location for Breakfast

Webster St, Conv. and Deli, 715 Webster St

### 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 Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1830 EDT  
Meeting held in Potvin Room  
99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

### ARES/RACES Meeting

Wednesday Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 1730 EDT  
Androscoggin Unified EMA Office  
Basement of Central Fire Station  
2 College Street Lewiston, ME

### Club Breakfast

Wednesday Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 0700 EDT  
at Webster St, Conv and Deli, 715  
Webster Street, Lewiston

### ARES/RACES Net

Every Thursday on the 146.61  
pl 88.5 Repeater at 7pm with digital  
after the voice part.

### President Notes by Tim Bubier

As the cold season approaches, we all hope the bands begin to open up at this bottom of the sunspot cycle so we have something to do over the coming months. I've recently been looking at the various digital modes for activity while the bands are down. There are so many digital modes now that one can barely keep up with them all and their newest versions. Fortunately for us, though, many of them can be handled by the same software programs so all we need to do is select which one might work best for us. But how do we know?

With the rise in popularity of modes like FT8 (read more about that [here](#)), there are more and more users across the globe and, therefore, more people for us to contact. And because of the nature of these digital modes, the propagation doesn't have to be perfect and the spectrum can be filled with signals when all SSB signals have faded and gone.

This phenomenon has led some hardcore DXers to say that FT8, and the similar but distinctly different FT8CALL, are "ruining" ham radio by making it *easier* to collect DXCC countries. Funny thing is, the same thing was said with the rise in popularity of SSB mode operations back in the 1950s. I have to say, "To each his/her own." The real idea is to enjoy our hobby.

I always thought that one of the great things about our hobby was its diversity. If you don't want to learn code you can use voice or one of the digital modes. If you are a purist and only want to do CW, then who's stopping you? If you don't care to or can't use your voice to communicate, you still have many options. You can even remain silent and send your APRS beacon, or SSTV; the combinations are nearly endless.

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**Secretary's Report**  
By Dick Knight N1NYW

Meetings of the Androscoggin Radio Club and ARES/RACES were held September 5, 2018 at the Potvin Room at St. Marys' Regional Medical Center Lewiston Maine. Pete n1zrl started the ARES/RACES meeting at 6:33 p.m. and it ended at 7:03 p.m. when the regular club meeting was called to order by President Tim wt1a. In attendance: n1dot, kc1aih, n1wfo, n1oxa, n1nyw, kb1doi, wt1a, we1u, n1zrl, w1ltx, k1wtx, w1lwt, n1vlz, wa1skp, n1jd, and kc1rcm.

David we1u made a motion to accept the Secretary's report with one amendment. The report said books were placed in school libraries, it should have read public libraries. Sorry, it was my confusion. The motion was seconded by Miriam kc1aih and others. Vote: approved with the amendment.

Ivan gave the treasurers report that included \$ 100 for the deposit for the 2019 hamfest and convention at the Ramada and money for cables for repeaters. Miriam kc1aih made the motion to approve the report and David we1u seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

The status of the different repeaters were discussed. The Poland repeater needs a new feed line to the top of the tower. Getting up to the antenna safely was discussed. It was decided use a man lift to get up there. Jerry k1wtx made a motion to spend up to \$ 200 to rent a man lift to get the feed line installed. Miriam kc1aih seconded the motion that was approved.

The signal reports are coming in about the Livermore repeater, there is a good report from Dixfield but not so good from down in the valley of Rumford / Mexico because of the hills and mountains that block the signal.

Ivan will be changing the coax soon on the .61 repeater at his house. Talk has begun about how to link all three repeaters. There is one thing we know, it maybe expensive.

It has been a year now that the Poland repeater has been in its new location at kc1rcms' house and time to pay the yearly \$ 120 rent. David we1u made a motion to pay the rent, seconded by Miriam kc1aih. Vote: approved.

We discovered that Bates College is no longer welcoming the public for weekday breakfast. Work has started to find a different location for our club breakfast meeting. Check the w1npp.org web site or the newsletter for the new location.

The list of public service events was discussed. The entire Dempsey Challenge will be on the .135 repeater in Brunswick this year because the route has been changed to

travel from Lewiston to the coast. There is still work to be done to fill in the APRS signal dead spots.

David we1u made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Miriam kc1aih. Vote: adjourned at 7:53 p.m. I won the \$ 6 in the 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Knight n1nyw Secretary

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**President Notes by Tim Bubier**

I'd like to challenge you all this fall and winter to try out a new mode, if you have privileges to do so on the HF bands or whatever bands on which you have privileges. You don't need any really fancy or expensive equipment for this - basically just a sound card on a computer in many cases, a receiver and one of the free software programs that are readily downloadable on the web. Join the forums, know what frequencies they operate on, set up your system and "listen" even if you can't transmit on those bands. You'll be fascinated with the data that's being sent from around the globe and from places you may not have heard before on voice or even cw. Then come back to us later and tell us about what you have learned, heard and seen at one of our club meetings.

Who knows? This may just become your new favorite mode or be just the thing you needed to spur you on to get that upgrade.

Happy listening and 73,

Tim, WT1A

**DX Report  
By Tim Bubier W**

I've been less active this month, focusing on things like getting my antenna systems prepared for the coming winter. Here are a few stations I've worked during September:

OL100SCR, Czech Republic

CU2GC, Azores

R25RRC, Russia

XR208B, XR1SDC, Chile

EA9KB, Ceuta and Melilla

OM2TWM, Slovak Republic

YB0IBM, Indonesia

Z3/IZ5YHD, Macedonia

CN8TAG, Morocco

7Z88ND, HZ1BL, Saudi Arabia

Z68UR, Republic of Kosovo

Lots of interesting DXpeditions announced for October:

Sep24 Oct09 Panama H88X

Sep25 Oct02 Greenland OX3LX

Sep26 Oct10 Rwanda [9X0T](#)

Sep28 Oct14 Samoa [5W0GC](#)

Sep29 Oct06 Christmas I [VK9XT](#)

Sep30 Oct12 Nauru [C21GJ](#)

Oct01 Oct12 Albania ZA5V

Oct02 Oct29 American Samoa KH8

Oct03 Oct27 Vietnam [XV9WJR](#)

Oct04 Oct09 Palau T88

Oct06 Oct16 Niue [E6Y](#)

Oct09 Oct14 Norfolk I VK9

Oct09 Oct19 Norfolk I VK9N

Oct09 Oct21 Chad [TT8KO](#)

Oct09 Oct27 Reunion FR

Oct10 Oct15 Svalbard JW

Oct10 Oct16 Vietnam XV9RH

Oct10 Oct24 Guantanamo KG4

Oct10 Nov06 St Kitts & Nevis [V47JA](#)

Oct12 Oct16 Laos XW1IC

Oct12 Oct19 Aruba P4

Oct12 Oct22 Laos XW4XR

Oct15 Nov04 Vanuatu [YJ0GC](#)

Oct15 Oct30 Christmas I [VK9XG](#)

Oct16 Oct22 Ceuta & Melilla EA9

Oct16 Oct22 Chatham I ZL7X

Oct16 Oct30 Christmas I [VK9XG](#)

Oct17 Oct24 Palau T88SM

Oct19 Oct29 Haiti [4V7R](#)

Oct20 Oct30 Bonaire PJ4

Oct20 Nov03 Ducie I [VP6D](#)

Oct22 Oct30 Burkina Faso XT2SZZ

Oct24 Nov28 Tanzania [5H3MB](#)

Oct24 Oct29 Ogasawara JD1BNA

Oct26 Nov06 Zimbabwe [Z23MD](#)

**Pete Thuotte N1ZRL**  
**ARES Emergency Coordinator**

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTRYARES/RACES  
MONTHLY MEETING  
1730L  
19 SEPT 2018 1730L

**1. Attendee Sign In.**

Present at the meeting:  
N1OXA, KC1AIH, WE1U, KC1BEP, WA1SKP

**2. Call to Order (or disorder ☺)**

Preparations for the Dempsey Challenge event has taken priority over all of the other items slated for discussion at our monthly meeting.

Discussions included tracker units, power adapters for, other equipment sources available. Antennas for SAG vehicles, APRS software settings, analyzing raw data packets to determine who's I-gates, Digipeaters are or are not working properly.

Ivan N1OXA & Dave WE1U planning the next day's (Friday) activities that would include getting John's, KC1BEP, Digipeater up and running, among many other things that needed to be done in prep for the event. I can't remember every item that was discussed, and there were many.

Thanks to Ivan, Dave and the others that have assisted, and plan on assisting with this event. The logistics are...well, there and then some.

We have/had APRS assistance from Nodes in the area: K1JJS, KC1BEP, W1LWT, WD1F, N1ZRL, and N1JOV, and, of course, KQ1L's APRS nodes cover much of the area.

Dempsey Challenge will be behind us, when this is read. One item that will discussed at the next month's ARES/RACES will be the October 27<sup>th</sup> SET. Also, ARES/RACES connect system/ Comm Plan, not to be forgotten, Will be also be discussed.

Pete Thuotte  
N1ZRL  
EC Androscoggin County

Pete Thuotte <[petethuotte@gmail](mailto:petethuotte@gmail.com)>  
Friday Sep 7, 10:34 PM (4 days ago)

to steve:

Steve,

In one of your emails, concerning subject plan, you invited comments.

I will leave it to your discretion as to forwarding them to the ARRL for their comment period.

I was going to add more of my own comments but, it was getting wordy and is sort of off topic for a "Comment Period" . Concerned what I personally thought we should focus on. I will sent it in another email, after I rethink and edit .

Pete  
N1ZRL

At the last Androscoggin Radio Club meeting (9/5/18) I polled ARES/RACE members present for their comments on the proposed new ARES Com Plan, here are their comments/questions:

Insurance companies driving this ?

Sort of excessive

Maine doesn't even require Police and Fire Chiefs to take ICS-300 and ICS-400.

Level one doesn't seem to be an issue, define differences between level one and two.

Define "Entry Level".

Why the ICS-800c ?

(EC-001) COM-T and COM-L seem more relevant.

It's a mess

We would never be part of the "Incident Command" tent. Why then all the training?

We just pass traffic.

Seems too much for this area...Maine.

.... would resign present position, fall back to level 1.

BS

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Entry level OK, but again, We would never be part of the "Incident Command" tent.

Need Troops not Generals.

The WEBEOC is a closed system.

Over blown response, from "upper level" people.

Level 1 for me. National down to us? Mandatory training-  
no.

My, N1ZRL comments:

Some of the required training does not seem too popular.  
General impression; stick to message handling, let the paid professionals deal with "Incident Command" issues.  
They, the paid professionals, tell us what to send and to whom. If they want it sent on a particular frequency, mode or form, tell us or leave that decision to us.  
We are "Message Handlers" not "Incident Command Professionals".

Steve KB1TCE  
Sep 8, 2018, 8:16 AM (3 days ago)

to pete:

Thanks Pete. Very consistent with what I'm hearing elsewhere. We discuss the topic in Knox County today.

"Level 1 for All!"

What I'm wondering about are the hand full of groups I've heard nothing from.

73, Steve

Steve kb1tce  
Sep 10, 2018, 11:03 AM (1 day ago)

To Pete:

Based on the discussion at the Knox County ARES/RACES-CERT meeting on Saturday:  
Agreement on the issues with the plan and recommendations.  
High level of doubt with regard to the applicability of the database.  
The general view is EC registers and leave it at that as long as possible, at least until we know what's in the final plan.  
Having the EC registered will let the group know what's actually in the database.  
Continue doing what our served agency wants us to do.  
One suggestion - if the purpose of the higher level of

training is for portability - which I take to mean that people can be deployed - then just have a check box to indicate "not interested."  
Regardless, if comms support is needed, the call isn't going to go to someone with a raft of FEMA courses under their belt, it's going to be for someone with the right skills e.g. someone who can actually set up and operate a radio using the required modes and under whatever conditions will be encountered.

Who are they? From Convention & Hamfest?  
How many can you name! The person who has the most, will  
get club membership for 2019 Free, Email  
lazarus@roadrunner.com

The Nov. Newsletter will the answers with the winner

