



# ACORN



### ANDY Club Officers

President: Bill Woodhead N1KAT  
 Vice President: Cory Golob KU1U  
 Treasure: Ivan Lazure N1OXA  
 Secretary: Dick Knight N1NYW  
 Trustee: Norm L' Heureux W1SCM

### Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

P.O. Box 1, Auburn ME 04212-0001  
<http://www.w1npp.org/>  
 Repeater 146.610MHz – PL 88.5  
 Goff Hill, Auburn Maine

Please submit articles, corrections and suggestions by the 16th of the Month to Ivan Lazure and he will send them to n1llu.

### Table of Contents

Coming up..... 1  
 Andy Club Meetings..... 2  
 Comments by Ivan N1OXA..... 2  
 Upcoming Events for Maine 2014.....2  
 Secretary's Report by Dick N1NYW.....2 & 3  
 Contesting & DX.....4 & 5

### Coming up...

#### Contesting

Nov 1, 1200Z, to Nov 2, 1200Z, Himalayan Contest, Rules: [www.arsi.info/contests/himalayan](http://www.arsi.info/contests/himalayan)

Nov 8, 0700Z, to Nov 9, 1300Z, Japan International DX Contest, Rules: [www.jidx.org](http://www.jidx.org)

Nov 15, 2100Z to Nov 17, 0300Z, ARRL November Sweepstakes, Rules: [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

### SPECIAL EVENT STATION

See November QST pages 102 and 103 for details.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We have received the new Yaesu Fusion DR-1X Repeater and is being install this week. Also, what does the club do with the mobile FTM-400DR radio? Please send suggestions to my email [ilazure@roadrunner.com](mailto:ilazure@roadrunner.com).

**Andy Club Meeting**

**Wednesday Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 1900 EDT**  
Meeting held in Potvin Room  
99 Campus Ave. Lewiston, Me.

**ARES/RACES**

**Wednesday Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 1800**  
Androscoggin ARES/RACES meeting  
Androscoggin Unified EMA Office  
Basement of Central Fire Station  
2 College Street Lewiston, Me.

**Andy Club Breakfast**

**Wednesday Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 0730 EDT**  
Held at the Ramada Inn Pleasant Street  
Lewiston, Maine

**On Air ARES/RACES NET**  
**Every Thursday night at 1930,**  
**Weekly ARES/RACES Net 146.610 Mhz**  
**with a PL 88.5**

## Comments for and about the club by Ivan, N1OXA

September 28 was the Dempsey Challenge Bike Trek was a great success, There was a good turn out of volunteers, All rest stops and SAG were covered. THANK YOU you all for your support !  
October was a busy month, with the SET on the Oct 18, under Paul, KE6PIJ, leadership we were able to send Digital by Pete, N1ZRL, Packet by Ken, N1DOT, plus other voice messages. As well as 7 or 8 others operators who worked on the event.

The new Yaesu Fusion repeater DR-1X, is here and will be installed by the time you get this newsletter. At the November meeting we will decide about the Christmas party at the December meeting. come with ideas of what you plan to bring for food. See you at the meeting

### LIST OF UP COMING EVENTS IN MAINE FOR 2014

None at this time.

### October Secretary's Report

### By Dick Knight Secretary N1NYW

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club held a meeting October 1, 2014 at the Potvin Room at St. Marys' Medical Arts Building in Lewiston Maine. In attendance: kb1rsd, kb1doi, wa1skp, n1dot, n1oxa, wt1a, wa1eoj, n1kat, n1nyw, n1jd, k1wtx, w1ltx, w1lwt, kb1qhr, k1pn, n1wfo, ku1u, kb1yyc, n1zlv, kc1amq, kc1aih and kc1bep.

Bob w1ltx made a motion to approve the Secretarys' report as printed in the ACORN. Jerry k1wtx seconded the motion. Vote: Approved.

Ivan n1oxa read the Treasurers report and a motion was make by Andy kb1doi and seconded by Jerry k1wtx to approved the report as given. Vote: approved.

Bill n1kat gave me, the Secretary, the floor to explain the status of the System Fusion repeater project. The final emailed comments and suggestions were sent to Yaesu September 25, about 4 minutes later I received confirmation that the comments arrived and we can keep the repeater model DR-1 we have be beta testing since June 25. Also attached was an application to apply for the improved version of the one we beta tested the DR-1X. I filled the application out and sent it in Thursday September 21st and got the word we got approved for the repeater upgrade on September 30. I received

another email with another form attached asking for payment. I talked with Jose at Yaesu and told him about our meeting on October first where we would vote on spending the \$ 500 for the new DR-1X and will give him the results Thursday the second of October.

Jerry k1wtx made a motion and Tim wt1a seconded the motion to approve the \$ 500 for the new and improved DR-1X. Vote was almost unanimously approved.

Brian k1aam talked with Ivan about the club buying Brians' 147.315 repeater in Poland Spring for \$ 500. The decision to buy it or not was postponed until we can find out how much the rent on the site will cost. (After the meeting in the parking lot Cory ku1u got a message that the rent is \$ 10 per month with a years rent due in advance.) More discussion at the next meeting.

Andy kb1doi reports that the Dempsey Challenge special event station N1D had 120 contacts on CW and 77 on phone from 64 different countries for a total of 197 contacts. That kept the crew busy.

Ivan passed out T shirts from the Dempsey Challenge to those who worked the event.

Cory ku1u brought up the subject of the Christmas party. After hearing the options it was decided that we will do a pot luck supper before the meeting like years past. Watch for details in the November newsletter.

Cory ku1u reports that the DStar repeater on 443.3 MHz went on the air September 27 and a big thank you goes out to Pete n1zrl, Paul w1imd, Ken n1dot and Fred wa1skp for all the help. Possible choices for a replacement antenna for the Dstar repeater were discussed but no decision was made.

Bill n1kat reports that Norm w1scm has taken down sixty feet of Rohn 25 tower and is donating it to the club. That started a discussion of how best to use this, where it should go and the antennas that can go on it. No decisions were made.

Fred made a motion to proceed with the purchase of a new 440 antenna. It looks like more research should be made before deciding which antenna to buy so tabling the subject until next months meeting was approved.

Ivan told us the SET will be coming on October 18. Operators needed on the Pine Tree net - CW operators and packet and FL Digi etc. Hams are needed at shelters and schools and hospitals in the county.

Tim wt1a reports that the full Cert Academy will be held November first and second.

Cory and Ivan discussed the possibility of having a VE Exam session. No date has been set.

Lee w1lwt thanked members for their support during the past few weeks, after his wife passed away. Lee announced plans to sell the farm because all three of his doctors recommend that he move to his winter home in New Mexico to keep him away from snow shoveling. He tells us that he plans to sell his 220 repeater in Lisbon to Dave kq1l who plans to move it to Litchfield next to the 146.70 repeater.

Bob w1ltx made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Jerry k1wtx. Vote approved at 7:50 p.m.

## Tim, WT1A, Contesting and DX

Since our former Vice President, Earle Gilmore, N1SVB, has been unable to do a regular DX and contesting segment, I volunteered to take over that task for those of you interested in this portion of our hobby. Now it looks like Earle has his rotator fixed and will be writing a column again but since I already had this written I'm submitting it. I'll let the readers decide if I should continue.

Many of you know me but I'll fill in a bit of detail so that you can understand my ham interests in the area of DXing and contesting. I have been a ham since 1979 when I received my Technician ticket. I had taken my Novice test 2 or 3 years before that but failed the Code portion when I had difficulty sending on my old straight key. Even before that I was an avid shortwave listener and taught myself the Code by listening to it on my old Radio Shack DX-160 receiver.

Since being licensed, there have only been a few years during which I was active on HF from home. I think I counted once that I had moved 12 times since about 1995, so I haven't always had time to put antennas in the air. These times include only the early 2000's when I started dabbling in HF along with VHF/UHF contesting when I lived on a hilltop in Minot, and the past year from my home in Lisbon Falls. Most of my HF work has been done during Field Day in those intervening years.

Because of my HF inactivity, and because I didn't follow up and seek QSLs from contacts I made earlier in life, my quest for DXCC has been, let's say, developmentally delayed. So, when I finally got back on the air last fall just in time for the CQWW SSB contest and got around to establishing a Logbook of the World (LoTW) account, I was pleasantly surprised to find that it showed I already had worked 185 DX entities (183 of them current – some countries have changed over time) although I only had just over half, 95, of those confirmed. Those were all from the years 1999 through 2004, the only years for which I could locate my old logs, and primarily from just 2001-2003.

At the beginning of this year I set out to become a more serious DXer and contesteer. My goal was to not only work but to confirm at least one new DXCC entity each week for all of 2014. I am happy to say that I have met and exceed my goal of 52 new ones by currently having 151 confirmed on LoTW as of this week.

Now this is by DXCC standards no lofty number but to me it's a significant achievement given that it has primarily taken place over the course of just four years, using only 100 watts, modest antennas and all on SSB. It's not that I don't like CW but voice has always been my mode of choice. I currently use a Yaesu DX-3000D barefoot with three wire dipoles, all running parallel across my backyard in "downtown" Lisbon Falls at about 30 to 35 feet above ground. The primary antenna is a Windom which covers 10 through 40 meters quite nicely that I built for Field Day just this year. The others are a sloper for 40m which also resonates well on 15m, and an 80m dipole.

I share all this information because I want you to understand that DXing and contesting does not have to entail any big investment in expensive equipment. Both can be done fairly well with modest investments and a bit of practice and patience. In the months to come, I'd like to share some lessons learned and helpful hints for those of you who would like to work toward DXCC or perhaps to become a contesteer. Each month I'll share some of the stations I've worked, tell you what's out there in terms of DXpeditions and so on, and let you know about the

contests coming up. I'll also explain some terms used when it comes to these portions of the hobby that aren't always clear, explain how to set up and use LoTW for those of you who do not currently use it or have difficulties, and talk about some software and web applications that can help you chase those rare ones or even the easy ones you just don't have. I am not going to include an exhaustive list of DXCC entities worked or heard each month but I will make note of the rare ones that have been on the air and where to look for them.

So far in October I've casually worked the Oceania Contest over the weekend of October 4-5. A bit like pulling teeth with the marginal conditions, 100 watts and a dipole to stations literally on the other side of the world. I logged just 19 contacts for about 5 hours of effort but had some good ones including both Eastern and Western Kiribati, Vanuatu, the Philippines and Taiwan. Some of these countries I've had contact with before but don't yet have confirmation, so it was nice to increase my chances of that as well. Other relatively rare ones I've worked over this past month or so include: VK9DLX – Lord Howe Island, J79L – Dominica, 5R8M – Madagascar, TX7G – Marquesas Islands, ZD7FT – St. Helena Island, and EA9IB – Ceuta and Melilla.

October marks the beginning of the HF contest season. I'm looking forward to CQWW SSB this coming weekend. Upcoming major contests in October and through November that might interest us here on the East Coast are:

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB, Oct 25 0000Z to Oct 26, 2400Z

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW, Nov 1 2100Z to Nov 3, 0300Z

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB, Nov 15 2100Z to Nov 17, 0300Z

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW, 0000Z, Nov 29 to 2400Z, Nov 30

Always check the websites to confirm dates, times and rules. A good source of contest information is: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

There are many, many DXpeditions annually and a good number are planned around the contest calendars. So many, in fact, that there are currently too many to list here. Here is an excellent place to get the details of these with specific dates and planned modes and bands of operation, as well as QSL information: <http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

If you have any specific subjects or questions you'd like to see addressed, or you have comments about these articles, please feel free to contact me at [wt1a.tim@gmail.com](mailto:wt1a.tim@gmail.com). I'd like to have your feedback to know exactly which direction to approach these subjects from in the future, or even if you find any of this helpful and interesting at all.

Good luck and good DX!

73,

Tim, WT1A