



ACORN

December 2008

ANDY Club Officers

President: Bill Woodhead N1KAT
 Vice President: Earle Gilmore N1SVB
 Treasurer: 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 – No pl tone

Goff Hill, Auburn Maine

Please submit articles, corrections and suggestions by the 16th of the month to David WE1U we1u.david@gmail.com

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CONTEST FOR TECHNICANS

The ARRL 10-Meter Contest is coming on the weekend of Dec 13 & 14, 2008. Why is this news? Well, any Tech. can operator on 10-Meters with CW or Phone within there section of the band. So, read the rules in this newsletter and get on the Air

Andy Club Meetings

December 3rd 7:00 pm

Andy Club Meeting and Christmas Party

Russell Park Living Center

158 Russell Street, Lewiston, ME

Every Tuesdays 6:30pm

Androscoggin ARES Net

on the Auburn Repeater

146.610MHz no pl. tone

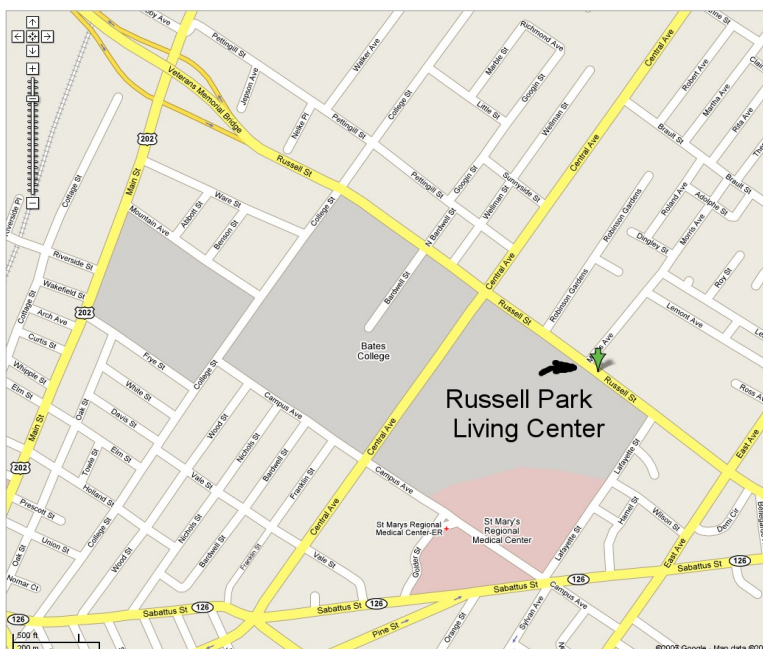


Androscoggin ARES Meeting

December 3rd 2008 6:30 pm

Russell Park Living Center

158 Russell Street, Lewiston, ME



Monthly Breakfast

Ramada Inn, Pleasant Street

Lewiston, ME

December 31st 2008 7:00pm

Andy Club On-air Meeting and Net

on the Auburn Repeater

146.610MHz no pl. tone

Coming up ...

Winter Field Day in January 24th 2009

The 2009 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 24, 2009 through 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 25, 2009.

<http://www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php>

ARRL Kid's Day in January 2009

Secretary's Report by Dick N1NYW

A meeting of the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club was held Wednesday November 5, 2008 at Russell Park in Lewiston Maine. Attendance: n1llu, n1lura, n1oxa, kb1cdu, kb1doi, wb1hfy, n1kat, n1wfo, n1jd, w1scm and son Charles, wa1eoj, n1svb, n1avj, n1nyw, and kb1ogs.

First an ARES meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Cory n1lura. Cory explained the different level of ARES membership and offers training for anyone interested. One level does not require any extra training, just be a licensed ham operator. More information and training is available by logging on at <http://www.maineares.org> or talk to Cory. He talked about a new slogan and about the chain of command in the state ARES organization. Cory explained that the hospitals have invested in Kenwood D710 radios that work on two meters and seventy centimeters along with a built in tnc for APRS or packet. Cory explained that he is calling the group ARES now and not RACES because it is not connected with a branch of government anymore. Cory is planning an ARES meeting either before or after the regular Andy Club meeting each month. The ARES meeting ended at 6:58 PM.

The November meeting was called to order by President Bill Woodhead at 7:04 PM. Earle n1svb moved to accept the Secretary's report and Harold n1llu seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

Ivan n1oxa gave the Treasurers report. Andy kb1doi moved to accept the report and Harold n1llu seconded the motion. Vote: approved.

Cory n1lura announced that the Andy Club did very well at Field Day back in June. Third place ranking over all and first place in the state for the 2ab category, and ninth in the nation for QRP. Yes, Cory is already thinking up a bigger and better plan for Field Day 2009.

Ivan n1oxa reports that hams in Androscoggin County did not pass traffic and that CMMC failed their own drill when someone contaminated the ER during the Tri-County exercise last month.

Bill reminded us that in December we have the Christmas Party meeting and we should bring food to share. Cory will co-ordinate to make sure everyone does not bring the same thing. Jim wb1hfy wants to have a show and tell session at an up coming meeting. He will bring in a ham radio related item and show it off and explain what it does.

Ivan suggested a thank you gift to Russell Park residents for hosting the club and providing us with coffee and snacks. One hundred dollars was the amount settled upon and voted on after some discussion, Ivan wrote a check for Harold to give to the resident fund.

Cory will research contesting and also fundraising to contribute to the ARRL spectrum defense fund. Should we have a golf tournament, or disc golf or take contributions at the convention. Bill reminded us the 2009 ARRL Maine State Convention will be held on March 27th and 28th next spring.

Bill kb1ogs wanted to know if there was any interest in holding a 10 meter net? Before everyone went home it was decided to have the net Friday nights at 7:30 PM on 28.46 MHz upper side band. Be sure to check in.

Andy kb1doi moved to adjourn, and Cory n1lura seconded the motion. Vote: approved and meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

***ARES COMMUNIQUE* - Cory N1URA**

Preparedness is an important component to emergency communications. Have you ever been in a situation where you have needed to change frequencies or add a new memory channel to your own equipment? People may own several handheld or mobile radios, which may be different brands altogether. Even radios made by the same company, Yaesu for example, may be totally different to operate. Yaesu has manufactured several radios that are extremely portable in size, unfortunately, the price paid for a smaller radio is a larger menu to navigate, which can be confusing and time consuming.

Hams should understand the capabilities of their equipment. Is your equipment capable of operating on frequencies that are beyond your license permissions? If so, does your radio have a feature that will prevent you from accidentally transmitted on unauthorized frequencies? Radios may also have the same features, but they may appear differently according to the manufacturer or model, such as CTCSS tones. All currently manufactured VHF/UHF radios come with CTCSS/PL tones due to a majority of repeaters having these features. Most radios show "T" Tone or "T SQL" Tone Squelch, however, Yaesu, again being an oddity, uses "ENC" for Encode on certain models for PL tones.

Frequencies programmed in radios should be kept as up-to-date as possible. While repeaters may not change very often, I would recommend reviewing repeater databases every 6-12 months. In the last year or so, several repeaters have been added while others have been down; Auburn now has a 70-centimeter repeater, Wales, Poland and Oxford now have 2-meter repeaters, Gray has changed its PL tone, one of the repeaters in Brunswick is no longer in operation and the repeater in Sebago has been relocated. Having a radio that is up-to-date can save time in an emergency.

December Challenge: Review your equipment to see if the frequencies are up-to-date, try adding a new memory and see if you can locate the manual for your equipment.

2008 ARRL 10-Meter Contest Rules

Object: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10-meter band.

Date and Contest Period: Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359 UTC Sunday (December 13 – 14, 2008) All stations **operate no more than 36 hours** out of the 48-hour period. **Listening time counts as operating time.**

Entry Categories:

Single Operator: (9 categories)

QRP - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW), Phone only and CW only.

Low Power - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW), Phone only and CW only.

High Power - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW), Phone only and CW only.

Multioperator:

Single Transmitter, mixed mode (only) includes single operators using packet or spotting assistance.

Contest Exchange: W/VE stations (including Hawaii and Alaska) send signal report and state or province (District of Columbia stations send signal report and DC). **DX stations** (including KH2, KP4, etc) transmit signal report and sequential serial number starting with 001. **Maritime mobile stations** send signal report and ITU Region (R1, R2 or R3).

Scoring: QSO points: Two points for each complete two-way phone QSO, Four points for each two-way CW QSO. Multipliers: (per mode, phone and CW)- Each US state and the District of Columbia, Canada [NB (VE1, 9), NS (VE1), QC (VE2), ON (VE3), MB (VE4), SK (VE5), AB (VE6), BC (VE7), NWT (VE8), NF, (VO1), LB (VO2)], YT (VY1), PEI (VY2) NU (VYØ), DXCC countries (except US and Canada), KH6 and KL7 participate and count as US states and send HI or AK as that part of their exchange and ITU regions (maritime mobiles only). Single operator mixed-mode and multioperator stations may work stations once on CW and once on SSB. Your call sign must indicate your DXCC country if competing as DX. (N6TR in Oregon does not send N6TR/7, but K1NO in Puerto Rico must send K1NO/KP4). All entrants may transmit only one signal on the air at any given time. All CW contacts must take place below 28.3 MHz.

Final Score: Multiply QSO points by total multipliers (the sum of states/VE provinces/DXCC countries/ITU regions per mode). Example: KA1RWY works 2235 stations including 1305 phone QSOs, and 930 CW QSOs, for a total of 6330 QSO points. She works 49 states, 10 Canadian call areas, 23 DXCC entities and a maritime mobile station in Region 2 on Phone and 30 states, 8 Canadian call areas, and 19 DXCC countries on CW for a total multiplier of 140. Final score = 6330 (QSO points) X 140 (multiplier) = 886,200 points.

Certificates will be awarded to: The highest-scoring single-operator station (in each category) from each ARRL/RAC Section and DXCC country. Top multioperator entries in each ARRL Division, Canada and each continent. Additional certificates will be awarded as participation warrants.

Miscellaneous: All electronic logs (computer generated) must submit an ASCII text file of the log information in Cabrillo file format. Paper printouts of the electronic file are not acceptable substitutes. Hand-written paper logs are acceptable submissions. All entries must be emailed or postmarked by 0000 UTC Tuesday, January 13, 2009. Email entries only to: 10meter@arrl.org. Submissions require Cabrillo log file with all required information (including exchange sent, category entered, power, and ARRL/RAC section - see General Rules for specific file format). Electronic files not in Cabrillo file format may be designated as checklogs. Paper entries should be mailed to 10-Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Paper entries must be submitted on current ARRL entry forms or an acceptable facsimile. Forms are available for downloading at the Contest Branch Homepage at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>

Forms are available for an SASE sent to the Contest Branch. Logs may be submitted via the web applet at <http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/>

See “**General Rules for All ARRL Contests**” and “General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands below 30 MHz (HF)” on the ARRL Web

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-all.html>

General queries should be directed to the Contest Branch at contests@arrl.org or by calling (860) 594-0232.

Edited for the ACORN from URL:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/10-meters.html>

Nets by David WE1U

HF Nets 75m	
Maine Public Service Net 9:00am Sunday 3940 khz.	Green Mountain Net 5:00pm Monday – Saturday 3933 kHz LSB http://www.hamelectronics.com/gmn/
Maine Emergency Net 4:30pm Sunday 3940 kHz	Vermont Net 7:30pm daily 3857 kHz http://www.vermontnet.net/
Seagull Net 5:00pm Monday - Saturday 3940 kHz	Cumberland County Emergency Net Sunday 7:30pm 147.090+ 100Hz pl
New England Weather Net 5:30am Daily 3905 kHz http://newn.org/	Franklin County Emergency Net Wednesday 7:00pm 147.180+ no-pl
New Hampshire ARES Net 8:30am Saturdays 3943 MHz http://ares.arrlnh.org/	Mid-Coast ARES Net Monday 7:30pm 147.210+ 100 Hz pl
Androscoggin Ragchew 7:30pm Tuesday and Thursdays 50.2MHz USB	28.46 MHz USB Net 7:30pm Fridays

Nets on the KQ1L Linked Repeater System http://www.kq1l.com/	
12 County Net	Sunday 0930EST
Swap Net	Sunday 1900EST
28/88 VHF TRAFFIC NET (formerly Tri-County ARES Net)	Sunday 2000 EST
Oxford County ARES Net	Monday 1930 EST
Maine Elmer Net	Tuesday 1900 EST
WAWA Net	Wednesday 1930 EST
SKYWARN Training Net	Wednesday 2030 EST
YL and OM Net	Thursday 2000 EST
Slow Scan TV Net	Friday 1900 EST
Digital Discovery Net	Friday 20:30 EST
SKYWARN Training Net http://www.wx1gyx.org/	Saturday 1930 EST

DX News Earle N1SVB

The past month we made 39 DX contacts representing 31 different countries. The repaired rotor controller that was put back into operation last month is giving me problems again. I think this time it might be the connector on the rear of the controller. We will have to do a little trouble shooting to determine the problem. Countries worked in October were:

A25, Botswana; 5U5, Niger S57, Slovenia; LZ1, Bulgaria; V31, Belize; E20, Thailand; VE7, Canada; LA0, Norway; LY70, Lithuania; 7Z1, Saudi Arabia; JY3, Jordan; OZ1, Denmark; 7X4, Algeria; 5X1, Uganda; LX1, Luxembourg; CS95, 9L1, Sierra Leon; MW0, Wales; XE1, Mexico; EK2790, Armenia; 9A3, Croatia; T77, San Marino; ZS2, So. Africa; DQ4, Germany; HF200, Poland; C57, Gambia; 6W6, Senegal; 9Y4, Trinidad; TM6, France; LA1, Norway; RU3, Russia; P40, Aruba;

There were no real exotic countries worked this past month but we did work E20WXA in Thailand for a pacific contact.

There are several DXpeditions to various parts of the world coming up in December. Some haven't been assigned a call as yet or the operators will use the country prefix and their home call.

Dec. 05 to Dec. 09	KH8/	American Samoa
Dec. 05 to Jan. 05	KC4AAA	Antarctica
Dec. 15 to Jan. 15	TR50R	Gabon
Dec. 15 to Jan. 03	XU7ACY	Cambodia
Dec. 21 to Jan. 03	CN89NY	Morocco
Dec. 28 to Jan. 02	JD1BLY	Oquasawara
Dec. 28 to Jan. 02	JD1BMH	Oquasawara

The above DXpeditions are correct to the 10th of the month prior to printing the A.C.O.R.N. For additions after that date, go to my web page and click On the link "Reported DXpeditions by NG3K".

I invite any club members that have a computer to visit my web page. The address is:

<http://www.qsl.net/n1svb/>