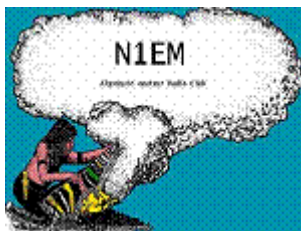


# Algonquin Amateur Radio Club

Founded 1976



## QRZ – The Newsletter for AARC members

[www.n1em.org](http://www.n1em.org)  
June 2008

### Meetings!

**General club meeting:** The next AARC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12 at 7:30 pm. The topic for June is kit building. In addition to a stock of kits for members to build, Ed Fitzgerald and Frank McInnis will bring tuning and diagnostic instruments (e.g. antenna analyzer and traps/dipoles for testing, station monitor/oscilloscope, & etc.) and QRP items. We will once again hold the 'kit' meeting at the company offices of By Request Communications (72 Cedar Hill St in Marlborough – See directions on next page). Other meeting topics include:

- Preparation for Field Day (June 28 – 29)
- Boxborough reminder

**MEMA:** The June MEMA meeting has been canceled. For more information, please monitor the MEMA web pages at: [www.qsl.net/n1em/EOC/EOChome.html](http://www.qsl.net/n1em/EOC/EOChome.html)

### AARC May Volunteer Activities

May is always an important month for the club's volunteer efforts. On May 10, members of AARC & MEMA provided communications and traffic management for Marlborough's Hazmat Day. Don Cusson organized this year's work that helped the community safely dispose of household toxic waste. Don reports that a total of 228 cars passed through the gates and that this was one of the highest cost Hazmat Days so far. Over nine pallets of computers and monitors were collected.

The AARC completed another successful School Watch for Marlborough High School. The club fielded volunteers for 9 evenings over 3 weekends for a total contribution of 140 hours. The club thanks Ed Fitzgerald, K1DIN, for organizing the rosters and welcomes new Watch volunteers, Claire Brozenske (N1HJM) and Ruthann & Charlie Regan. Thanks to all participants for supporting the club.

### Club officers elected for 2008-2009 season

At the May general meeting, the club elected the following members as club officers for the coming season: President -

Tim Ikeda, KA1OS; Vice-President - Ron Wood, W1PLW; Treasurer - Frank McInnis, K1IX; Secretary - Ann Weldon, KA1PON. Special thanks go to Ed Fitzgerald for his leadership as President of the AARC these past two years over which time we've seen increased participation in club meetings and many new members brought into the club.

### Member news

**DX & IOTA:** Eric Williams, KV1J, and his son Matthew, W1MAT, will be active from Miquelon (NA-32, DIFO FP-002, Grid GN17) as FP/KV1J and FP/W1MAT from July 9, 2008 through July 14, 2008. They will run SSB, CW and RTTY at 100W on all bands, 80M through 6M, using verticals and a TW2010 for antennas. During the IARU contest try to listen for FP/KV1J on low power and FP/W1MAT running QRP from Zone 9. Stations may QSL via home call sign, Bureau, or on LOTW. For more details and up-to-date info, visit their Web page at: <http://www.kv1j.com/fp>

**Graduated:** AARC member Kevin Colomey, KB1NQE, graduated from Marlborough High School with the Class of 2008. Does anyone else not feel old?

### Ham radio news

**New QRP kit –** Hendricks QRP Kits is now offering a 3-band, portable field radio that is designed by Steven Weber (KD1JV). The 5W, CW mode radio covers the full 40m, 30m & 20m bands and includes an iambic keyer. An AVR microprocessor controls rig operations and tunes through frequencies using a DDS chip. Built into the rig is a balanced line tuner with coax or balanced-line output.



Readers may notice how this radio resembles the 2/4-band Elecraft KX1. The Hendricks kit is slightly larger and significantly less expensive (\$200). The paddles shown are a \$40 option. Surface mount parts come pre-mounted. For more details, go online to: [www.qrpkits.com/pfr3.html](http://www.qrpkits.com/pfr3.html)

**WSPR:** **New digital mode** Joe Tyler, K1JT, has developed another weak-signal, digital sound-card mode called 'WSPR' (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter - pronounced 'whisper'), and has confirmed a QSO with another ham on 30m. The contact path covered 4000 km and used 1W of power through 'simple antennas'. The signal occupies about 6Hz of bandwidth

and can be detected at levels substantially below that of the best human 'ears' with CW. For more information see Dr. Tyler's website (free, open-source software available) and his announcement of the QSO on the wsjtgroup Yahoo reflector:

[www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/index.htm](http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/index.htm)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wsjtgroup/message/4799>

## President-elect: Goals for 2008-2009

I think the areas of emphasis should be: Fun, fun, fun & fun. What counts as 'fun'? Ham radio, of course! That is, operating, learning, building and getting enjoyment out of the hobby. And it's not just technical interests that are important. The main reason for joining a club is to have fun *together*: To learn, teach and trade experiences. It's *participatory* activity.

So where would I like to go with this? I consider myself a "Technician-class" Extra: aN lot of 'book learning' but in sorry need of more on-air and practical experience. In addition to technical talks, I wish to include hands-on projects in meetings and create opportunities for acquiring new skills. These activities don't have to be confined to the second Thursday of the month but could happen informally on other evenings or even weekends. They don't even have to be limited to this club – There are many resources to be tapped and we should use them wherever they appear.

In addition to having fun operating, the AARC, along with MEMA, also has a strong emphasis on community service. That won't change and thanks to the work of many organizers, we have reference guides to help streamline the club's activities. We also have a 'duty' to support the health of the hobby, but that's not onerous – It's also fun. Probably the best means of retaining new hams is to help them move up to HF and their General Class license. Formal classes are not something we can put together next season, but occasional Elmering or simply ensuring hams get matched to the resources they need could go a long way.

This summer I will contact club members to learn what sort of activities they would like to see in the club. Make yourself a short list of what you'd really like to do and let's get to it.

*Tim Ikeda (KA1OS)*

## Regional flea markets

- June 18 **The Flea at MIT** (Cambridge, MA)  
June 24 Hartford Hamfest - Natchaug ARC (Vernon, CT).  
Tolland Agricul. Center, 24 Hyde Ave. (Route 30)  
Aug 22-24 Boxborough Hamfest – The ARRL New England  
Division Convention (Boxborough MA).

## On the horizon...

- Activities and club events coming up in the next quarter:  
Jun 28-29 ARRL Field Day in the Marlborough EOC. Planning for the event starts now.  
Aug 22-24 Boxborough Hamfest – The ARRL New England  
Division Convention (Boxborough MA).

## Directions to By Request Communications

From I-495: Take the Simarano Drive exit from I-495. At the first light turn left (south). Cedar Hill St. is at the next light and #72 is the building diagonally across the intersection to the left (east).

From route 20: From route 20W take a left (right if you are coming from Northborough direction) on Ames St (Traffic light near Linguine's). At the next light continue straight onto Simarano Drive. Stay in the right lane as you pull up to the 495 exit intersection light. Continue straight to the next light but move to the left turn lane since you will be turning left on Cedar Hill St. As you turn left, BRC is on your immediate right. Go just beyond the building to the parking lot. Use the front door marked 72.

## Now hiring – AARC Newsletter Editor

The club is looking for a new newsletter editor. This position entails collecting and editing articles for this newsletter and maintaining a mailing list. Thanks to the internet, we actually mail fewer than 25 physical copies of the newsletter every month and the mailing list and labels are already organized. It is now a streamlined process. If you are interested in participating with the newsletter, contact the club officers.

### Algonquin Radio Club - P.O. Box 258, Marlborough MA 01752

The Algonquin Amateur Radio Club (AARC) holds meetings on the second Thursday of each month (No meetings in July and August). Meetings are open to all in the community with an interest in Amateur Radio. For directions, contact a club officer or visit our web site at [www.n1em.org](http://www.n1em.org). Meeting times are listed in this newsletter. The AARC also operates the N1EM repeater on 446.675 MHz, -offset, PL 88.5 Hz. This machine is open to all licensed amateur operators. An informal open net on this repeater is conducted Sundays at 8:00 PM.

We publish QRZ monthly from September through June. The deadline for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Text files are preferred and can be mailed to [newsletter@n1em.org](mailto:newsletter@n1em.org). For further information about QRZ and the AARC please send inquiries to the address listed above.

#### Current club officers

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| President      | Ed Fitzgerald (K1DIN) |
| Vice President | Ron Wood (W1PLW)      |
| Treasurer      | Frank McInnis (K1IX)  |
| Secretary      | Tim Ikeda (KA1OS)     |