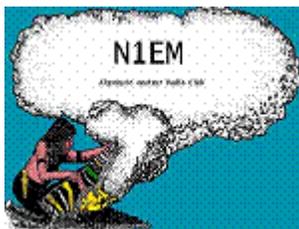


Algonquin Amateur Radio Club

Founded 1976



QRZ – The Newsletter for AARC members

www.n1em.org
March 2009

Meetings!

General club meeting: The next AARC meeting is scheduled for March 12th at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be in the library of the Marlborough Middle School on Thresher Drive. Topics for this month's meeting include:

- A review of February's Flea Market
- How to attach cable and make good connections, including UHF, N and PowerPole connectors.
- Club Project update and ideas for kits that members could build with the club.

MEMA: The next MEMA meeting is scheduled for March 17th at 7:00 pm in the Marlborough E.O.C. More MEMA information is available through the clubs web page link at www.n1em.org

Member News

New Members

AARC would like to welcome three new members to the club. Dennis Egan (W1UE), Bruce Brothers (N9KHR), and Rene "Ray" Doucette (KB1OUW).

The Next Generation

The FCC has granted Michael Youska, formerly KB1EDD, his father's call sign, W1QFD. As many of you know Tony passed away back in November and Michael applied for his father's call sign with the FCC. It was nice to see Michael at the AARC flea market and good to hear him on the AARC Sunday net.

North Bound

Eric Williams (KV1J) will be heading up to the French Island of Miquelon again in the beginning of March. He will be on the air from March 4th to March 9th as FP/KV1J from the same spot that he and his son worked back in July of last year. He will be running 500 watts into an inverted-L for 160M and 80M. He will also be running a StepIR vertical for 40M thru 10M. If

that's not enough he will also be using an Off-Centered Dipole for 80M thru 10M. Modes will be SSB, CW, RTTY, and PSK-31. The main purpose of his expedition this year is operate the ARRL SSB DX contest on March 7th and 8th. Eric worked Frank K1IX last July a couple of times. He will be listening for AARC members, so watch for the PacketCluster spots. Eric should have email and internet access and will try to have some status updates online at: <http://www.kv1j.com/fp/march09.html>

AARC Flea 2009

The AARC 2009 flea market was another great success. Although there were fewer vendors than last year the overall turn out was very good. Members and visitors report that a great time was had by all with a lot of eyeball QSO's made. There was a lot of chatter on the radio even days after the event about how people really enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to all who passed their VE exams. The winner of the grand prize of \$200 was Don Haaker (W1CIA). The club officers would like to thank everyone that lent a hand and made this one of the best years with keeping things running smoothly. The club would also like to thank the City of Marlborough for the use of the school and a home for the AARC flea market. We would like to send out a special thank you to Ed (K1DIN), Shack (W1SHK), Ann (KA1PON), Tim (KA1OS), Frank (K1IX), for the long hours that went into planning and executing such a wonderful event.

A Bright Idea

Mike Rainer (AA1TJ) recently created an 80m QRP transmitter with parts scrounged from compact fluorescent bulb and named his design: Das DereLicht. Designs and schematics are on Mike's website: <http://mjrainey.googlepages.com/radio>. Mike mentions that only a few extra components such as crystals and some filter components came from other sources. Any AARC members who want a paper copy of the web pages can request them from Tim (KA1OS).

Regional Flea Markets

March 7 21st Annual Hamfest <http://www.mtara.org>
March 29 Framingham Flea Market <http://www.fara.org>
April 19 Flea at MIT <http://www.swapfest.us>

AARC Sunday Night Net

Don't forget to drop in every Sunday night at 8:30 PM for the AARC net. We talk about club activities and local interests. It is also used for Elmer's corner discussions to field questions about radios, antennas, and what ever may come along. So come on, join in, say hello and who knows, maybe even have some laughs. Remember, we are on the club repeater at 446.675 PL 88.5 and we look forward to hearing from you.

FCC in Overdrive

Washington, D.C. – With 421 television stations terminating analog broadcasts on Tuesday, February 17th, the Federal Communication Commission, broadcasters and other groups are working overtime to prepare consumers for the digital

transition and ensure that consumers who aren't ready for the switch will continue to have access to vital television news and emergency information. Of the nation's nearly 1,800 full power television stations, 220 will have terminated their analog signals before the 17th and another 421 will terminate their analog signals on Tuesday before 11:59 pm, for a total of 641 stations, or about 36% of all full-power stations nationwide.

The FCC has dispatched staffers to 72 markets across the nation where the impact is expected to be the greatest, while broadcasters who are shutting down analog signals intensify efforts to notify and educate the public. Finding that the public was not ready for the transition to digital television, Congress earlier this month delayed the deadline for termination of analog signals from February 17th to June 12th. Congress also directed the FCC to give broadcasters the flexibility to make the transition early, including on the original February 17th date. The FCC is seeking to ensure that even where all or most stations in a market are terminating analog service, consumers who are unprepared for the switch will continue to have access to critical local news and emergency information. To accomplish this, the FCC examined each market in which stations planned to end analog service to ensure that at least one affiliate of the four major networks, ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC would continue broadcasting in analog after February 17th. Many had such a station, but in those instances in which there would be no top-four affiliate remaining in the market, the FCC attempted to ensure that analog local news and emergency information would remain available generally through what is being called "enhanced analog nightlight" service. Under "enhanced analog nightlight", the top-four affiliates must keep at least one analog signal on the air to provide programming that includes, at a minimum local news and emergency information.

While FCC staffers have conducted DTV outreach in every television market in the country, this week they will specifically target 72 markets where one or more of the top-four network affiliates are dropping analog broadcasts. In the coming days staff will visit stores in those key markets at assess the availability of digital converter boxes, distribute key "how to" information for consumers making the switch, and assist in DTV walk-in centers where consumers can get hands on transition assistance.

Outreach continues to be targeted to consumers most at risk: senior citizens, low-income families, people living in rural and tribal areas, non-English speakers, and the disabled. The FCC has also boosted staffing in consumer call centers, providing 2,506 information specialists to answer consumer questions about the transition and an additional 1,759 agents through industry partners. All calls will be routed through a single number, 1-800-CALLFCC, and agents will have the ability to refer callers to local contacts for information regarding particular reception issues. The commission has also provided new web resources to help consumers address digital reception problems. Information and IDTV reception maps that allow consumers to check reception at their own homes are available at <http://www.dtv.gov/fixreception.html>. Broadcasters continue to have the most critical role in educating their viewers about the transition. In addition to extensive on-air efforts, many local stations have engineers and employees devoting

significant time to helping individual viewers resolve their transition problems.

Ham Radio News

2009 Boston Marathon

MEMA is looking for 35 CERT volunteers to assist with communications at the Boston Marathon. They need dedicated and reliable CERT volunteers who have the ability to communicate by radio efficiently and in a professional manor. These volunteers must be able to commit to being available on 4/20/09 from early morning TBD but most likely 5:30 am through the completion of the Marathon. They will be riding the Marathon route in busses, and will be charged with communicating by radio, any number of different tasks, as needed. There will be orientation and training to the position as we approach Marathon Day 4/20/09. If you are available contact Terry M. Stader (KA8SC) at any of these numbers listed.

(978) 328-1513 MEMA Region 1 Races line (978 328-1500 main number)
(508) 820-2000 MEMA State EOC Framingham
(978) 692-2069 Home
(978) 490-8150 Nextel (9784908150@messaging.nextel.com)
180*262823*22 Nextel D/C
(508) 899-9075 Arch Pager (5083999075@arch.net)

W1AW to QSY on 160 Meters

Starting Monday, March 9th, Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be using a new 160 meter frequency for it's CW transmissions. To accommodate increasing activity near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz to reduce the possibility of interference

Elmer's Corner

This is a new feature where you can e-mail the club newsletter at newsletter@nlem.org with your questions regarding any radio problems you may have. You also have the choice to stay anonymous if you like. All questions will be answered in the following issue of QRZ. So come on and don't be shy and ask questions and we will get the answers for you. Here's an example to see how it will work,

Last month W1KBA asked "My Yaesu FT 8900 will not power up what should I check?" KA1OS responded with "Did you check the fuse?"

And on our Sunday night nets we will field the question to other members for advice. We will then posts the answer in the next month's issue again with or without your call sign if you choose. Just indicate in the email if you want to be anonymous or not. So we hope to get some great questions from club members and have some fun along the way.

SKYWARN...

The National Weather Service relies on its network of trained weather spotters to report severe weather. This is part of a nationwide monitoring program called SKYWARN. Real-Time reports from SKYWARN spotters can be integrated with doppler radar to help the National Weather Service issue the most accurate severe weather warnings possible. Every spring

and summer, several training sessions are held. They are open to the public free of charge. The session is about a two and one-half to three hour slide and video presentation which shows the cloud features associated with severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Examples from New England are stressed, including damage photos from the 1953 Worcester tornado, the 1979 Windsor Locks tornado, the 1986 Providence/Cranston tornado, the 1995 great Barrington tornado, and the 1996 downburst in and near Brockton. The training also stresses what types of phenomena should be reported. Upon completion of the training, identification cards are handed out along with a special phone number for reporting directly to the National Weather Service. We will post the 2009 training schedule when it becomes available. You can also check out the National Weather Service website at www.erh.noaa.gov/er/box and www.wx1box.org for more information.

VE Exams...

Here's a list for all of you who want to upgrade your license.

21-Mar-2009

Sponsor: MINUTE MAN REPEATER ASSOCIATIO

Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: WILLIAM R WADE (617) 699-3670

Email: K1IJ@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: MARLBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL

THRESHER DRIVE

OFF UNION STREET OR OFF BOLTON ST (RT 85)

MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752

16-Apr-2009

Sponsor: WORCESTER AREA VE TEAM

Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN J RUGGIERO (508) 982-0617

Email: N2YHK@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: WPI- STRATTON HALL - ROOM 406

100 INSTITUTE ROAD

WORCESTER, MA 01609

18-Apr-2009

Sponsor: MINUTE MAN REPEATER ASSOCIATIO

Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: WILLIAM R WADE (617) 699-3670

Email: K1IJ@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: MARLBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL

16-May-2009

Sponsor: MINUTE MAN REPEATER ASSOCIATIO

Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: WILLIAM R WADE (617) 699-3670

Email: K1IJ@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: MARLBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL

20-Jun-2009

Sponsor: MINUTE MAN REPEATER ASSOCIATIO

Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: WILLIAM R WADE (617) 699-3670

Email: K1IJ@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: MARLBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ham Fun Facts

1940 - With the advent of the War in Europe, by June 1940, the US invoked the Telecommunications Convention prohibiting US amateurs from contacting hams outside the USA. Also all portable and mobile operation below 56 MHz was banned. All licensees were required to send a set of fingerprints, a photo, and proof of citizenship to the FCC.

1941 - 1945. Skilled code operators on either side could distinguish the enemy operators by the CW swing or style of "fist", thus in many cases identifying the ship or station location. Post war records indicate the Japanese were monitoring US Navy VHF from long distances -- VHF was thought to be limited to line of sight. Code breakers in England in a massive project "[Ultra](#)" could recognize German operators from their CW swing, cliques and habits. Indeed it is reported that the British developed the first programmable computer, containing 1500 vacuum tubes, to break the German codes. This preceded the American EINIAC Electronic Computer of 1945.

On November 15, 1945, amateurs are allowed back on the air -- but only on 10 and 2 meters. By 1946, Amateurs get most of the bands back except for 160 Meters, this was used by LORAN and other services and was not available to Amateurs. Over the next several decades 160M would be reopened, a little at a time.

Special Events...

Mar 1-Mar 4, 1600Z-2100Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Peace Corps Amateur Radio Club, KA9NLX. To honor Peace Corps volunteers, their service and sacrifice. 21.375 14.290 10.133 7.275. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 North Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. *Dig MT63 on 10.133.65 and 2 m simplex in the Chicago area.* jpaskev@aol.com

Mar 1-Mar 31, 0000Z-2359Z, Ocean County, NJ. Old Barney Amateur Radio Club, N2OB/150. Relighting and 150th Anniversary of the Barnegat Lighthouse "Old Barney". All bands. QSL. via bureau or direct to: Old Barney ARC, PO Box 345, Tuckerton, NJ 08087. *Also operating as N2OB/LH. IOTA NA-111. Event began Dec 27, 2008.* www.obarc.org

Mar 2, 1700Z-2359Z, Orange, CA. Orange County Communications Employees ARC, W6OCC/75. 75th Anniversary of Orange County Communications. 14.320 7.230 3.960 146.895(-). QSL. Orange County Communications Employees ARC, 840 N Eckhoff St Ste 104, Orange, CA 92868-1021. *CTCSS (PL) is 136.5 Hz for 146.895(-) MHz.* w6hk@ocraces.org

Mar 7-Mar 21, 0000Z-2359Z, Charlotte, NC. Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, W4B. 60th Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. 14.280 14.085 14.070 14.050. QSL. via bureau or direct, W4B c/o W4BFB - MARS, 2425 Park Rd Rm 023, Charlotte, NC 28203. *CW, SSB, RTTY, and PSK31. Check Web site for a list of all frequencies. Also*

operating 20 m portable from 2009 Charlotte Hamfest March 14-15. www.W4BFB.org

Mar 14, 1600Z-2000Z, New London, TX. Hospital Emergency Radio Operators, N5TMF. 72nd Anniversary of the opening of Trinity Mother Frances Hospital. 14.360 7.270. Certificate. Ed Sagen, New London, TMF Anniversary, 365 West Twin Creeks Trl, Troup, TX 75789. *Trinity Mother Frances opened one day early to care for the wounded in the March 19, 1937 New London School explosion which prompted new school safety legislation.* sagene@tmfhs.org

Mar 14-Mar 15, 1400Z-2300Z, Robbinsville, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association, W2R. Robbinsville, NJ 150 Year Anniversary. 14.270 7.200. QSL. Michael Moreken, 55 Sharon Rd, Apt E-22, Robbinsville, NJ 08691. www.qrz.com/ab2io

Mar 19-Mar 22, 1500Z-2200Z, Goliad, TX. Goliad County Amateur Radio Operators, W5G. 260th anniversary of the founding of Goliad, second oldest town in Texas. 21.320 14.270 7.215. QSL. Skip Stem, WB4DAD, 655 North Loop 337 #405, New Braunfels, TX 78130. *Operating in conjunction with the Goliad County Fair.*

Mar 21, 1500Z-2200Z, Macon, GA. Macon Amateur Radio Club, W4BKM. 27th Annual Macon Cherry Blossom Festival. 145.370 14.240 7.225 7.050. Certificate. Macon Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208.

Mar 21, 1600Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating the establishment of Naval Security Group in 1935, and Navy SEABEES in 1942. SSB 14.320 7.250 CW 14.060 7.055 PSK-31 7.070-7.080 RTTY 14.080 7.080 2m/70cm SOCAL rep WIN. QSL. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, 910 Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. af6ha@yahoo.com

Mar 22, 1400Z-2000Z, Pasadena, CA. Pasadena Radio Club, W6KA. The First Pasadena Marathon. 28.400 14.200 7.250 3.900. QSL. Peter Fogg, KA6RJF, 1302 N Mar Vista Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104. www.qsl.net/w6ka

Mar 23-Mar 29, 0000Z-2359Z, Camden, SC. Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club, W4U. 77th Running of Carolina Cup Steeplechase Races. 14.260 7.235 3.905 CW up 37 kHz. QSL. Leon M. Morgan Jr, 2304 Moultrie Rd, Camden, SC 29020. n4lm@arrl.net

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. 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. 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 8:30 PM.

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

Current club officers

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| President | Tim Ikeda (KA1OS) |
| Vice President | Ron Wood (W1PLW) |
| Treasurer | Frank McInnis (K1IX) |
| Secretary | Ann Weldon (KA1PON) |
| Newsletter | Brian Boda (W1KBA) |