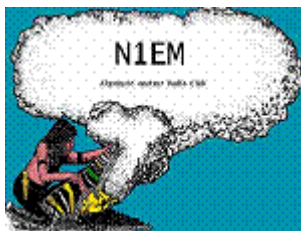# Algonquin Amateur Radio Club
Founded 1976

QRZ – The Newsletter for AARC members

www.n1em.org
November 2007

Meetings!
General club meeting : The next AARC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 8th at 7:30 pm in the Marlborough Middle School (on Thresher Drive). Frank McInnis will give a hands-on demonstration of antenna analyzers.

MEMA: The next MEMA meeting is scheduled for November 20th at the Marlborough E.O.C. More MEMA information is available at: http://www.qsl.net/n1em/EOC/EOChome.html

Joint meeting with MMRA in January
In January, we plan to hold a joint meeting with the Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA). The meeting topic and venue will be confirmed shortly. We will provide details through the AARC list and in December's newsletter.

December holiday dinner
The banquet this year will be held at Linguini's (south along Rt. 20, west of I-495). We have reserved a room for Thursday, December 13th, from 6-9 pm. Please contact Ed Fitzgerald if you expect to attend. We need someone to set up decorations so please let Ed know if you would like to help.

News from October
Volunteer work
The club and MEMA provided volunteers for Marborough's hazardous collection day on the 13th. On Halloween, the AARC fielded members for a watch of all Marlborough public schools. Thanks go to Quin Spear for organizing this year's watch and to Don Cusson for organizing the HAZMAT efforts.

Amateur radio events
The second NEAR-Fest flea market was held under much colder and wetter conditions than the previous. Still, there were always bargains to be found from the many lanes of vendors. There were also contingents of hams from as far as Montreal and Quebec.

Winlink 2000
In October's meeting, our State RACES Radio Officer, Tom Kinahan described the Winlink 2000 system and its uses for civilian, amateur and government/military emergency services. A great place to get started with Winlink 2000 is at the main web page here: www.winlink.org.

It is easiest to think of Winlink 2000 as primarily an internet-based message system that can reach end-users via radio links to outlying nodes. Winlink documents describe the system as providing the "last mile" of service that bridges the gap between the internet infrastructure and operators in the field. There are several classes of Winlink users, including: MARS, ARES/RACES (emergency communication) and the public. In one set of examples, Tom demonstrated maritime uses such as tracking the location of boats and sending email to families via digital HF radio when sailors are between ports.

The core of the Winlink system for emergency services is a set of hardened, secured message servers linked via the internet. Additional servers and nodes create a wide-ranging network that connect to the main servers and provide bridges for radio links on HF and V/UHF bands. Some of these link stations are provided by state emergency management agencies.

The hardware requirements for an end-user, Winlink radio station are straightforward: A reasonably modern PC (Pentium III or better) running Windows 2000 or XP is recommended. Windows 98 can also work although computers using this defunct operating system are "easy pickings" for internet hackers and it is not recommended. For HF, most SSB-capable transceivers with a Pactor radio modem will suffice. Pactor-II or –III modems are highly recommended for faster throughput (200 bps for Pactor-I vs. 1200 bps and 3600 bps for Pactor-II & -III, respectively). For VHF and above, 1200-baud AX.25 mode systems are common. Higher speed modes like D-Star and Wifi (802.11a/b/c) can be used, provided there is another station in range with a compatible system. HF nodes have the advantage of wider ranges (i.e. between counties or states) and can reach relay stations outside of disaster areas but VHF+ stations are useful for short-haul communications. Those stations configured as Winlink gateways should also have a reliable connection to the internet.

The software for Winlink is free and depending on the type of Winlink station you wish to configure there are different packages to install. For a simple, single user, HF radio system, the AirMail 2000 package might be most appropriate. This is an email program that allows users to connect to an electronic mailbox server either over the air or though an internet connection. Although designed with HF communications in mind, the programmers have included some V/UHF capabilities. The program provides support for HF modems and can also interface with a small subset of VHF+ TNCs. The AirMail program includes HF propagation prediction capabilities that aids in selecting the appropriate band for best contacts.

If you do not have a supported TNC, would like to use your favorite email program, or want to create a system that can link a local area network through your station there is an alternate suite of programs: Packlink AGW, Paclink Postoffice and the AGW Packet Engine. This suite of programs provides TNC

interfacing, an email server and a Telnet/packet client which allows your system to provide email messaging as an end user and gateway capabilities for other computers on your local network.

The club plans to schedule a time to test installations of Winlink on members' computers. Those sessions will be announced on the AARC list and at future meetings.

Abbreviations you may encounter in the Winlink literature:
Telpac gateway: TELnet PACket gateway
CMS: Common Message Server. The backbone, internet-connected message servers that control traffic between network stations.
PMBO: V/UHF-based Winlink 2000 Participating MailBOx

Reminders for members

The new club season began in July. If you have not paid this year's dues, please send a check to Frank McInnis.

The Batteries Plus store along Rt. 20 in Marlborough provides a discount on purchases for AARC members. To obtain a discount card, please see Ed Fitzgerald.

Operating activities…

November: Special event stations

Nov 10, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, AB6RM. **Opening Ceremony Military Communicators Exhibit.** AM 7.293 3.870 CW 7.050 3.850. QSL. jgarza@san.rr.com

Nov 10-Nov 11, 1900Z-2300Z, Glendale, AZ. Thunderbird ARC, K7R. **NASCAR Race at Phoenix International Raceway.** 28.360 21.360 14.260. QSL. www.w7tbc.org

Nov 10-Nov 25, 0000Z-0000Z, Paris, FRANCE. Association des Radioamateurs de Paris, TM8CRI. **80th Birthday of the Conference Radiotelegraphique Internationale.** 21.270 14.270 7.070 3.770. Certificate. arp75.free.fr

Nov 11, 1700Z-2200Z, Interlachen, FL. **USS Essex CVS-9 Aircraft Carrier, WA2SEI. Honoring all veterans and all WWII ships.** 14.250 50.145. QSL. wa2sei@yahoo.com or www.qrz.com/wa2sei

Nov 17, 1400Z-2000Z, Guthrie, OK. Edmond ARS, W5G. **Oklahoma Centennial Statehood Day at Territorial Capital Blg.** 21.260 14.260 7.260. Certificate. www.k5eok.org

Nov 23, 1400Z-2100Z, Provincetown, MA. Marconi Radio Club, W1P. **The 109th anniversary of the sinking of the SS Portland.** 18.160 14.260 7.260 3.997. QSL. k1wcc@arrl.net

Nov 24-Nov 25, 0000Z-2359Z, All US call areas. **Ten-Ten International, W6OI. Celebrating 45 years and 75,000 members.** 28.340 to 28.400 PSK 28.120. QSL. Certificate for working all call areas. www.10-10.org

Nov 24-Nov 25, 1400Z-2000Z, Plymouth, MA. Whitman ARC WA1NPO. **The first Pilgrim landing at Plymouth Massachusetts.** 18.140 14.280 7.250 3.890. Certificate. Whitman ARC, PO Box 48, Whitman, MA 02382.

A selection of contests in November

Japan International DX Contest: Phone, from 0700Z Nov 10-1300Z Nov 11 (see April QST, p 97, or jidx.org).
ARRL November Sweepstakes: Phone, from 2100Z Nov 17-0300Z Nov 19 (see October QST, p 102, or www.arrl.org/contests).
CQ WW DX Contest: CW, from 0000Z Nov 24 to 2400Z Nov 25 (see October QST, p 91, or cqww.com).

(*Special event and contest information courtesy of the ARRL*)