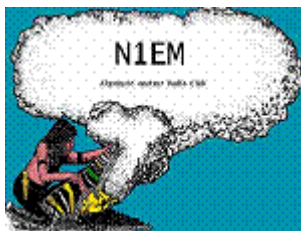


# Algonquin Amateur Radio Club

Founded 1976



## QRZ – The Newsletter for AARC members

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

### Meetings!

**General club meetings:** The next AARC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11 at 7:30 pm. Topics of the meeting include member discussions (i.e. “What I did over the summer”), reviews of Field Day & the ARRL Convention in Boxborough, and club planning for the coming year.

The meeting begins at 7:30 pm in the library of what was formerly called the Marlborough Middle School (and as yet has not been renamed), off of Union St on Agoritsas Drive.

The October 9<sup>th</sup> AARC meeting will also be held at 7:30 pm in the same location. Meeting topics include a presentation by Jim Hansen, W1TRC and the preparation for Halloween’s School Watch. Jim will discuss the powerline noise sniffing devices he has developed: An ultrasonic powerline arc detection finder featured in the April 2006 QST, and a three-element tape measure beam featured in the May 2007 QST. We have collected the PC board and sensor for the ultrasonic detector and will give the parts to club members interested in completing the ultrasonic detector for use by club members.

**MEMA:** The next MEMA meeting will begin at 7:00 pm on September 16 at the Marlborough EOC. 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 Field Day Activities

Operating under the N1EM callsign, the club held Field Day exercises at the Marlborough EOC on June 28-29. We had about 14 participants including two new hams who made their first HF contacts during the event. Congratulations to new club member Brian Boda, W1KBA, who had recently received his new license. Our score was about the same as last year’s: just over 1000 points. Frank McInnis K1IX, organized the efforts with three HF stations and one V/UHF station. Frank and Ed Fitzgerald K1DIN, managed to keep the radios going all through the night with many other members pulling shifts throughout the contest. As expected, most contacts were con-

finied to US and Canadian stations but we also had a contact with Havana, Cuba. On Sunday morning the 6m band opened up, allowing contacts to the southeast (VA, NC, GA, SC & FL) as well as Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky. Another Massachusetts club reported a 6m contact on CW to a Spanish station during the openings.

New antennas raised this year included a K1IX-fabricated 70cm/2m/6m quad beam, a pickup truck mounted “kite-pole”, 31-foot vertical and 20m dipole. After the Field Day breakdown session, Greg O’Brien, NE1OB demonstrated a line launching technique using an arborist throw bag. With the right line and a bit of practice, this bag should let a ham easily place antenna anchor points in branches well over 75 feet high.

### ARRL Boxborough Convention

The ARRL’s New England Division held a Ham convention this August. Organizers reported that the attendance was higher than at the previous one held in 2006. The convention and swap meet was held under good weather and even most of the Sunday talks were filled. This year the special event station ran an Elecraft K3 rig attached to a Hexbeam antenna. Organizers had two huge door prizes: a FlexRadio Systems SDR-5000 and an Elecraft K3. Alas, no club members won either of these rigs although two of our members walked away with lesser prizes.

### Marlborough Labor Day Parade

Quin Spear, K1ZFH organized the club’s support of the 2008 Labor Day parade. The weather was sunny and mild and thanks to feedback provided by the club last year, the individual groups participating in the parade moved smoothly throughout the parade route. About ten club members provided support for the event. Further details will be provided at the club meeting.

### Future club meetings

#### October meeting (Oct 9)

##### *Program*

- Powerline noise tracking talk by Jim Hansen, W1TRC.

##### *Business*

- Preparation for the Halloween School Watch.
- Vote on the location and date for the club’s holiday dinner.

#### November meeting (Nov 13)

##### *Program*

- “100lb Dxpedition” talk by B. Scott Andersen, NE1RD. Possible presentation by Eric Williams, KV1J on his Miquelon Island Dxpedition.

##### *Business*

- Banquet preparation.
- Review of Halloween School Watch.
- Update for Flea Market planning.

#### December (Date TBA)

- AARC Holiday Banquet

### On the horizon

Electronics recycling program – Intel will hold a recycling drop-off for electronic devices on Friday, Sep 19, from noon to 6 pm and Saturday, Sep 20, from 8 am to 6 pm at the Stop and Shop Plaza in Hudson (on Technology Drive). Intel has run this program in spring and fall in recent years and it is a great

opportunity to clean out your basement of old electronics gear (to make room for slight younger junk). Intel will ask for a minimum donation of \$10 for a drop-off and more if the load is large.

Flea at MIT: September 21 and October 19 will be the last two electronics flea markets this season at MIT.

ARRL September VHF QSO party: Begins 1800 UTC Saturday and ends 0300 UTC Monday. For rules, see the ARRL site here: [www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/sepvhf.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/sepvhf.html)

QCWA Fall QSO Party: Begins 1800 UTC Saturday Sep 20 and runs 24 hours. For rules see the QCWA web pages here: [www.qcwa.org/2008-qso-party-rules.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/2008-qso-party-rules.htm)

**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	Tim Ikeda (KA1OS)
Vice President	Ron Wood (W1PLW)
Treasurer	Frank McInnis (K1IX)
Secretary	Ann Weldon (KA1PON)