



# QRZ

The Newsletter for AARC members

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- Sunday Night Net
- FCC License Fee Update
- Musings - de K1NKR
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## President's Corner

It must be February. I just cleared over a foot of snow from my driveway, and Tom Brady is in the Super Bowl. Unfortunately the February tradition of the AARC flea market will be missed this year. Hopefully declining cases and increased vaccination will enable a return in 2022.

I attended a virtual seminar this month on ham-radio club activities during covid. AARC is already following several of the suggestions -- leveraging virtual meetings and remote speakers, a well-attended recurring net for social contact (Thanks Joe and Oliver!), a socially-distant on-air operating activity such as the LBC (Thanks Skip!), and a newsletter (Thanks Ken!). Other ideas that were floated were more small-group socialization on Zoom, repeater crawls for exploring other local repeaters, and band-exploration through on-air meetups (or nets) on alternate bands.

This month we continue our series of remote virtual speakers with Amanda Alden, K1DDN, speaking on Amateur Radio Emergency Communications.

73 de w1ku (Mike)

## Treasurer's Report

For January, there was no income to report. Total expenses were \$210.32 which included \$127.42 for a Zoom one-year license purchased at a first-year promotional discount, \$25 for an Amazon gift card for Don Wilbanks who was the speaker at our January meeting, and \$25 gift cards (plus \$7.90 in total fees) for each of two Marlboro DPW employees who recently retired. Carol and Stella have assisted the club many times and been very helpful over the past 10 years of working for the DPW.

de Ken, KA1GFN

## February Meeting (Online)

The next AARC meeting will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm online via Zoom. Information on joining this virtual meeting will be sent out in advance via email. See President's Corner for additional information.

## AARC Sunday Night Net

Please join us every Sunday Night at 7:00pm on the 446.675 repeater (PL 88.5 / -5.0mhz Offset). You do not need to be a member of the club and all licensed amateur radio operators are welcome to check-in.

## SUNDAY NIGHT NET NEEDS OPERATORS

The AARC Sunday Night Net is looking for Net Control Operators. I would like to have 4-8 operators so we can rotate it around. This way I don't have to do everyone Sunday. My work schedule, for the next 6+ months, is going to be 12hrs on many Sundays (almost every other Sunday).

So please sign up. I will have a quick training session and everyone will get a copy of the script (if you haven't received one already).

Thank you

de Joe, KA1GDQ

## Lantern Battery Challenge (LBC)

AARC's Lantern Battery Challenge kicked off at 0000Z on 1 December, but you can start anytime! See the [November newsletter](#) for info and the AARClst announcement with the rules (the few rules that there are). [Click here to view rules](#)

## Algonquin Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 258, Marlboro, MA 01752

The Algonquin Amateur Radio Club holds meetings the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. There is no meeting in July and August. Meetings are held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles W. Whitcomb Middle School, 25 Union Ave, Marlboro, MA / Door #1. Anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio is welcome to attend.

The AARC operates the N1EM/R 446.675 PL 88.5 repeater in Marlboro. Access to the repeater is open to all licensed Amateur Radio operators. A controlled net is conducted on the N1EM repeater every Sunday evening at 7pm.

## 2020-21 Club Officers / Appointments

President	Mike Powell	W1KU
Vice President	Skip Youngberg	K1NKR
Secretary	Tim Ikeda	KA1OS
Treasurer	Ken Horton	KA1GFN
Activities	Joe Reynolds	KA1GDQ
Newsletter	Ken Horton	KA1GFN
Website	Sandor Toth	NB1N

## Musings de Skip, K1NKR

The advantage of the pandemic is that it's enabled me to catch up on things that have stacked up (22 James Bond films, the entire run of Downton Abbey, I Claudius, and numerous books and magazines—not to mention setting the shop, shack, and antennas up the way I want them). I've also managed to show up occasionally or better on a couple of local clubs' weekly nets and sat in on more than my fair share of ham radio webinars and club meetings. I hate to say it, but being "in touch" on the Internet has been almost overwhelming.

There was a comment—just a single sentence—in an article in January's IEEE Spectrum that gave me pause, though. "The longer a team works remotely, the less likely it is to embrace an esprit de corps." (Pesce, "Peering into the Pandemic End Game," pp. 22-25).

Now don't take this as criticism, but I haven't yet decoded just what the AARC spirit de corps is. True, we're an outstanding public service and emergency communications club. But I haven't heard much about who's interested in what (...or anything). Sad. No meetings in a year. Little chance to get to know folks and gather or exchange information.

We're all missing coffee klatch socializing. Nothing goes on in parallel nowadays. Nets for all clubs are slow, one person at a time round tables at their best and one-direction force-feeds of information at their worst. Even Zoom meetings are still only one subject at a time, and are usually scripted.

I'm really concerned that when we finally have a chance to get together we may have forgotten how to get together. As Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, said at lunch one day, "I'm a ham radio operator. I've got friends all over the world—and none at home."

Take a look at the websites and newsletters of other area clubs like the Providence ARA, Nashua ARS, Nashoba Valley ARC, Billerica ARS, Falmouth ARA, Cape Ann ARA, Montachusett ARA, Central Mass ARA, and Framingham ARA to see what they're doing (or not doing) to keep members in touch and their clubs healthy (or not). Don't just critique the quality of the website/newsletter information channel; see what's actually going on in the various clubs. Gather some ideas and express your opinion. I'd sure like to hear some feedback from our own members suggesting what we might do to come out of the pandemic healthy and active.

The following is a link to a video titled "Pandemic Ham Radio Activities An Opportunity to Grow" by Anthony Luscre K8ZT. Check out other ham radio related videos available on this page as well uploaded by Dan Marler.

<https://vimeo.com/505788355>

## VE Exam Sessions

Date : 2/6/2021  
Sponsor: Port City ARC, Greenland NH  
Location: Piscataqua Fish & Game Club  
Time: 2:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More info](#)

Date : 2/13/2021  
Sponsor: Braintree EMA  
Location: BEMA Garage Sunset Lake  
Time: 8:30am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More info](#)

Date : 2/13/2021  
Sponsor: Braintree EMA  
Location: BEMA Garage Sunset Lake  
Time: 9:30am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More Info](#)

Date : 2/15/2021  
Sponsor: BCRA VE Team  
Location: TBD, Swansea, MA  
Time: 5:30pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More Info](#)

Date : 2/17/2021  
Sponsor: MIT Radio Exam Team  
Location: MIT Campus, Room 1-150 MIT, Boston  
Time: 7:30pm (Walk-ins allowed)  
[More Info](#)

Date : 2/18/2021  
Sponsor: Canton EMA & EMARG  
Location: Mansfield Fish & Game Club  
Time: 7:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More info](#)

Date : 2/20/2021  
Sponsor: ALERT/West Rockingham ARES  
Location: Londonderry Video Center  
Time: 8:30am (Walk-ins allowed)  
[More info](#)

Date : 2/27/2020  
Sponsor: North Shore RA  
Location: American Legion Building Lower Level  
Time: 12:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More info](#)

Date : 3/6/2021  
Sponsor: Port City ARC, Greenland NH  
Location: Piscataqua Fish & Game Club  
Time: 2:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More info](#)

## ARRL Contests

February 8-12 : School Club Roundup

[More info](#)

February 20-21 : International DX - CW

[More info](#)

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## DMR New England Digital Swap Net

WHEN: **MONDAY NIGHTS at 9:00pm** for 1 hour

WHERE: NEDECN "NEW ENGLAND WIDE",  
3181 TALK GROUP

NET CONTROLS: K1NR, WAINVC, N1JAF, NE1B

<https://groups.io/g/NewEnglandDigitalSwapNet>

You can read the For Sale items, and if you join, you can post For Sale items.

## FCC License Fee Update

On December 30th, the FCC published a report and order indicating they have lowered the proposed amateur radio license fee from \$50 to \$35. The fee is not implemented yet. If your license expires soon, remember that licenses can be renewed as early as 90 days before expiration to stay ahead of the fee. The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance.

The fee for the GMRS license will also be lowered from \$70 to \$35 for a license term of 10 years.

[More Info](#)