



QRZ

The Newsletter for AARC members

- AARC 2022 Flea Market
- Dues and Membership Forms
- MMRA VE Session, Marlboro
- NVARC Technician License Class
- Heating Things Up & Price of the Hobby

President's Corner

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season and maybe got to do a little radio. In December I managed to make a few QSOs in the AARL 10 meter contest and a few meteor-scatter QSOs during the Geminid shower. I only made a few contacts but learned several things about the antenna and radio (AARC's K3). The K3 is a resource available for club members on request.

January's club meeting will focus on the 2022 flea market and flea-market contingency planning. The covid situation is unfortunately very volatile right now. At present our January club meeting will remain hybrid with both the school library and Zoom.

Consider participating in AARC's 2nd Lantern Battery Challenge which runs through March 31st. It's a great opportunity to tinker, operate, and socialize about amateur radio at a time when in-person activities may again be deferred.

73, de w1ku (Mike)

Treasurer's Report

Income for December was \$150 from Flea Market table reservations and \$60 from membership dues. Expenses were \$738.52 for the annual banquet at Linguini's.

de Ken, KA1GFN

MMRA VE Session (City Church in Marlboro)

On Saturday, January 22nd at 9:00am, the Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) will hold a VE session at the City Church, 72 Jefferson St, Marlborough, MA.

[More Info](#)

January Meeting (Hybrid)

The next AARC meeting will be hybrid held on January 13th at 7:30pm in the library of the 1st Lt. Charles W. Whitcomb Middle School, 25 Union Ave, Marlboro, MA. Enter from Agoritsas Drive next to police station and use Door #1 at rear of building. The meeting will also be held online via Zoom. Anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio is welcome to attend. 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.

de Joe, KA1GDQ

AARC 2022 Flea Market

The AARC 2022 Flea Market will be held on Saturday, February 19, at the Marlborough 1Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School (formerly the Intermediate/Middle School) 25 Union St. or off Bolton St. (Rt. 85) Marlborough, MA. The MMRA will hold a VE exam session at 9AM.

Volunteers will be needed the day of the Flea Market and the evening before to assist with setup. There will be further discussion at the January meeting.

Masks will be required to be worn by everyone at all times while inside school building.

[Flea Market Flyer \(PDF Format\)](#)

[More info](#)

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 1st 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.

2021-22 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

Heating Things Up

Well, I just posted the announcement for this year's Lantern Battery Challenge on the AARC List. Trying to gin up some excitement... To warm the old AARC fire.

The excitement level in the club is low right now. The things we do well, we do really, really well. We're masters at EMA participation, the flea market, and parade support. But what else is there?

A while back, Stan KD1LE and I used to have lunch together. (Stan was my predecessor—and successor—in the officership of another club.) “What’s it going to take to light a fire under the club?” we’d say. We finally realized that if we had 10-20 percent participation in any activity it was a success. The key to keeping the fire lit was to have an overlapping variety of activities so that each member had something to identify with. Topical meeting programs. Club aggregate contest participation. Parks On The Air. HamSCI. Antenna parties. An Arduino group. Local DXpeditions. The Lantern Battery challenge.

We hams are passionate about our hobby. (Ama-teur, “loosely translated from the Latin for “I love what I’m doing.”) Why can’t we find more to do?

We’ve got our “big three,” plus Field Day. Add to that a small handful of meetings at which planning for the next of the “big three” doesn’t dominate.

Think back to the last in-person AARC meeting you attended. Exciting? It started out with more business than needed to be conducted at a regular meeting and then morphed to a bunch of OFs passively sitting around during what was an otherwise interesting talk. I found more ham radio excitement at the last wake I attended. (Admittedly, the wake was for a fellow ham.) Where was the camaraderie, the excitement, the bragging about the new rig or the last DX worked?

Thus, the mid-winter LBC. We had a moderate amount of activity last year. Hardly a minimal 10 percent, but that was a start. Let’s warm things up this year. Consider yourself challenged.

On a personal note, I don’t fear that the pandemic will be the end of the club. I do fear that it will be a convenient excuse to let our association fritter away. We really need to get more group-active.

Feel free to e-mail your comments, rebuttals, and suggestions to me at my “at-ARRL” address.

de Skip, K1NKR

Dues and Membership Forms

Membership dues along with updated membership forms for membership year 2021/2022 are due before or at the March 2022 meeting. They can be submitted in-person to the Treasurer, Ken Horton KA1GFN, or sent to the club's PO Box shown at the top of the form. The membership form can be downloaded from the club's website.

[Membership Form \(PDF Format\)](#)

NVARC Technician License Classes

The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club (NVARC) is offering a free amateur radio licensing course beginning on January 31st. The eight night course will prepare students for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Technician licensing exam that will be offered at the completion of the course. The Technician level radio operator’s license is the first of three amateur licenses offered by the FCC. Each license has increased levels of operator privileges.

The course consists of twice weekly sessions beginning on Monday, January 31st, and meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays for four weeks (January 31, February 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21 and 23). The course will be held at the Pepperell Community Center, 59 Main St, Pepperell, MA 01463. Sessions will start at 7PM and last for 2 hours. An FCC license exam will be scheduled for the end of the sessions. The course is free, but there will be an FCC required \$15 testing fee if you take the exam. It is suggested students purchase the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Level 1, Technician, 4th ed. The study guide may be purchased from the instructor for \$30 or online from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) or Amazon.

This course is open to all, there are no age limits. Pre-registration is required, no walk-ins will be allowed. To register, contact Bruce Blain, K1BG, at (508) 341-5124 or via email at bruce.blain@charter.net.

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

The next QSO Virtual Ham Expo will take place on March 12 & 13, 2022.

[More info](#)

The Price of the Hobby

It took me a year's income from delivering the Providence Journal to save enough to buy my first rig. It was a Lafayette HE-35. Fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents bought me 5 watts AM, crystal controlled on six meters, including a super-het receiver, all in one transceiver package.

That \$57.50 was the equivalent of \$534.52 in today's dollars. Money like that is within spitting distance of the cost of an FT-817 5-watt, all-band all-mode transceiver. We sure get a lot more for our money nowadays. Better technology, too.

Would you spend \$50 on an accessory for your shack? How about \$1300 for an IC-7300? Well, you might think twice about it. After all, we hams are skinflints. But be honest, you know you'd just go ahead and do it if you wanted to.

ARRL dues have been \$49 per year since 2016. What do you get for that? At a minimum there's QST, On the Air, NCJ, and QEX. Not to mention spectrum defense. No one (no one, NO one, NO ONE) other than the League represents the interest we hams have in protecting our spectrum allocations. We can't do it individually. And commercial interests aren't inclined to preserve spectrum for us; their inclination is probably more the opposite.

I'm an OCD data collector. I've got an Excel file somewhere that graphs the cost and inflation adjustment of ARRL dues. It's not surprising that dues go up occasionally. But the action has almost always lagged the inflation curve by a few years. The 2016 \$49 dues rate is worth \$56.75 today. Does this mean a dues increase on the horizon? Maybe.

One of the best investments I ever made was enrolling in ARRL life membership back in the eighties. Back then it was \$625 that I could barely afford on the salary I was making. (Twenty-five times the then annual dues. The equivalent of \$1,744 now.) Today it's \$1,225.

If you expect to live another 25 years that's a bargain. (If you don't, there's an adjustment for members over 70 years old.)

That's less than the price of a new rig today for 25 years of representation and protection—and the League's periodical publications for life. You really were going to splurge on that new rig anyway, weren't you—even if you didn't really expect to be satisfied with its 2022 technology 25 years from now?

de Skip, K1NKR

VE Exam Sessions

Date : 1/8/2022
Sponsor: Braintree EMA
Location: BEMA Garage Sunset Lake
Time: 9:30am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More info](#)

Date : 1/8/2022
Sponsor: Port City ARC, Greenland NH
Location: Piscataqua Fish & Game Club
Time: 2:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More Info](#)

Date : 1/13/2022
Sponsor: Billerica Amateur Radio Society
Location: Chelmsford Bible Church
Time: 7:00pm (Pre-register/Walk-ins allowed)
[More Info](#)

Date : 1/17/2022
Sponsor: BCRA VE Team, Swansea MA
Location: South Swansea Baptist Church
Time: 5:30pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More info](#)

Date : 1/22/2022
Sponsor: Minuteman Repeater Association
Location: City Church, Marlboro
Time: 9:00am (Walk-ins allowed)
[More info](#)

Date : 1/22/2022
Sponsor: GSARA, Manchester, NH
Location: Brookside Congregational Church
Time: 9:00am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More info](#)

Date : 2/5/2022
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

January 8-9 : RTTY Roundup
[More info](#)

January 15-17 : January VHF
[More info](#)

February 14-18 : School Club Roundup
[More info](#)