



QRZ

The Newsletter for AARC members

- Club Meeting (**Online**)
- Officer Nominations
- Hazardous Waste Collection Day
- Lantern Battery Challenge (**Ends 3/31**)
- VE Exams, Contests & Podcasts

President's Corner

At our last meeting, the ARRC Board (officers) discussed the possible relaxation of covid precautions and the effect on AARC activities.

Even as many members begin to be vaccinated, it is still too soon to suggest or endorse person-to-person group activities, and the Board does not currently endorse them.

On the other hand, some members may have close relationships with others whom they have judged of low or similar "exposure likelihood" as themselves. Very small group associations, possibly operating activities like SOTA (Summits on the Air) or POTA (Parks on the Air) under controlled conditions, might well be conducted as a way of keeping esprit de corps up within the membership.

Of course, this activity would be done entirely at the discretion of the participating members. Each participant would be responsible for following public-health protocols and managing precautions based on their own personal risk profile.

In the meantime, we're all anxiously awaiting the time when we can happily get together unfettered and undistanced as we pursue the best hobby in the world.

Our speaker for the March meeting is AARC member Dennis Egan W1UE who will be speaking on the topic of "Using Propagation Prediction Software".

73 de w1ku (Mike)

Officer Nominations

Nominations for 2021-22 club officers will be accepted prior to and at the April meeting. Further information on nominations and elections will be sent via email.

March Meeting (**Online**)

The next AARC meeting will be held on March 11th 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.

Treasurer's Report

For February, there was no income to report. Total expenses were \$201.00 which included \$176.00 for the PO Box rental fee for one year, and \$25.00 for an Amazon gift card for Amanda Alden (K1DDN) who spoke at our February meeting.

de Ken, KA1GFN

Hazardous Waste Collection Day (**Tentative Schedule**)

The next joint Marlborough/Hudson Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday May 22, 2021.

We supply support for these events. Usually from 8 AM to 1 PM. The location will be the same as in the past, the Marlborough Easterly Treatment Plant. This is off of Route 20 at the Home Depot side of the city. It is behind the Half Way Café.

This is still a tentative schedule and I'll have more information as we get closer to the event. For now this is so you can get it on your calendars.

Thank you for your service,
Eric Williams KV1J
Marlborough EMA Communications

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.

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

Lantern Battery Challenge (LBC)

Well, I'd been talking the Challenge up since November so a while back I thought it was time I depleted some energy from my battery pack. People trying to be leaders should set examples, right?

The FT-817 has been out on the shack desk for a couple of weeks now. Confirmed—it works. And when do I start depleting it? And just how should I manage the process to make it last as long as possible?

I looked at some old data and concluded that “conversational” QSOs would take long enough that they would be excessive in the “joules-per-Q” category. I had tried SSB during an LBC a decade ago and only managed four QSOs, albeit DX so they should have counted for an extra score.

Accessories like computers don't have to be battery powered, so I decided I'd try my hand at the “non-conversational” route, that being FT8. I got the old '817 set up with digital and audio interfaces to Ham Radio Deluxe and WSJT. I then tried it out at two watts out while using a conventional DC power supply. Hmm, it worked. Not the most powerful signal on the band, but the log did fill up.

Then the ultimate opportunity: W1KU's “LBC On The Air” event following the Sunday Night Net. FM. Of course that required de-interfacing everything. Ultimate failure! I couldn't make the contact. Too many erroneous readjustments. Three points lost!

So Saturday the twenty-seventh I re-interfaced everything, made a couple of DC power supply contacts to prove it out, and then got on as an Official Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Lantern Battery Challenge participant. Four QSOs went into the log in about two hours. (Well, it wasn't as bad as that sounds. I tried to keep the listening time up and the transmitting time down by only attempting to contact the strongest stations.) The battery worked its way down to ten volts during transmit by the time I stopped. Half an hour later it had recovered to twelve volts open circuit.

I had previously accumulated data that said the rig draws about 1.4 Amps on transmit and 225-450 mA on receive, depending on the audio level. It just won't work with less than an 8.5 volt supply. There are a couple of ways to minimize current draw—like killing the display backlight and judiciously selecting which antenna port to use—but I took the convenient route and just kept the speaker audio off.

As I write this, my battery is resting, awaiting a few more QSOs, then maybe another rest, then maybe a few more QSOs. And I just realized that when it's depleted below what it takes to run the FT-817 it'll still have enough “juice” in it to power my HT for more QSOs if

I can figure out how to safely do that. Just how long will it last? Who knows but it'll be fun to find out.

AARC's Lantern Battery Challenge was intended to be a bit of non-competitive mid-winter fun and, possibly, a learning experience. For me it has been. And it continues throughout March, so there's still time to try a little experiment of your own. See you on the air!

[Click here to view rules](#)

de Skip, K1NKR

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).

de Joe, KA1GDQ

Northeast HamXposition

HamXposition will be held September 10th, 11th, and 12th, 2021 at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough, MA.

[More Info](#)

ARRL - On The Air Podcasts

The On the Air podcast is a companion to the bimonthly On the Air magazine (an ARRL membership benefit) and takes a deeper dive into select features and projects. Each month, host and On the Air Editorial Director Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, will offer additional resources, techniques, and hints to help you get the most from the magazine's content. - ARRL

[Listen to Podcasts Online](#)

VE Exam Sessions

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](#)

Date : 3/13/2021
Sponsor: Braintree EMA
Location: BEMA Garage Sunset Lake
Time: 8:30am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More info](#)

Date : 3/13/2021
Sponsor: Braintree EMA
Location: BEMA Garage Sunset Lake
Time: 9:30am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More Info](#)

Date : 3/15/2021
Sponsor: BCRA VE Team
Location: TBD, Swansea, MA
Time: 5:30pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More Info](#)

Date : 3/18/2021
Sponsor: Canton EMA & EMARG
Location: Mansfield Fish & Game Club
Time: 7:00pm (Walk-ins allowed, please pre-register)
[More info](#)

Date : 3/20/2021
Sponsor: GSARA, Manchester, NH
Location: Brookside Congregational Church
Time: 9:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More Info](#)

Date : 3/24/2021
Sponsor: MIT Radio Exam Team
Location: MIT Campus, Room 1-150 MIT, Boston
Time: 7:30pm (Walk-ins allowed)
[More Info](#)

Date : 3/27/2021
Sponsor: North Shore RA, Winthrop, MA
Location: American Legion Building - Lower Level
Time: 12:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
[More info](#)

Boston Marathon Postponed

The Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) has announced that the 125th Boston Marathon, traditionally held on the third Monday in April, Patriots' Day in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, will be postponed until at least the fall of 2021.

[More Info](#)

ARRL Contests

March 6-7 : International DX - Phone
[More info](#)

April 18 : Rookie Roundup - Phone
[More info](#)

June 12-14 : June VHF
[More info](#)

June 19 : Kids Day
[More info](#)

June 26-27 : Field Day, **ARRL to extend rule waivers from 2020, with addition of Class D and E power limits of 150W PEP**
[More info](#)

July 10-11 : IRAU HF World Championship
[More info](#)

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, WA1NVC, 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 proposed GMRS license fee was also lowered from \$50 to \$35, down from the current fee of \$70. The license term will remain unchanged at 10 years.

[More Info](#)