



# QRZ

The Newsletter for AARC members

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## President's Corner

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Algonquin Amateur Radio Club season. I hope everyone had a good summer and was able to enjoy the nice-weather spells. The club had an active summer, including a joint Field Day with the Waltham ARA at Crow Island operating under special-event call W1M. Please see Skip's writeup on the website at n1em.org for more details on 2021 field day. We also had QSL sort at the EOC, and several club members are scheduled to work as observers at the upcoming Marlborough Labor Day parade.

The Marlborough Schools have generously agreed to let us use the Whitcomb School library for meetings (masks required for September 9th) this year. Unfortunately we are still dealing with covid variants and an increase in cases among vaccinated people. For this reason, I have decided to host the September club meeting over Zoom. From emails I have received, I know there are strong opinions both for and against in-person meetings at this time.

What I would like to do for September is for a few members who are comfortable attending in person, vaccinated, and smartphone/zoom-savvy to attempt joining the meeting on Zoom from the school library. You will need to use cellular data, not the school wifi. If this works, we have a path to hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings if needed in the future. I will send out separate emails about this experiment.

The September meeting is traditionally officer and member introductions, new member welcome, and discussion of activities for the year. If there is something you would like the club to do this year, please consider bringing it up at the meeting. New England Ham Xposition also starts the day after our September meeting and is now close by in Marlborough.

I hope to see you on Zoom at the September meeting.

73,  
de Mike w1ku

## September Meeting (Hybrid)

The next AARC meeting will be hybrid held on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the library of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and restrictions.

## Treasurer's Report

Income since the last meeting in June was \$10 for dues payment which the member has requested we consider it a donation. Expenses were \$30.95 for a \$25 gift card for school secretary who retired in June, and \$422.35 for K3 accessories (SignalLink and Transverter I/O) which had been approved.

de Ken, KA1GFN

## AARC Sunday Night Net (Starting 9/12/21)

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.

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. So please sign up. I will send a copy of the script to anyone that has not received one and have a quick training session.

de Joe, KA1GDQ

## 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.

## 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

## QSL Card Sort Report

Thank you to the Algonquin Amateur Radio Club for your contributions of time supporting the W1 QSL Bureau. We held our annual QSL sort session the evening of August 12th 2021. This was possible with lower COVID numbers in the area and keeping our group size relatively small. The group sorted over 8000 QSL cards. In the following week, Ann KA1PON sorted an additional over 8000 cards. This is a total of about 16,500 cards!

The cards we sort are DX QSL cards from all over the world. They are sent to our W1 call area QSL Bureau for distribution to the hams in our call area. These cards need to be sorted by the first letter of the call sign suffix. They are then sent to sorters for each of the 26 letters so they can deliver them to the individual hams in our area. The whole process only works because of the generous contribution of time by all our volunteers including clubs like the AARC.

Thanks to the following for helping with the sorting session:

Neal KA1SAW  
Ed K1DIN  
Joe KA1GDQ  
Ann KA1PON  
Ken KA1GFN  
Deb N1NVJ  
John N1DNX  
Steve KC1LPZ  
Skip K1NKR  
Dean K1JIU

73, Eric KV1J  
W1 QSL Bureau Co-Manager

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## Growing Up

Remember Tom Swift? Maybe, maybe not. Tom Swift was the main character in a young adult adventure series (1910-1941, with 54-71, 81-84, 94-93, 2006-07, and 2019 follow-ons). Tom Swift has been cited as an inspiration by various scientists and inventors, including aircraft designer [Kelly Johnson](#) who was considered among the top 100 "most important, most interesting, and most influential people" in the first century of aerospace." Volume 6 of the series was [Tom Swift and His Wireless Message](#) (1911), and it came out a year before the Titanic sank and wireless came to the rescue.

The Radio Boys, early 1920s young adult adventure series. Three different publishers generated 39 Radio Boys titles. There was also a related Radio Girls series, but not as much is known about the series as the Radio Boys one (see [Radio Boys Series Books](#)). Still, a 2016 paperback resurrected the title and format.

The key to [The Short-Wave Mystery](#), Volume 24 in the The Hardy Boys young adult mystery-adventure series hinges on coded messages on the ham bands [Nancy Drew](#) (first published in 1930 and continuing in various formats to the present), provided an adventure series aimed at young girls. One of the Nancy Drew's spin-off video games, "The Secret of the Scarlet Hand," even has a ham radio sub-plot.

[Walker Tompkins](#), K6ATX, was the author of the late-50s, early-60s vintage K6ATX young adult adventure series. Being directed to [SOS at Midnight](#) at the local library cemented my, and others' interest in ham radio during what people call the "formative years." The hero, Tommy Rockford, K6ATX, was one of us! Walker's daughter, Cynthia Wall, KA7ITT, [expanded upon the series](#) in the 1980s.

And what re-read of [Popular Electronics magazine](#) would be complete without checking on the adventures of [Carl and Jerry](#) and reliving your teen years? Further, [Jack Troster](#), W6ISQ, a popular and [recurring QST contributor](#) (ARRL members only link) had a lot to say about growing up in the hobby.

Why were these important and why did we read them? Peoples' imaginations and goals are formed by having role models. These books and articles were morality tales, instructing the reader on what could be a better world and how to grow into it.

Sure, we can't live in the past. Current culture insists that Tom Swift lived in a more naïve time—no crises, no fear, no texting, no video games. But Amateur Radio sub-interests have blossomed well beyond that AM rig under K6ATX's dashboard. A recent (probably incomplete) 2014 audit found 99 Amateur Radio sub-hobbies. This doesn't make prior adventure topics obsolete; it offers expansion room for a modern revival of the radio-inspirational genre.

We talk a lot about the value of Elmers. But let's not forget that our kids would benefit from some literary role models, too.

de Skip, K1NKR

By the way, for a more locally based insight, see KC1TD's "Pepper Hill's Flying Field Day" in the [May 1995 QST](#) (ARRL members only link). It's a modern morality tale "adventure story" allegedly based on a local radio club's Field Day adventures.

Oh, and see if you can find Kelly Johnson's "15th Rule of Management."

## VE Exam Sessions

Date : 9/4/2021  
Sponsor: Port City ARC, Greenland NH  
Location: Piscataqua Fish & Game Club  
Time: 2:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More info](#)

Date : 9/9/2021  
Sponsor: Billerica Amateur Radio Society  
Location: Chelmsford Bible Church  
Time: 7:00pm (Walk-ins allowed)  
[More info](#)

Date : 9/11/2021  
Sponsor: Braintree EMA  
Location: BEMA Garage Sunset Lake  
Time: 8:30am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More info](#)

Date : 9/11/2021  
Sponsor: Braintree EMA  
Location: BEMA Garage Sunset Lake  
Time: 9:30am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More Info](#)

Date : 9/11/2021  
Sponsor: Braintree EMA  
Location: BEMA Garage Sunset Lake  
Time: 10:30am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More Info](#)

Date : 9/16/2021  
Sponsor: Canton EMA & EMARG  
Location: Mansfield Fish & Game Club  
Time: 7:00pm (Walk-ins allowed)  
[More info](#)

Date : 9/18/2021  
Sponsor: GSARA, Manchester NH  
Location: Brookside Congregational Church  
Time: 9:00am (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More Info](#)

Date : 9/20/2021  
Sponsor: BCRA VE Team, Swansea MA  
Location: South Swansea Baptist Church  
Time: 5:30pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More Info](#)

Date : 9/22/2021  
Sponsor: MIT Radio Exam Team  
Location: MIT Campus, Room 1-150 MIT, Boston  
Time: 7:30pm (Walk-ins allowed)  
[More info](#)

Date : 9/25/2021  
Sponsor: North Shore RA, Winthrop, MA  
Location: American Legion Building - Lower Level  
Time: 12:00pm (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
[More info](#)

## Northeast HamXposition

Date : 9/10/2021 - 9/12/2021  
Event: Northeast HamXposition,  
ARRL New England Division Convention  
Sponsor: FEMARA  
Website: <http://hamxposition.org>  
Location: Best West Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA  
[More info](#)

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## ARRL Contests

September 11-13 : September VHF  
[More info](#)

September 18-19 : 10GHz and Up - Round 2  
[More info](#)

October 18-22 : School Club Roundup  
[More info](#)

October 18-22 : EME - 2.3GHz and Up  
[More info](#)

November 6-8 : November Sweepstakes - CW  
[More info](#)

November 20-22 : November Sweepstakes - Phone  
[More info](#)

November 20-21: EME - 50-1296MHz  
[More info](#)

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## 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](#)