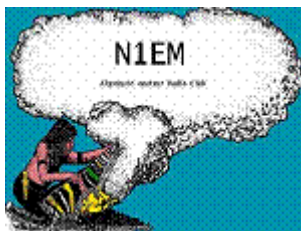


Algonquin Amateur Radio Club

Founded 1976



QRZ – The Newsletter for AARC members

www.n1em.org
February 2008

Meetings!

General club meeting: The next AARC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14th at 7:30 pm in the Marlborough Middle School's Library (behind the school on Thresher Drive). Focus: AARC's Flea Market and a radio topic TBA.

Note: We have openings for speakers during the March and April meetings. Please forward suggestions to Ed Fitzgerald.

MEMA: The next MEMA meeting is scheduled for February 19th at the Marlborough E.O.C. More MEMA information is available at: <http://www.qsl.net/n1em/EOC/EOChome.html>

AARC Flea market countdown – Feb. 15th

Sales of vendor tables are on track for the 2008 Flea Market. We can always use extra help during setup the night before and during teardown in the afternoon. Key times are: Thu, 14-Feb: Final planning at AARC general meeting. Fri, 15-Feb: Set-up (6-8 pm). Sat, 16-Feb: Operation and tear-down (6 am-2 pm).

PART of Westford: Kit building event

The PART amateur radio group is sponsoring an all-day kit building activity on Saturday, Feb. 23rd from 9 am-5 pm. The sponsored project is the Small Wonder Labs Rock-mite, a 40m QRP transceiver. \$75 covers the cost of the parts, food and use of the facility. If you've got your own kit that you'd like to work on, the cost for the day is \$20. For more information, visit www.wb1gof.org (under PART activities). The event will be held at United Methodist Church on 10 Church St. in Westford, MA. Check soon if you are interested: Space is limited.

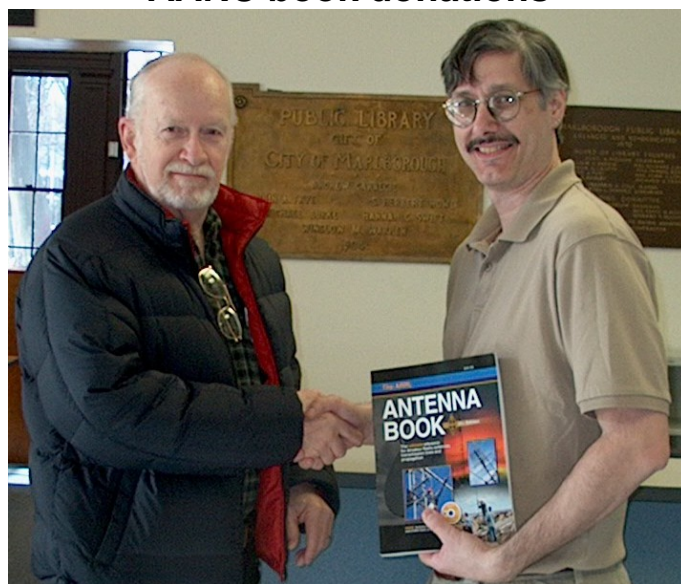
NUE-PSK: A stand-alone PSK31 modem

The American QRP Club is featuring a new PSK31 modem with an integrated DSP + microprocessor and graphic LCD display. Attached to a SSB transceiver, this unit will decode and display PSK QSOs. Messages for transmission are entered using an attachable PS2 keyboard. The LCD also displays an audio signal spectrogram with a moveable cursor that allows

operators to lock on a particular QSO within a 500 Hz – 2 kHz range. One advantage of the kit is that operators no longer have to take fragile, heavy and expensive laptops into the field to work PSK. The modem weighs under a pound and measures only 7x4x1 inches.

This is one of the first amateur radio kits I've seen that uses the dsPIC line of processors from Microchip. The NUE-PSK uses the dsPIC33F, a 16-bit microcontroller with 12-bit ADCs and a DSP engine for fast signal processing. The unit is field-programmable and upgraded capabilities will likely be available. The designers expect to take orders for the modem in mid-February but have not yet announced a price. For more information about the unit see: www.amqrp.org/kits/nue-psk31
(T. Ikeda – KA1OS)

Marlborough Public Library receives AARC book donations



Frank McInnis (K1IX, left) with Library Director Salvatore Genovese

On January 25th, Frank McInnis and Ed Fitzgerald presented a collection of amateur radio books donated by the AARC to the Marlborough Library. Library Director, Salvatore Genovese was on hand to enthusiastically accept the package. This ARRL Library Book Set included eleven publications and was chosen to replace outdated license study guides and supplement the library's amateur radio manuals and references. The club made the donations to promote amateur radio in the community and provide local operators with free access to these very useful resources. The collection should be on shelves in two weeks.

Tidbits

The New England QRP Club will hold its semiannual meeting at noon on Sat, Feb-9 in the Holiday Inn of Nashua, NH (off exit 4 of Hwy 3). For details see: <http://newenglandqrp.org>

AARC member Greg O'Brien (NE1OB) has a ham radio blog worth investigating: <http://appropriatesoftware.com/radio/blog>

A few activities and club events just over the horizon:

- Club officer elections – April: Nominations. May: Voting.
- Kit night (June meeting) – Got a project in mind?
- Field Day (June 28/29) – Planning begins...now.

Operating activities...

There are many state QSO parties in February. Now is the time to pick up Delaware, one of the rarer QSOs along the Eastern seaboard, or any of the other seven states with QSO events.

February: Special event stations

- Feb 2, 1400Z-2300Z, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches ARC, W5NAC. **Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery Special Event Station.** 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. QSL. www.w5nac.com
- Feb 2, 1400Z-2100Z, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area ARC, K3HWJ. **Commemorating Groundhog Day 2008.** 14.240 7.240 146.715 147.390. Certificate. www.qsl.net/k3hwj
- Feb 7-Feb 11, 0300Z-0145Z, Houghton, MI. Michigan Tech Husky ARC, W8C. **Winter Carnival 2008.** 444.500 21.315 14.250 7.290. QSL. <http://w8yy.students.mtu.edu/w8c>
- Feb 9, 0700Z-1800Z, Huskvarna, SWEDEN. Swedish Heathkit Club, SK7XN. **Heathkit Activity Day, celebrating the birth of Howard Anthony.** 14.287 14.040 3.700 3.540. QSL. www.heathkit.se
- Feb 9, 1400Z-2200Z, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP ARC, W0EBB. **4th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" Winter Operating Event.** 14.260 14.060 7.290 7.040. QSL. www.pkarc.org
- Feb 16, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. **Commemorating President's Day and Mt Suribachi, Iwo Jima Flag Raising by US Marines in 1945.** 14.325 7.250 14.060 7.040. QSL. kc2gyv@yahoo.com
- Feb 16-Mar 2, 0000Z-2359Z, Paris, France. ARP Radio-Club de Paris, TM1R. **40th anniversary of the "Ville de Paris".** 14.275 10.110 7.075 3.775. QSL. Award for contact with all 5 special event stations. http://arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP_regles_rules.jpg
- Feb 23, 1500Z-2300Z, Kent, OH. Portage County ARS, KD8CKP. **3rd Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP event.** 14.245 21.315 7.245 EchoLink. Certificate. www.portcars.org
- Feb 23-Mar 6, 0100Z-2359Z, Austin/San Antonio, TX. Central TX Contest Group, WA5DTK. **Commerating the seige days at the Alamo.** 14.250 7.240 14.040 7.040. QSL. wa5dtk@arrl.net

A selection of contests in February

Feb 2-5

- Minnesota QSO Party:** 1400Z Feb 2-2359Z Feb 2. Freq. 160-10m, 50MHz and up (CW 1.810, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050; SSB 1.870, 3.890, 7.230, 14.290, 21.390, 28.420). www.w0aa.org
- FYBO Winter QRP Field Day:** 1600Z Feb 2 - 2400Z Feb 2. Freq. 160-10m. www.azscqrptions.org
- Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Pty:** 0001Z Feb 2-2359Z Feb 3. Freq. 10m. www.ten-ten.org
- Delaware QSO Party:** 1700Z Feb 2-0500Z Feb 3 and 1300Z Feb 3-0100Z Feb 4. CW 1.825, 3.55, 7.05, 14.05, 21.05, 28.05; SSB 1.86, 3.96, 7.26, 14.26, 21.36, 28.36, PSK31 14.071, Hell 14.081, RTTY 14.09 www.fsarc.org
- Vermont QSO Party:** 0000Z Feb 2-2400Z Feb 3. Freq. 160-10m, 50MHz and up (CW band edge+40 kHz; SSB lowest 25 kHz Gen band; VHF SSB 50.200/144.200; FM 146.69, 146.55). www.qsl.net/w1bd

- North American Sprint:** 0000Z Feb 3-0400Z Feb 3. Freq. 80-20m. www.ncjweb.com
- QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint:** 2000Z Feb 3-2359Z Feb 3. Freq. 80-10m (3.865, 7.285, 14.285, 21.385, 28.385). www.qrparci.org
- Spartan Sprint:** 0200Z Feb 5 - 0400Z Feb 5 (Monday night US time). Freq. 80-10. www.arsqrp.pbwiki.com

Feb 9-15

- Asia-Pacific Sprint:** 1100Z Feb 9 - 1300Z Feb 9. Freq. 40-20m. <http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt>
- CQ WW RTTY WPX:** 0000Z Feb 9-2400Z Feb 10. Freq. 80-10m. www.cq-amateur-radio.com
- New Hampshire QSO Party:** 0001Z Feb 9-0001Z Feb 10. Freq. 160-10m, 50-1296MHz. www.w1fz.org
- Louisiana QSO Party:** 1500Z Feb 9-0300Z Feb 10. Freq. 160-10m, 50,144MHz. <http://laqso.w5yl.org>
- Northern New York QSO Party:** 0000Z Feb 9-2359Z Feb 10. Freq. 80-10m, 50-432MHz (CW band edge+40 kHz; SSB: lower 25 kHz Gen segment; VHF: 50.200,144.200,146.49). www.nnyara.org
- British Columbia QSO Challenge:** 1600Z Feb 9-0359Z Feb 10. Freq. 160-10m, 50MHz. www.deltaamateurradio.com
- RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest:** 2100Z Feb 9-0100Z Feb 10. Freq. 160m. www.rsgbhfcc.org
- Dutch PACC Contest:** 1200Z Feb 9-1200Z Feb 10. Freq. 160-10m. www.dutchpacc.com
- OMISS QSO Party:** 1500Z Feb 9-1500Z Feb 10. Freq. 80-10m. www.omiss.net
- North American Sprint:** 0000Z Feb 10-0400Z Feb 10. Freq. 80-20m. www.ncjweb.com
- Classic Exchange:** 1400Z Feb 10-0800Z Feb 11. Freq. 160-10m, 50,144MHz. www.qsl.asti.com/CX
- School Club Roundup:** 1300Z Feb 11-2400Z Feb 15. Freq. 160-10m. www.arrl.org/SCR

Feb 16-17

- ARRL DX Contest:** 0000Z Feb 16-2400Z Feb 17. Freq. 160-10m. www.arrl.org/contest
- AM QSO Party:** 0000Z Feb 16-0000Z Feb 17. Freq. 80-20m. www.antiquewireless.org

Feb 23-24

- CQC Winter QSO Party:** 2200Z Feb 23-0359Z Feb 24. Freq. 160-10m. www.cqc.org
- CQ WW 160 Meter SSB:** 0000Z Feb 23-2400Z Feb 24. Freq. 160m. www.cq-amateur-radio.com
- Mississippi QSO Party:** 1500Z Feb 23-0300Z Feb 24. Freq. 80-10m, 50-432MHz. w5xx@vicksburg.com
- North American QSO Party:** 1800Z Feb 23-0600Z Feb 24. Freq. 80-10m. www.ncjweb.com
- North Carolina QSO Party:** 1700Z Feb 24-0300Z Feb 25. Freq. 80-10m. www.w4nc.com

(Special event and contest information courtesy of the ARRL)

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. 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 25th of the preceding month. Text files are preferred and can be mailed to newsletter@n1em.org. For further information about QRZ and the AARC please send inquiries to the address listed above.

Current club officers

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| President | Ed Fitzgerald (K1DIN) |
| Vice President | Ron Wood (W1PLW) |
| Treasurer | Frank McInnis (K1IX) |
| Secretary | Tim Ikeda (KA1OS) |