

A Newsletter for
Oxford County ARES/CERT Comm
May 2022

BEFORE RENOVATIONS



AFTER RENOVATIONS



Greetings everyone!

It has been a productive spring so far. Here is what is happening with Oxford ARES-CERT:

THE EMA OFFICE

We have restored most of the radio room and repaired antenna connections at the Oxford County EMA with help from John WQ1W, Norm KA1SG, and Dan N1XYL. The construction at the EMA disrupted all of our equipment. John was instrumental in the cleaning and placement of equipment in the radio room. Norm and Dan were key to getting the radios and antennas hooked up and tested for operation.

Currently, we have HF and VHF capability. We are able to use 80m and 40m on the ICoM IC756 and 2 meters on the Kenwood D710. The packet radio has not been hooked up yet but is in the next phase of our restoration process. The desktop computer has been found to be in disrepair. The hard

drive has failed and I have been in to see if a patch (running a live Linux OS off a jump drive) will suffice until a 'new' unit can be put on the desk. I will be doing more testing of this unit to see if it could be designated as a packet computer or if it is time to recycle it.

THE COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER



When I talked with Allyson about the communications trailer, we decided to replace the tires, repack the bearings, and get the lettering redone. We have not cleaned and sanitized the inside of the trailer yet. The mice evidently thought this had been a good place to winter. So this task needs to be done as well but no date set at this point.

Many of the letters are peeling off and faded. Since 're-lettering' the trailer is a two step process (1. peeling the letters off and cleaning the trailer 2. applying the new letters and graphics) there is an additional cost to have if we have the vendor do the first step. So..

We are planning a **May 7th ARES-CERT trailer de-lettering party** for the trailer. If we have several people working on this project, it should go very quickly. Mark KE1M and Norm KA1SG have volunteered to spearhead the project. We will need more people to work on this project! If you can take a break from a busy Saturday to help out, it would be fantastic! Obviously if there is a downpour we will reschedule and all of this information will be available at

<https://www.n1yis.org> and the Oxford ARES Facebook page. If email is your preference, I will send that out as well. It would be great to see all of your faces!

THE REPEATERS

This winter was hard on equipment would be an understatement. The 146.910 N1BBK repeater in Rumford/Mexico was the first to fail. The links between the 224.620 W1IF on Streaked Mt. and the 147.120 W1OCA on Pikes Hill were the next to separate. A temporary low power repeater has been loaned and running in Rumford/Mexico for the last several months. The 224.620 as a stand alone has been working from Streaked. The 147.120 in Norway has been working as a standalone repeater. When the weather is better and the roads to the repeaters are passable, we will be scheduling work on these repeaters. It will be necessary for several of us to help do the work on these units. Please check the Facebook page or <https://www.n1yis.org> to find out when and where.

A note: these repeaters are essential for ability to communicate on VHF/UHF. Having them in their present condition does not allow for communications from the southern part of the county to the northern part of the county. We need to get these back on line. When time – Your help is essential.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DRILLS

NEAR Fest April 29-30 Deerfield NH is happening live and in person! Two Grand Prizes will be awarded one on Friday and one on Saturday. For more information <https://near-fest.com/>

We have several individuals that are going Friday, Saturday & Friday and Saturday. There will be forums and meetings as well as the huge hamfest tailgaters and commercial vendors.

The DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE – ARMY will be holding a drill from May 2nd to May 7th. The intent of the drill is to see how well amateur radio operators, FSR, CB can work to supply information. During that time period, I plan to have the ARES/CERT Communication Trailer on the air at least one of the days. I will have more on operations date and times in a later announcement. I plan to do a brief presentation from their slides in our meeting Monday 2nd.

RESTORING PACKET WINLINK & PACTOR

We have been in contact with Roger N1XP and Brad Brown KC1JMH to bring back packet to the EMA. The old equipment from 2 from 3 decades ago was removed. We are in the process of setting up a ‘new’ station. The EOCs in the state of Maine that have been active during the last few years are using WinLink as their primary form of transmitting packet messages. There exists a 440 Mhz backbone for the system with 2 meter for the local county communication. This project would allow us to pass traffic to other EMAs in the state and NH. More work on this is needed at this time establishing equipment, antennas, and point to point radio paths.

AREDN MESH NETWORK

Work is being done in our state to establish a statewide Wireless Mesh Using AREDN. On Friday April 1, 2022 Bill Richardson NG1P presents his views on organizing an AREDN mesh network (i) in Maine at the ARRL Convention in Lewiston, Maine [The presentation is here.](#)

SHARES

SHARED RESOURCES is coming. CERT (& ARES) Members who have communication experience are needed once the system is in place for our county.

MAINE NEWS

Phil Duggan N1EP is our ARRL Section manager. He is committed to increasing involvement in amateur radio both on the hobby side as well as the emergency communications side. Joy K1SEW is back and cranking out ME ARRL Bulletins again. It is great to have her back as the P.I.C.!

NEW ENGLAND NEWS

There is now a newsletter for New England ARRL Div..



Looking for articles that represent all sections in the New England Division. Please send submissions to Cory Golob by emailing ku1u@nediv.arrl.org

THE NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY

from Tom Frenaye K1KI

Hope you will have a few hours to operate in this year's **New England QSO Party on May 7th and 8th,**

either from your home station or mobile.

We're trying to make sure Oxford County is active on the air so please let us know if you plan to be on for even a short time by sending a note to us at info@neqp.org

The New England QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep on Saturday night. It runs from 4 pm Saturday until 1 am Sunday, then 9 am Sunday until 8 pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and/or digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who sends in a log with at least 25 valid QSOs will get a certificate. The goal is to work stations anywhere in the world - and their goal is to work New England stations, so you'll be very popular!

Full rules and other info → <http://www.neqp.org>
Many thanks!! Hope you'll join in the fun.

-- Tom/K1KI

New England QSO Party - <http://www.neqp.org> - May 7-8, 2022

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