

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Newsletter



AUGUST General Meeting
SUSPENDED
Radio Science and Operations
Center
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK



Keep up with the AARC at www.kl7aa.org

TEST RUN OF GOOGLE MEET Thursday, **August 6th at 7pm** for Election Procedures (See Blog Post on Newsletter Page 19 for more details)



Photo of Eagle Lake Taken August 4th by Morgan KG7SEQ



ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BOARD MEETING
JUNE 16, 2020
Radio Science Operation Center (RSOC)
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK
APPROVED



The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Lara Baker AL2R

A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Lara Baker AL2R, Dave Webb N9AIG, Keith Clark KL7MM, Richard Tweet KL2AZ, TJ Sheffield KL7TS, Walter Yankauskas KL7WY, Alice Baker KL2GD, Matt Ostrander KL4QH, Wigi Tozzi KL0R, Rich Gillin AL4S, Alice Baker KL2GD, John Lime III KL4OF

GUESTS/NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Brandin Hess AL6I

NON-VOTING MEMBERS/GUESTS PRESENT:

EXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:

Kent Petty KL5T, Mathew Notte WL4DX

UNEXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:

REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS/CHANGE IN ORDER:

TJ Sheffield KL7TS requested an executive session under new business.

TIME CRITICAL ITEM(S):

None

REPORTS

VE PROGRAM

Brandin Hess AL6I indicated that we are active with remote testing. So far, we have had 318 requests for remote exams. As of today, we have done 164 examinations. We have had requests from some additional countries since last month's meeting. We did an exam this last week in Somalia. We also did an exam in Jordan this past month. We had a zero to hero in Spain this last weekend also. We are not only doing exams for individuals here state-side but also overseas for military personnel.

The examinations are being administered without too many issues. We are encouraging individuals who would like to start up a remote testing team to go completely paperless. There is a new team starting up in the state of Arizona in the Tucson area. We also have a newly formed team in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This team is up and running. This is through a club called the Sun Mountain Amateur Radio Team Alliance. We still have our VE team in Maine.

We are open to in-person examinations if local COVID-19 restrictions are followed.

Progress on becoming an FCC COLEM is on hold because the FCC is not looking at any new commercial applications. The pandemic has shut down that section of the FCC. The FCC has indicated that we should re-contact them once they are back up and in operation.

SECRETARY REPORT

The May 19th Board Meeting minutes were presented. With minor corrections noted and made, a motion was made by Richard Tweet KL2AZ and seconded by Walter Yankauskas KL7WY to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Entered executive session at 7:13 PM

Exited executive session at 7:15 PM

TREASURER REPORT

Kent Petty KL5T is excused tonight. Lara Baker AL2R indicated that he did talk with Kent Petty KL5T and the bills are being paid, everything is being balanced, and everything is up to date.

There was a discussion around the federal program where the AARC would receive a grant and additional details have been asked for regarding our application. Two out of the three details have been completed and the third is in progress (Editor's note: this is EIFD – Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District.).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kent Petty KL5T is excused tonight.

EMCOMM

Kent Petty KL5T is excused tonight.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that a CD ladder still needs to be built.

The airport lease remains the same. There has been no increase in rent.

The mayor's grant equipment has been purchased except for one item. We still have not received the funds.

GRANT REQUESTS

Lara Baker AL2R indicated that he did receive a request for laptops to do remote testing. GCI is going to be doing a donation of about six of these laptops. He would also like to have some spare laptops to deploy as needed.

GAMING

Lara Baker AL2R indicated that gaming is on hold because many of the businesses are closed.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Lara Baker AL2R indicated there is no additional action on the bylaws.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated there is not a lot of activity. Kent Petty KL5T continues to go to the RSOC to support the SHARES net Wednesday mornings and returns to RSOC to support the south-central simplex net Wednesday evenings. There are no activities planned at this time to use the club call and Keith has not had any requests to use the club callsign. There have been no requests to use the club callsign for field day at this point.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated there was a request from an amateur radio operator in Missouri for a schedule. The club call of KL7AA may or may not be used. If it is used, the proper documentation will be submitted.

REOPENING LOGISTICS OF RSOC

Lara Baker AL2R indicated that Kent Petty KL5T and TJ Sheffield KL7TS are working out the details of reopening the RSOC. TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated there are two competing documents that need to be sorted through. There is a State of Alaska health mandate 16 and we are operating under attachment H. Then there is the Anchorage Municipality emergency order 10 attachment A. The two orders are similar, but they do have some differences.

Matt Ostrander KL4QH indicated that he would be happy to help with the logistics for appropriate screening, training requirements and documentation of individuals entering the building. Matt indicated there are revised documents coming out this week to help us with the RSOC opening logistics.

John Lime III KL4OF recommended that if there are differences between the two documents that the AARC follow the more stringent of the two approaches.

Rich Gillin AL4S raised some caution here because the building cannot be opened to the public as it was in the past and just have a general meeting. A second wave of COVID-19 is imminent, and we need to proceed with caution. A working Wednesday might be okay with two or three people wearing masks and gloves. It would be understood that these individuals practice social distancing and if the weather permits, windows and doors be open during this period of work time.

Lara Baker AL2R recommends that we relax access to the RSOC as discussed.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that he is working on the assembly of the shared apex loop antenna. Currently, it's difficult to erect the antenna because he's running into supply chain issues with 10 foot treated 4 x 4's.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS is also working on troubleshooting the SteppIR vertical. He is running out of options with SteppIR, so he ordered a new coil. SteppIR was accommodating by giving us a discount on parts.

Dave Webb N9AIG indicated that EMI/RFI interference to the SHARES operation was eliminated through the addition of filters to a 3000 VA APC UPS and a PowerMax 100-amp power supply. Filters were added in the feed lines from the batteries to the UPS and to the connected UPS loads.

Kudos to Mathew Notte WL4DX for his installation of piping to a new outdoor hose bib. The restoration of that hose bib piping and replacement was funded by Matthew.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Lara Baker AL2R indicated that he is working on the loan/grant that has been submitted. Someone is going to have to sign the closing document because technically it is a loan that turns into a grant. No one on the board has a problem with Lara Baker signing the document. This is either the EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) or PPP (Paycheck Protection Program).

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that he has a spreadsheet so people can sign up for sections to clean (adopt a room). This will be distributed shortly. Some of the outside maintenance duties will also be added to this list.

John Lime III KL4OF indicated that he would get over to the RSOC this week to take care of the area he signed up for and to get photos of the dishwasher to place on Craigslist.

Walter Yankauskas KL7WY indicated that he took a couple hundred photos of the utility markings for future documentation. These photos document locations of underground utilities such as gas, electric, and communications.

Walter Yankauskas KL7WY set in place to get the FCC building removed from the local aviation map as this was incorrect information

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Rich Gillin AL4S indicated that since the beginning of April we have three new life memberships. Also, since the beginning of April we have 15 new annual memberships including renewals.

Our biggest advertiser right now are the VE's. Individuals will become licensed and immediately become a member (some donating to the club too).

Rich Gillin AL4S recommended that the board revisit our life membership price. There are other organizations out there that their life memberships are considerably higher.

EQUIPMENT REPORT

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that there is a box of former ski patrol radios. Tom Plawman KL4RQ secured them and Keith Clark KL7MM delivered them at the RSOC. These radios have not been inventoried or tested. Tom Plawman KL4RQ has indicated that a programming cable is forthcoming for these radios.

OLD BUSINESS

01. Keith Clark KL7MM will be sending out an email for the adopt a room program.

02. Craigslist item to sell: dishwasher – John Lime III

03. ASARA membership: TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that there are two tiers for membership. The operational membership requires the actual hands-on going out doing search and rescue. This tier requires training. The second tier is an associate membership which is more along the lines that the AARC would perform as a communications and logistics support group. We would still be invited to training with this associate membership.

This new associate membership fee structure starts at the beginning of the year, but we can apply this October. Because of this, this item is tabled until October.

04. Job descriptions – tabled until next time – Dave Webb N9AIG will send out the rules of procedure to help with this item.

NEW BUSINESS

Entered executive session at 7:53 PM

Exited executive session at 8:01 PM

01. Walter Yankauskas KL7WY asked if we could move these meetings to a video meeting format. Walter went on to say he and Rich Gillin AL4S used Google Meet with success. Rich Gillin AL4S indicated that it would be easy for the board to meet via Google Meet, but guests would not be able to attend because they do not have a KL7AA email account. There was a discussion around moving the board meetings to a video format using Google Meet and its logistics.

Wigi Tozzi KL0R indicated that he has experience with both Google Meet and Zoom. Wigi went on to say that people will attend a video conference more readily than they would a meeting in person especially under pandemic conditions. It should be considered to move general club meetings to this video format. Wigi Tozzi KL0R said he will set up a test of a video conference for proof of concept.

Rich Gillin AL4S pointed out that we have upcoming club board elections. A video conference to accomplish those elections would be most beneficial.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 6/16/2020 by Dave Webb N9AIG, AARC Secretary.



Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Election Committee Report

The 2020 AARC Election committee is comprised of TJ Sheffield KL7TS (Chair), Dave Webb N9AIG (Secretary) and Richard Tweet KL2AZ. This notification is required by the AARC Rules of Procedure (ROP) and the election will be held in accordance with the ROP and the AARC Bylaws.

The positions up for election are:

President – incumbent Lara Baker AL2R has term limited

Secretary - incumbent Dave Webb N9AIG has decided to not run for re-election to this position

Director – incumbent Alice Baker KL2GD has decided to not run for re-election to this position

As the August membership meeting has been canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Election Committee will provide the normal August election procedures here in the Newsletter and also via a test run of Google Meet on Thursday, August 6th at 7pm.

The election procedure (from the AARC ROP) for the election is as follows (**Note: With the Covid-19 situation, there is a possibility of modifying the election procedure at the August AARC Board meeting in accordance with Section C**).

Elections

Section A: As specified in the Bylaws, Election of Corporation Directors and Officers shall be conducted as determined by the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors does not determine any other procedure, the Election shall be done as stated in the remaining

Sections of this Paragraph.

Section B: Election of Corporation Officers and Directors shall be by secret ballot.

Section C: Nominations, election procedures, and timing of the elections shall be as follows, unless a different procedure for use that year is approved by the Board of Directors:

Time	Event	
July	Board Meeting	Elections Committee appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. Complete 7/21/20
August	Member Meeting	Elections Committee announced to Membership. Committee Chairperson addresses members on procedures and timetable.
September	Member Meeting	Elections Committee presents slate of candidates. Additional Nominations accepted from the floor. After receipt of additional Nominations, if any, Nominations will be closed.
October	Ballot	The Secretary shall prepare and distribute, by mail, or otherwise, one ballot to elect directors to each eligible member as defined in the By-laws, on or before October 1st. Ballots must be returned to arrive by October 31st.
November	Member Meeting	Prior to the meeting, the Election Committee shall count ballots and determine the results of the election. In the event of a tie, the winner shall be determined by a coin toss. At the meeting, the Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall announce the new Directors.
November	Board Meeting	Newly Elected Directors attend Board meeting as non-voting Members.
January 1	Board Meeting	Newly Elected Directors and Officers take office.

Section D: Election of Directors shall be by majority vote of members voting.

Section E: Only Alaska residents who are members in good standing as of the close of the September Member Meeting shall vote. The Membership Chairperson shall notify the Secretary prior to October 1 of the members eligible to vote.

Section F: Only ballots received by October 31st shall be counted. Ballots shall be delivered to the Secretary, by mail or otherwise, and submitted by the Secretary to the Elections Committee.

Section G: No member may be nominated unless he or she has agreed to serve in that capacity, if elected.

To access the Google Meet meeting: Go the AARC Calendar (<https://kl7aa.org/events/>), click on the August 6th Election Committee meeting then click on **Join KL7AA Election Committee meeting**. Please mute your microphone when connecting. The AARC phone conference bridge (907)561-0151 will be monitored/available for those wanting to connect by phone only.

AARC Installs LoRa Gateway At Hillside South Site

Posted By *Kent Petty* On July 3, 2020 @ 8:04 AM In LoRa,Public Service,RF Experiments |

Thanks to Matt Ostrander's (KL4QH) dogged determination, a LoRa gateway has been installed at our Hillside South site. On Sunday, June 28, Matt and Kent Petty (KL5T) spent a good part of the day at the site. Matt did the climbing while Kent did the ground crew work and running (you can't do a job like this without forgetting something, and indeed, we did and Kent had to make a tool run).

Site work included installing 2 new runs of Cat5 cable, installing the 6.5 ft tall 900 MHz vertical antenna, and installation of the weatherproof box housing the LoRa gateway. We fabricated brackets to mount the box on-site and successfully got the system online.

Also accomplished during the visit was a repair to some Cat6 cable feeding one of our 5 GHz sectors that had been attacked by a raven. Pesky critters! And speaking of critters, we had a couple close encounters with a pesky porcupine who has taken up residence in the space under the site shed. Glad Matt spotted this guy from his view atop the tower platform...he was right outside the shed entrance!

You may ask, what is LoRa? LoRa (Long Range) is a spread spectrum modulation technique derived from chirp spread spectrum (CSS) technology. OK, OK.....I know...what the heck does that mean. Well, that's what I pulled off the SEMTECH website as the first sentence of the descriptor for what LoRa is. Now, I'm going to turn this over to Matt for a description in human terms.....Matt...please proceed...

Essentially, LoRa is a low-bandwidth, low-cost, high-reliability protocol for the Internet of Things (IoT). By networking sensors using LoRa, you can establish bi-directional communication without service fees (such as with cellular networks) and experience very long battery life ([upwards of 5 years on some sensors](#)^[1]). With usable receive thresholds up to -20dB below the noise floor, LoRa delivers exceptional range despite the crowded 900MHz spectrum. In order to accommodate as many potential uses as possible, the KL7AA gateway operates on The Things Network (TTN), a community-oriented network open to anyone. LoRa packets travel from node to gateway and then are forwarded to a LoRa Network Server—in this case TTN. From there, packets are passed along based on whether a given node has a matching registered application. In short: you can activate a LoRa node on TTN, register an application, and pass data along to anywhere, such as [debugging websites](#)^[2], IoT platforms like [AWS](#)^[3], or to your own custom web-based API endpoint. In practical terms, setting up a cabin-monitoring motion sensor or a trailer-theft-prevention GPS-enabled tracker has become significantly more accessible if you live within range of a LoRa gateway.



Matt, KL4QH, hard at work on the tower

RSOC SteppIR Vertical – The Saga Continues

Posted By *Kent Petty* On July 3, 2020 @ 9:11 AM In EMCOMM, Equipment, FCC Building, RSOC Operation

For quite some time now we've had an issue with our SteppIR vertical antenna. It works great on 40 meters and above, but darn if it gives us high SWR on anything below 40 meters. What is strange is that when power is low (I mean less than 10 watts), all is well. Get above 10 watts, and SWR goes up to 3:1. This project has been tackled by TJ Sheffield (KL7TS) and he has been wrestling with it for a while. He's inspected, cleaned, replaced the 80-meter loading coil, disassembled, reassembled, and gotten many headaches along the way. Here is his report from yesterday's efforts, although somewhat edited in case children are watching!

Thursday was another day and another session with the vertical.

I stripped off the coil, the wind reinforcing kit and opened up the motor drive housing.

I had this idea that the "copper crumbs" I saw on the SO-239 might be a high voltage path on 80m and 60m, when the coil is in the system and provides a crummy (get it?) path that shorts RF to ground.

My theory is there is high voltage present when using the base loaded coil, but when the vertical is on 40m it is a "full size" (i.e. quarter wave) Marconi vertical and the feed point sees high current, but low voltage, and that's why it works on 40m (low voltage) but not on 80m or 60m (high voltage).



Copper crumbs on the SO-239

I brought down the Honda 02 generator this time. It took 13 pulls on the starter rope to get it going, but it started.

I filled up both generators with Chevron gasoline and STA-BIL, right up to the filler cap. My theory is if the fuel system is full right up to the brim, there is no air available to interact with the fuel system and gum things up. What do you think?

I brought the air compressor down to blow out the crumbs. I used an old N95 mask and stood upwind, then blew out the housing and especially the “platen” where the copper tape feeds through the RF contact brushes. I shot in some contact cleaner under the platen, and on the SO-239 connector, and washed (and blew) the crumbs away — rinse and repeat!

I buttoned up the motor housing, re-installed the wind reinforcing kit and connected up the coil.

I put 10 watts to the vertical on 80m and SUCCESS — the SWR was 1.4 to 1 and holding steady. I increased the power to 100 watts and the SUCCESS continued. I tried 100 watts on 60m and had SUCCESS there as well.

I really thought I had this thing cured, until I put the ACOM amp on it — FAILURE.



Work in progress....compressor at the ready

I had dialed up 1,400 watts on the dummy load, then changed to the vertical and the ACOM amp immediately went into fault. I checked the SWR using 40 watts and it was back to 3:1 again, so FAILURE.



Motor drive assembly....the current suspect!

But I think I’m on the right track. The motor drive “platen” (brush contacts) are suspect now. I don’t think I’ll fool around with trying to bench repair this unit, I’ll see if SteppIR will take it back for a “core charge” towards a new motor and tape.

Tomorrow is Friday, they might close early for the 4th. A fifth is a pretty good choice for celebrating, too!

TJ Sheffield, KL7TS

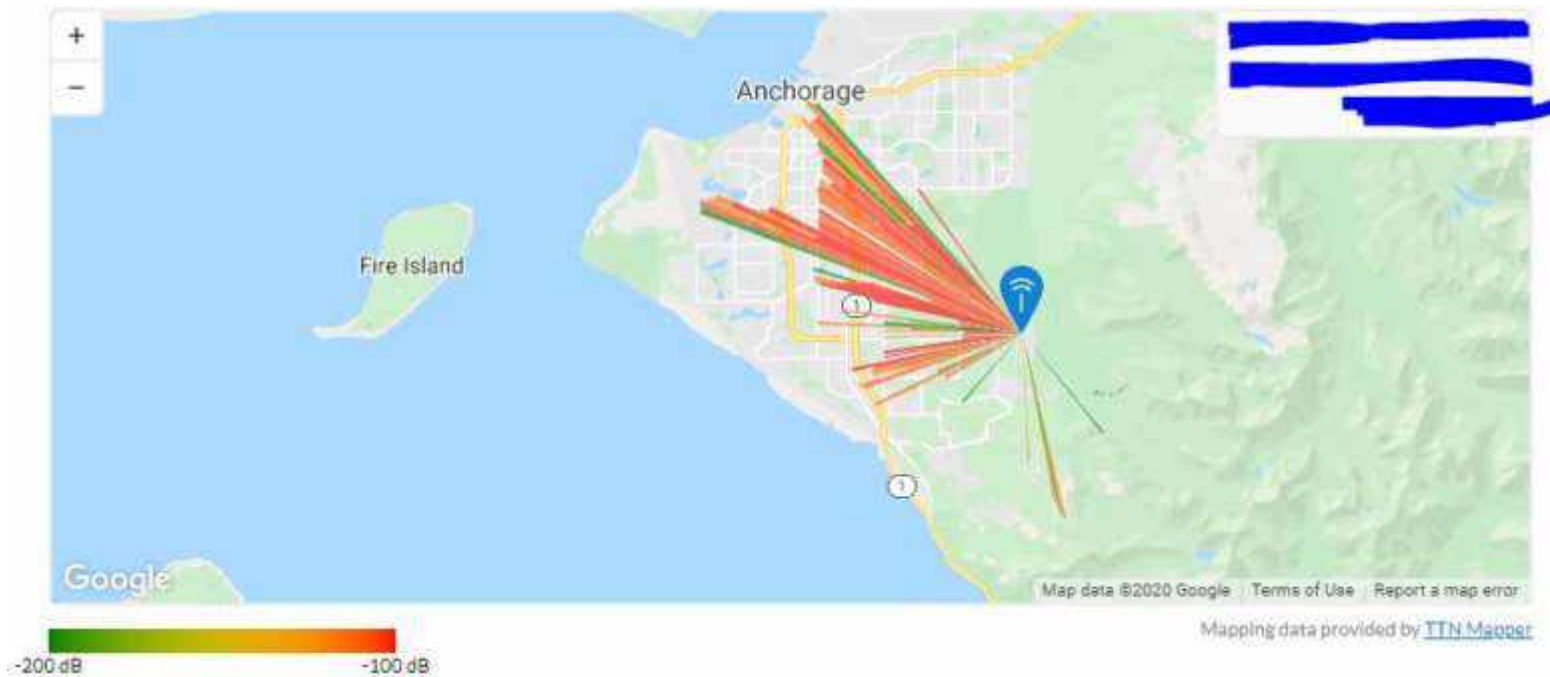
Initial LoRa Gateway Status Report

Posted By *Kent Petty* On July 6, 2020 @ 10:08 PM In LoRa,Public Service,RF Experiments |

Here's a bit of info about our LoRa Gateway we've installed at our Hillside South Location. You might remember that we installed the station on June 28 (check our blog post: <https://kl7aa.org/aarc-installs-lora-gateway-at-hillside-south-site/>^[1]).

While we can tell what information was passed specifically, we can tell you a few things about performance. As I draft this post the system has received 19,193 messages and transmitted 263 messages.

We even have a graphic that shows coverage of the unit. It even shows the relative signal strength of the stations heard. Do you notice anything interesting?



I'll let this stand by itself for a bit and let Matt Ostrander, KL4QH, our LoRa genius add more in the future.

73,

Kent, KL5T

Shared Apex Loop Receive Antenna Installed

Posted By *Kent Petty* On July 9, 2020 @ 11:57 AM In ARES,Contesting,DX,EMCOMM,RF Experiments,RSOC Operations

TJ Sheffield KL7TS and I (Dave Webb N9AIG) started at about 10:00 AM working outside at the RSOC and followed social distancing rules. We both wore masks and gloves; when we had discussions, we made sure we were 10' apart and had a crosswind. The real goal of the day was to erect the Shared Apex Loop Antenna. This is a receive-only antenna and is [described on the Array Solutions website](#)^[1].

The antenna is a true-time-delay array with four identical wire loops supported by a single non-conductive mast. Signals from each loop are transferred through a ferrite coupler to a short-balanced line that connects to the switch/combiner/amp enclosure mounted at the base of the antenna. Within this enclosure, signals from each loop are routed either directly to a combiner or through a delay line and then to the combiner, where they are amplified by a dual stage balanced broadband amplifier and sent out to the feed line to the controller located in the shack. The controller connects directly to your receiver and sends power and control signals over the feed line to the antenna.

I would emphasize that this is a **receive-only** antenna. Even a momentary transmit signal will destroy the controller box. The plan is to connect this antenna to a receive-only port on the Elecraft transceiver.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS dug the center support post while I attached the insulated mast support to the 4"x4"x10' long treated center post that would be direct buried into the hole. (I had the easier of the two jobs.) I was fully expecting to hear some discouraging words from TJ as he was performing the excavation, but none were uttered. It was quite unbelievable; no roots, hard clay or rocks the size of footballs. The material was all sand. (note: Rich Gillin AL4S had a similar experience when he dug the hole for the satellite tower.) We were both ready to go out and purchase some lottery tickets while our luck was good.



The treated center post was planted. Here is a picture of TJ Sheffield, KL7TS next to the post.

Next, TJ Sheffield KL7TS worked on the mast and antenna to get it ready for installation while I turned my attention to the inventory of batteries. I moved battery chargers around to continue to keep our batteries healthy. While inspecting the batteries, one of the Absolyte cells appears to have deteriorated to the point that it will have to be recycled (battery #7).

TJ Sheffield KL7TS was ready for the setting of the mast so we carried out the aluminum mast to the treated post. TJ was on a ladder by the post, and I pushed the mast toward him and pulled guy ropes to facilitate installation. Because of the thin aluminum mast, it was difficult to get the mast perfectly straight, but after a time, it improved when adjusting the guy ropes and antenna wires (which also act as guy supports).



Here is another picture of TJ next to the assembled antenna

It was a productive day with getting the new antenna installed and a few batteries charged.

Additional work includes optimizing the antenna for maximum front-to-back (F/B) ratio. The strategy is to use the portable Elecraft KX3 radio outside, about 100' away from the mast. The antenna system uses RG-6 coax, with F-connectors, as a 75-ohm feed-line to the controller.

I left at about 4:00 PM and TJ continued to work on the final details of the antenna installation.

Dave N9AIG
AARC Secretary
July 8, 2020

Anchorage ARC VEC Restarts On-site Testing at RSOC

Posted By *Kent Petty* On July 13, 2020 @ 3:40 PM In License Testing, VEC

The Anchorage ARC VEC is very carefully restarting its amateur radio license examinations at the Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) in Anchorage on the second Saturday at 2:00 PM of every month. The next session is scheduled for August 8.

We are doing so in a way that will maintain required social distancing. There will be just one VE on-site for each session to minimize exposure, and the other VEs will join the sessions remotely, just like during our fully remoted sessions. Additionally, and until further notice, anyone entering the RSOC must wear a face mask/covering. If there are too many applicants to maintain necessary social distancing inside the examination room, applicants will be asked to stagger their arrival to help us keep adequate separation.

In addition to the scheduled services, the group is offering remote or "custom" sessions, where applicants can request either a one-on-one session with a VE at the RSOC or what we would call a "remote" session with a proctor of their choice. Applicants can apply for this via our Remote Examination Application. They can opt for a one-on-one session with one of our VEs on-site at a convenient day and time, or they can select their own proctor (one who meets qualifications), and participate in a "remote" session at their home or elsewhere.

Of course, anyone who is sick, has had a positive Covid-19 test, is known to have been exposed to someone with Covid-19, etc. are asked to avoid coming to the RSOC or even participating in a remote examination session.



New VE Team Holds First Test Session in Colorado Springs

Posted By *Kent Petty* On July 13, 2020 @ 9:54 PM In License Testing,VEC

By Tom Obenchain (K0RZR)

On Saturday, June 27, 2020 the Anchorage ARC (AARC) VEC's first in-person testing session was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This session marked the first time that all VEs and examinees were physically present at a single testing location in Colorado Springs.

"It was amazing to be able to hold a live testing session under the auspices of the Anchorage ARC VEC here in Colorado. It really opens up opportunities for new hams in the Pikes Peak Region," said Tom Obenchain (K0RZR), one of the local volunteer examiners present at the session.

The session was held for a single examinee, Alan Chase, who was taking Element 2, hoping to get his Technician license as a result of the session. Chase had been part of a Winter 2020 Technician's class held in Colorado Springs from the end of January through the end of March. He had planned to test on March 14th at a session sponsored by another VEC. Unfortunately for Chase, due to worries about spreading the COVID-19 Virus, the State of Colorado enacted a stay-at-home policy on March 13th, prompting local businesses and organizations like ham radio clubs to curtail or postpone services.

There Has to Be a Way

Shortly after the middle of March, Obenchain and another Colorado ham, Tom Oliphant (K0BUL) began looking for options to finish the classes remotely and find a way for their students to test remotely. They used video conferencing to wrap up their classes and encourage students to keep taking practice tests and studying until they could find a testing solution.

That's when Obenchain found the AARC VEC through a google search for remote ham radio testing. Brandin Hess, the chairman of the AARC VEC, called Obenchain and told him about the system that the Alaskan's already had up and running for remote testing. Obenchain was more than interested.

Several of the students from Obenchain and Oliphant's class wanted to test immediately. To accommodate them, Obenchain and Oliphant, who are both amateur extra-class operators, became accredited VEs with the AARC VEC. Obenchain was able to act as proctor for Regina Kohutec's (KF0AAX) and then Jeff Wilson's (KF0ABI) testing sessions. They were the first two new hams in Colorado to push through the obstacles thrown up by the virus and become licensed using the AARC VEC system.

Shortly after Kohutec and Wilson's successful tests, Oliphant was able to act as proctor and Obenchain as a VE for the John and Ani Kirk family who had participated in the same class as the others. All four Kirks, dad (KF0ADJ), mom (KF0ADL), and their two sons ages 10 & 12 were able to get licensed using the AARC VEC system. (Note: all of the remote testing sessions required waiting for Colorado to allow for small group gatherings before they could proceed due to the need for a proctor to be physically with the examinees.)



Tom Oliphant (K0BUL)



Tom Obenchain
(K0RZR)

A VE Team for Colorado Springs

The system worked so well that Oliphant asked the officers of the Anchorage club about forming a Colorado Springs based VE team. The AARC VEC system, being completely digital, works well in times of quarantine as well as more open times. It is flexible and requires less physical preparation than normal live testing sessions, making it a perfect solution for folks wanting to become new hams.

Oliphant encouraged other extra-class operators, all of whom were accredited VEs with other VECs in Colorado Springs to Join the new Colorado team. Each of the new VEs had opportunities to participate in multiple testing sessions with the officers and other VEs of the AARC VEC for more than a month. These sessions included examinees from all over the world. With seven VEs accredited and trained and Colorado allowing groups of up to 10 people to gather while practicing proper social distancing, the new team was ready for their first local session in Colorado.

The First Live Session

On June 27, 2020, Chase came into the testing facility just before 10 am local time, set up his laptop, and listened and nodded as Oliphant, the session's lead VE, explained the rules and procedures for the session. Using the AARC VEC's online system meant those participating didn't have to exchange papers, which helped keep things sanitary. The test was done by 20 minutes after the hour with nearly instantaneous results delivered to Chase after his test. He walked out of the building a few minutes later smiling, his paperwork already submitted to the FCC for processing. As soon as the Universal Licensing system was back online from weekend maintenance he had his new call sign, KF0ASQ, and was the newest licensed ham in Colorado.

It was a successful session that let the new VE team work out any kinks. Participating in the session were: Alan Chase – Examinee (KF0ASQ), Pete Steele – VE (K0VJD), Tom Oliphant – Lead VE (K0BUL), Tom Obenchain – VE (K0RZR), and Dave Givan – VE (K0IRP). Additional members of the Colorado Springs VE team are Drew Peterson (N0DAP), Mark Jensen (WA6MVT), and Dennis Major (N0ABC).

With the rough spots ironed out, the Colorado VE team has another local session scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 2020. The VE team is planning to allow people to come to the testing center or connect via the internet and take the test remotely at the same time as others are testing live.

“The ability to be all digital and offer live, remote, or hybrid sessions changes everything,” said Obenchain. “The team here in Colorado Springs is looking forward to a long-term relationship with Brandin and the club in Alaska!”



Left to Right: Alan Chase (KF0ASQ), Pete Steele (K0VJD), and Tom Oliphant (K0BUL) prepare to start the June 27th local testing session in Colorado Springs

California Mother and Son Have Kind Words for Anchorage ARC VEC

Posted By *Kent Petty* On July 13, 2020 @ 10:11 PM In License Testing,VEC

By Kent Petty (KL5T)

I thought it might be nice to share some wonderful comments from one of our new hams, Lynn Lewis, KN6JVC. She and her son Grant used our remote testing service on Saturday, July 11, 2020 from Marina, California to take their examinations. Mom, Lynn, scored and landed her Technician license, while son Grant piled up a double whammy by passing both the Technician and General exams. Grant is now the happy owner of his very own General Class license, KN6JVD.

Since the exam was held on a Saturday, the pair had to anxiously await for the beloved FCC action to take place on Monday morning, about 8:00 AM Eastern Time.....when their licenses were actually granted.

Here are Lynn's kind comments:

Thank you Mr. Petty for calling today and making sure Grant got his call sign. He was up and out of bed at 6 am checking the website. He normally doesn't get out of bed like that so it shows how excited he is to be like his grandpa (my dad) and able to use his radios. Thank you again to you and your group for allowing us to take the exams on-line. Last month, we traveled over 3 hours to take the exam at a site that said it took walk-ins, but the VE didn't show. There were several, including us, who left that day frustrated. But now we have licenses and it was easy to take the exams thanks to your group!

73,

Lynn Lewis, KN6JVC

VEs for this remote session were Lara Baker (AL2R – Anchorage, AK), Pete Steele (K0VJD – Colorado Springs, CO), Mark Jensen (WA6MVT – Colorado Springs, CO), Kent Petty- (KL5T – Eagle River, AK), and Drew Peterson (N0DAP – Colorado Springs, CO). Lt Commander Evan Bloxham, USN, was our on-site proctor; thank you sir!.

Thank you Lynn for the kind words and allowing the Anchorage ARC VEC share in this wonderful experience.

73,

Kent Petty, KL5T
Anchorage ARC VEC

Updated Application Needed

Posted By *Kent Petty* On July 31, 2020 @ 1:29 PM In VEC,Volunteer Opportunity

By Kent Petty, KL5T

To all club members.....or anyone else who might be willing to help!....

The Anchorage ARC VEC is in need of an updated program to help us generate the filings we make with the FCC. We have the schema for the requirements for the text file we need to generate.

If you have the skills and are willing to take on this worthy project, please e-mail vec@kl7aa.org ^[1]

Thanks!

AARC Election Report

Posted By *Richard Tweet KL2AZ* On August 3, 2020 @ 7:41 PM In Elections

The 2020 AARC Election committee is comprised of TJ Sheffield KL7TS (Chair), Dave Webb N9AIG (Secretary) and Richard Tweet KL2AZ. Kent Petty KL5T is providing consulting to the committee.

As the August membership meeting has been canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Election Committee will provide the normal August election procedures in the Newsletter and via a test run of Google Meet **this** Thursday, August 6th at 7pm.

To access the Google Meet video teleconference; go the AARC Calendar (<https://kl7aa.org/events/>^[1]), click on the August 6th Election Committee meeting then click on **Join KL7AA Election Committee meeting**. Please mute your microphone when connecting. The AARC phone conference bridge (907) 561-0151 is also available and will be monitored/available for those wanting to connect by phone only.

Note: With the COVID-19 situation, there is a possibility of modifying the election procedure at the August AARC Board meeting in accordance with Rules of Procedure Section C.





New Swap & Shop

Posted By *Kent Petty* On June 29, 2020 @ 5:51 PM In Swap & Shop | [No Comments](#)

We've got a new way to post members' items they'd like to sell or trade on our site. Simply e-mail swapandshop@kl7aa.org^[1] and your listing will get posted as a blog post on the website, pushed out to our Facebook page, Twitter page, and also to the KL7AA Reflector. Oh...yes, and the listing will be included in our monthly newsletter.

Be sure to include:

- Your Name
- Your Callsign (if you have one)
- Contact info – you **MUST** provide either a good telephone number or e-mail address (or both!)
- A clear listing of the equipment or items you have for sale or trade and the prices of each.



Miscellaneous

I NEED YOUR HELP!

Here are two ideas I have for increasing club member involvement as well as public awareness of KL7AA and amateur radio:

- ◆ Featuring different “Ham Shacks”. I love seeing how people incorporate amateur radio into their homes. Having a photo or video of people in front of their set up (whatever that may be) and explain how they built it or what they love about it is a fun way to engage our members and get ideas for our own shacks!
- ◆ I want to start interviewing (can be audio only) ARRL members about their interest, history, and involvement with amateur radio. Not only for posterity, but it could be a great new avenue to utilize various media platforms to engage new members! I am not a professional podcaster or videographer, but if you are interested in being interviewed or helping me on the production side of things let me know!

If you are interested in either of these projects, let me know!

If you have project ideas or projects that you are working on, items for sale, a funny story or memory, don't hesitate to share!

Morgan KG7SEQ

editor@kl7aa.org

Have you signed up to support YOUR Radio Club?



Here are two ways you can help fund our Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. Both are really easy on your part. Please consider doing both options, if you haven't signed up, please do.

Fred Meyer will give us money!

All you have to do is shop there and sign up AARC as your non-profit beneficiary. Once you sign up, a portion of every purchase you make is donated to AARC. There is no increase to you for your purchase by declaring AARC as your beneficiary. Currently there are three individuals signed up for this worthy cause. Let's see if we can make it 100%.

You still earn your Rewards points, Fuel Points, and Rebates just as you do today.

The AARC's Fred Meyer non-profit number is UB064.

If you don't have a Fred Meyer Reward Card, they are available at their service desk.

Tell your family, friends and neighbors about this opportunity too.

(Fred Meyer can be done via Internet)

Amazon Smile will give us money!

If you do shopping on-line at Amazon, you can designate AARC as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to AARC. Log-on to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7225693>

For more information.

AARC is Accepting Credit Cards!

AARC can accept your credit card for payment of dues and donations. See Kent Petty KL5T at the next club meeting, club working Wednesdays or Board meetings.

Now may be the time to renew your membership; don't forget!

Thanks Kent KL5T, for setting this up!!





Monthly Events



1st Thursday each month: AARC general meeting - 7:00 PM in the Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) Building at 6721 Raspberry Road, Anchorage. Talk in will be on 147.34/94 repeater or 146.49 Anchorage simplex talk frequency.

1st Thursday each month: Moosehorn Amateur Radio Club General meeting - 7:00 PM Location changes, contact George Van Lone KL7AN donnav@acsalaska.net for information . Call for directions on 146.88 repeater (no tone). Moosehorn ARC also holds a weekly luncheon every Thursday, locations and times change, contact George Van Lone, KL7AN: donnav@acsalaska.net

2nd Saturday each month: PARKA (Polar Amateur Radio Klub of Alaska) Meeting at 11:00 AM. Polar Amateur Radio Klub of Alaska. All amateurs welcome. Some business is discussed. Originally established as an all woman organization, membership now includes spouses or significant others. Talk in on 147.30+.

2nd Saturday each month (except for holidays): VE License Exams at 2:00 PM. at the RSOC, 6721 Raspberry Road. Be sure to bring a government issued photo ID, a copy of your current license (if any) and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE). Contact: Lara Baker, AL2R (president@kl7aa.org)

3rd Tuesday each month: AARC Board Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Radio Science and Operations (RSOC) building. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

1st Tuesday of each month: EARS general meeting at 6:00 PM. EARS meetings are held at the EARS shack location. Contact info - Pete Pritchard KL7IS for more information (email president@kl7air.us) EARS: 552-2664 (recording); Talk in on 146.67-. Email: club@KL7air.us or Ron Keech KL7YK (Station Manager) kl7yk@arrl.net

4th Saturday of each month: Valley VE Testing at 7:00 PM. Sessions will be held at the Red Cross Office at 7 pm on the fourth Saturday of each month unless it is a major holiday weekend. Contact Ken Hudson, KL2HF, Kenputer@hotmail.com or 907-354-0206.

The last Friday each month: MARA meeting at 7:00 PM, St. Johns Lutheran Church Basement. Talk-in help for the meeting can be acquired on the 147.33 repeater. Further details can be found by contacting Don Bush, KL7JFT, dbush@gci.net.

Active Nets in Alaska

VHF NETS

The local VHF Nets have a Packet side as well. Look for 2 meter Packet at 145.01 (Eagle) and 147.96 (Valley). The Eagle and Valley nodes provide a talk” or chat function. Also, if you are unable to connect directly to one of the nodes, try digipeating through EARS on either frequency. Do this by typing *c eagle v ears* or *c valley v ears* on the appropriate frequency. Check www.KL7AIR.us for more information on the digipeaters.

ARES Net: 147.33 w/ 103.5Hz tone (Backup 147.30 w/ 141.3Hz tone) —Thursdays at 8:00PM

No Name Net: 146.43 simplex—Sundays 8:00PM

South Central Simplex Net: Meets on 146.52 FM then shifts to 144.2 USB, 446.0 FM, 432.2 USB, 223.5 FM, 927.5FM, 1294.5 FM, 52.525 FM, 50.125 USB, 29.6 FDM, 28.4 USB, 145.01 Packet (Eagle Node), 147.96 Packet (Valley Node) - Wednesdays 8:00PM

Alaska VHF Up Net: 144.200 USB—Saturdays 9:30 AM

Alaska Morning Net: The Alaska Morning Net is held Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM—11:00 AM on the IRLP Reflector 9109. This net can be reached via several hosting nodes in the area. Please visit www.status.irlp.net/index.php?PSTART=2&mode=3 to find the closest node. Also the net can be reached via EchoLink on 9191 (WL7LP-R) and Allstar nodes 27133 and 29332. The Alaska Statewide ARES net is held on Thursday evenings at 8:30pm (following the Anchorage ARES net) at the same locations and also the 8:30pm Sunday evening Alaska Statewide Radio Link.

HF Nets

Alaska Snipers Net: 3.920 MHz 6:00pm daily

Alaska Bush Net: 7.093 MHz 8:00pm daily

Alaska Motley Net: 3.933 MHz 9:00pm daily

ACWN (Alaska CW Net): 3540 kHz, 7042 kHz, 14050 kHz Non-directed, CW calling and traffic watch for relaying NTS of other written traffic. AL7N monitors continuously receivers always on WL2K. (RMS connection available— AL7N@winlink.org)

Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net: 14.292 MHz 8:30am M-F

ERC HF Net: 3.880 MHz 8:30pm Sundays

DATA YOU CAN USE				
Frequency	Tone	Callsign	Features	Area
147.18-	88.5	ADES		JBER
146.88-	no tone	AL7LE	Phone patch	Kenai/Soldotna
146.82-	103.5	WL7CWE	IRLP	Anchorage
146.76-	123.0	KL3K	IRLP	Seward
146.94-	103.5	KL7AA		Anchorage, Wasilla, Northern Kenai
224.94-	no tone	KL7AA		Anchorage, Wasilla, Northern Kenai
444.70+	103.5	KL7AA		Anchorage, Wasilla, Northern Kenai
146.67-	103.5	KL7AIR	MARS station	Anchorage & Highway N
147.30+	141.3	KL7ION		Anchorage, Wasilla, Northern Kenai
146.85-	103.5	KL7JFU	Cross Banded to 444.600	Mat Valley
444.6+	103.5	KL7JFU	Cross Banded to 146.85	Mat Valley
146.91-	no tone	KL7PM		Homer
147.15+	107.2	NL7S		Wasilla
147.84-	103.5	WL7CWE		Wasilla repeater
147.33+	103.5	WL7CWF	Cross linked to 443.900	Very Wide Area
443.900+	103.5	WL7CWF	Cross linked to 147.33	Very Wide Area

South Central Area Simplex Frequencies	
146.52	National Calling and Emergency Frequency
147.57	DX Spotting Frequency
146.49	Anchorage Area Simplex Chat
146.43	Mat-Su Valley Simplex Chat
147.42	Kenai Peninsula Simplex Chat

WinLink Information		
144.91	WL7CVG-10	Anchorage Area RMS, 1200 baud
145.19	KL7JFT-10	Palmer/Mat-Su RMS
144.91	WL7CVG-4	South Central Digipeater, 1200 baud
144.97	KL7AA-10	Anchorage Area RMS, 1200 baud
223.66	WL7CVG-10	Anchorage Area RMS, 9600 baud
441.175	WL7CVG-10	Anchorage Area RMS, 9600 baud

If you have anything you'd like included in the next newsletter such as items for sale, articles, questions, etc.
email editor@kl7aa.org

AARC BOARD/Officers and Directors

President 2020	Lara Baker AL2R	president@kl7aa.org
Vice-President 2021	T.J. Sheffield KL7TS	vicepresident@kl7aa.org
Treasurer 2021	Kent Petty KL5T	treasurer@kl7aa.org
Secretary 2020	Dave Webb N9AIG	secretary@kl7aa.org
Board 2019		
Board 2020	Alice Baker KL2GD	Alice.baker@kl7aa.org
Board 2020	Wigi Tozzi KL0R	Wigi.Tozzi@kl7aa.org
Board 2020	Mathew Notte WL4DX	notte142@gmail.com
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Board 2021	Richard Tweet KL2AZ	kl2az@kl7aa.org
Board 2021	Keith Clark KL7MM	trustee@kl7aa.org
Board 2022	Walter Yankauskas KL7WY	
Board 2022	Matt Ostrander KL4QH	kl4qh@kl7aa.org
Board 2022	Rich Gillin AL4S	Rich.gillin@kl7aa.org

AARC FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS

APRS	Kevin Opalka KL2NV	
Activities	VACANT	activities@kl7aa.org
Trustee	Keith Clark KL7MM	trustee@kl7aa.org
Newsletter Editor	Morgan Schoenecker KG7SEQ	editor@kl7aa.org
Membership	Rich Gillin AL4S	membership@kl7aa.org
VE Testing	Kent Petty KL5T	ve@kl7aa.org
Webmaster	Rich Gillin AL4S	webmaster@kl7aa.org
Internet/Network	Rich Gillin AL4S	ip@kl7aa.org
MESH Network	Kent Petty KL5T	mesh@kl7aa.org



Support Amateur Radio in Anchorage, Alaska

Donate online or mail this coupon to AARC, PO Box 190192, Anchorage, AK 99519

Online donation is convenient and secure at <https://kl7aa.org/>, select donations at the top right of the home page.

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Please send me a supply of donation envelopes

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Why donate? The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club is a nonprofit organization (501C3) that supports community program communications such as the Anchorage RunFest, Walk and Roll for Hope, the Dog Jog, Tour de Cure, Alaska Run for

Women, The Women's Gold Nugget Triathlon and Team Rubicon. We also periodically practice our emergency communication skills in case of a major disaster such as an earthquake. Our equipment is both battery and generator backed up. We are run only by donations and volunteers. Please donate to this worthy organization.

Total donation: \$ _____

Check or money order enclosed

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Account # _____

Signature: _____

I would like to be kept up to date on AARC activities; please send me your monthly newsletter