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Radio Science and Operations Center – KL7G
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NEWSLETTER

May 31, 2022



Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
Radio Science and Operations Center
AARC RSOC

Our Mission

The mission of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club is to vigorously promote, support, and lead amateur radio activities in a manner that honors and exemplifies the [radio amateur's code](#), builds esprit de corps within our membership, and serves our community's needs.

Our Vision

An inclusive community of engaged, trained, and prepared emergency communication volunteers

RSOC Motto

Learn, Teach, Serve

AARC Vision - *An inclusive community of engaged, trained, and prepared emergency communication volunteers*

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How to Keep Tabs on the AARC / RSOC

General Membership Meetings

Held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 pm. If it weren't for COVID-19, we'd be having these meetings in-person at the RSOC. Until COVID-19 resolves, we're holding these meetings via ZOOM. Go to the club's website to get the Zoom link. You can find our calendar listed on our main webpage at kl7aa.org, but you can go directly to our calendar at <https://kl7aa.org/events/>.

Monthly Newsletters

If you are a club member, you should be receiving our monthly newsletter via e-mail when it publishes. If you are a member and you are NOT receiving the monthly newsletter via e-mail, please let us know at editor@kl7aa.org. Of course, ANYONE can find our current and archived newsletters on our website at <https://kl7aa.org/newsletters/>

Webpage

Lots of information is located on our webpage. The home page is located at <https://kl7aa.org/>

Blog Posts

We put out blog posts on our website. These can be found on our home page on the website at <https://kl7aa.org/>, or directly at <https://kl7aa.org/blog/>. Typically, our blog posts also get inserted in our newsletter and are also "pushed" out to our Facebook and Twitter pages. More on Facebook and Twitter below.

Facebook

Our Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/kl7aa/>. As mentioned above, most activity is related to blog posts we put out, but there is some other action if you are into that sort of thing! We have 607 followers (+6 from last month).

Twitter

Yes, we have a Twitter account, @AnchorageARC. Our blog posts show up there for sure. Right now we have 55 followers (+ 3 from last month).

KL7AA Reflector

What does the reflector do? Well, if you send an e-mail to it from your registered e-mail address, that message will be distributed to the 152 current subscribers on the list

(+1 from last month)! It's a great way to get info out to the group, and a great way to keep up with some of the current happenings. Further, as a registered member of the list, you can get a list of the other registered members (well, at least those who don't opt to conceal their identity in the options), can set the system to give you daily messages, and set a number of other options.

To join the reflector go to <http://www.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/kl7aa>

There, you can subscribe and get started. It's pretty simple and straight forward, but if you need help, give us a shout at info@kl7aa.org.

Have You Seen the AARC / RSOC Video?

Check out our cool 5-minute video about the AARC and the Radio Science and Operations Center. Many thanks to Mark Sabel, WD6BMJ and others who worked so hard to make this a reality! [Click here to access the video](#)

Alternatively, visit the club website at: <https://kl7aa.org/>

Then hover on "About"

Then select "RSOC Story Video"

Our Board of Directors

Position	Name	Call	Term Ends	Contact
President	Richard Tweet	KL2AZ	12/31/2022	President (at) kl7aa.org
Vice President	TJ Sheffield	KL7TS	12/31/2022	Vicepresident (at) kl7aa.org
Secretary	Vacant	Vacant	12/31/2023	Secretary (at) kl7aa.org
Treasurer	Kent Petty	KL5T	12/31/2023	Treasurer (at) kl7aa.org
Director	John Lime	KL4OF	12/31/2024	Kl4of (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Keith Clark	KL7MM	12/31/2024	Trustee (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Kevin Opalka	KL1V	12/31/2024	Kevin.opalka (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Matt Ostrander	KL4QH	12/31/2022	Kl4qh (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Walter Yankauskas	KL7WY	12/31/2022	Waltery.yankauskas (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Vacant	Vacant	12/31/2022	Vacant
Director	Dave Webb	N9AIG	12/31/2023	N9aig (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Matt Notte	WL4DX	12/31/2023	Notte142 (at) gmail.com
Director	Louis Tozzi (Wigi)	KL0R	12/31/2023	Wigi.tozzi (at) kl7aa.org
Director (Past President)	Lara Baker	AL2R	12/31/2023	Lara.baker (at) kl7aa.org

From the Prez

Greetings to the membership of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. This month, my pitch will be on Volunteer Opportunities with the AARC.

The AARC has a very good relationship with numerous, high visibility events in the Anchorage bowl. Unfortunately, calls for volunteers comes up short almost every time and thankfully a few of your dedicated Board members step in to fill in some of the critical blanks. Due to Covid, we have not had the opportunity to assist with the events for 2 years. BUT, they remember the AARC and have asked us to return to assist now that the events are happening again. The worst possible thing that could happen is that we don't have enough volunteers to assist and have a poor performance. It is nearly impossible to recover from such a showing. You don't have to be an experienced operator, and this is a great way to learn the hobby. You won't be stuck in the middle of nowhere with no training or instruction and most likely will shadow an experienced operator to gain experience and confidence. Please go to the KL7AA.org webpage, click on the Volunteer tab and then on the Volunteer for an event link to learn more about the events we are assisting this year.

Current vacancies in the AARC organizational structure are:

Secretary (Officer), Board member (Director), Activities Manager and Newsletter editor. Please consider volunteering for a position in the organization

Richard Tweet KL2AZ, AARC President

COVID-19 and AARC Meetings

Protective Measures

Masks – mandatory. Vaccinations and vaccination boosters – highly recommended.
Handwashing - Recommended

Meetings and Events

Group activities at the RSOC continue to be modified. Board meetings, general membership meetings, finance meetings, development committee meetings continue to be held via Zoom. Civil Air Patrol meetings are held under the guidance of current CAP guidelines. Contact info@kl7aa.org with any questions.

Operations and Procedures

Group gatherings at the RSOC for the purpose of scheduled activities such as participation in SHARES as well as acting as net control for the South Central Simplex Net have been modified. Operators should not report to the RSOC unless they have coordinated with Station Manager TJ Sheffield, KL7TS. Contact info@kl7aa.org with any questions.

Public Service Activities

Members of the AARC provide communications and logistics support for a host of events throughout the year. Usually during the warm months. These events are usually a charity fund raising race.

What exactly do we do at these events?

- We support the charity that is running the event.
- Emergency Communications Training for us. There is almost no better practice available for disaster Emergency Communications (EmComm) operations than a live sporting event! Equipment is put to the test every year to keep it running well and to keep improving it. Each time an Anchorage Amateur Radio Club member deploys, he or she gains valuable experience on what works well, and what doesn't. We must be ready for the unexpected, the unusual.
- Situational awareness: A few minutes after the race starts, the race committee does not know what is happening on the course. We are their eyes and ears on the trail. The ham radio volunteers give updates as the leaders pass by. Should anyone have problems, they can report to a ham radio volunteer, and we can work to solve the problem. Sometimes racers drop out of the race. If they drop at an aid station, we can report the name and bib number in case family or friends are looking for them.
- Safety: We do not worry much about the elite athletes at the front of the pack. We are more concerned with the racers at the back of the pack that are not sure that they will even finish the race. We don't leave until every racer is accounted for. This being Alaska, there is a possibility of bears and moose on the trail.
- Public relations: Put on a safety vest, grab a clipboard and a handheld radio and you are now an expert. People will now ask you about the race, radios, the weather, geography, history, landmarks, bears, salmon, eagles, and even the "moose breeding grounds"!

- It's rewarding to volunteer your time. You will remember when a marathon runner that is more than 3 hours and more than 24 miles into the race smiles, waves and says "thank you for volunteering".
- It's fun!

What radio equipment do we use?

Generally you will use a 2 meter VHF handheld transceiver (HT). We encourage you to get a better antenna than the "rubber duckie" that comes with your radio. A better antenna, like from [Signal Stick](#) will improve your transmission and reception.

If you are at a noisy location (next to a highway, next to the PA system at a start or finish line, next to a band along a trail), you might want a headset with a boom microphone.



Another option is a Speaker Microphone.

If you are at a location on the road system, you can use a mobile radio with antenna mounted on your vehicle. You can also bring a spare large battery, a mobile transceiver, and a mag-mount antenna for your roof. Sometime people way out in the bush have brought a vertical antenna mounted high on a tripod, or even a Yagi antenna.

How do I prepare?

Use and be comfortable with your equipment. Participate in the [Southcentral Simplex net](#) with the same equipment that you will use during the event.

A day or three before the event, make sure that you have programmed all the frequencies that are published for the event into your radio. Test that your radio works on all the repeaters and frequencies. You will feel so much better when you find out your radio is mis-programmed at home two days before the event, rather than 15 minutes before the starting gun goes off.

It is a lot more reliable switching between memory channels than going to VFO mode and punching the frequency, offset and tone into your radio on the side of the trail.

Learn how to lock and unlock your HT keyboard. It is embarrassing to stick a perfectly performing radio into a pocket or chest harness, and all of a sudden the volume is way off, or the radio has mysteriously switched frequencies because you fat fingered the keyboard while handling it.

Charge your radio and phone batteries the night before!

Update the contacts on your phone with the phone number for Net Control and the event radio coordinator. Yes we are amateur radio, but if we need to get through, we will use whatever is available.

Look up on a map exactly where you will be positioned in case you need to call 911 in an emergency. Check to see if there are course mile markers near you. It will help the paramedics.

If you have time, go to your checkpoint ahead of time and do a radio test if repeaters are involved. Any issues with your RF path can be dealt with before that 15 minutes before the event starts.

What do I bring?

Like everything else here, it depends. It depends on where you are located, the weather, what stuff you already have.

- As we mentioned before, bring a charged, programmed radio with an antenna. Spare charged battery. Spare radio and battery. Headset or Speaker Microphone.
- Cell phone.

- Your radio manual or cheat sheets for programming it.
- High visibility safety vest. We prefer the lime green variety. The AARC has some amateur radio vests to loan.
- Notepad, pen, pencil.
- Course map, event frequencies on paper.
- A name tag is nice.
- Comfort for you. At the 2022 Gold Nugget Triathlon it was 32 degrees at 7 AM. By the middle of the afternoon it was t-shirt weather. It can range from t-shirt, shorts, bug dope and sunscreen to windy, rainy, and spitting sleet. Wear layers, dress appropriately.
- Water, cold non-alcoholic drinks, hot drinks, snacks, maybe lunch.
- Folding chair, tarp, pop-up shelter, car, truck, van, RV as appropriate.
- Bear spray, air horn, whistle

How do I carry my HT?

There are a number of ways. Clipped on a belt is not the best because your body shields the antenna. You can hold it in your hand or use a chest harness. Maybe a chest pocket in a jacket. I have a pack with plastic “D” rings on the shoulder strap that I can clip a radio to. Drink pocket on the arm of your folding chair.

What happens on the radio?

There might be some chatter on the radio an hour before the event start. Feel free to check in.

About half an hour before the event starts, Net Control will start the Net. It will start with an announcement, and then a roll call. Finish line folks might not show up for another hour.

We usually use “tactical call signs” during an event. Use your tactical call sign. If you are done talking, you can finish with <your call sign> to signify that you are done.

You will usually go through Net Control for your transmissions.

Let's say that you are at Goose Lake and the first runner with bib number 351 has just ran by.

"Net Control, Goose Lake"

"Goose Lake, go ahead."

"Net Control, the first runner with bib number 351 just went by, <your call sign>"

"Bib number 351, Thank you Goose Lake"

If you are trying to keep track of bib numbers, write down the time and the bib number. If it's been busy on the net you might have to call in with the time and bib number. I also had a case where a runner resigned from the race at the location I was at. About three hours later I heard that they were looking for that person, because he never finished. Since I had the time and bib number written down, I was able to cancel the search, or at least limit it.

What if someone is hurt?

It is up to your judgment to determine if you are going to call Net Control or 911 first.



Most of our events have paramedics available on the course. They are available to treat an injury, but they do not do emergency transport. If it's a minor injury, we can call a paramedic in. If it's a major injury, call 911. If it's major, we call in the

professionals. You are the one that can answer questions about the incident better than Net Control.

After calling 911, call Net Control we might be able to get our paramedics on scene faster than the Fire Department because we are closer. On the radio we will respect the privacy of the patient, no names, no bib numbers, no detailed descriptions "short female, purple hair, Barney the dinosaur t-shirt". Use a cell phone call to Net Control for private medical information.

When can I go home?

The end of the event is a bit tricky to predict. The red lantern might not be the slowest person on the course that day, but they are the slowest at the end of the day. On an all day event, if we have a ton of volunteers, we can schedule two people for the morning, and two people for the afternoon. Sometimes we only get one person for a location. We usually have a sweep of some sort to follow the last person in. We want to make sure that everyone that started the event finishes.

As the sweep goes by, report the red lantern and sweep to Net Control. Net Control will thank you for your service and release you to go home. Should you need to leave early, please check out with Net Control. Stuff happens, and we are volunteers.

Any other questions or comments?

73 – Walter Yankauskas – KL7WY – cell 907-351-3992
walteryak at gmail.com

Current Service Volunteer Opportunities

It's spring, and it's time to get outside and exercise your technique and your equipment by helping out some local charities with communications support. There is almost no better practice available for disaster Emergency Communications (EmComm) operations than a live sporting event! The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club needs volunteers.

Please volunteer for one or more of the upcoming events:



Saturday, June 11, 2022

Alaska Run for Women

More info at: <https://kl7aa.org/alaska-run-for-women-2022/>

To raise money for and awareness of breast cancer and women's health, and to showcase the talents of Alaska's women athletes.

[Click here to SignUp for the AKRFW](#)

Contact: Walter Yankauskas – KL7WY Cell: 907-351-3992 walteryak@gmail.com

Southcentral Simplex Net

Net Manager: TJ Sheffield, KL7TS

The South-Central Simplex Net (SCSN) is held every Wednesday at 7:00PM, local Alaska time. The purpose of the Net is to test equipment, encourage station and operator capability upgrades, and to utilize the frequencies available to the Amateur Radio Service.

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) involvement with the SCSN began in June, 2020 when long-time host and Net founder John Lynn, KL7CY, with assistance from Craig Bledsoe, KL7H suggested the AARC take over operations.

The original Net date and time, on Tuesday at 8:00PM, was changed to Wednesdays at 7:00PM to reduce schedule conflicts among operators.

During the initial COVID-19 outbreak, the Net was run by a distributed group of Net Control Stations (NCS) from their home stations.

At present, the Net originates from the Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) with a "skeleton crew" of two operators: Club President Richard Tweet, KL2AZ and Club Vice President TJ Sheffield, KL7TS. In addition, distributed NCS operators continue to be utilized and are much appreciated.

A spreadsheet reflecting Net participation is available.

The SCSN opens on 146.52 MHz, but changes frequencies and modes as the net progresses. The Net returns to 146.52 MHz after each band / mode excursion.

The Net operates in the following sequence:

146.520 MHz FM

144.200 MHz USB

145.670 MHz D-Star

446.000 MHz FM (alternative frequency being investigated)

432.200 MHz USB

441.000 MHz D-Star

1294.5 MHz FM

1296.1 MHz USB

1294.3 MHz D-Star

223.5 MHz FM

52.525 MHz FM

50.125 MHz USB

29.600 MHz FM

28.400 MHz USB

29.075 MHz AM

27.035 MHz USB (CB Channel 07)

927.500 MHz FM

144.390 MHz FM (APRS check-ins at any time during the Net)

Packet Radio check-ins on the Eagle and Valley nodes are recognized.

[See the Southcentral Net Log here](#)

Southcentral Net Summary:

SOUTH CENTRAL SIMPLEX NET - 2022															
Sessions Frequency	4 JAN	4 FEB	5 MAR	4 APR	4 MAY	5 JUN	4 JUL	4 AUG	5 SEP	4 OCT	4 NOV	5 DEC	AVG WK	AVG MO	YR/YR MON Δ
146.52 FM	71	110	130	88	105								23.9	100.8	-7.4%
144.2 USB	42	46	74	50	55								12.6	53.4	-16.9%
145.67 D-Star	29	29	46	29	34								7.9	33.4	10.1%
446.0 FM	54	67	99	67	77								17.2	72.8	-2.9%
432.2 USB	41	43	72	48	53								12.1	51.4	-4.1%
441.0 D-Star	27	27	46	29	35								7.7	32.8	20.0%
1294.5 FM	18	18	27	18	25								5.0	21.2	17.8%
1296.1 USB	18	17	30	18	29								5.3	22.4	30.5%
1294.3 D-Star	18	13	28	17	27								4.9	20.6	53.5%
223.5 FM	44	40	61	37	44								10.7	45.2	4.5%
52.525 FM	26	40	50	37	39								9.1	38.4	0.0%
50.125 USB	32	46	58	39	44								10.4	43.8	-6.6%
29.6 FM	34	48	51	39	41								10.1	42.6	13.1%
28.4 USB	36	52	54	41	47								11.0	46.0	-3.7%
29.075 AM	35	43	48	38	41								9.8	41.0	2.9%
27.035 CB	22	38	45	31	33								8.0	33.8	7.6%
927.5 FM	14	14	20	13	21								3.9	16.4	10.6%
PACKET	13	9	16	15	20								3.5	14.6	-10.6%
APRS	26	25	32	22	28								6.3	26.6	-2.7%
TOTAL	600	725	987	676	798	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179.4	757.2	0.7%

Hamfest Happenings

There will be no Hamfest until we can find a new champion for such an event.

From the Blog

Please note Items in this section may be obsolete at the time of publishing or reading this newsletter. They are published here as a record of happenings and communications via our website blog. Items are published in the order they were published on our blog.

Wanna Make a Blog Post and Make the Newsletter?

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 16, 2022 @ 1:16 PM In Newsletters

By: Kent Petty
May 16, 2022

We welcome contributions of “content” to our website blog and newsletter. In case you hadn’t noticed, anything that lands on the website’s blog also gets published in our newsletter. Oh, yes, and it also gets pushed out to our Facebook page and Twitter pages. Further, members receive an e-mail to let them know about the post, and we even send out a notice on the KL7AA reflector to let folks know about it.

That said, if you’d like to make a post/article on something you find interesting yourself and believe it might be useful for other members of the club, please send your writeup to editor@kl7aa.org ^[1]. Include photos, etc. if you’d like, but please try to have them appropriately sized (compressed).

We’ll review your submission, and so long it is focused on the many facets of our hobby, not offensive, etc., etc., we will be happy to publish it.

Thanks and 73



FSD-157 – Walk MS: Anchorage 2022

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 16, 2022 @ 11:30 AM In FSD-157,Public Service

Communication support for the Walk MS: Anchorage 2022. Net control was located at the Anchorage ARC’s Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) located at 6721

Raspberry Road, Anchorage. The walk event was conducted from the Lakefront Anchorage Hotel (start/finish) and included a participant walk around the Lake's Hood and Spenard.

- Assignments included:
 - 1 person – Net Control
 - 1 person – Event Director Shadow
 - 3 people – 3 hydration stops
 - 1 person – SAG
- Places or areas involved: Anchorage, Alaska, Spenard, at the Lakefront Anchorage Hotel and around the perimeter of Lakes Hood and Spenard
- Number of amateurs participating: 6
- Event start date/time: May 14, 2022 / 0830L
- Event end date/time: May 14, 2022 / 1200L
- Duration of event (hours): 3.5
- Total person hours: 21
- Number of repeaters used: 0
- Estimated person-power cost (person-hours times \$19/hour): \$399
- Estimated cost of equipment used (handhelds, repeaters, vehicles, etc.): \$4,200
- Total estimated cost of service: \$4,599
- Nets and/or frequencies used (including repeater call signs): 146.49 MHz simplex
- Number of messages handled: Continuous tactical traffic
- Names of agencies receiving communications support: National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Call signs of amateurs who were major participants: KL2AZ, KL7MM, KL4RP, KL7ICB, K8OUA, KL5HZ

This communication support event was coordinated by Kent Petty, KL5T.

Equipment costs included estimated values of all HTs used, fixed/mobile/base stations, and fixed antennas.

Name of Amateur Radio organization providing service: Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Location of organization: Anchorage, Alaska

FSD-157 – Walk for Hope – May 7, 2022

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 16, 2022 @ 8:13 AM In FSD-157,Public Service

Written by: Kent Petty, KL5T
May 16, 2022

What is an “FSD-157”? It is a Public Service Report that we submit to the ARRL to let them know about public service activities we as amateurs are engaged in. We can report the following:

- Communications Emergency: Amateurs supplied communications required to replace or supplement normal communications means.
- Alert: Amateurs were deployed for emergency communications, but emergency situation did not develop
- Special Exercise: Amateurs supplied communications for a parade, race, etc.
- Test or Drill: A training activity in which amateurs participated

Click here to learn more: <http://www.arrl.org/fsd-157-public-service-activity-report>

Following is an FSD-157 for the recent support we provided for the Walk for Hope:

Communications support for the 2022 Anchorage Walk & Roll for Hope. Net control was located at the Anchorage ARC's Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) located at 6721 Raspberry Road.

- Assignments included:
 - 1 person – Net Control
 - 1 person – Race Director Shadow
 - 6 people – 3 checkpoints with two operators at each
 - 2 people – Bike mobiles
- Places or areas involved: Anchorage, Alaska
- Number of amateurs participating: 10

- Event start date/time: May 7, 2022 / 0830L
- Event end date/time: May 7, 2022 / 1130L
- Duration of event (hours): 3
- Total person hours: 30
- Number of repeaters used: 1
- Estimated person-power cost (person-hours times \$19/hour): \$570
- Estimated cost of equipment used (handhelds, repeaters, vehicles, etc.): \$36,100
- Total estimated cost of service: \$36,670
- Nets and/or frequencies used (including repeater call signs): KL7AA Repeater, 146.34/94 MHz and 146.49 MHz simplex
- Number of messages handled: Continuous tactical traffic
- Names of agencies receiving communications support: Hope Community Resources
- Call signs of amateurs who were major participants: KL7MM, KL7TS, KL5T, N9AIG, KL4XQ, KL4RQ, KL4TO, KL7WY, AL7LN, WD6BMJ

This communication support event was coordinated by Keith Clark, KL7MM.

Equipment costs included estimated values of all HTs used, fixed/mobile/base stations, fixed antennas, the repeater, 2 bicycles, and our Mobile Telecommunications Vehicle (MTV).

There were 2 bike mobile stations used on this event operated by KL7TS and WD6BMJ.

Name of Amateur Radio organization providing service: Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Location of organization: Anchorage, Alaska



Gold Nugget Triathlon Volunteers needed

Posted By *Walter Yankauskas* On May 12, 2022 @ 12:41 PM In Public Service, Volunteer, Volunteer Opportunity

It's time to get outside and exercise your technique and your equipment by helping out some local charities with communications support. There is almost no better practice available for disaster Emergency Communications (EmComm) operations than a live sporting event! The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club needs volunteers.

Sunday, May 15, 2022 ^[1]

[Gold Nugget Triathlon](#) ^[2]

More info at: <https://kl7aa.org/gold-nugget-triathlon-2022/> ^[3]

The Gold Nugget Triathlon mission is dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through athletics. It is one of the largest women's triathlons in the US.

The full triathlon will start at Bartlett High School on Sunday with around 1,200 participants.

[Click Here to SignUp for the GNT](#) ^[4]

Contact: Walter Yankauskas – KL7WY Cell: 907-351-3992 walteryak@gmail.com ^[5]



CAP at the RSOC Happenings: AK-093 Lake Hood Spring 2022 Cadet Operations

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 12, 2022 @ 8:52 AM In CAP, Youth

By C/CMSgt Adler and C/SrA Ori



Shelter building in the north 40

4/5/22- This month's ES meeting was led by C/Lt Col. Padgett R. Cadets trekked through the snow away from the radio club, then split into two teams to build two shelters. After about 30 minutes of working, the cadets created two fantastic shelters.

4/12/22- This month's AE meeting, led by C/Lt Col. Ziesmer and C/A1C Bennett, had two main activities. The main lesson covered manned spacecraft and the history with it. The activity for the meeting was building Red Stone Rockets.



Cadets testing their Red Stone Rockets Photo Credit: C/Lt Col. Ziesmer



*Cadets putting bags together on April 19th Photo Credit:
Capt Karen Padgett.*

4/21-24/22-Region Cadet Comp.- Two Lake Hood Cadets joined the Birchwood Cadet Competition team to complete, along with Kodiak Squadron, in the Pacific Region Cadet Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Lake Hood Cadets tied for 2nd place on the written exam score out of all 54 competitors. Congratulations!

4/21-24/22-Region Cadet Comp.- Two Lake Hood Cadets joined the Birchwood Cadet Competition team to complete, along with Kodiak Squadron, in the Pacific Region Cadet Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Lake Hood Cadets tied for 2nd place on the written exam score out of all 54 competitors. Congratulations!

*C/Lt Col. Ziesmer and C/SrA Wegemer holding their certificate.
Photo Credit: Senior Member Kabealo*



Short Notice Public Service Comm Support Opportunity / Request

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 10, 2022 @ 6:45 PM In Events,Public Service |

By: Kent Petty, KL5T
Date: May 5, 2022

We've received a public service communications support request from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for this coming Saturday, May 14th. This is a relatively simple event to support and consists of a simple walk around Lakes Spenard and Hood. It starts and finishes at the Lakefront Hotel parking lot.

The walk starts at 1000L and according to the website ends at 1300L. The event coordinator would like us to assemble no later than 0930L

Volunteer needs:

- 1 Shadow
- 3 Waterdrop sites
- 1 SAG wagon
- 1 Net Control (we will run net control from the RSOC)

This is an exceptionally simple event to support and is a great opportunity for rookies. Here is a link to the map of the event: [https://assets.donordrive.com/mssociety/files/\\$cms\\$/100/4151.pdf](https://assets.donordrive.com/mssociety/files/cms/100/4151.pdf)

Please help us but signing up. We're using SignUp.com to organize our support for this event.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/XYEcSmE>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually. Send an e-mail to treasurer (at) kl7aa.org



Vanity Callsign Confusion – Notice of Dismissals? – DON'T PANIC

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 10, 2022 @ 11:49 AM In FCC Actions, License Testing, VEC |

By: Kent Petty, KL5T Chairman, Anchorage ARC VEC
Date: May 10, 2022

What happens to your old callsign when you are assigned your new Vanity callsign?
Well, what you would expect to happen....it is canceled by the FCC.

You will ALSO likely receive an e-mail from the FCC with the subject line:

FCC Dismissal of Application FN 0001112222

What is this all about? By the way, the "FN 0001112222" means "application File Number, then the 10-digit application number of your old license application for your old callsign....the one I provided here is just a fake".

The body of the email will read something like this (I've used fake names, FRN, file number, and callsign):

Applicant Name: John Doe
FRN: 0009998888
File Number: 0001112222
Call Sign: KL9WWW

This email is to notify you that the above referenced application was dismissed on 05/10/2022.

Your official dismissal letter, which includes the reason for your dismissal, is attached as a courtesy.

The link below provides access to the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), which provides the full range of available licensing tools, including application search, license search and online filing:

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/systems-utilities/universal-licensing-system>

If you require assistance or have questions regarding this application, please contact the ULS Licensing Support Center at (877) 480-3201, Option 2; TTY (717) 338-2824, or via the web at <https://esupport.fcc.gov/request.htm>.

Please do not respond to this e-mail, as this mailbox is not regularly monitored.

Regards,

Federal Communications Commission

The attached letter will look something like this:

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau**

NOTICE OF DISMISSAL

**Date: 05/10/2022
Reference Number: 6666666
File No.: 0001112222
Radio Service: HA
Call Sign: KL9WWW
Market Area:
FAC #:**

Re: JOHN DOE

Your application is in a dismissal status effective 05/07/2022 without prejudice in accordance with Section 1.934 of the Commission's Rules for the reason(s) indicated below. If you still wish to be licensed, you must file a new application, pay applicable fees, and include all required showings. If you currently hold a valid license, you may continue to operate under the parameters of that authorization.

If you are currently operating under authority provided by the Commission's Rules based on your submission of the above referenced application, you must immediately cease operation until such time as you come into compliance with the Rules.

Electronic filing is required. For information on how to file an application electronically, visit the website at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>. For additional assistance, you may visit the website at <http://esupport.fcc.gov>. You may also call the FCC at (877) 480-3201 (TTY 717-338-2824). To provide quality service and ensure security, all telephone calls are recorded.

The application was not amended within 60 days of the date shown on the Notice of Application Return letter; therefore, this application is hereby dismissed.

Pretty scary, right? And confusing, right? NOT TO WORRY. What this all boils down to is the simple fact that your OLD callsign is canceled. If you do a callsign lookup on the ULS with your current Vanity callsign, you'll find that it is (or should be) still active and valid. Here is a good link to look up your callsign: <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp> ^[1]

I have had more than one telephone call from concerned applicants thinking that all of their license privileges have been revoked. That's not the case, all should be well.

Happy operating.....73



FCC Solves License Application Problem

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 10, 2022 @ 11:17 AM In FCC Actions, License Testing, VEC

By: Kent Petty, KL5T, Chairman, Anchorage ARC VEC
Date: May 10, 2022

The FCC advised all Volunteer Examiners on Monday, May 10, 2022, that they have solved the technical issues with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system and process, and that EBF filing could resume. We immediately submitted the dozens of applications we had held and each seemed to process successfully. We know that the applicants are indeed receiving their e-mail message from the FCC directing them to pay their application fee and they most of the pending applicants have paid and had their callsigns issued.

As a reminder, once the FCC receives an application requiring payment of the \$35 fee, the applicant has 10 days to make this payment or the application will be “set aside”, which effectively means it is canceled.

The Anchorage ARC VEC continues to administer examinations all over Alaska, the United States, and even around the world. We test 2 – 3 times each day. To learn more about our remote testing program, visit our Remote Testing webpage here: <https://kl7aa.org/vec/remote-testing/> ^[1]

To see available test dates and times, go here: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/anchorage/remote> ^[2]

Race Day Volunteer Signup

Posted By *Walter Yankauskas* On May 5, 2022 @ 3:15 PM In EMCOMM,Public Service,Volunteer,Volunteer Opportunity

It is May 5th, and lots of events are starting up. It's time to get outside and exercise your technique and your equipment by helping out some local charities with communications support. There is almost no better practice available for disaster Emergency Communications (EmComm) operations than a live sporting event! The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club needs volunteers for the Gold Nugget Triathlon and the Alaska Run for Women.

Saturday, May 7, 2022

[53rd Annual Walk & Roll for Hope](#) ^[2]

The Walk & Roll for Hope has been a vital source of revenue for Hope for the last five decades, raising essential funds to augment the ever-growing unfunded needs that are fundamental to the continuation of quality programs and services. Hope needs your support now more than ever.



Keith has enough volunteers for this event.

Contact Keith Clark, KL7MM – aksunlite@aol.com ^[3]

Sunday, May 15, 2022

[Gold Nugget Triathlon](#)

More info at: <https://kl7aa.org/gold-nugget-triathlon-2022/>

The Gold Nugget Triathlon mission is dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through athletics. It is one of the largest women's triathlons in the US.

The full triathlon will start at Bartlett High School on Sunday with around 1,220 participants.

We need more help. There is no such thing as too many volunteers for this event. We have opportunities that range from just keeping an eye on the bicycles crossing over to Arctic Valley Road to being in the excitement of the finish line.

[Click Here to SignUp for the GNT](#)



Contact: Walter Yankauskas – KL7WY Cell: 907-351-3992 walteryak@gmail.com

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Alaska Run for Women

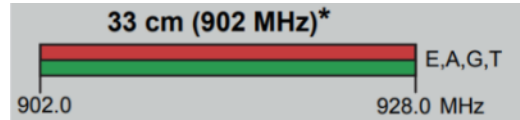
More info at: <https://kl7aa.org/alaska-run-for-women-2022/>

To raise money for and awareness of breast cancer and women's health, and to showcase the talents of Alaska's women athletes.



Click here to SignUp for the AKRFW

Contact: Walter Yankauskas – KL7WY Cell: 907-351-3992 walteryak@gmail.com



33cm Portable Operations in KL7CU's Driveway

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 5, 2022 @ 10:54 AM In 900 MHz,Antennas,Nets,RF Experiments

From: Craig Bledsoe, KL7H
May 5, 2022



Here are some photos that I took of Mike Masters, KL7CU, operating on 927.5 MHz FM during tonight's edition of the South Central Simplex net (SCSN). I had just received the commercial 33cm Yagi antenna on my front porch courtesy of a stealthy drop off by Scott Frost, KL4NU. To get all of this to work on short notice, we set up a tall tripod in the bed of Mike's pickup truck with the commercial Yagi professionally mounted to the top with wads of duct tape and counterbalanced by bungee cords.

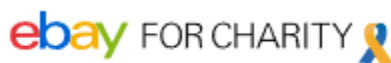
The Kenwood radio was sitting in the driver's seat as shown in two of the photos so that we could access 12VDC to run it from the cigarette lighter socket on board.

This was

a total kludge, but it worked! By the way, these photos were copied from Mike's cellphone, so I had to use Windows Photo Viewer to open and look at them.

73,

Craig, KL7H



Support Your Club with eBay for Charity

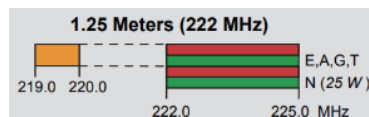
Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 3, 2022 @ 8:22 AM In Donations

Did you know that when you sell on eBay, you can designate up to 100% of the sale price to the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club? Indeed! It's part of the eBay for Charity program.

If you donate 10% or more, your item will feature an attention-grabbing charity ribbon on your eBay listing. It may even be listed in the eBay Charity Shop. You enjoy reduced seller fees and of course get the potential tax savings.

Check out this page: <https://www.ebayforcharity.org/get-involved/selling-for-a-charity/>

This is yet another great way to support your AARC and Radio Science and Operations Center!



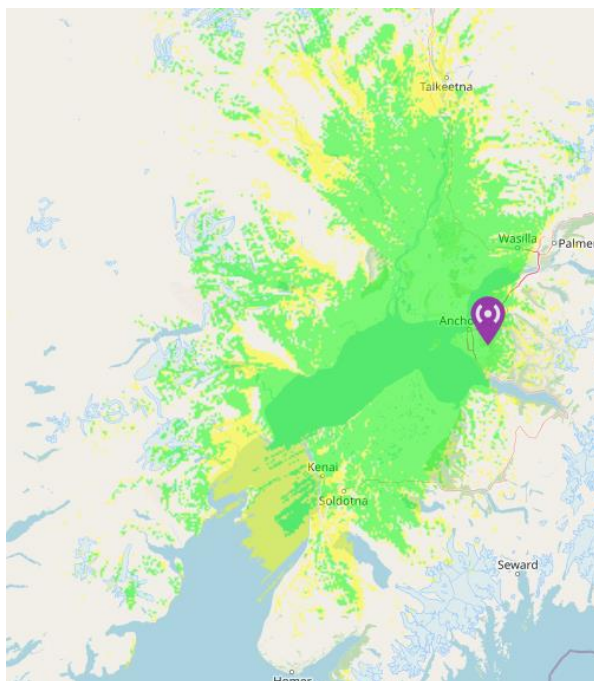
Antenna for 220 MHz Repeater Installed at Site

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 2, 2022 @ 3:30 PM In Repeaters

Written by: Kent Petty, KL5T

Date: May 2, 2022

The new antenna for the 220 MHz repeater has been installed at our Anchorage Hillside South site in preparation for deployment of the repeater. Thanks to the Elmendorf Amateur Radio Society (EARS) for donating this antenna.



New antenna for 220 MHz Repeater

We are currently working on power distribution solutions and are hopeful to have the repeater moved to its new home soon. See the image here for the expected coverage area of the repeater.

More to follow....



FCC Continues to Struggle – Puts All Application Submissions From VECs on Hold

Posted By *Kent Petty* On April 27, 2022 @ 8:17 PM In FCC Actions

By: Kent Petty, KL5T, Chairman, Anchorage ARC VEC
Written: April 27, 2022

The FCC continues to struggle to successfully implement the new \$35 amateur radio license fee assessment after nine days of trying.

Today, April 27, 2022, the FCC again requested that all Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) hold all license applications. In an e-mail sent to the VECs, the FCC advised, “We are currently experiencing technical issues with ULS EBF filings, we ask you refrain from submitting additional EBF files until the issues are resolved. We are urgently working to resolve the issues and will notify you when you can resume filing. Thank you for your cooperation.”

There appear to be a number of issues present. One of which is that applicants who have paid are not actually getting their callsigns issued. The issue is frustrating applicants and VECs alike. After more than two years of planning since the announcement made in the FCC Report and Order 20-184 on December 29, 2020, implementation of the fees on April 19, 2022, has unfortunately been more challenging than anyone anticipated.

We wait with bated breath for filing to resume and for callsigns to start flowing to new applicants from the FCC.



By: Kent Petty, KL5T – Published April 26, 2022

FCC Payment and Callsign Issuance Process

When you pass an amateur radio license examination with us, we prepare and submit a file to the FCC with the needed information for them to issue you your initial amateur radio license (callsign) or to upgrade your license. Effective April 19, 2022, the FCC requires a fee of \$35 for the issuance of a new license, or for the renewal of an existing license. The fee does not currently apply to license upgrades. **The \$35 fee is paid by YOU directly to the FCC**, and is in ADDITION to our testing fee.

HERE IS WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU PASS YOUR EXAMINATION

1. We submit your license application electronically to the FCC. If you tested on the weekend we will not submit your application until Monday morning to the FCC (they don't process on the weekends).
2. The FCC sends you an e-mail with a link to the FCC Payment System. BE SURE TO EXPECT THIS E-MAIL AND CHECK YOUR SPAM FOLDER. See note #1 below.
3. Within 10 days of the e-mail, follow the link and pay your fee. **BETTER TO PAY IT ASAP!** Use the username (your e-mail address) and password for your FCC account that you created when you got your FRN. When you get to the page, you want to select "To access CORES with an FCC Username, click here." Here is the link if you need it: https://apps2.fcc.gov/Batch_Filer/login.cfm See notes #2, #3, and #4 below.
4. Once your payment is processed by the FCC Payment System, your callsign should be generated and should appear in the ULS. The FCC claims they will email you a link to the official copy of your license at the close of the business day. AT PRESENT WE ARE NOTING THAT IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL DAYS FOR YOUR CALLSIGN TO BE ISSUED.
5. You can look up your application status on the FCC website. Go here and search for the application with your FRN or your name: <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/ULsApp/ApplicationSearch/searchAppl.jsp> There, you can see your application status. If it says "2-Pending", click on the "ADMIN" tab on top to see if there is a "Payment Confirmed" entry in the History section. If so, hold tight and wait. If you have indeed paid and it does NOT say "Payment Confirmed", we recommend you reach out to the FCC. See Note #5 below.

NOTES:

1. The e-mail you receive from the FCC will look like this:
From: federalcommunicationscommission@fcc.gov
Subj: Payment Required for the FCC License Application submitted on your behalf by Anchorage ARC VEC
2. If you answered “**YES**” to the Basic Qualification Question (Felony Question) on your application, you are also bound by its requirement to provide the FCC with the necessary explanation within 14 calendar days. See our webpage for information at: <https://kl7aa.org/what-if-i-answer-yes-to-the-felony-question/>
3. If the FCC does not receive your payment within 10 days, your application will be “**set aside**”, which means that it is ignored and will NOT be processed. If this happens, you must contact us to resubmit your application at which time, again, once received by the FCC, the 10-day clock starts. There is a \$15 fee for us to resubmit your application.
4. Please understand that the FCC grants some applications immediately and some that they place in an “**offlined**” status for further review, likely by a human. Once the FCC resolves any questions, your license will be granted. **WE CAN NOT HELP YOU WITH THIS AND WE NEVER KNOW WHY YOUR APPLICATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN OFFLINED...PLEASE DO NOT ASK US.**
5. You can call the ULS Licensing Support Center at 877.480.3201, Option 2. Alternatively, you can open a help ticket (Submit a help request) at their esupport page at <https://esupport.fcc.gov/request.htm>. Be sure to you your Application File Number handy if you call them or submit the help ticket.

Please understand that aside from submitting your license application to the FCC, **there is no way for us to help you with the FCC in their action or inaction to generate your callsign.** If there is a problem you must contact the ULS Licensing Support Center as indicated above in Note #5. **We can see no more than you can see when it comes to determining the status of your license application on the FCC ULS system.**

We need you to understand that this payment process and the subsequent issuance of your callsign is between you and the FCC. There is no way we can help you in this process. If you have confirmed that you indeed have a license application on file with the FCC, there is NOTHING we can help you with, so please do not contact us.

If you do notice that there is no application file pending for you with the FCC, please contact us a vec@kl7aa.org.



Anchorage 220 MHz Repeater Status Clarification

Posted By *Kent Petty* On April 23, 2022 @ 6:12 PM In Repeaters

By: Kent Petty, KL5T

Written: April 23, 2022

I mentioned in a post on April 20, 2022 that the new Anchorage Repeater was up for testing purposes and asked that users give it a go.

It seems some of our users don't seem to understand that the repeater is currently installed at the RSOC (6721 Raspberry Road) and is running at a reduced power setting. There have been observations that the coverage "is not as good as it used to be". This, of course, is expected given the repeater's current location and power setting.

We should be relocating the repeater to its new home at our Hillside South site, hosted by KL7QN. The repeater should have similar coverage to what it had when installed at our Glen Alps site.

So all, please be patient until we finish the shakedown cruise of the repeater to make sure we have the settings the way we want them before we deploy it.

Thanks

A Look Back

Here's a tidbit from an FCC insider back in the day. Larry Muse, KL7DH provided the following in our April 1979 newsletter....

SINCE I WORK AT THE FCC ANCHORAGE MONITORING STATION, I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT OTHER STUFF WE LISTEN TO. THIS IS A NON-BUREAUCRATIC LOOK AT SOME OF THE SERVICES WE LISTEN TO.

COMMERCIAL AVIATION FLIGHTS ACROSS THE NORTH PACIFIC KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ANCHORAGE AND TOKYO, MOSTLY ON 5580 AND 8939 KHZ. THE AIRCRAFT REPORT THEIR POSITIONS AND LOCAL WEATHER AND HEADINGS.

ALL THE FISHING BOATS OUT OF KODIAK MUST HAVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH FISHERIES, THE COAST GUARD AND HOME BASES. THEY DO IT MOSTLY ON 4125 AND 4143.6 KHZ. WBH29 IS A WELL KNOWN LADY IN KODIAK ON 4125 KHZ. SHE READS THE WEATHER REPORT EVERY MORNING AT 8 AM. KMI IN SAN FRANCISCO RUNS PHONE PATCHES FOR PEOPLE ON THE HIGH SEAS. THIS IS JUST LIKE LISTENING TO A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, BUT YOU NEED TWO RADIOS FOR IT, BECAUSE THE BOATS TRANSMIT ABOUT 770 KHZ LOWER THAN THE COAST STATIONS.

EVERYBODY FROM ALBANIA TO ZAMBIA ~~WAXXX~~ PACK THE SHORT WAVE BROADCAST BANDS, EACH TOOTING THEIR HORN AND GIVING THEIR VERSION OF THE NEWS. THERE IS TALK OF EXPANDING THE SWBC BANDS AT WARC, AND SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND ARE TRYING SSB. CHINA AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES STILL JAM SOME BROADCASTS.

CITIZENS BAND, THE EVER-- CONTROVERSIAL 11 METER BAND, IS ALIVE AND KICKING IN ANCHORAGE. IT DOES SERVE A PURPOSE AS A LOCAL TWO WAY RADIO SERVICE FOR NON-TECHNICAL PEOPLE, AND AS A PARTY LINE FOR NIGHT OWLS WHO LIKE TO TALK TILL ALL HOURS OF THE MORNING. REACT DOES A FINE JOB OF HANDLING EMERGENCIES ON CHANNEL 9. FOR THOSE WHO WORK ABOVE CHANNEL 40, THE FINES AVERAGE \$300 IF THEY GET CAUGHT.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY BANDS 150-162 AND 450-470, GET CLOSE SCRUTINY FROM FCC BECAUSE OF THEIR IMPORTANCE. THIS INCLUDES POLICE, FIRE, HOSPITAL, CONSTRUCTION FIRMS, FUEL SERVICE, TAXI, AND LOTS MORE. A STATION WITH SPURS IN THIS SERVICE CAN WIPE OUT 20 CHANNELS.

LARRY MUSE KL7DH

RSOC Operations

Here is an example of some work conducted recently at the RSOC.....

Recent RSOC Operations include maintenance on the John Deere 1445 Series II Front Mower.

Dave Webb, N9AIG and TJ Sheffield, KL7TS participated in this seasonal activity. Dave, N9AIG printed out the owner's manual and put it in a binder for future reference. The binder includes the operating manual, sales receipts, and notes on performance and maintenance.

The three (3) mower cutting blades were changed out, and last year's sharpened blades were installed. The mower blades were sharpened by a commercial enterprise, which was paid for out-of-pocket by Club President Richard Tweet, KL2AZ. The dull blades, that have been removed, require sharpening so they are ready for next season.

Engine oil, antifreeze and transmission gear oil were all checked and deemed acceptable.

The power-take-off (PTO) gearbox level access plugs were pulled and the gear oil checked (and topped off) with GL-5 gear lube. All grease zerks (except one) were lubricated with John Deere (factory approved) grease. All maintenance materials (i.e. filters, belts, engine oil, grease, grease guns, antifreeze, distilled water, gear oil, etc) were purchased out-of-pocket by Board Member Dave Webb, N9AIG.



N9AIG changing blades

The PTO shaft safety cover was investigated. This sliding, two-piece safety cover is preventing good access to the final grease zerk on the front PTO shaft U-joint. More work is needed on this challenge.



The PTO gearbox safety cover shroud had two mounting bolts with beat-up threads. The KL7TS tap-and-die set was brought in and used to chase the threads on two 10mm x 1.50 bolts. A 10mm x 1.50 center-tap was used to clean up one side of the gearbox safety cover mounting holes. The re-worked bolts and mounting hole threads now perform as expected.

The mower deck serpentine belt cover was removed and the belt tensioning system inspected. The tension adjustment hold-down bolts

were loose and insufficient tension was being applied to the serpentine belt. The

tensioning screw had some beat-up threads, so the tap-and-die set was used to chase the threads, and the tensioning nut now works properly, however, there is still more work to go on this system.

The mower deck undercarriage was scraped clean and layers of built-up organics removed. The mower side panel access plates were removed, cleaned and inspected. The cabin glass was cleaned with Windex. A combination of shop-vac and compressed air was used to remove (and disperse) a large quantity of trapped and/or built-up dirt, dust and organics.

The work took from 0900 to 1800, with time off for lunch, which included a vehicle excursion to fetch the tap-and-die set.

Photos can be found on KL7AA Shared Google Drives:

RSOC Operations / 2022 Mowing Season

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zu63n6u0xbynVGI380I40XS4tSnZWGx7>

TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
Station Manager
Radio Science and Operations Center
Anchorage, Alaska

Heavy Rolling Stock

The Club is fortunate to have rolling stock ready for emergencies and to deploy for public service events.

Spring is time to give our rolling stock the once over to make sure we are ready for any either of those activities and to start projects to improve their readiness.

The first order of business is to check all 5 vehicles for proper tire inflation. Since we activated the MTV for the Walk and Roll for Hope and the Women's Gold Nugget Triathlon those tires are taken care of.

As well as air in the tires, several need washing and cleaning inside. The MTV has been washed and windows cleaned inside. Still needs a bit more work but is presentable now to be used at public service events. If you care to help with any upkeep or maintenance on the vehicles please let me know.

Keith, KL7MM – trustee@kl7aa.org

Battery Lab

Written by: Dave (Batman) N9AIG

May 17, 2022

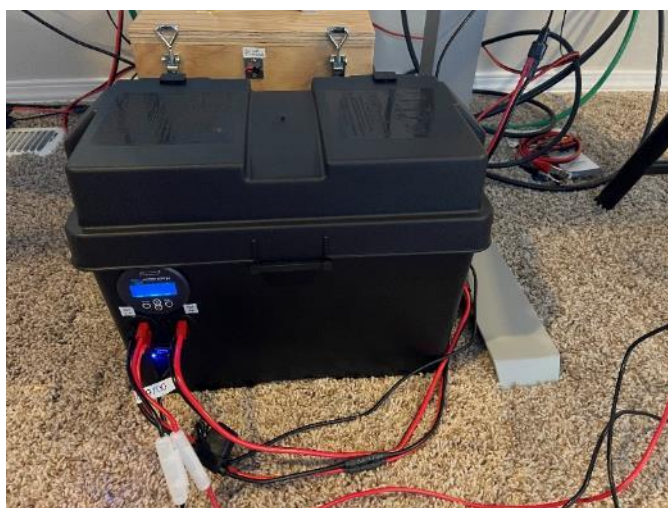
Need a battery you have load tested? Click here: ["Request Battery Analysis"](#)

Here's a refresh for upcoming projects for the battery lab:

1. The South operating station AC is powered from a 3000VA APC UPS with an external battery pack. The four (4) Deka brand batteries are rated 45 Ah at a 20-hour rate of discharge. I've been noticing that these batteries are getting slightly warm to the touch so they will have to be replaced in the not-so-distant future. I know Batteries Plus carries a similar battery rated 55 Ah from Duracell that will work nicely. I must find the time to change these batteries out.
2. The battery lab has a 12 V battery manufactured by Absolyte. This 1200 Ah battery is a real beast that we recently placed on machinery rollers. The current plan is to assemble a 50' cable from the battery (temporary location in our museum) to the North operating station to use upon loss of utility power and to tide us over until we get one of our diesel generator sets deployed.

Completed projects:

1. The Enduro battery box was completed. This is the battery box described in the last newsletter. I've used it during simplex Wednesdays, and I only use about 2 Ah out of a 100 Ah battery. I only have two radios on it and most of the time operating on Wednesdays, the radios are in a receive mode. Here's a picture of the finished product:



LoRa System

This area reserved for LoRa System Manager, KL4QH

Robust Packet Gateway

This area reserved for Robust Packet Gateway Manger, KL1V

Club Repeaters

The club owns and operates 6 voice repeaters, including 5 analogue and 1 digital voice repeater. Following is their info and status from south to north:

2-Meters – “Glen Alps” repeater site

- Location: Below Flat Top Mountain, just above the Flat Top trail parking area.
- Mode: Analogue FM
- Callsign: KL7AA
- Transmit Freq: 146.94 MHz
- Receive Freq: 146.34 MHz
- Tone: 103.5 Hz
- Status: Fully Operational

220 / 1.25 - Meters – “Glen Alps” repeater site

- Location: Below Flat Top Mountain, just above the Flat Top trail parking area.
- Mode: Analogue FM
- Callsign: KL7AA
- Transmit Freq: 224.94 MHz
- Receive Freq: 223.34 MHz
- Tone: None
- Status: New repeater is operational from the RSOC for testing and burn-in. The new repeater antenna has been installed at the repeater site. Repeater power control solution in progress.

440 / 70-Centimeters – “Glen Alps” repeater site

- Location: Below Flat Top Mountain, just above the Flat Top trail parking area.
- Mode: Analogue FM
- Callsign: KL7AA
- Transmit Freq: 444.70 MHz
- Receive Freq: 449.70 MHz
- Tone: 103.5 Hz
- Status: Operational but degraded due to use of an alternate antenna system.

440 / 70 Centimeters – “Hillside South” repeater site

- Location: On the south Anchorage hillside to the north of Flat Top Mountain.
- Mode: Digital FM - DMR and DStar
- Callsign: KL7AA
- Transmit Freq: 444.20 MHz
- Receive Freq: 449.20 MHz
- DMR Info:
 - Color Code: 1
 - Timeslot 1 (TS1): Open for any Brandmeister (BM) dynamic talk group
 - Timeslot 2 (TS2): Static talkgroups are Alaska Statewide (3102) and Anchorage (311181) full time. Please do NOT activate any other talk groups on TS2.
- DStar info:
 - RPT1: KL7AA B
 - RPT 2: KL7AA G
 - Not linked to any reflector by default. Access to all reflectors and XLX modules is permitted.
- Status: Fully operational

2-Meters – “Grubstake” repeater site

- Location: Hatcher Pass
- Mode: Analogue FM
- Callsign: WL7CVG
- Transmit Freq: 147.33 MHz
- Receive Freq: 147.93 MHz
- Tone: 103.5 Hz
- Features: Cross-linked with the 443.9/448.9 repeater
- Status: Operational.

440 / 70 Centimeters – “Grubstake” repeater site

- Location: Hatcher Pass
- Mode: Analogue FM
- Callsign: WL7CVG

- Transmit Freq: 443.90 MHz
- Receive Freq: 448.90 MHz
- Tone: 103.5 Hz
- Features: Cross-linked with the 147.33/147.93 repeater
- Status: Operational.

Grubstake Repeaters Fund

Funded through Date: August 1, 2022

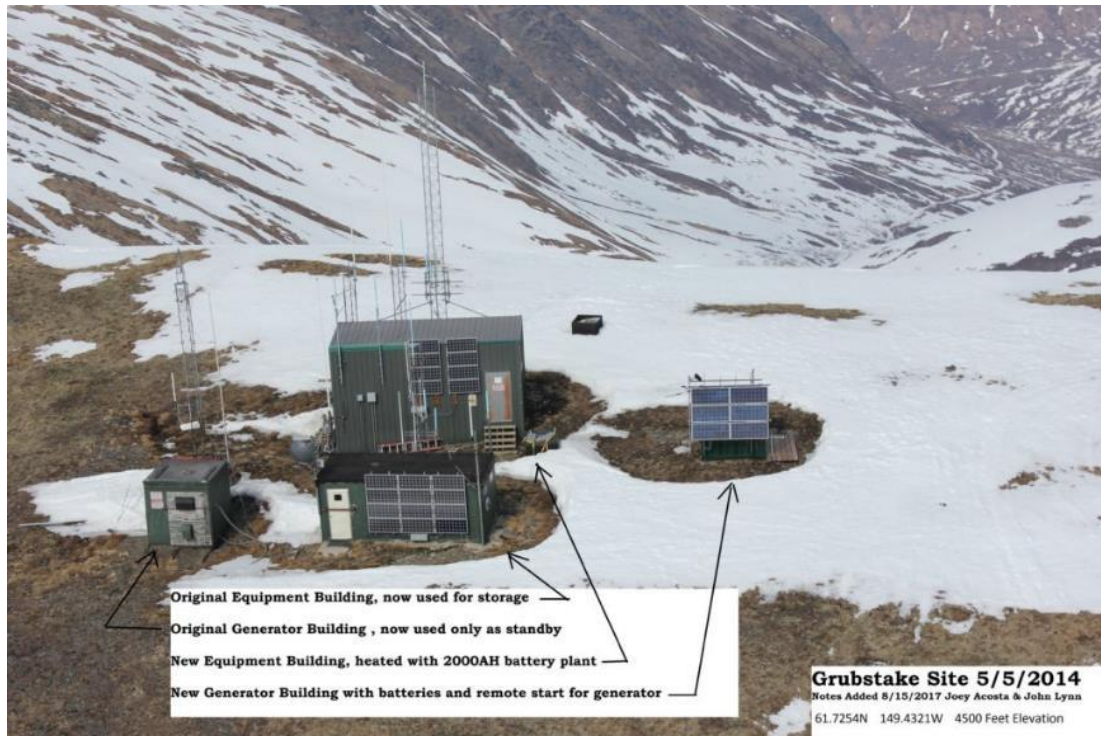
Donate to the Grubstake Repeater Fund: <https://kl7aa.org/product/grubstake/>

AARC currently funds the Grubstake wide-area repeaters, which provide coverage across the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and into Anchorage.

Frequency	Tone	Callsign	Features
147.33+	103.5	WL7CVG	Cross-banded to 443.900
443.90+	103.5	WL7CVG	Cross-banded to 147.33

As many of our members may know, these repeaters serve a very, very wide area. From far north in the Mat-Su Valley, to the Anchorage bowl, and even to the Kenai Peninsula, they serve us well. They are important for general ham service, but more importantly, they play a critical role from an emergency communications perspective. The weekly ARES net is even held on 147.33/83 repeater. If the repeaters are “turned off”, there’s no guarantee that they will be, or even can be, turned back on.

We ask for your support to keep the repeaters alive. We need on average about \$2,300 per year to operate these repeater systems (site rent is \$150 per month). So, if you believe these repeaters should be funded and kept alive, we ask you to contribute to help the effort. We also urge you to contact your friends and neighbors, hams and non-hams alike to help.



If sufficient funds are not available, the Grubstake wide-area repeaters will be shut down due to financial constraints. In addition to monthly rental charges, there is a premium charge for getting to the repeater site by helicopter when things go wrong or simply for annual inspection and maintenance.

Other Area Repeaters

Following is information regarding other repeaters in the area:

Frequency	Shift	Tone	Callsign	Location
146.67 MHz	- 600 kHz	103.5	KL7AIR	Elmendorf AFB
146.85 MHz	- 600 kHz	103.5	KL7JFU	Mat-Su
146.79 MHz	- 600 kHz	100.0	KL4RCS	Mat-su
147.30 MHz	+ 600 kHz	141.3	KL7ION	Anchorage
443.80 MHz	+ 5 MHz	DMR TG 3102 TS 1 CC 1	KL7JFU	Wasilla

AARC Mesh Network



Site Summit MESH Node Overlooking Anchorage

Our ARDN Mesh network continues to function exceptionally. However, we do have a node down at the former Fire Station 2 at Anchorage Int'l Airport. Replacement equipment is in hand and simply needs to be installed. We also have an intermittent connection at the node at the Anchorage Senior Center. This node likely needs to be realigned. Other than that, the Mesh continues to serve our Winlink RMS stations, our DMR repeater, our APRS I-Gate, and our VOIP telephone network, and our MeshChat/File server.

We urge you to visit the AREDN website at www.arednmesh.org to learn more.

DMR / DStar Repeater

Are you new to DMR, or thinking about getting into DMR? John S. Burningham, W2XAB has DMR primer book out titled, "Amateur Radio Guide to Digital Mobile Radio, 2nd Edition". John provides an excellent explanation of the many new terms and concepts related to digital voice communications. The book is free for download here: <http://guide.k4usd.org>

Remember, the Anchorage ARC operates a DMR repeater located on the South Anchorage hillside. Actually, the repeater will ALSO operate on DStar. Here are the particulars:

Repeater Receive Frequency: 444.20 MHz

Repeater Transmit Frequency: 444.90 MHz

DMR Info:

Color Code: 1

Timeslot 1: Open for any Brandmeister dynamic talk group

Timeslot 2: Alaska Statewide (TG 3102) and Anchorage (TG 311181) full time. Please do not activate any other talk groups on Timeslot 2

DStar Info:

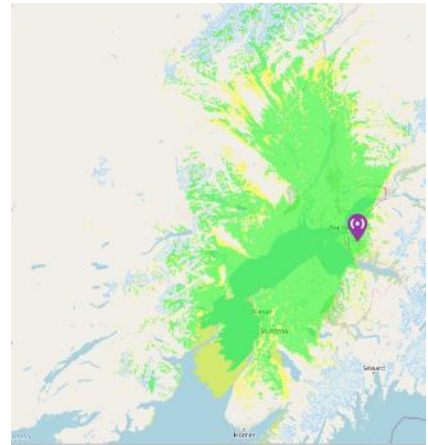
RPT1: KL7AA B

RPT 2: KL7AA G

Not linked to any reflector by default. Access to all reflectors and XLX modules is permitted

And here is an estimated coverage map for the repeater:

If you are interested in DMR gear, CQ Radios offers excellent deals on AnyTone radios as well as excellent hotspots. The AARC is an Affiliate Partner with CQ Radios. Use our discount code of "AARC10" at checkout to get a 10% discount. This will also benefit the club! Here is their main page: <https://cqradios.com/>



AARC Frequency Utilization Plan (FUP)

Many members, especially new members to the area, often ask about frequency usage here in Anchorage. They are typically most interested 2-meters and 440 MHz FM. The club has been using and updating a Frequency Utilization Plan, or "FUP", for quite some time to help us standardize operations and even memory assignments on our radios. This plan is based on the Southeast Repeater Association (SERA) band plans.

Our current FUP for 2-meters and 440 MHz is available here as an Excel file and as a PDF (see the links below). Please note that in no way or form are we suggesting that this setup must be used by anyone; it is simply a guide we follow as a club (especially for local EMCOMM work) and have found it useful to help keep things organized in our area. If there are obvious errors noted, please let us know.

Current FUP in Excel format:

<https://kl7aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-10-26-AARC-144-and-440-MHz-Frequency-Utilication-Plan.xlsx>

Current FUP in PDF format

<https://kl7aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-10-26-AARC-144-and-440-MHz-Frequency-Utilication-Plan.pdf>

APRS Digipeater / Gateway



The AARC, EARS, and MARA all support [APRS](#) in our local area. The AARC operates an APRS Digipeater / I-Gate at our Hillside South site (KL7QN's residence) which is linked to the internet via our MESH network. EARS operates a Digi / I-Gate from their club station on Elmendorf AFB, and MARA operates a Digi in the Valley. As with all APRS activities, the operating frequency is 144.39 MHz.



Kevin Opalka, KL1V, has graciously agreed to be our APRS guru. Feel free to reach out to Kevin at [aprs \(at\) kl7aa.net](mailto:aprs@kl7aa.net).

Swap & Shop

Yaesu FT290RII

Contact: John Marton, AL7LN, 907.947.7906, jhm@alaska.net

Yaesu FT290RII: I haven't been on the air with this unit for many years, but it should still work. Includes the battery case which has signs of some leaking batteries in it at one time. Asking \$125; no manual for it. Still have the original box for what that's worth.

Yaesu FT 290RII (Pic and info from Universal Radios website (<https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hammulti/ft290rii.html#feature>))

Crank-up Tower Wanted

Victor Ladeira, AL3K is in need of a crank-up tower. 20'-60' would be great. Any information on who or where to find one would be great!

73's,

Victor Laderia, AL3K
E-mail: victorladeira@hotmail.com
Phone: (907) 744-6249

VEC Report

The FCC implemented the new \$35 amateur license fee on April 19, 2022....well, that is, at least they tried to implement it. Turns out they have had some sort of glitch in their system and it didn't work successfully until May 10, 2022.

For those that don't know, the new \$35 fee applies to new licenses, license renewals, and vanity callsign applications. There is no fee for simple administrative updates (such as contact information updates) or for license upgrades. Here is how it is supposed to work for new license testing in a nutshell:

1. Take and pass your examination
2. VEC makes submission to FCC

3. FCC processes the application then sends an e-mail to the applicant telling them that they have received the application and it is time to pay the FCC \$35 fee.
4. Applicant logs on to CORES with their FRN info
5. Applicant pays the fee which is their waiting for them after they log in.
6. License is generated (typically overnight, within 24 hours after payment).

MORE TIDBITS ABOUT THE ANCHORAGE ARC VEC.....

Did you know that the Anchorage ARC Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) was the first VEC in the nation on February 27, 1984? Check this out:



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

2603

News media information 202/254-7674. Recorded listing of releases and texts 202/632-0002.

February 27, 1984

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NAMED FIRST VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COORDINATOR

The Commission has appointed the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Anchorage, Alaska, as its first volunteer examiner coordinator (VEC). In a new program authorized December 1, 1983, examinations for amateur operator licenses, above the Novice Class, may be given by volunteer examiners drawn from the private sector. VEC's accredit the volunteers who will administer the examinations and coordinate the entire program in a specific region. The Anchorage club had contacted the Commission on December 6, 1983, requesting appointment as a VEC for the State of Alaska, FCC's Region 11.

Also named as VEC's were the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, Dayton, Ohio (Region 8); DeVry Amateur Radio Society, Chicago, Illinois (Region 9); Director, Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), Cidra, Puerto Rico (Region 12); and Metroplex Amateur Communications Association, Leonia, New Jersey (Region 2).

Qualified amateur radio operators who wish to volunteer their services as examiners may contact the newly-appointed VEC's directly for accreditation.

Announcement of VEC's for other FCC regions will be made upon their appointment.

- FCC -

For information call John Small at (202) 632-4964

Now, down to business:

We are still conducting nearly all of our examinations via "remote" means and are testing folks all over the country and even all over the world. Sessions are being held two to three times daily from Monday through Saturday. We do hope that we can also start to add in-person sessions soon, but COVID has us by the tail still, although the end of the tunnel may be approaching.

Here are the stats for 2022 thus far (as of mid-day, May 31, 2022):

- Number of Sessions: 570
- Number of People Tested: 577
- Number of New Licenses: 378
- Number of Upgraded Licenses: 179
- Number of Passed Exams: 547
- Number Element 2 Passes: 378
- Number of Element 3 Passes: 146
- Number of Element 4 Passes: 53

Number of credential Anchorage ARC Volunteer Examiners: 95

Number of Anchorage ARC VEC volunteer hours: 3,935

Do you want to become a Volunteer Examiner (VE)? Here is the criteria:

- You must be at least 18 years of age;
- You must hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license of General, Advanced, or Extra class;
- Your license must have never been revoked or suspended for cause;
- If you intend to be part of our Remote VE team, you'll need to have a suitable computer with camera, microphone, and internet bandwidth to participate in "remote" exam sessions.
- If you intend to be part of an existing in-person VE team, you MUST be sponsored and approved by the Lead VE from an established team you will be serving with prior to applying (i.e. sponsorship) which means the existing team must be established and approved by the Anchorage ARC VEC Chairman; and
- You must agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth by the Anchorage ARC VEC

Check out the following page to read more about becoming a VE and to apply:

<https://kl7aa.org/vec/become-accredited/>

Donations – How To Support Us

The AARC / RSOC can't operate and maintain the resources we own without adequate funding. Expenses include rent for repeater sites, web and telephone services, Radio Science and Operations Center facility rent, insurance, vehicle and generator fuel, vehicle registration, etc.

We can accept tax-deductible donations as we are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We are happy to accept direct donations or contributions but are always exploring other ways to generate the needed income to fund our important activities.

Here are some ways you can support us:

- Donate cash here: <https://kl7aa.org/donations/cash/>
- Send us a check written to "AARC" mailed to:
AARC
PO Box 190192
Anchorage, AK 99519
- Donate a vehicle (even a non-running junker), or a 4-wheeler, or a snowmachine, or a boat, or an RV, etc., etc. How? Check this page out: <https://kl7aa.org/donations/aarc-rsoc-vehicle-donation-program/>
- Use Amazon Smile and Name the AARC as you charity. How? Check this page out: <https://kl7aa.org/donations/amazon-smile/>
- Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club under the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. How? Check this page out: <https://kl7aa.org/donations/fred-meyer-community-rewards/>

Our Partners

CQ Radios

AARC is an Affiliate Partner with CQ Radios Communication Products. CQ Radios offers a great selection of the latest Anytone radios and accessories and DMR hotspots for a great price. Plus, if you use the discount code of "AARC10" at checkout, you'll get a 10% discount on your purchase and benefit the club as well! <https://cqradios.com/>



SignalStuff

Signal Stuff provides the ExamTools system that we use to administer many of our exam sessions as well as the free study website HamStudy.org. All product sales go to support these products and sales using the affiliate link below also support AARC. Signal Stuff is the producer of the Super-Elastic Signal



Sticks for HTs, the Super-Elastic Signal Stalk for mobile use (NMO mount), and the Signal Staff Collapsible OSJ antenna for base use. They also have a small selection of high quality adapters. <https://signalstuff.com/?ref=3935>