



Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc. – KL7AA
Radio Science and Operations Center – KL7G
PO Box 190192
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99519



Tel: (907) 345-0719 website: <https://kl7aa.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kl7aa/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AnchorageARC> @AnchorageARC

NEWSLETTER

June 1, 2023



AARC – 76 Years of Service

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 Anti-discrimination Policy

Our Club does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Inc is a 501(c)(3) IRS Tax Exempt Charitable Organization (EIN: 23-7225693)

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How to Keep Tabs on the AARC / RSOC

Board Meetings

Held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. Meetings are held at the RSOC but are also hybrid with a Zoom component as well. Meetings are held at the RSOC but are also hybrid with a Zoom component for those unable to attend in-person. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings as visitors, and if you have an item to discuss, visitors are typically heard first. 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/>.

General Membership Meetings

Held on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7 pm. Meetings are held at the RSOC starting again on August 3, 2023, but are also hybrid with a Zoom component for those unable to attend in-person. 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 receive notice of the posting of our monthly newsletter via e-mail when it is published. If you are a member and you are NOT receiving these notices of the newsletter posting 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/>

WE NEED A PERMANENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR PLEASE!

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 668 followers (+23 from last report).

Twitter

Yes, we have a Twitter account, @AnchorageARC. Our blog posts show up there for sure. Right now we have 60 followers (+ 4 from last report).

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 150 current subscribers on the list (- 3 from last report)! 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"

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:

- [Pick.Click.Give.](#) 
- 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/>
- 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/>
- Purchase a beautiful club Challenge Coin here: <https://kl7aa.org/product/aarc-challenge-coin/> 
- If you sell on eBay, designate a portion, or all of the sale price to the club under the eBay for Charity program. Learn how here: <https://kl7aa.org/support-your-club-with-ebay-for-charity/>

Our Board of Directors

Position	Name	Call	Term Ends	Contact
President	Richard Tweet	KL2AZ	12/31/2024	President (at) kl7aa.org
Vice President	TJ Sheffield	KL7TS	12/31/2023	Vicepresident (at) kl7aa.org
Secretary	Lara Baker	AL2R	12/31/2024	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	12/31/2025	Kl4qh (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Walter Yankauskas	KL7WY	12/31/2025	Walter.yankauskas (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Riley Petty	KL4RP	12/31/2025	Riley.petty (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Dave Webb	N9AIG	12/31/2023	n9aig (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Matt Notte	WL4DX	12/31/2023	Matt.notte (at) kl7aa.org
Director	Louis Tozzi (Wigi)	KL0R	12/31/2023	Wigi.tozzi (at) kl7aa.org

From the Prez

By: Richard Tweet, KL2AZ, President

To paraphrase a famous quote.....

Ask not what my radio club can do for me, ask what I can do for my radio club.

In a word, **volunteer**.

For starters, we are now into the summer public service event season. 3 events have completed, all with gaps in radio club course volunteers. We provide an essential service to the community via these events and have a responsibility to deliver what we promise. Our shortage of volunteers has not been noticed, but we can do better! If you are able to spare some time on June 10th, July 22nd, or August 20th, please sign up for a spot on the KL7AA.org website. Links to volunteer are on the homepage.

If you are inexperienced, it is not a problem! You can be paired with an experienced volunteer and the event can become a fun and great teaching moment.

Other opportunities at the AARC facility (Radio Science and Operations Center) for volunteers include groundskeeping, general facility maintenance, vehicle maintenance, and other timely tasks.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the AARC Board has removed the masking requirement at the RSOC facility. Masking becomes voluntary and encouraged with this policy adoption. With this change, I expect to return to in-person meetings (although we will maintain the composite ability via Zoom). The only downside to large Zoom meetings is the low available bandwidth through our current internet service provider which results in choppy audio/video.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your club president and welcome any suggestions to make your club better. Feel free to email me at President@kl7aa.org.

Thank you and 73,

Richard Tweet KL2AZ
AARC President

Membership

Membership page: <https://kl7aa.org/aarc-membership/>

By: Kent Petty, KL5T, Treasurer

Annual individual dues for the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) (KL7AA) are \$20.00 for a calendar year and are due by **December 31st** for the next year. Additional household members can be added for \$10 per year. New and household member rates are pro-rated on a quarterly basis. Life memberships are also available; see the cost schedule below. Members who reside in the state of Alaska have voting rights at the General Membership meetings and elections for Officers and Directors. Contact Membership@KL7AA.org if you have questions about joining.

Student memberships are also available at NO COST for full-time students (primary, secondary, or college). Check our website or [Click here to apply for a student membership](#)

[Click here to update your contact info or to provide info on another member we have lost contact with](#)

NOTE: Members are considered “**REGULAR**” members or “**ASSOCIATE**” members. **Regular** members are those who hold a current valid amateur radio license. **Associate** members are those who do NOT hold a current valid amateur radio license. **Associate** members have the same rights of membership as **Regular** members, but they may not hold an elected or appointed office

You may also join the club at any meeting or by calling us at **(907) 345-0719** and leaving a message with your contact details.

Life Membership Cost:

Under 65 Years Old:	\$250
65-69 Years Old:	\$200
70-74 Years Old:	\$150
75-79 Years Old:	\$100
80-84 Years Old:	\$50
85 Years Old or Older:	\$1

Current Membership:

Lifetime:	154
Individual Annual:	92
Additional Household Member:	4
Associate:	2
Student:	8
Total:	260

I have been working on updating our Lifetime Membership Roster as there were some anomalies for several years. A couple things that failed to happen included a failure to assign Lifetime Membership Numbers to new Lifetime Members, as well as a failure to issue Lifetime Membership Certificates to those new Lifetime Members. As I reconstruct the old data, I am assigning Lifetime Membership numbers to all who did not have them, will issue Lifetime Membership Certificates to those members, and on a going-forward basis, keep our database and information current.

If you take a look at the Lifetime Membership Roster at the link above, you will notice that information is needed on several members. If you have information about those members or need to update your own membership contact information, please visit this page to fill out the form. This will be of great help! [Click here to get to the online form](#)

Face Mask Policy

Effective: June 1, 2023

Face Mask Policy

1. The AARC will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and recommendations relative to airborne communicable diseases (such as COVID-19). If additional state or local recommendations or mandates are levied, they shall be followed as applicable.
2. If mask use is recommended, the AARC will make face masks available. However, the AARC will not provide any elastomeric or similar respirators.
3. Anyone who wishes to wear a protective face mask or respirator at AARC facilities or in-person AARC activities is encouraged to do so.
4. Anyone who has been exposed to an airborne communicable disease is prohibited from visiting AARC facilities or participating at in-person AARC activities for a time period as indicated by CDC guidelines.
5. Anyone who has an airborne communicable disease is prohibited from visiting AARC facilities or participating at in-person AARC activities while the illness is transmittable.
6. Every disease has different characteristics, incubation periods, and transmissibility, so it is impossible to describe controls within this policy that are all inclusive. Good judgment must be used which includes guidelines recommended by the CDC and similar organizations.

Approved at Board Meeting on May 16, 2023.

Board deferred implementation date to the Development Committee

Development Committee set at date of implementation for June 1, 2023 at the committee meeting held on May 24, 2023.

CDC COVID-19 Status for the Municipality of Anchorage as of the writing of this newsletter:



Low

In **Anchorage Muny, Alaska**, the COVID-19 hospital admission level is **Low**.

- [Stay up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19.
- If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions

Public Service Activities

Members of the AARC provide communications and logistics support for a host of events throughout the year, but usually during the warm months. These events are usually a charity fund raising race or event. To learn more about HOW we actually support these events, how to prepare, and what to expect, visit our AARC Volunteer FAQ here: <https://kl7aa.org/public-service-activities/aarc-volunteer-faq/>

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

Current Service Volunteer Opportunities



Field Day, Saturday, June 24, 2023. Contact Kevin Opalka, KL1V at kevin.opalka@kl7aa.org.



Friends of Pets Dog Jog, Saturday, July 22, 2023. Contact TJ Sheffield, KL7TS at vicepresident@kl7aa.org.



Anchorage RunFest, Sunday, August 20, 2023. Contact Keith Clark, KL7MM at aksunlite@aol.com.

Hamfest Happenings

Many folks want us to have a Hamfest. Unfortunately, none of the folks we hear from are willing to step forward to champion such an event. Until a champion steps up, there will be no Hamfest. Are you willing to step up?

Let us know! Drop a message to info@kl7aa.org.

Elmers - Mentors

What is an Elmer?

Elmer – “Someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams and also to hams that are seeking personal assistance in specific areas of the amateur radio hobby.” — N2QOJ

Following is our Elmer registry. If you need help getting into the hobby or are already an amateur and need some help or advice, you can reach out to one or more of the folks listed below. Please remember, Elmers are volunteers so be respectful of their time! If you need help, please be flexible and reachable by the Elmer that you request.

Are you willing to “give back”? If so, become an Elmer yourself, please [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out a cool form to get you on this list!

Name	Call	Contact Info	Area of Expertise
Craig Bledsoe	KL7H	kl7h@arrl.net, (907) 694.4730	Amplifiers, Antennas, Basic Electronics, Direction Finding, D-Star, DXing, EME (Moon Bounce), Emergency Communications, Feedlines and Connectors, Filtering, General Amateur Info, General Electronics, General HF Ops, General VHF/UHF Ops, Grounding, HF Digital (other than Winlink), HF Propagation, License Exam Prep, License Testing, Logging, Microwave, Mobile Installations, Morse Code (CW), Power Supplies, QRP, Radio Theory, Repeaters, Satellites, Test Equipment, Towers, VHF/UHF Digital (other than Winlink), Winlink
Paul Fairchild	AL4G	paul.h.fairchild@gmail.com	Antennas, Basic Electronics, Feedlines and Connectors, License Exam Prep, Power Supplies, Towers, Mechanical/Electrical engineering, financial analysis, Petroleum and natural gas processing
Matt Nottle	WL4DX	wl4dx@outlook.com, 907.885.1185	Basic Electronics, DMR, D-Star, EchoLink / IRLP, Fusion, General Electronics, General VHF/UHF Ops, HF Digital (other than Winlink), License Exam Prep, Logging, Pi-Star, Portable Hotspots, code Plugs for DMR, Allstar Nodes
Kent Petty	KL5T	kent.petty@kl7aa.org	Antennas, APRS, Direction Finding, Emergency Communications, Feedlines and Connectors, General Amateur Info, General HF Ops, General VHF/UHF Ops, Grounding, HF Propagation, License Exam Prep, License Testing, MESH Networking, Mobile Installations, Morse Code (CW), Radio Theory, Repeaters, SHARES, VHF/UHF Digital (other than Winlink), Winlink

Major Projects

From the projects committee

NO INPUT RECEIVED

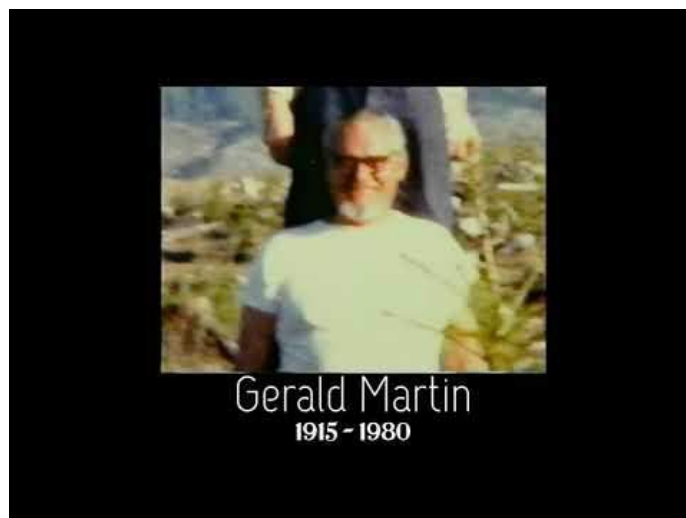
Hams at Mt St Helens

By: Tom Plawman, KL4RQ May 19, 2023

When Mt St Helens erupted on May 18, 1980 a total of 57 people died. Among those was an amateur radio operator and retired Navy radioman named Gerry Martin. He was working as a volunteer observer for the Washington Department of Emergency Services. On that day he was parked in his camper on a ridge about seven miles north of the mountain. Nearby where Martin was camped was some heavy logging equipment, but the loggers weren't working that day. Closer to the mountain, on the next ridge to the north was David Johnston, a geologist manning the "Coldwater II" observation post for the USGS. (Coldwater II was very close to the current observatory and visitors center.)

At 0832 on that morning a large earthquake shook the mountain, and started a huge landslide off the north side of Mt St Helens. Johnston got on his radio and announced in an excited but not panicked voice **"Vancouver, Vancouver. This is it!"** His message did not reach the USGS field office in Vancouver, but was heard and recorded by a ham. Getting no response, Johnston radioed again **"Vancouver, this is Johnston!"** A few seconds later, a massive lateral blast was directed northward towards Johnston and Martin. The lateral blast is believed to have traveled as much as 650 mph, at a temperature of 300 F.

From his vantage point a couple of miles north Gerry Martin radioed a description of what he was seeing to other hams who recorded the conversation. **"Now we've got a whole big eruption out of the crater. And we got another opened up on the west side. The whole west side northwest side is sliding down. Okay, boys, we got it boys, the northwest section and north section is blowing up, coming over the ridge towards me. I'm gonna back outta here."** Then **"Gentlemen, the uh, camper and car sitting over to the south of me is covered"** [referring to Johnston at Coldwater II] **"It's going to get me too. We can't get out of here."** Both Johnston and Martin died, probably almost instantly when the blast hit them. A few scattered fragments of Johnston's trailer were all that was found. Martin and his rig had completely disappeared. (In 2022 some engine parts were found eroding out of the pumice that may or may not be from Martin's camper.)



I've done a fair bit of hiking in that area and have hiked up the ridge where Martin was parked. On a nice day, the wildflowers are beautiful up there. And one can still see some of the wreckage of logging equipment, which clearly shows the immense power of that lateral blast.



One can see a large steel mobile spar used for logging, which has been bent like a pretzel!



This cat was jammed full of pumice and nearly buried. (Some old pictures show it crammed full of pumice, which has since eroded out.)



Further up the ridge is a cat which was overturned by the blast.



A view of Mt St Helens on a nice day from near the current visitor center. The lateral blast that killed Johnston and Martin came from what is now the crater area. It was aimed more or less directly towards the ridge this photo was taken from. Back in

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.

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. 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

Challenge Coins Up For Regular Sale

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 10, 2023 @ 8:24 PM



We had a great response to our offering of the new AARC / RSOC challenge coin for premium purchases for the serial number of your choice. It is now time to offer the remaining stock of 79 coins for normal sale. They are ready to go and will be issued out in serial number order, in the order received.

Coin price is \$21.51, which includes mailing costs to any location in the U.S.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER YOUR COIN NOW](#)

QST QST QST – In Person License Exam Session, Anchorage, May 24, 2023

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 11, 2023 @ 10:28 PM

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

If you want to want to upgrade your license by taking your exam in person in Anchorage, or, if you know a friend who has been studying for their license and wants to get their ticket or upgrade their existing license and take their exam in person, we'll be holding an in-person license exam session on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 6 PM Alaska Time.

Where: Radio Science and Operations Center
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska

PLEASE BRING: A simple calculator (if you need it for the exam)
PLEASE BRING: Photo ID

You'll need to register for the session here. Please follow all instructions. Here is the link:

<https://kl7aa.org/in-person-testing/>

Also, please remember that we offer remote testing twice daily, Monday through Saturday. Here is the link for our remote testing page:

<https://kl7aa.org/vec/remote-testing/>

In-person testing will be a great way for you to visit our exceptionally awesome Radio Science and Operations Center!

Hope to see you register!

73,

Kent Petty, KL5T, Chairman
Anchorage ARC VEC

RAFFLE – RAVN Alaska \$1,098 Flight Voucher Ending Soon!

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 11, 2023 @ 11:56 PM

The raffle drawing will be held on May 15 at 7 PM – GET YOU TICKETS NOW!

One of our members has donated a RAVN Alaska ticket voucher valued at **\$1,098** to the club to Raffle off as a fundraiser. This voucher is valid until July 15th, 2023, but so long as it is used by July 15th it can be used to purchase tickets for travel after July 15, 2023. We have contacted RAVN Alaska directly to confirm that this voucher can indeed be easily used to pay for RAVN tickets. You simply “pay” by entering the voucher code.

RAFFLE – RAVN Alaska \$1,098 Flight Ticket Voucher

— Voucher must be used by July 15, 2023, but can be used to purchase flights for AFTER July 15, 2023.

Date of Drawing: May 15, 2023, 7 PM Alaska Time – Electronically Online

Permittee / Permit No: Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Inc / Permit 191

Price: \$5.00 per ticket

Winner does not need to be present to win.

Maximum tickets: 500

[LINK TO AARC PERMIT](#)

RAVN currently flies to Anchorage, Kenai, Homer, Valdez, Aniak, Unalakleet, St. Paul Island, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Sand Point, and St. Mary's.

Important information:

Alaska Department of Revenue 2023 Charitable Gaming Permit Information:

Permit No: 191

Permittee: Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Inc, PO Box 190192, Anchorage, AK 99519-0192

Effective: 1/12/2023 – 12/31/2023 Raffle or Lottery

NOTE: Raffle ticket purchasers must certify that they are of legal purchasing age and that they are located in Alaska. They must further certify that they are not physically present in an area of Alaska that prohibits charitable gaming.

[**CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE YOUR
RAFFLE TICKETS NOW!**](#)

Raffle Winner Selected!

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 16, 2023 @ 6:52 AM

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

Allana Gustafson of Unalaska is the lucky winner of our raffle for the RAVN Alaska flight voucher! Congratulations Allana!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the raffle. It helped raise much-needed funds for our club.

Volunteer for the Gold Nugget Triathlon 2023

Posted By *Walter Yankauskas* On May 17, 2023 @ 12:15 PM

Sunday, May 21, 2023

It's time to get outside and exercise your technique and your equipment by helping out the Gold Nugget Triathlon with communications support. There is almost no better practice available for disaster Emergency Communications (EmComm) operations than a live sporting event!

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

We need someone to cover the Finish area at Pena Sports Fields.



[Gold Nugget Triathlon](#)

More info at: kl7aa.org – [Gold Nugget Triathlon 2023](#)

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](#)

Contact: Walter Yankauskas – KL7WY Cell: 907-351-3992 walteryak@gmail.com
[Walter Yankauskas](#)

Reviews of Bilal Isotron HF Antenna Wanted

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 24, 2023 @ 3:36 PM

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

By: Peter Kozup, K8OUA

Six and a half years ago my wife and I moved from Ohio to Alaska to be close to new grandchildren and to give their parents a bit of help. For financial reasons we were forced into a two-story condominium with the usual rules governing antennas, ie., none except for television antennas allowed. I tried a few stealth-type antennas, but I heard no one and to my knowledge, no one heard me. Now that band conditions are changing for the better, I am anxious to get on the air and work some CW.

I have found an antenna that is very small and could probably be hidden to allow me to get around HOA rules, possibly even from inside the condo. The antenna is moderately expensive, costing today about \$245 for a 20-meter and 40-meter model, plus another \$42 for shipping to Alaska. This model may also work on 15 meters, giving me three bands. There are 82 reviews of the Bilal Isotron on [eham.net](https://www.eham.net), and the average rating is 4 out of 5, not perfect but not too bad either.

I'm looking for someone who has used this antenna in Alaska and can give me a review of its performance as well as any other significant things about it, e.g., construction, service assistance, etc. I recently turned 80 years old, and this is probably my last sunspot maximum after about 65 years of hamming, so I'm anxious to get on the air.

Please email me at: peterkozup@gmail.com.

Thank you and 73,

Peter Kozup, K8OUA

Walk and Roll for Hope – 2023

Posted By *Walter Yankauskas* On May 27, 2023 @ 4:25 PM



On Saturday May 6th, 2023, the AARC helped [Hope Community Resources, Inc.](#) with their 54th Walk and Roll event. The AARC has a history with Hope Community Resources going back to at least 1972.

Hope Community Resources reached their goal of raising \$60,000 to fund quality programs and services for the individuals and families who choose our support. All funds raised help support Alaskans who experience an intellectual or developmental disability to live a full and meaningful life.

For 54 years, Hope has focused on removing barriers and building bridges to meaningful lives. The Walk & Roll for Hope has been a vital source of revenue all along, raising funds to augment the ever-growing needs that are fundamental to the continuation of quality programs and services for the people who choose our support.



Registration in progress. I'd say that there were over 100 participants. You can see the Civil Air Patrol in the background to the right.



The starting line just before the event.

This event is a fun fund-raising event. There is a suggested start time that happens when it happens.

Sometime after most of the people started walking and we had a sweep bike following them, a group that included 4 wheelchairs and 6 people wearing hats that almost looked like cowboy hats in primary colors that John Wayne never wore. They all lined up for pictures, and we were ready to pull back the sweep bike. It turned out that they were there to have fun and had no intention of leaving the block.



TJ Sheffield, KL7TS



Net Control: Lara Baker, AL2R and George



After the event: TJ Sheffield, KL7TS on bike, Keith Clark, KL7MM and Lara Baker, AL2R



Control vehicle. Fantastic Funguy – What else is there to say?



At the end of the event, I was asked to move one of the barricades at the end of the block. After watching “Smokey and the Bandit” and “The Blues Brothers”, I thought that I was quite familiar with these, although I had never actually moved one. The red and white boards are made out of corrugated plastic. The rest is steel, and makes a sound similar to fingernails on a blackboard when you drag them across pavement.

AARC Volunteers for the Walk and Roll for Hope:

- Lara Baker, AL2R
- Dave Webb, N9AIG
- TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
- Keith Clark, KL7MM
- Mark Sable, WD6BMJ
- Walter Yankauskas, KL7WY
- Chris Flores, KL4TO
- David Ustick, KI7KPB

Next year come on out and give a few hours of your time to help a great organization.

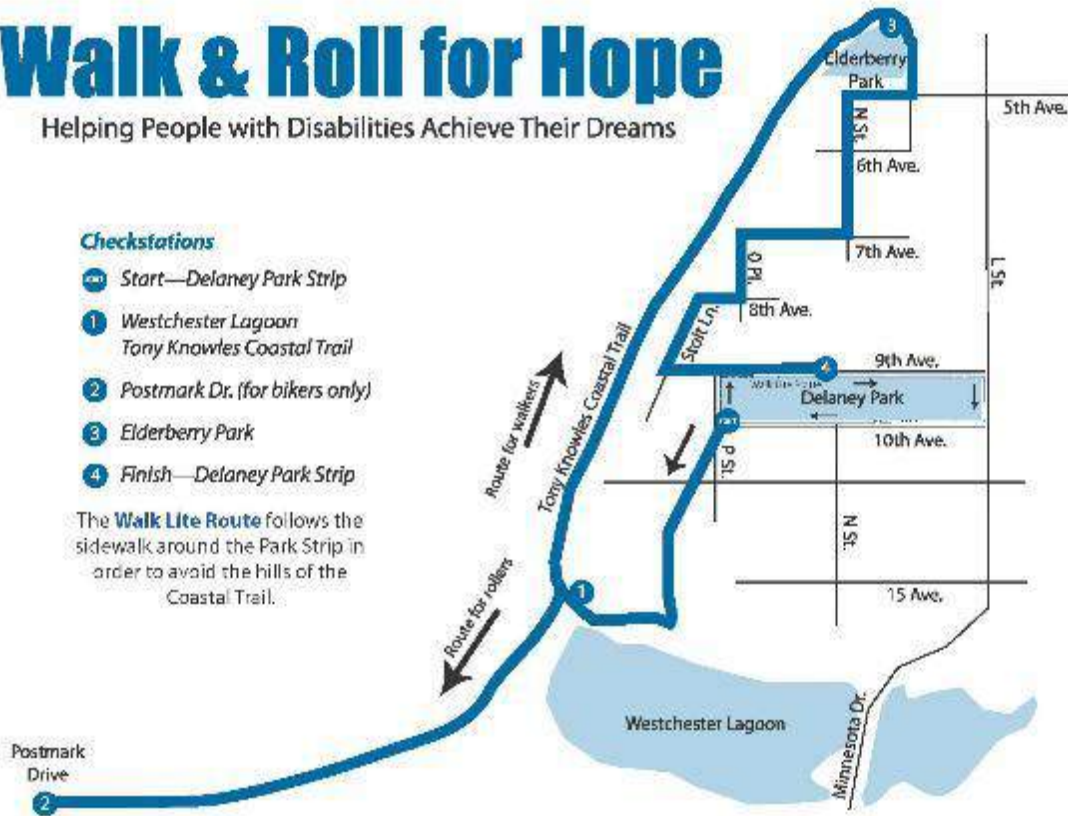
Walk & Roll for Hope

Helping People with Disabilities Achieve Their Dreams

Checkstations

- Start—Delaney Park Strip
- 1 Westchester Lagoon
Tony Knowles Coastal Trail
- 2 Postmark Dr. (for bikers only)
- 3 Elderberry Park
- 4 Finish—Delaney Park Strip

The **Walk Lite Route** follows the sidewalk around the Park Strip in order to avoid the hills of the Coastal Trail.



- [Walter Yankauskas](#)

Volunteer for the AKRFW '23

Posted By *Walter Yankauskas* On May 29, 2023 @ 11:48 AM

Please help support the [Alaska Run for Women 2023](#)



[Click here to Sign Up](#)

There is almost no better practice available for disaster EmComm operations than a live sporting event! We need people to staff some of the aid stations for a few hours on a Saturday morning.

This is a half-day event for over 2,000 participants. The event starts as a race, and ends as a party.



Figure 1 Runners Start around 9 AM. This is only a part of the racers

vents like the Alaska Run for Women allow AARC members to gain practical experience with EmComm operations to keep our skills sharp. Richard Tweet KL7AZ is going to be Net Control. He will be using the call sign KL7PMC, working out of the Providence H.C.C.. We plan on using our portable repeater from Providence. We will be coordinating with UPD and the Alaska Professional Volunteers (medics).

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 start, the race committee does not know what is happening on the course. The ham radio volunteers can 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.



We expect to be done before noon.

[More information at the AARC AKRFW page](#)

[Click here to Sign Up](#)

[Walter Yankauskas](#)

AARC Face Mask Policy Updated – Effective June 1, 2023

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 29, 2023 @ 1:17 PM

The AARC Board of Directors approved a new club Face Mask Policy at the Board Meeting held on May 16, 2023. It referred the implementation date to the Development Committee. At the May 24, 2023 Development Committee Meeting, an implementation date was set for June 1, 2023. The policy is as follows:

Face Mask Policy

1. The AARC will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and recommendations relative to airborne communicable diseases (such as COVID-19). If additional state or local recommendations or mandates are levied, they shall be followed as applicable.
2. If mask use is recommended, the AARC will make face masks available. However, the AARC will not provide any elastomeric or similar respirators.
3. Anyone who wishes to wear a protective face mask or respirator at AARC facilities or in-person AARC activities is encouraged to do so.
4. Anyone who has been exposed to an airborne communicable disease is prohibited from visiting AARC facilities or participating at in-person AARC activities for a time period as indicated by CDC guidelines.
5. Anyone who has an airborne communicable disease is prohibited from visiting AARC facilities or participating at in-person AARC activities while the illness is transmittable.
6. Every disease has different characteristics, incubation periods, and transmissibility, so it is impossible to describe controls within this policy that are all-inclusive. Good judgment must be used which includes guidelines recommended by the CDC and similar organizations.

The current CDC guidance regarding masks: People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#) when indoors in public. However, in accordance with our policy items 4 and 5, we ask that folks in these categories to please not visit the RSOC or participate in AARC activities where people congregate.

Hybrid Club Meetings to Start August 3, 2023

Posted By *Kent Petty* On May 29, 2023 @ 3:23 PM

With the removal of the masking RSOC masking policy, we expect to resume in-person meetings at the RSOC on Thursday, August 3. In truth, the meetings will be “hybrid”, with the ability to attend in-person or via Zoom.

We would have preferred to restart these on the June 1 meeting, but the individuals able to make the technology happen at the RSOC will not be able to attend in person. There will not be a July meeting (as is traditional), so the next meeting we will have a shot to get back to an in-person attendance will be for the August 3 meeting.

73,

Kent, KL5T

A Look Back

Here is a little note from the June 1972 newsletter regarding Field Day. Anyone willing to duplicate the effort this year?

FIELD DAY PICNIC

Sunday June 25, 1972 FIELD DAY PICNIC

The club is furnishing Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs Buns with trimmings; Potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, soda pop and coffee. We are also furnishing paper plates, cups and plastic utensils.

If you wish to bring another type salad or dessert it will be accepted. We recommend desserts be cake, cupcakes, cookies or brownies.

Entertainment (games, etc.) depends upon what you bring with you.

The most difficult meal for the average housewife to get - is dinner out.

Recurring Reports

RSOC Operations

Radio Science and Operations Center

Operations Update: 2023-05

Station Manager: TJ Sheffield, KL7TS



ACOM AMPLIFIER REPAIR

The Northwest Operating Position (NWOP) ACOM final amplifier uses two (2) Svetlana 4CX880A tubes.

A matching pair of tubes were purchased out-of-pocket and cost \$1,287 (delivered) from Array Solutions. The tubes were installed and the grid bias / plate current settings were adjusted to specification, for both the high current and low current operating conditions.

Checking the Northeast Operating Position (NEOP) ACOM amplifier, the Service Menu indicated the grid bias / plate currents were out-of-adjustment (low) for both operating conditions. Removing the NEOP amplifier from service, then pulling the top cover and dropping the front panel provided access to the PCB Interface Card potentiometers.

Adjusting the potentiometers brought the corresponding grid bias / plate current settings back into specification for both the high and low current operating conditions.

Prior to adjustment, the NEOP amplifier needed 50 to 60 watts of drive to reach the 1500-watt legal limit output, with 60 watts being the maximum allowable by ACOM.

After adjustment, the NEOP amplifier now requires 35-40 watts of drive for full output, and both amplifiers are back in-service.

ARMED FORCES DAY CROSS-BAND TEST (AFDCBT)

The AFDCBT was held on 2023-05-13 and is an annual exercise conducted by the Department of Defense. This exercise has military stations, transmitting on Government frequencies, listening for amateur radio stations transmitting in the ham bands.

The event coincides with regular Saturday maintenance activities, so maintenance workers KL2AZ, KL7MM and KL7TS participated on a casual basis.

Stations worked on the AFDCBT are listed by call sign, description and location. All contacts are USB unless otherwise noted:

AAZ – US Army NETCOM, Ft. Huachuca, AZ

ADB – Camp Foster, Okinawa

NEPM – USS Iowa, BB61, Los Angeles, CA

NIIW – USS Midway, CV-41, San Diego, CA

NWVC – Landing Ship Tank (LST) 325, Evansville, IN

NSS – US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD (this was a CW contact)

NMCI – US Coast Guard Base, Alameda, CA

AGA0WJ – Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor WA

A CW message from the Secretary of Defense had only partial copy, due to marginal geomagnetic conditions throughout the event. We do not yet have the capability to decode MIL-STD 118-110A/B Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY) but we are working on it.

FCC LEGACY CABLE INVESTIGATION

The RSOC is located in the former FCC Monitoring Station. The FCC had a substantial antenna field in the 140 acres north of the chain-link, with additional antenna structures south of Raspberry Road.

Multiple power, control, fiber optic and RF cables, with conduit and innerduct, were abandoned in-place when the FCC vacated the premises. RSOC maintenance workers KL7TS and KL2AZ are investigating these legacy cables by hand digging on the north side of the building, near the AB-105 tower.



CABLE INVESTIGATION SITE NEAR THE AB-105 TOWER BASE



MULTIPLE CABLES AND INNERDUCTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED



SIX INCH CONDUIT AT 24" BELOW GRADE, WITH 3/C 4AWG DIRECT BURIAL POWER CABLE ABOVE

Southcentral Simplex Net

Net Manager: TJ Sheffield, KL7TS

John, KL7CY started the Big City Simplex Net many years ago. This Net has evolved into the South-Central Simplex Net (SCSN).

Craig, KL7H suggested that the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) take over as Net Control when John relocated to the Lower 48. Once the AARC began hosting the Net, various bands and modes have been added.

The Net begins at 7:00PM local Alaska time, each Wednesday evening, on 146.520 MHz. The Net changes frequencies and modes, but always returns to 146.520 MHz after each excursion. Listen for instructions from Net Control to see where the Net will move next.

The club has hosted the Net since June, 2020 without missing a single week of operation. Following is the net status for 2023:

We have one more operating session during May (on the 31st) so the final participation numbers are not available.

June will mark four consecutive years of continuous operation, since inception in 2020.

Heavy Rolling Stock

This area reserved for Heavy Rolling Stock Manager, Keith Clark, KL7MM

No input received for newsletter

Battery Lab

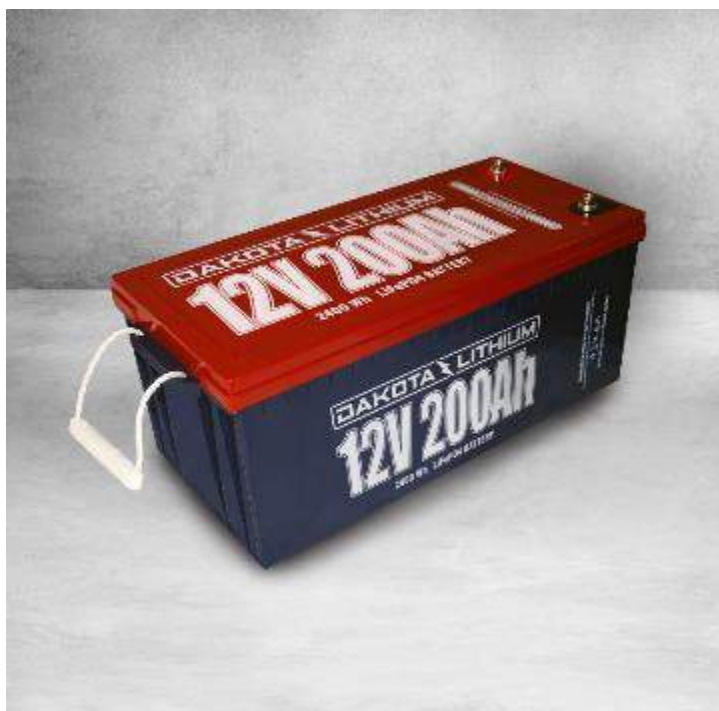
Need a battery you have load tested? Click here: [“Request Battery Analysis”](#)

Battery Donations to the RSOC

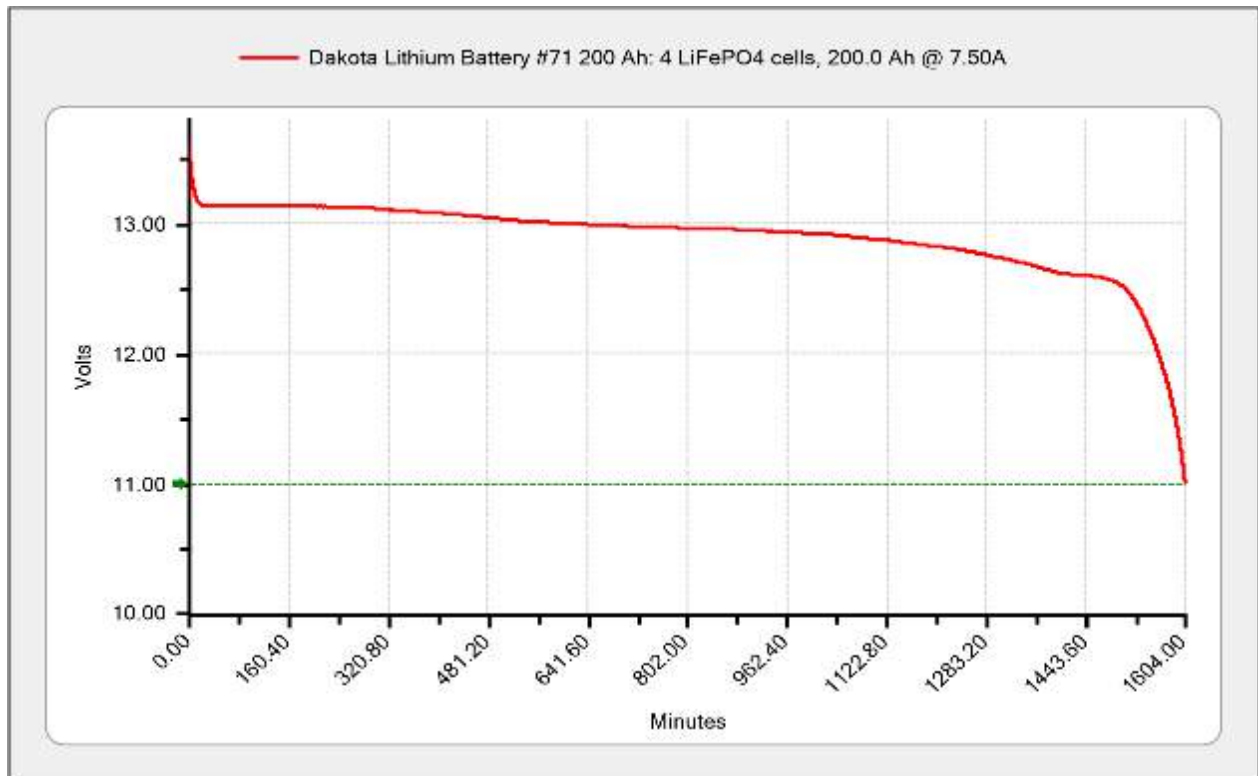
Written by Dave Webb N9AIG

May 20, 2023

The RSOC receives a variety of valuable donations from businesses and Amateur radio operators. What piques my interest are the battery donations. Here's a recent donation from Tyler N5UC:



Tyler's problem was that he was recently transferred to the lower 48 and the moving company refused to move the battery, so he donated it to the RSOC. It was a very generous donation and after performing a discharge test on it (using a CBA IV), the battery tested like a new battery. The discharge test:



Dakota Lithium Battery #71 200 Ah:

Description: 4 LiFePO4 cells, 200.0 Ah @ 7.50A

Started At: 3/6/2023 2:28 PM

Discharge Rate: 7.50 A

Starting Voltage: 13.31 V

Ending Voltage: 11.00 V

Total Time (hh:mm:ss): 26:43:14

Tested Capacity: 200.401 Ah

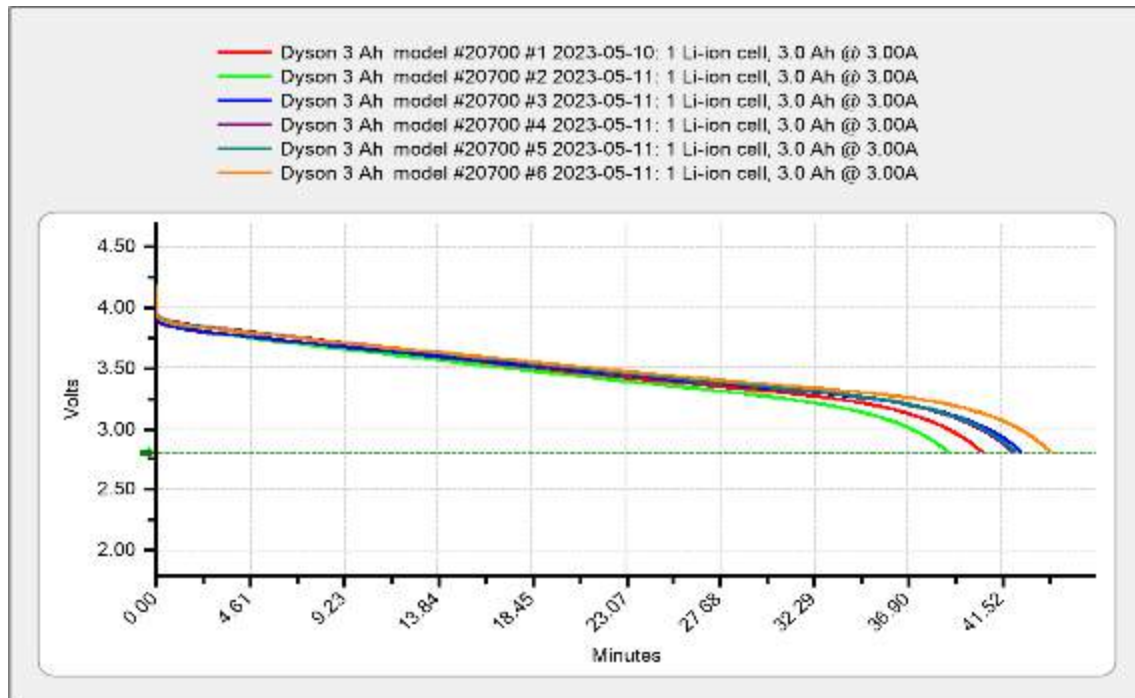
The RSOC was in need of a robust battery for it's MTV (Mobile Telecommunications Vehicle) and this battery donation will work nicely. The battery was fitted with a wiring harness and is now ready to go.

Another battery donation was from an AARC board member Matt KL4QH. This donation is at the other end of the spectrum of Lithium batteries with respect to battery capacity. However, the RSOC can utilize this donation as well. These batteries came out of a Dyson vacuum that the BMS had failed. At first glance, these could be mistaken for 18650 Lithium Ion batteries, but in fact, they are 20700A batteries. The dimensions are similar, but the two batteries have different characteristics. Here's a picture of the batteries in a charger after discharge testing:



The batteries are nominally rated 3000 mAh (think 3 Amp Hour for comparison above). What is interesting is that these batteries can be discharged at up to 35 amps. However, to utilize these safely, a BMS must be used to properly balance the cells in a battery pack.

I performed a discharge test on these cells too and here was the result:



Dyson 3 Ah model #20700 #1 2023-05-10:

Description: 1 Li-ion cell, 3.0 Ah @ 3.00A
 Started At: 5/10/2023 4:24 PM
 Discharge Rate: 3.00 A
 Starting Voltage: 4.18 V
 Ending Voltage: 2.80 V
 Total Time (hh:mm:ss): 00:40:35 Tested
 Capacity: 2.029 Ah

Dyson 3 Ah model #20700 #2 2023-05-11:

Description: 1 Li-ion cell, 3.0 Ah @ 3.00A
 Started At: 5/11/2023 4:09 PM Discharge Rate:
 3.00 A
 Starting Voltage: 4.20 V
 Ending Voltage: 2.80 V
 Total Time (hh:mm:ss): 00:38:55 Tested
 Capacity: 1.945 Ah

Dyson 3 Ah model #20700 #3 2023-05-11:

Description: 1 Li-ion cell, 3.0 Ah @ 3.00A
 Started At: 5/11/2023 4:53 PM Discharge Rate:
 3.00 A
 Starting Voltage: 4.17 V
 Ending Voltage: 2.80 V
 Total Time (hh:mm:ss): 00:42:32
 Tested Capacity: 2.125 Ah

Dyson 3 Ah model #20700 #4 2023-05-11:

Description: 1 Li-ion cell, 3.0 Ah @ 3.00A
 Started At: 5/11/2023 5:41 PM
 Discharge Rate: 3.00 A
 Starting Voltage: 4.17 V
 Ending Voltage: 2.80 V
 Total Time (hh:mm:ss): 00:42:07 Tested
 Capacity: 2.105 Ah

Dyson 3 Ah model #20700 #5 2023-05-11:

Description: 1 Li-ion cell, 3.0 Ah @ 3.00A
 Started At: 5/11/2023 6:29 PM Discharge
 Rate: 3.00 A
 Starting Voltage: 4.18 V
 Ending Voltage: 2.80 V
 Total Time (hh:mm:ss): 00:42:13 Tested
 Capacity: 2.110 Ah

Dyson 3 Ah model #20700 #6 2023-05-11:

Description: 1 Li-ion cell, 3.0 Ah @ 3.00A
 Started At: 5/11/2023 7:16 PM
 Discharge Rate: 3.00 A
 Starting Voltage: 4.17 V
 Ending Voltage: 2.80 V
 Total Time (hh:mm:ss): 00:43:56
 Tested Capacity: 2.195 Ah

They are all over 2 Ah and are quite serviceable. I ordered a new BMS from Amazon and will assemble a battery pack that will be portable.

So, if you are transferred and want to donate your Lithium battery to the RSOC we can give it a good home and remember your donation is tax deductible as the AARC is a 501c3.

LoRa System

This area reserved for LoRa System Manager, Matt Ostrander, KL4QH

No input received for newsletter

HF APRS Robust Packet Gateway

This area reserved for Robust Packet Gateway Manger, Kevin Opalka, KL1V

No input received for newsletter

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 (Currently located at the RSOC for burn-in and testing but expected to be installed soon at the new site located at Hillside South)

- 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: 103.5
- Status: New repeater is ready for install. The new antenna is installed and we just need to install a new feedline to bring this unit online.

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: @ November 15, 2023

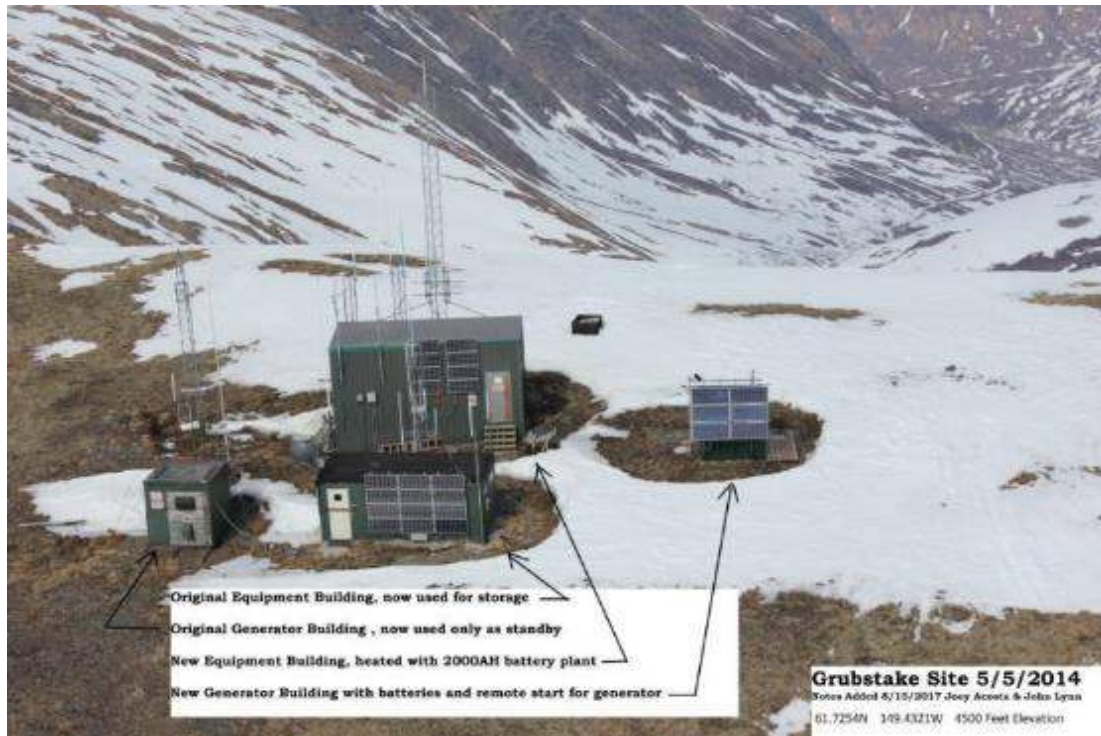
Donate to the Grubstake Repeater Fund: <https://kl7aa.org/product/grubstake/>

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.

A small group of club members has funded the purchase of a NEW 2-meter repeater to install at Grubstake. The repeater is configured and ready for installation. We are waiting for notification from the site owner that they will be traveling to the site so that we can accompany and swap out the equipment.

In the past, the AARC was allowed to visit the Grubstake site unescorted, but the new owner now mandates that each site visit will be accompanied by an owner representative.

This means one less seat on the charter, and additional expenses for the owner representative's time.

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



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, is programmed, and simply needs to be installed. 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

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

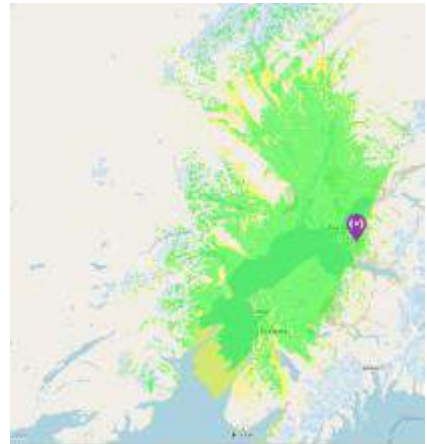
DStar Info:

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/>



No newsletter input received

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).

Additional info from Kevin Opalka

No newsletter input received.



VEC Report

By: Kent Petty, KL5T, Chairman, Anchorage ARC VEC

We are still conducting twice-daily remote testing with our crew of VEs from across the country, and world! However, we have ALSO started in-person exams once a month at the RSOC. We had 2 applicants at our last in-person session a week or so ago at the RSOC.

Here are the statistics for 2023 thus far (as of May 6, 2023):

- Number of Exam Sessions: 311
- Number of People Tested: 312
- Number of Passed Exams: 291
- Number of Volunteer Examiners: 117

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

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

SHARES Report

SHARed RESources (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program

The AARC continues to provide coverage and participation on the weekly SHARES HF Nets for the Alaska State Emergency Operations Center. This is NOT an Amateur Radio activity, but it is an HF radio activity including SSB, CW, and digital comms. We operate on SHARES every Wednesday morning. Anyone wishing to assist with SHARES operations should report to the RSOC at 0700 on Wednesdays.

More on SHARES

The SHARed RESources (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio program provides an additional means for users with a national security and emergency preparedness mission to communicate when landline and cellular communications are unavailable. SHARES members use existing HF radio resources to coordinate and transmit messages needed to perform critical functions, including those areas related to leadership, safety, maintenance of law and order, finance, and public health.

The SHARES HF Radio Program, administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), provides an additional means for users with a national security or emergency preparedness mission to communicate when landline and cellular communications are unavailable. The Alaska State Emergency Operations

Center (SEOC) is one of these entities. Unfortunately, at the present time, the SEOC has no real ability to participate directly on SHARES HF.

In October 2019, the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) worked with the SEOC to establish a means to provide them SHARES HF Radio Program access. Since the Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) is well-equipped with necessary HF resources (radios, antennas, staff, and connectivity to the SEOC), the AARC / RSOC was provided with a SHARES authorization in direct support the SEOC.

Under the SHARES program, various HF nets operate every Wednesday at 7 AM (Alaska Time) that SHARES members participate in. Since acquiring the SHARES authorization, the RSOC has successfully and consistently participated in these nets. Further, we have been advised that we are the only SHARES entity in Alaska that is an active participant.

SHARES operations from the RSOC provide the Alaska State EOC with viable and practiced emergency communications resource which complements other services available to them, such as amateur radio and ARES.

The AARC is proud to offer and staff the RSOC in support of this important mission. Our success is in no small part due to the RSOC's location with a low noise floor and a capable complement of HF antenna systems and transceivers.

If you'd like to learn more about the SHARES mission at the RSOC and become a qualified SHARES operator, hands-on training is indeed required. Contact vicepresident@kl7aa.org.

Swap & Shop

No current listings

Amateur Radio Organizations and Clubs in Alaska

We have a radio club information page on our website. The page is focused on providing a listing of radio clubs in Alaska, but any club that wishes to be listed can submit their information to be listed.

How to get your club listed? Simply fill out an online form. Within a few days your club's information should be listed on our page. You can view the current page here: <https://kl7aa.org/club-listings-alaska-and-others/>. You can submit the form to list or update your club's information by [clicking here](#).

Please note that we will be listing an "as of date" on the table that lists your club. We will ask that club's update their information periodically, so it is possible that you may receive an e-mail from us at the e-mail address you list for your page down the road. Please be sure that the e-mail address you provide is good and is attended to so that those wishing to contact you will have success!

Thanks for participating!

Club Name	Location	Call	Sites	Contact	Email	Phone	Date
Anchorage ARC	Anchorage, AK	KL7AA / KL7G	https://kl7aa.org/ Facebook Twitter	Kent Petty	info@kl7aa.org	907.345.0719	3/24/2023
Delta Amateur Radio Club - D.A.R.C.	Delta Junction, AK	KL7DRC	Website Facebook	John Bruce - President	Contact	907.802.3721	3/24/2023
Elmendorf Amateur Radio Society (EARS)	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK	KL7AIR	Website	Peter Pritchard - President	president@kl7air.us	907.748.1119	3/30/2023
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association	Wasilla, AK	KL7JFU	Website Facebook	JD/KL7JKR , CLUB SEC.	kl7jfu@gmail.com	907.746.6845	5/28/2023
Red Dog Amateur Radio Club	Red Dog Mine, AK	KL7DOG	Website	Bill Brookins	kl7dog@hotmail.com	907.457.1387	3/30/2023
Seward Amateur Radio Club	Seward, AK	KL7SWD	Website Facebook	Jeff Wolf, N8EX	jewolf123@gmail.com	(907) 362-4341	4/17/2023
South Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (SPARC)	Homer, AK	KL7HOM	Website	Toby Reich KL2T	NONE	907.399.7667	3/24/2023

HF Propagation Tools

Spaceweather.com – See the current conditions including solar wind speed and density, sunspot number, solar flux (sfu), an image of the current auroral oval, planetary K index, interplanetary magnetic field, flare forecasts, and much more.

[VOCAP \(Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program\)](#) – A free professional high-frequency (HF) propagation prediction software from NTIA/ITS, originally developed for Voice of America (VOA).

[Lowel Digisond Network](#) – See the current digisonde reports from stations around the world, including right here in Alaska. See the critical frequency (f_oF₂) and MUFs at 100, 200, 400, 600, 800, 1000, 1500, and 3000 km.

[NCDXF/IARU International Beacon Project](#) Transmission Schedule – Check this to listen for beacons around the world on 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters.

[Reverse Beacon Network](#) – See HF band openings in near-real time. You can see what stations are hearing each other, and even see what stations are hearing you. This system relies on “skimmers” around the world monitoring the HF bands.

[Reeve Observatory, Anchorage](#) – See the current magnetogram (updated every 2 minutes) and historical X, Y, and Z components that make up the K-index.

[Space Weather Woman](#) – Watch credentialed space weather forecaster Tamitha Mulligan Skov give her take on all things sun! Fascinating!

[Listen to Software Defined Radio receivers](#) – Tap into a lengthy list of SDR radios around the world that YOU can control to listen for signals, even YOUR signal.

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>



Board Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2023



ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BOARD MEETING
April 18, 2023
Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC)
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK
APPROVED



The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Richard Tweet KL2AZ. A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON:

Richard Tweet KL2AZ, Kent Petty KL5T, Wigi Tozzi KL0R, Matthieu Ostrander KL4QH, Walter Yankauskas KL7WY

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE (ZOOM):

Dave Webb N9AIG, TJ Sheffield KL7TS, Riley Petty KL4RP, Kevin Opalka KL1V, John Lime KL4OF.

EXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:

Keith Clark KL7MM, Lara Baker AL2R

UNEXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:

Mathew Notte WL4DX

REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS

None

VISITORS:

None

TIME CRITICAL ITEM(S):

None

REPORTS:**SECRETARY REPORT**

Richard Tweet KL2AZ provided the March 2023 AARC Board meeting minutes and the April 2023 Membership meeting minutes for review. Motion made Walter Yankauskas KL7WY, seconded by Matthieu Ostrander KL4QH to approve the minutes as presented with minor corrections. With no objections, the motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT

Kent Petty KL5T referred to the emailed report to the Board prior to the meeting. Kent noted prior that all bills are paid/current. TJ Sheffield KL7TS noted the 180-day report had been submitted to the ARRLF complete with their new question format.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

As Keith Clark KL7MM was excused, there was no financial report given.

GRANT REQUESTS

There have been no incoming grant requests.

GAMING COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Richard Tweet KL2AZ noted this would be covered under the Development Committee report.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Dave Webb N9AIG reported that there has been no request for use of the KL7G callsign.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE

TJ Sheffield KL7TS reminded all that we are in April and will be mowing the grounds by Memorial Day, other projects include reorganization of the north 'bone yard' and associated weed mitigation, Upcoming bucket truck work at ANC Fire Station 2, Heights tower and east fiberglass mast.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TJ Sheffield KL7TS reported on the Bylaws Committee work to date which now includes updates to the Rules of Procedure, Security camera feed project, ACOM amp repairs, Senior Center station work, Trustee review/updates for special club callsigns, verification of equipment for sale, and SAM.gov update. Kent Petty KL5T reported that RSOC Services is now in the VA system waiting for approval and also follow up work with the insurance broker regarding liability and workers compensation is waiting on a quote.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kent Petty KL5T reported there are currently over 180 members, and he is working to confirm all AARC Life Members are accounted for in the membership count. Kent is looking for a way to reach out to all hams in the Municipality to introduce the AARC.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kent Petty KL5T reported he is working on a community presentation promoting services available to the general public and has sent a copy to the AARC Board for review. The presentation will compare MURS/GMRS/FRS/Amateur radio capabilities and may be a good presentation to Community Council meetings.

EQUIPMENT REPORT

Dave Webb N9AIG reported on completed upgrades to his IC-7610 and the RSOC's IC-7600 to operate on SHARES frequencies. Additional tooling was briefly discussed in relation to working on such small surface mounted components.

Kent Petty KL5T reported that Paul Fairchild AL4G will be the Anchorage Senior Center Emergency Coordinator and reported on equipment, feedline, and antenna tests. Kent noted that a very high noise floor exists at the facility.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS reported on discussions with Jay at Array Solutions regarding obtaining a matched pair of tubes for the club's ACOM amp. TJ noted a biasing procedure must be done with the installation of the tubes. TJ also reported on research to date on RSOC inventory of FCC legacy tubes, upcoming Earth Day Saturday and the opportunity to recycle electronics.

Matthieu Ostrander KL4QH reported on sales to date (~\$1300) of Clean Seas donated Icom radios and efforts to categorize equipment and migrate all AARC sales to eBay.

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EMCOMM

Kent Petty KL5T noted prior report on Senior Center equipment and also reported on upcoming repairs to the MESH link at ANC Fire Station #2.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS reported on the upcoming Armed Forces Day Crossband test and KL7AA will be participating. TJ also reported that FEMA Region 10 will be hosting their Communication Committee working group session in Anchorage on June 8th from 0900-1400, the session will have a HF presentation that may be beneficial to attend.

VEC PROGRAM

Kent Petty KL5T, AARC VEC Program Chairman, reported the program is going well and now has 120 VE's. Testing continues to be held 2-3 times per day Monday through Saturday. Kent noted an in-person session to be held at the RSOC on April 26th.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Discussion again noted known events for this year include the Hope Community Resources Walk for Hope, MS Walk around Lake Hood, The Anchorage Runfest, Dog Jog, Gold Nugget Triathlon, Alaska Run for Women, and the need for volunteers. Kevin Opalka KL1V reported that he had nothing new to report for Field Day.

OLD BUSINESS

AARC Newsletter - There is an ongoing request for articles for the next newsletter. Discussion was held on developing a standard format for the newsletter and posting recorded Membership meeting videos to the KL7AA website.

Grubstake repeater status – Waiting for a call from Arcticom re: site access.

220 repeater status. On bench at RSOC, ready for installation.

ARDC/ARRL grant updates – As noted in the Development Committee report, the ARRLF 180-day report has been submitted, a new equipment grant request is being worked on for a closing date of June 30, 2023.

Legislative Aide update – Kent Petty KL5T reported there has been no additional from Senator Murkowski's office.

NEW BUSINESS

Donated RAVN voucher. Kent Petty KL5T reported on a donated RAVN travel voucher worth approx. \$1000 that will be offered as the first KL7AA online raffle after discussion.

AARC being a vendor for radio products – Kent Petty KL5T reported on an opportunity for the AARC to become a vendor for Baofeng and BTech products. Discussion was held and this was referred to the Development Committee.

Policy Update – Kent Petty KL5T. Two draft proposed policies were introduced for review and will be referred to the Development Committee.

May Membership meeting – No speaker scheduled.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS noted a possible conflict between the AARC Board meeting and the CAP use of the facility. Discussion noted the need for coordination prior to Tuesday meetings at the RSOC.

Internet performance at the RSOC was discussed as ZOOM participants noticed choppy audio/video during the April Board meeting.

AARC Challenge coins. Kent Petty KL5T reported that the inaugural order of 100 challenge coins has been received. Discussion was held on the process to make these available. Motion made Matthieu Ostrander KL4QH, seconded by Wigi Tozzi KL0R to place coins 1 and 100 (to show both sides) in a shadow box to be displayed in the 'green mile'. This passed unanimously. Discussion was held regarding sale of the remaining 98 coins. It was agreed that for the first sale period, the coins would be made available, by numbered choice, first come first served, as available, for \$100 and after that period, the price would be \$20/ea. for the next available coin in regular order. This was incorporated into the original motion with the makers and seconders approval and passed unanimously.

W1AW/KL7 operation. Wigi Tozzi KL0R noted this would be operating May 3rd -10th.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 04/18/2023 by Richard Tweet KL2AZ, AARC President

General Membership Meeting Minutes, Mar 4, 2023



ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP VIDEOCONFERENCE

May 4, 2023

Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC)
6721 Raspberry Road

Anchorage, AK

APPROVED



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Richard Tweet KL2AZ. A quorum was established. Those in attendance were reminded of the opportunity to donate to the AARC via Pick/Click/Give through August of 2023 and the AARC Public Service Event coordinators were introduced and reported on the upcoming 2023 events and the need for volunteers.

May 6th – Walk and Roll for Hope and MS Walk: Anchorage (Keith Clark KL7MM)

May 21st – Gold Nugget Triathlon (Walter Yankauskas KL7WY)

June 10th – Alaska Run for Women (Walter Yankauskas KL7WY)

July 22nd – Dog Jog (TJ Sheffield KL7TS)

August 20th – Runfest (Keith Clark KL7MM)

Presentation

Richard Tweet KL2AZ presented 3 videos for the presentation:

INDIE ALASKA - I am a Ham Radio Hobbyist (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGgofRfWyNw&t=2s>)

How to be a ham radio operator during public service events and nets

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHxNOMGSwAI>)

Fldigi/Flrig Software Setup from A-Z – For Ham Radio Digital Modes

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBzqACjQJDU>)

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Business

None conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. Respectfully submitted as recorded by Richard Tweet KL2AZ (AARC President) on May 4, 2023.