

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting on April 3 ! ←

Visit by Mark Sharp, KB7HDX ARRL Director, Northwestern Division

Officers	
President	Richard Tweet, KL2AZ
Vice President	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Kent Petty, KL5T
Three Year Board Members	
	John Lime III, KL4OF
	Dave Webb, N9AIG
	Keith Clark, KL7MM
	Matthieu Ostrander, KL4OH
	Kent Petty, KL5T
	Wigi Tozzi, KL0R
	Rebecca Weicht, Associate
Board Appointees	
Station Manager	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
Activities Chairman	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Keith Clark, KL7MM/Temp.
Membership Chairman	Vacant
Trustee	Keith Clark, KL7MM

~~~ HOT LINKS ~~~

|                                                            |                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AARC web page &amp; Email contact addresses:</b>        |                                                                |
| Homepage:                                                  | <a href="https://kl7aa.org/">https://kl7aa.org/</a>            |
| Email Reflector:                                           | <a href="mailto:KL7AA@QTH.NET">KL7AA@QTH.NET</a>               |
| Webmaster:                                                 | <a href="mailto:webmaster@kl7aa.org">webmaster@kl7aa.org</a>   |
| President:                                                 | <a href="mailto:president@kl7aa.org">president@kl7aa.org</a>   |
| Membership:                                                | <a href="mailto:membership@kl7aa.org">membership@kl7aa.org</a> |
| Newsletter:                                                | <a href="mailto:trustee@kl7aa.org">trustee@kl7aa.org</a>       |
| <b>Newsletter Submissions, Information or corrections:</b> |                                                                |
| Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting.       |                                                                |
| Email:                                                     | <a href="mailto:trustee@kl7aa.org">trustee@kl7aa.org</a>       |
| Mail:                                                      | P.O. Box 91758, Anchorage, AK 99509                            |

|                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>W1AW CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE</b>                                                                      |
| Schedule can be found at:                                                                               |
| <a href="https://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule">https://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule</a> |

|                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Nets in Alaska:</b>                                                           |
| The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:                           |
| Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily                                      |
| Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily moving to 3920 at 8:15 PM                |
| Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily                                        |
| Alaska Pacific Net 14.292 MHz 8:00 AM M-F                                        |
| No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM                                  |
| South Central Simplex Net Wednesday at 1900 local, starting on 146.520           |
| Eagle Node Packet 145.01 Wednesdays 7:00 PM local                                |
| ARES net 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 8:00 PM local                          |
| Alaska Emergency Frequency Test the last Saturday of the month on 5167.5 MHz/USB |

|                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Anchorage &amp; Mat Valley Area<br/>Coordinated Repeaters</b>                                                                                       |
| <u>KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft</u><br><u>146.94/34 MHz, 80 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL</u>                                                 |
| <u>224.94/223.34, 25 watts, no patch, no PL</u>                                                                                                        |
| <u>444.70/449.70, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 PL</u>                                                                                                     |
| <u>KL7AA at Mt. Gordon Lyon, 3,940 ft</u><br><u>147.30/90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL</u>                                                   |
| <u>KL7AIR Elmendorf AFB, EARS</u><br><u>146.67/.07, 103.5 Hz PL</u>                                                                                    |
| <u>KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA Club</u><br><u>146.85/.25, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL</u>                                                                        |
| For a list of all Alaska State coordinated repeaters go to:<br><a href="https://www.alaskarepeaters.kl7.net/">https://www.alaskarepeaters.kl7.net/</a> |

|                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>South Central Area Simplex Frequencies</b> |
| 146.52 MHz Calling and Emergency frequency    |
| 146.49 MHz Anchorage area simplex chat        |
| 146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat            |
| 147.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat              |

## Internet Links, the favorites from our readers:

AARC <https://kl7aa.org/>  
EARS <https://www.kl7air.us/>  
MARA <https://kl7jfu.com/>  
Moose Horn ARC <https://al7le.org/>  
ARES <https://kl7aa.org/anchorage-ares>  
Fairbanks AARC <http://www.kl7kc.com/>  
Yukon Amateur Radio Association <https://www.yara.ca/>  
HAARP Project <https://haarp.gi.alaska.edu/>  
Amateur Radio Reference Library  
VOCAP <https://www.voacap.com/hf/>  
ARRL <https://www.arrl.org/>

*Please let us know if there are other clubs pages or good starting points that should appear here. Report dead links or bad info to trustee@kl7aa.org.*

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**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES;** All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by mail or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed above. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor **no later than the 14 days prior** to the meeting or it may not be included.

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## Regular HAM Gatherings:

**Thursdays Coffee, 2:00 PM:** Join the gang for coffee and an eyeball QSO at Pizza Man in Eagle River. Attendance varies from 6 to 12 each week.

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## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

**March 6: AARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** will be at the Radio Science and Operating Center 6827 Raspberry Road.

**VE License Exams:** These happen 6 days a week on line and occasional in person exams. See the link on the AARC website at <https://kl7aa.org/vec>.

**March 18: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month by video conference. Link on the AARC website calendar. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

**March 28: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month at locations announced or via Zoom Meetings. These meetings are open to all who wish to attend.

## Why Do We Do Public Service

We support public service events for several reasons. It gives us a chance to practice our communication skills from time to time.

We get to exercise our equipment, and practice with, and learn about our equipment in different situations i.e. weather, noise, etc.

We are there in the event that newer technology breaks down in any manner.

If we are using local repeaters or simplex paths, we can find out where the holes are.

And sometimes we get a t-shirt or a ball cap!

We also can bank our participation to justify our use of the spectrum that we get for free.

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## 2025 Public Service Events

Walk and Roll for Hope - May 15, 2025

Contact Keith, KL7MM

[aksunlite@aol.com](mailto:aksunlite@aol.com)

Gold Nugget Triathlon – May 18, 2025

Liaison Rebecca Weicht

Looking for Coordinator – Please volunteer

Alaska Run for Women – June 7, 2025

Looking for Coordinator – Please volunteer

Dog Jog – To Be Announced

Contact TJ, KL7TS

[kl7ts@hotmail.com](mailto:kl7ts@hotmail.com)

Anchorage Runfest – August 18, 2025

Contact Keith, KL7MM

[aksunlite@aol.com](mailto:aksunlite@aol.com)

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

A huge thank you to Keith Clark KL7MM for stepping up to the task of getting another newsletter out to the membership!

With the hint of summer in the air, the AARC's involvement with several Public Service events becomes a priority. I would ask that you consider volunteering for a position in any of the upcoming activities. We can use operators with any level of experience as these events are great training opportunities for new hams as they can be paired with an experienced operator to gain experience. A list of upcoming events will be updated on the KL7AA.org website soon.

A common ask from me is for individuals to volunteer for open positions and tasks to keep your club operational. We have openings for a vacant Secretary position and a soon to be vacant Treasurer position, both of which are AARC Board of Directors seats. We also have a need for a membership

coordinator and a newsletter editor. Training for any of these positions will/can be provided. We would like to further develop our education platform so I encourage anyone with a desire for teaching (electronics, licensing, software platforms, Incident Command System, Winlink, etc.) to please contact me to discuss how we can provide this training to the members and interested parties in the community.

Introduction to become an operator at AARC Net operations continues. The primary nets we operate are the federal SHARES (SHARED RESOURCES) Net and the South Central Simplex Net. These nets provide useful training even if a person is watching and not at the mic, however participation is encouraged as experience is gained.

Please remember, our AARC Membership meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except July) at 7pm both via ZOOM ([www.kl7aa.org/events](http://www.kl7aa.org/events)) and in-person at the AARC Radio Science and Operation Center at 6721 Raspberry Road. Being a member of the club is not a requirement to attend, and we welcome visitors and guests.

Until next month,  
73,  
Richard Tweet KL2AZ

### **AARC Receives Rasmuson Grant**

Just an update that the new snow blower attachment is being installed at Craig Taylor. It may be done in time to put the mowing attachment back on.

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### **Catching Up**

#### **Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, December 19, 2023**

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

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON:**

None

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE (ZOOM) or PHONE:**

Richard Tweet KL2AZ, TJ Sheffield KL7TS, Dave Webb N9AIG, Kent Petty KL5T, John Lime KL4OF, Keith Clark KL7MM, Matthieu Ostrander KL4QH, Wigi Tozzi KL0R, Riley Petty KL4RP, Dr. Rebecca Weicht

#### **EXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:**

Kevin Opalka KL1V, Mathew Notte WL4DX.

#### **UNEXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:**

None

#### **REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

None

#### **VISITORS:**

None

#### **TIME CRITICAL ITEM(S):**

None

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **SECRETARY REPORT**

Richard Tweet KL2AZ provided the November 2023 AARC Board meeting minutes and December 2023 Membership meeting minutes for review. Motion made Keith Clark KL7MM, seconded by TJ Sheffield KL7TS to approve the minutes as presented with one minor correction. With no objections, the motion passed.

##### **TREASURER REPORT**

Kent Petty KL5T reported on AARC assets and account balances and reported all bills are paid and accounts current. Kent noted that AARC Membership renewals and new member sign ups continue at a regular rate.

##### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Keith Clark referenced the emailed report to the Board. There was no additional discussion.

##### **GRANT REQUESTS**

There have been no incoming grant requests.

##### **GAMING COMMITTEE**

TJ Sheffield KL7TS noted there has been no activity to report on.

##### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Keith Clark KL7MM reported no use of the KL7AA callsign and Dave Webb N9AIG reported no use of the KL7G callsign.

##### **RULES OF PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

The AARC Rules of procedure review and updates will begin in the new year.

##### **PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

TJ Sheffield KL7TS reported on current RSOC projects/maintenance on the list including snow management which included plowing/moving/shoveling approximately 360 tons of snow so far this year to maintain the RSOC grounds. Dave Webb N9AIG reported on battery maintenance and noted 16 are ready for use and reported on development of a battery buss for the North operating stations. TJ reported on the East fiberglass mast repairs to the broken sections. Kent Petty KL5T reported on receipt of a dummy load for use at the RSOC which was purchased from the Saturday Swap and Shop net on 3920 kHz.

##### **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

TJ Sheffield KL7TS reported on, and discussion included, Grubstake ongoing issue with access, Site Summit turnover to KL7AA with access, and transfer letter items being worked, ARRLF grant report, South Central Simplex Net restructure,

Point One Navigation proposal, 5 letters to be drafted/sent inc: Section Manager, PARKA, ANMC, RAVN and State EOC. Kent Petty KL5T reported on SHARES activity, RSOC Satellite Station PC migration, and the First Mile project. Brief discussion was also held on Public Service events, Challenge Coins and the RSOC roof heat trace system.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kent Petty KL5T reported that club membership is now at 290 with renewals and new members signing up. Kent noted an increase in Life Memberships.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kent Petty KL5T reported on upcoming online training with an exam session to follow.

### EQUIPMENT REPORT

TJ Sheffield KL7TS reported on the AARC Elecraft K3 sent into Elecraft for repair and the issue with strong adjacent signals. Also discussed was the donation of 2 VHF amplifiers which provide 60/70-watt output with 5-watt input and the AARC label maker.

### EMCOMM

Kent Petty KL5T reported on upcoming communication with the SHARES program office. SHARES notes 40+ stations in Alaska with very few participating. TJ Sheffield reported on meeting with Providence Medical Center to discuss and tour new Hospital Command Center layout, meet Project Manager, and discuss quarterly exercises to include Kodiak, Seward, and Valdez. Discussion noted suggested equipment to upgrade Alaska Native Medical Center's 5 West installation.

### VEC PROGRAM

Kent Petty KL5T, AARC VEC Program Chairman, noted the program continues to operate well with In-Person exams scheduled in Anchorage, Kenai, and Jamestown Tennessee.

### PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Brief discussion was held on upcoming events with the Gold Nugget Triathlon being the first event requiring AARC's participation in planning meetings.

### OLD BUSINESS

01. AARC Newsletter. Kent Petty noted he will be producing an end of year newsletter and is requesting articles be submitted by December 26<sup>th</sup>.
02. Secretary vacancy – Remains vacant.
03. Grubstake repeater status – Waiting for a call from Arcticom re: Grubstake site access. Nothing new
04. KL7ION repeater status. Nothing new
05. ARDC/ARRL grant updates. TJ Sheffield KL7TS noted he is producing the ARRLF grant final report for submission.

### NEW BUSINESS

01. Kent Petty KL5T reported that AARC RT Systems programming software has been loaded into the AARC shared drive.
02. Membership meeting speakers. Brief discussion was held on possible speakers for upcoming meetings. No speaker is scheduled for the January Membership meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 12/19/2023 by Richard Tweet KL2AZ, AARC President

*Please note that Board minutes will be brought current in future newsletters.*

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## Alaska Section News March 2025

No information to post this month.

David W Stevens KL7EB AK SM

[KL7EB@arrl.org](mailto:KL7EB@arrl.org)

### Motley News

ANNUAL MOTLEY PICNIC / WEEKEND CAMPOUT  
JULY 31 - AUGUST 3, 2025

It will be held at the TOLSONA WILDERNESS CAMPGROUND.. <https://tolsonacampground.com> Mile 173 Glenn Highway. Phone (907) 822-3900  
Checkout their website which includes a campground layout.

This will help you with selecting your campsite.

Campground reservations will be available after March 1, 2025. Reservations made at the conclusion of last year's picnic are valid.

There are 20 spots still held in reserve for our group at this time.

All Amateur Radio operators / families are welcome to attend and join in the fun...

There will be souvenirs, door prizes, raffles, swap and shop, a mini craft fair, and group meals to name a few....

License testing will be available if there is interest.

There will be two low-power FM Broadcast stations with campground coverage...

Tubing on the river/creek will be available..

Be sure to bring your handy-talkie and listen on 146.520 for announcements, possible changes in programs, etc.....

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN NEWSLETTERS.....

## Grubstake Repeater!!

The Grubstake repeater system is on the air on 147.33 with plus offset and a tone of 103.5 Hz, however with reduced output. It's really way up there so give it a try. This is a KL7AA repeater that is being operated for the benefit of South Central Alaska hams. It is currently awaiting a site visit for upgrades. See [kl7aa.org](http://kl7aa.org) for a link to support this site.



(Approved)  
**Anchorage Amateur Radio Club General Meeting from February 1, 2025**

**Call to Order**

The meeting (via ZOOM only) was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Richard Tweet KL2AZ. With 28 attendees, a quorum was established.

**Business**

There was no AARC business to be conducted at this meeting.

**General Discussion**

Richard Tweet KL2AZ opened the meeting for general discussion and reported on AARC Rules of Procedure update, upcoming Public Service Events, and development of an Anchorage Winlink HF RMS.

**Presentation**

Dr. Nathaniel A. Frissell, W2NAF, our guest speaker, gave a very interesting HamSCI presentation. Dr Frissell is the Lead HamSCI Organizer and is an Associate Professor at the University of Scranton, Department of Physics and Engineering.

HamSCI, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation, is a platform for the publicity and promotion of projects that are consistent with the following objectives:

- Advance scientific research and understanding through amateur radio activities.
- Encourage the development of new technologies to support this research.
- Provide educational opportunities for the amateur community and the general public.

HamSCI serves as a means for fostering collaborations between professional researchers and amateur radio operators. It assists in developing and maintaining standards and agreements between all people and organizations involved. Visit HamSCI's website here: <https://hamsci.org/about-hamsci>

The meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.

Respectfully submitted as recorded by Richard Tweet KL2AZ (AARC President) on February 1, 2024.

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**More Catching Up - -**

**ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING February 1, 2024 APPROVED**

**Call to Order**

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Respectfully submitted as recorded by Richard Tweet KL2AZ (AARC President) on February 1, 2024

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ARES Thoughts – Thinking about emergencies

To assist you when participating in emergency communications drills or actual emergencies. See the following Internet address for a complete checklist: [https://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/training/ARES\\_Emergency\\_communications\\_guide.htm](https://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/training/ARES_Emergency_communications_guide.htm)

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## From the Past - -

### Troubleshooting and Shop Procedure

All Technicians should follow these procedures carefully. The contents will certainly help in your attempts to fix things.

When you are faced with an equipment breakdown, do you know just what to do? Here are the six basic steps to troubleshooting:

1. Approach the ailing unit with confidence. This will give the idea that you know something. This will also impress anyone who happens to be looking, and if the unit should suddenly start working, you will be credited with its repair. If this fails, proceed to step two.

2. Wave the systems operations manual at the unit. This will make the unit assume that you are at least somewhat familiar with the sources of knowledge. Should this step fail, proceed to step three.

3. In a forceful manner, recite OHMS LAW to the unit. This will prove to the unit beyond a shadow of a doubt that you know something. This drastic step should be attempted only after the first two steps fail. Should this prove unsuccessful, proceed to step four.

4. Jar the unit slightly. This may require anything from three to six hearty blows from a ten pound sledge hammer. However, you must be careful with this step because, while jarring is an approved method of repair, you must not mar the finish on the unit. Again, this is a very drastic step, and if it fails there is nothing to do but go on to step five.

5. Add a transistor or IC. This will prove to the unit that you are familiar with its design. Also, this will give the unit an added load to carry and will increase your advantage. Should these five steps fail to work, you must proceed to the most drastic step of all. This step is seldom used and must be used with due caution only as a final resort.

6. THINK!

NOTE: This advice is to be used only by highly competent and technically skilled personnel.

Source unknown....

### A Few Notes:

1. Remember the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) **newsletter** can be read **online** at: <https://kl7aa.org/newsletters/>
2. An ongoing reminder, Kent Petty, KL5T has been successful in getting us signed up with **WV** for their charitable donation program. L-R, EWA SM Whitney, WWA SM Purdom, Al N7OMS, and VD Sterba. Just before the doors signed up, please do so.

## Asset Reduction

The Club has a Weatherport Tent that was originally purchased for use at the State Fair. This tent was also deployed a number of years during Field Day exercises, but the effort to deploy and tear down for a short term event is not feasible and as such has not been used for quite a number of years. It is time to find it a good home.

It is a 10' X 20' steel frame tent. For inquiries go to [info@kl7aa.org](mailto:info@kl7aa.org).

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### ARRL Division News Northwestern Division

### ARRL Division News Northwestern Division

### Volume Two, March 2025

Hello Northwestern Division.

Hamfest season is well underway here in the NW. VD Sterba made the trip to Rickreall for the February swap meet. (see his report below) and Jo and I made the trip over to Puyallup for the Mike and Key swap meet. Both events were well attended. Pictured below is the booth at Mike and Key just before the doors opened. SM Purdom and VD Sterba along with SM Whitney and myself visited with hams from across the division.



L-R, EWA SM Whitney, WWA SM Purdom, Al N7OMS, and VD Sterba. Just before the doors and Key Swap meet March 8th (KB7HDX photo)

### Local legend receives due praise

Saturday afternoon, after the Mike and Key swap meet, Jo and I met up with WWDXC President Rob Fanfant, N7QT and WWDXC Board member Robin Amundson, WA7CPA, at the home of Tad Cook, K7RA. Tad, as many of you know recently retired after Thirty-Six continuous years of writing the weekly solar report for ARRL. As a result of his efforts all these years it was an honor to present him, on behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors, the ARRL Presidents Award. This was a complete surprise for Tad. Watch for the full story in an upcoming issue of QST. Congratulations, and thank you Tad.



Rob-N7QT, Robin-WA7CPA, Mark-KB7HDX, with Tad, K7RA (WA7CPA)

### Voice of Idaho Club meeting

Via ZOOM, I was able to present to the VOI group again on Marth 12th. This is a great group of active amateurs in and around the Boise area. This was the second-year meeting with them and I appreciate the opportunity. If you live in the area and have not stumbled onto this club, visit the website at [voiceofidaho.org](http://voiceofidaho.org)

### Edmunds-Woodway ARC meeting

On the 13th I visited with the Edmunds-Woodway club via ZOOM. Ed, N7PHY and I have been working since October of last year to find a date that worked for the club and I. Thanks to the club for letting me join the meeting. [edwaynet.com](http://edwaynet.com)

### FCC Initiates broad inquiry on rules to delete or amend (from ARRL News)

In a [Public Notice](#) titled "In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete," issued on March 12, 2025, the FCC is soliciting public input on any FCC rules in any service that members of the public believe should be deleted or modified "for the purpose of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens." This is the latest in a series of similar proceedings going back to 1996, when the Communications Act was amended to require the FCC to periodically review its rules.

[ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio®, through its Executive Committee and FCC Counsel, is conducting a review of the provisions in Part 97 and other related rules that apply to radio amateurs. ARRL is also soliciting feedback from its members. Rules identified as outmoded, obsolete, or that for other reasons should be repealed or modified, will be included in ARRL's filing to be submitted no later than the FCC deadline of April 11, 2025. The deadline for filing reply comments is April 28, 2025.

It is expected that the Commission will incorporate suggestions that it decides worthy of its consideration in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that could be issued later this year. There will then be an opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes for deletion or modification.

A PDF of the FCC Public Notice is available here: [docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-219A1.pdf](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-219A1.pdf).

### Anchorage youth communicate via satellite (Craig Bledsoe, KL7H)

On Monday, February 10th, I addressed two classes of 5th and 6th graders on the topic of extraterrestrial satellite communications using handheld Amateur ("Ham") Radio equipment. I met with the two teachers, Joeann Bradley and Sachiko Vandermartin, at lunchtime prior to setting up on the playground with my Yaesu VX-5R walkie talkie and an amplified handheld Arrow antenna. Shortly thereafter I was surrounded by approximately sixty attentive students who were amazed at just the idea of talking to astronauts onboard the International Space Station using only a handheld radio station.

Fairview Elementary School is a Title One institution located in the heart of a historically underserved region of Anchorage, Alaska. Many of these young people have never had the basic opportunities that many of us take for granted. When I was able to communicate with hams in outlying locations and let the kids speak back to them via a satellite in outer space in return, it was a transformative moment for most of the participants, in my opinion.

I offered two opportunities for these young people to communicate via satellite with a classroom slideshow briefing and Q&A session in between running outside into the cold and snow for the actual extraterrestrial conversations. I mentioned the possibility of an engineering career in their futures, and

how scholarships were regularly available to hard-working and deserving students. Overall, it was a highly successful day, and I thanked all of my ham radio friends who helped me deliver on this opportunity to mentor an upcoming generation of potential Professional Engineers.

Craig Bledsoe, P.E., CSP  
FCC Callsign: KL7H

### **Division email ability returns**

The IT staff at HQ has restored our ability to email direct to members. This newsletter; however, is coming out of the marketing software at HQ as it contains photos which we cannot send via the legacy system. This format also goes to all Division members signed up to receive email from the Section or Division. The legacy system can be tailored to go out to only a section, or even down to legislative districts. If your club or group has information you would like shared, please call me about it and I can get it sent. Mind you this system is text only, no photos, and no graphics. If your information is specific to your section, you can also contact your Section Manager and they can forward the information out as well.

### **Upcoming ARRL sanctioned Hamfests and Swap Meets**

April 12th N7YRC Tailgate Party, Union Gap (Yakima) WA  
April 19th Kamiah Hamfest, Kamiah ID  
April 26th Spokane Hamfest and WA State Convention, Spokane Valley WA  
May 10th Stanwood-Camano ARC Flea Market, Stanwood WA  
May 30, 31, and June 1st Northwestern Division Convention, SEA-PAC, Seaside OR  
June 6, 7, and 8 Wenatchee Hamfest, Dryden WA  
July 18-19, 20 Glacier-Waterton Hamfest, East Glacier MT  
July 26th Chehalis Valley Swapmeet, Centralia WA  
August 9th Idaho State Convention, Post Falls ID  
August 15, 16 and 17th Pacific NW DX Convention, Clackamas (Portland) OR

For more information on these and other events, please visit [n7cfo.com](http://n7cfo.com) or the ARRL website.

73.. Mark, KB7HDX

### **And just what has VD Sterba been up to you might ask?**

Hello Northwestern Division!

This last couple of months have been quieter when compared to January with a change to my tasking. Newly assigned to Administration and Finance Committee (A&F), I'm spending time refreshing myself on the roles, responsibilities, and authorities (RAA's) of this committee. This will be a fun challenge as I step further into the meat and gravy of our ARRL Board functions.

I had the privileged of attending the Salem Hamfair in Rickreall, OR, and really had a great time. This was my first opportunity to meet many of the local team and was impressed

with the great group of people supporting this event. This also was my first time working close with the Oregon Section Manager (SM) Scott, N7JI, who had proactivity engaged with the attendees on various League related concerns and questions. This is one of the crucial responsibilities of a SM – serving as the in-person representative for the attending population. My personal thanks goes to Scott on his proactive “Can-do” approach.

The inclement weather leading up to the event did appear to have impact attendance, yet there still was a steady stream of people for the duration. Some notables who stopped by the ARRL table were ARRL 2nd Vice President Mike Ritz W7VO, from the Oregon Section SEC Bonnie Altus AB7ZQ, Section Youth Coordinators Frank Gruber KB7NJV & Russ Mickiewicz N7QR, Emergency Coordinator Kathryn Catherwood KI7RNU. Attending from the Western Washington Section was District Emergency Coordinator Stan Nelson K7DKK



Left to Right: Oregon SM Scott N7JI, Northwestern Div V Dir. Michael KG7HQ & Oregon Youth Coord Russ N7QR

Speaking of events. I also had the privileged of attending the 43rd Annual Mike and Key Electronics Show and Swap meet in Puyallup, WA. and really had a fantastic time. The attendance was appearing like pre-2019 levels. While fielding questions, I enjoyed observing the renewed interest in the ARRL. I'm seeing a change in demographic with younger men and women enjoying the event and taking time to stop by the ARRL table to join. With this shift in population, you can feel the sense of community building.

My visit to the Radio Amateurs of Skagit County (RASC) allowed for an informal exchange surrounding current amateur radio events. Keeping up with these changes has been a bit daunting with different opportunities presenting themselves. The Leagues leadership team has been fully engaged in the current governmental affairs with our amateur radio community sharply in focus. Recent ARRL bulletins have shared additional details as understanding solidifies toward action.

Populations at the time of this writing (Lagging Indicators):



Northwestern Division Membership:

\* 10,729 (Decrease from 10,799)

\* 188 (New)

\* 273 (Lapsed that re-joined)

National Membership:

\* 136,107 (Decrease from 136,820)

License Counts:

\* 73,011 (Division total)

\* 933 (New)

\* 0 (Upgrades) (Reporting under maintenance)

\* 743,236 (National total)

Director Tharp and I are always open to input, good and bad, (we prefer good) from members. If you have anything you would like to talk about, shoot us an email or call on the phone. In addition, we are always looking for information to share with the Division. If you have a news item you would like to offer, please send us a note and we would be glad to include it here. It is always great to hear from members.

Enjoy Amateur Radio... Be Active, Be Positive, Be Safe, as your voice carries

Respectfully your servant,

Michael A. Sterba,  
ARRL Vice Director  
Northwestern Division  
[kg7hq@arrl.org](mailto:kg7hq@arrl.org).

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Mark J. Tharp, KB7HDX  
Northwestern Division Director  
[kb7hdx@gmail.com](mailto:kb7hdx@gmail.com)

## EARS Winlink RMS's Are Coming Back To Life

As local Winlink users may know, the 2-meter, 1.25-meter, and 70 cm Winlink RMS stations located at the EARS club station on Elmendorf AFB have been down since late spring of 2024. From a practical perspective, most of that station's assets have been off they air since then. Why? The Air Force commissioned a complete re-roofing of the building which required us to remove ALL of our roof-mounted antennas. Due to time constraints and a limited number of involved hams, it has been a slow recovery. Thankfully, work is moving forward. The first effort included a complete tear down of the station to better understand its working and to rearrange power distributions and computer/equipment interconnections. As of today, the WL7CVG-10 VHF RMS on 144.91 MHz, 1200 baud packet, is back online due to the work of Bill Sutter, KL5TY. Initial testing indicates it is working ok. We'd ask Winlink users to give it a try. It ALSO appears that we MAY have the WL7CVG-10 1.25-meter RMS on 223.66 MHz, 9600 baud packet is back as well.

The Winlink RMS sysop software is talking to the computer OK, but we do need folks to test on-air performance. The 70-cm WL7CVG-10 RMS on 441.175 MHz, 9600 baud packet is NOT YET back online. There are a few more interconnections that need to be made. More to follow soon I hope.  
73, Kent, KL5T

## As an Ongoing Reminder 5167.5 kHz Alaska Emergency Frequency Test

The last Saturday of each month, at 1000 local time, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Auxiliary Station NNAØLP hosts a test of the Alaska Emergency Frequency on 5167.5 kHz. Use only upper sideband USB (J3E or R3E). Continuous Wave CW (A1A) and digital modes (F1B, J2B, etc.) are not authorized on this frequency. Maximum power is 150 watts PEP. There are no restrictions on types of antennas.

**NOTE:** Government stations often use procedures taken from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Radiotelephone Handbook, for example USCG Force Readiness Command (FORCECOM) CGTTP 6-01.1B, available on-line: [https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CGTTP\\_6-01\\_1B\\_Radiotelephone\\_Handbook.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CGTTP_6-01_1B_Radiotelephone_Handbook.pdf) <sup>[1]</sup>

For signal reports, select one descriptor from the Signal Strength column, and one descriptor from the Readability column (see attached).

Each month, a summary report regarding this test is sent to the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X staff are copied in.

Thanks very much,  
TJ Sheffield, KL7TS  
Vice President, AARC  
Station Manager  
Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC)  
Anchorage, Alaska

## Worldwide AREDN Mesh Network Metrics

By **KENT PETTY** Published **JANUARY 2, 2025** **D-STAR, DIGITAL VOICE, DMR, EMCOMM, MESH NETWORKING, PACKET RADIO, REPEATERS, RSOC OPERATIONS, SERVED AGENCY**

Most of you are probably aware of our Anchorage ARC AREDN Mesh Network. The network is a very important part of our EMCOMM effort and other amateur activities.

Examples include:

- Chat Services
- File Server
- DMR Repeater connection
- DMR Repeater control

- APRS I-Gate connection
- Repeater Site Power Control
- Winlink interface between VHF, UHF, and HF RMS stations (CRITICALLY IMPORTANT)
- Emergency email message server
- Internet access via Starlink
- VOIP telephone (including video)

To learn more about the Anchorage AREDN Mesh Network, participate in a club meeting or visit the RSOC on Wednesday mornings for SHARES, Wednesday evenings for the South Central Simplex Net, or on Saturday mornings for Working Saturdays.

Now, for a bigger picture, here is a message from Orv Bech, W6BI, AREDN Project Manager:

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Orv Beach

Jan 1, 2025, 11:22 AM (1 day ago)

Here are a few tidbits about the AREDN world network that you might find

interesting. All this is derived from the AREDN World Map.

If your

local network isn't connected to that network your nodes

won't be

included – but that could be rectified

Number of AREDN nodes as of 1/1/24: 2376

Number of AREDN nodes as of 1/1/25: 2750

Number of AREDN supernodes as of 1/1/24: 23

Number of AREDN supernodes as of 1/1/25: 55

Number of nodes on sunsetted hardware on the network as of 1/1/24: 173

(7.2%)

Number of nodes on sunsetted hardware on the network as of 1/1/25: 160

(5.8%)

The usual end of month snapshot metrics:

Longest uptime: AH6QO-2-HAWAIIKAI-HAPAC – 1152 days

Oldest hardware still on the network: KI4QWT-PSM2-150-HSV – a Ubiquiti

PicoStation M2

Oldest software version: GM0RAY-2, running 3.18.9.0

Runner-ups, running 3.19.3.0:

W7MOT-GD-B-O

N7YRC-LTN0

VE6CV-hAP-YQL

ka2vlp-m900-1

W4NMH-U1

N0OIF-NANO-2GHZ-OLD-SANATOGA-PA-

KG7AHP-M9-01

KG7BZ-M5-NanoB-W7VA

K7DMK-N13

VE6TL-ARHP-AP

N9MS-Rocket-O

W7VA-M5-NanoB-Lebanon

AC7R-BCS-B-Usery

AC7R-BCS-B-O

AC7R-BCS-NB5-Usery

VE7URC-OldPO-North

Nodes running the current production release (3.24.10.0) or a newer

nightly build: 1738 (70.9%) – Nice work, folks!

73

Orv W6BI

AREDN Project Manager

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## FCC Initiates Broad Inquiry on Rules to Delete or Amend

03/20/2025

In a [Public Notice](#) titled “In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete,” issued on March 12, 2025, the FCC is soliciting public input on any FCC rules in any service that members of the public believe should be deleted or modified “for the purpose of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens.” This is the latest in a series of similar proceedings going back to 1996, when the Communications Act was amended to require the FCC to periodically review its rules.

[ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio®, through its Executive Committee and FCC Counsel, is conducting a review of the provisions in Part 97 and other related rules that apply to radio amateurs. ARRL is also soliciting feedback from its members. Rules identified as outmoded, obsolete, or that for other reasons should be repealed or modified, will be included in ARRL’s filing to be submitted no later than the FCC deadline of April 11, 2025. The deadline for filing reply comments is April 28, 2025. It is expected that the Commission will incorporate suggestions that it decides worthy of its consideration in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that could be issued later this year. There will then be an opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes for deletion or modification.

A PDF of the FCC Public Notice is available here: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-219A1.pdf>.

**Swap and Shop**  
**Photos for listings can be found at:**  
<https://kl7aa.org/category/swap-shop/>

**Swap & Shop – Icom 756 Pro II Transceiver, KL3AK, 3/20/2025**

For sale by Dave, KL3AK in Nikiski.  
ICOM's Flagship 756 Pro II HF Transceiver.  
Two NON-SMOKER owners. Excellent condition!  
This was Dave's first High Calibur HF rig.  
He got it from a silent key estate back in 2014. The 756Pro II has the first IF brought out through a coax for an SDR so you can use it as a panadapter/bandscope  
Asking \$850 OBO for this Icom IC-756PRO-II transceiver.  
[dnyberg2@gmail.com](mailto:dnyberg2@gmail.com) 907-513-5089

**Swap & Shop – Kenwood TS-590 HF Transceiver, KL3AK, 3/20/2025**

KL3AK, Dave in Nikiski has a Kenwood TS-590 HF Transceiver for sale...  
Two NON-SMOKER owners. Excellent condition! Dave purchased this from a good friend that bought a new FLEX Radio.  
This Kenwood has the first IF brought out through a coax for an SDR so you can use it as a panadapter/bandscope.  
Asking \$1475 OBO. [dnyberg2@gmail.com](mailto:dnyberg2@gmail.com) 907-513-5089

**Swap & Shop – Icom 756 HF Transceiver, KL3AK, 3/20/2025**

Dave, KL3AK in Nikiski has for sale: ICOM 756 HF Transceiver. Two NON-SMOKER owners. Excellent condition! This was my backup HF rig. I purchased this from my Elmer who passed during COVID. Asking \$650 OBO. \*\* WARNING \*\* This rig has the TX – ALL FREQ MOD (MARS) so be CAREFUL TRANSMITTING OUT OF BAND! [dnyberg2@gmail.com](mailto:dnyberg2@gmail.com) 907-513-5089

**Swap & Shop – KL5MM – Handheld Ham Radio and Non-solid State Drives**

**Explore QRZ-1 VHF/UHF Ham Radio 5W with all accessories \$50**

The Handheld Radio is used for 2 years and in good condition  
Transmit – 144.000 MHz to 147.995 / 420.000 MHz to 449.995 MHz  
Receive – 65 MHz to 108 MHz (FM Radio) 136 to 174 MHz and 400 MHz to 480 MHz  
Memory – 200 Channels  
Radio Accessories Included with Radio

- 
- Two Explorer QRZ-1 High-Capacity Battery 2,200 Ah batteries
- One 1,400 Ah Battery

- 1 Explorer CHR-10 Desktop Charger for Explorer QRZ-1 Radio
- 1 Explorer QRZ-1 Battery Eliminator
- 1 Programming Cable for QRZ-1 Transceiver  
See photo at bottom of post

**Non-sold State Drives – Most drives are 10 to 15 years old**

- - 3 LaCie 1 TB Harddrives connecting to computer by USB-A \$10 each
  - 2 LaCide 250 GB Harddrives connecting to computer by USB-A \$10 each
  - 1 LaCide 320 GB Harddrive connect to computer by USB-A \$10
  - 1 Other World Computing (OWC) 320 GB Harddrives connect to computer by USB-A \$10
  - 1 LaCie d2 Dual DVD RW Drive with 3 writeable CD connect to computer by USB-A \$10
- Most of these Harddrives also have Firewire 400 and 8000 connectors. If you want the cable with the drives please let me know.

**Swap & Shop – ALS-1406, AMERITRON, KL7JFT, 3/22/2025**

1200-1500 WATT, 1.5-54Mhz, LDMOS Solid State Amplifier with 220 VAC Switching Power Supply, 50 Volt 50 Amp, 220 Volt AC supply It is 6 months old. Got it from GIGAPARTS. It replaced the ALS 1306 with some good improvements. Power supply is very quiet. Cost \$3495.95 new. Will sell for \$3000. Currently operational in my station. Contact info: Don Bush/CL7JFT 907 746 6845, [kl7jft@gmail.com](mailto:kl7jft@gmail.com). Have manual and boxes. 11" x 6.5" x 18". Power supply is about the same size.







