

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting on August 7 ! ←

No July General Meeting

Officers

President	Richard Tweet, KL2AZ
Vice President	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
Secretary	Dave Webb, N9AIG
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* ~~

### **AARC web page & Email contact addresses:**

Homepage: <https://kl7aa.org/>  
 Email Reflector: [KL7AA@QTH.NET](mailto:KL7AA@QTH.NET)  
 Webmaster: [webmaster@kl7aa.org](mailto:webmaster@kl7aa.org)  
 President: [president@kl7aa.org](mailto:president@kl7aa.org)  
 Membership: [membership@kl7aa.org](mailto:membership@kl7aa.org)  
 Newsletter: [trustee@kl7aa.org](mailto:trustee@kl7aa.org)

### **Newsletter Submissions, Information or corrections:**

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting.  
 Email: [trustee@kl7aa.org](mailto:trustee@kl7aa.org)  
 Mail: P.O. Box 91758, Anchorage, AK 99509

### **W1AW CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

Schedule can be found at:

<https://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

### **Nets in Alaska:**

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

### **Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Coordinated Repeaters**

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft  
146.94/34 MHz, 80 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

224.94/223.34, 25 watts, no patch, no PL

444.70/449.70, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 PL

KL7AA at Mt. Gordon Lyon, 3,940 ft  
147.30/90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

KL7AIR Elmendorf AFB, EARS  
146.67/.07, 103.5 Hz PL

KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA Club  
146.85/.25, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL

For a list of all Alaska State coordinated repeaters go to:  
<https://www.alaskarepeaters.kl7.net/>

### **South Central Area Simplex Frequencies**

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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## JUNE EVENTS

**July No General meeting.**

**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>.

**July 15: 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.

**July 25: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month at locations announced on the website. These meetings are open to all who wish to attend.

## Why Do We Do Public Service This is the Season!

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) (Complete)

Gold Nugget Triathlon – May 18, 2025

Complete

Alaska Run for Women – June 7, 2025

Complete

Dog Jog – July 26, 2025

Contact TJ, KL7TS

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

Anchorage Runfest – August 17, 2025

Contact Keith, KL7MM

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

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## Public Service Note

Three of our public service events have been completed.

The Walk and Roll for Hope, the Gold Nugget Triathlon and the Alaska Run for Women.

All three events were well coordinated and a big

THANK YOU

to the volunteers that staffed these events!

The Dog Jog is coming up in July and the Anchorage Runfest in August. We are still looking for a few folks to help so let us know if you are available.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all,

The theme of this month's article is Volunteerism and thanking those who participate,.

With our Public Service season in progress, numerous hams in the area have stepped up to participate in the events. My thanks to Event Organizers and regulars TJ Sheffield KL7TS, Keith Clark KL7MM, Dave Webb N9AIG; and also to Cozette Green KL4RI, John Lime KL4OF, Richard Pellessier AL6P, Gary Porter KL5WK, Mark Sabel WD6BMJ, Karl Kisser KL5TQ, Jeff Dick KL7UE, Dennis Jones AL5K, Nick Casner K7CAS, Paul McDermott KL5GS, Eric Cannon KL4VA, Dave Nicoli K1TAQ, Timothy Gibson KL7WTG who have participated in the events to date (Walk and Roll for Hope, Gold Nugget Triathlon, Alaska Run for Women) and to those who have committed to the July Dog Jog and August Anchorage Runfest.

Speaking of Volunteers, many thanks to those who assist with, and those who come to train on, the AARC Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) radio events such as the Weekly SHARES net, South Central Simplex Net, Alaska State Emergency Frequency Test.

Another Club responsibility is the maintenance of repeater sites in the Anchorage area. Site Summit, Grubstake, Hillside North and Hillside South. A current project being planned is the repair of the Hillside South location tower anchoring and building repairs.

I may sound like a broken record, but maintenance of the AARC Club facility is totally a volunteer operation. This includes not only the building but also the groundskeeping of the 2 acres associated, which involves mowing in the summer and snow removal in the winter.

On a final note, I'd like to thank TJ Sheffield KL7TS and Dave Webb N9AIG for funding the 3 day rental of a Genie 65' boom lift. This rental was a critical need for repairs to the RSOC antenna system. Another repair project is planned for after this summer when cabling and equipment purchases for this project are complete. No AARC funds are spent for projects and repairs as they are needed for the basics such as keeping the lights on and the facility heated and as such are funded by key members of the AARC.

We encourage those interesting in volunteering or participating in AARC maintenance, operations and/or events to contact the club at [info@kl7aa.org](mailto:info@kl7aa.org).

I hope for a great summer to all.

73,  
Richard Tweet KL2AZ  
[President@kl7aa.org](mailto:President@kl7aa.org)



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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

Greetings all HAM's,

Our annual get together is just about here, a month away. If you haven't made your reservations yet, **there are still a few spots left** of those the campground has set aside.

Nightly **cost remains the same at \$30 per day** for each of the three nights, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Call the campground today if you haven't made your reservations. Tell them you are with the Motley group to get the special rate. Tolsona Wilderness Campground 907-822-3900.

This year we've expanded many of the daily activities, fun for all ages. Please see the attached PDF flyer for details.

Also, checkout our new website and video.

Home page: <https://motleygroup.kl7.net>

Picnic: <https://motleygroup.kl7.net/picnic>

Photos: <https://motleygroup.kl7.net/galleries>

Videos: <https://motleygroup.kl7.net/videos>

Hope to see you there,  
Motley planning committee  
73's

## ALASKA MOTLEY GROUP PICNIC 2025

### July 31st to August 3rd - Tolsona Wilderness Campground

Mile173 Glenn Hwy, [tolsonacampground.com/](http://tolsonacampground.com/) - Ph-822-3900

This will be the 43nd annual Motley Group picnic. There are typically 60 to 80 attendees, most of whom are members of the Motley Group, Snipers Net or Alaska-Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net, but ALL amateur radio operators and their families are welcome to attend.

Fish, hike, chat with other Hams, and participate in as many of the following scheduled activities as you choose.

#### THURSDAY,

- 1) 10 AM – Setup - put up Motley signs, tarps and tables
- 2) 1 – 3 PM Motley Makers Market - featuring homemade/handcrafted items
- 3) 1 – 3 PM Motley Swap and Shop
- 4) 4 PM – Daily Door Prize Drawing
- 5) 4:30 PM – Daily Raffle Prize Drawing (ticket sales: 1 – 3 PM)
- 6) 5 PM - EARLY BIRD MEET AND GREET – Soup Supper - Bring snacks to share

#### FRIDAY,

- 1) 10 AM – 3 PM Motley Swap and Shop
- 2) 1 – 3 PM Motley Makers Market - featuring homemade/handcrafted items
- 3) 12 Noon – Brown Bag LUNCHEON - Campground pavilion – All are welcome
- 4) 4 PM – Daily Door Prize Drawing
- 5) 4:30 PM – Daily Raffle Prize Drawing (ticket sales: 8:30 AM – NOON and 1 – 3 PM)
- 6) 5 PM – Baked Potato Bar - Spuds are provided - bring trimmings to share

#### SATURDAY,

- 1) 10 AM – 12 PM – Motley Makers Market - featuring homemade/handcrafted items
- 2) 10 AM – 1 PM – Motley Swap and Shop
- 3) 1 – 3 PM – Radio Workshop / Presentation(s)
- 4) 1 – 3 PM – Card and/or Board Games
- 5) 4 PM – Daily Door Prize Drawing
- 6) 4:30 PM – Daily Raffle Prize Drawing (ticket sales: 8:30 – Noon and 1 – 3 PM)
- 7) 5 PM – MOTLEY COOKOUT - Hamburgers / hot dogs provided - bring trimmings to share
- 8) After cleanup -- RED LANTERN & MODERATORS OTHER MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS
- 9) CHINESE AUCTION / WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

#### SUNDAY,

9:00 AM - FAREWELL BREAKFAST - Rolls, muffins, and pastries will be provided

Camping fee per night for RV sites includes water and electricity. For the three nights there is a discounted rate (\$30 per day) for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Showers and laundry available in campground.

If you have not reserved a site, do so NOW. "Tell them you are with the Motley Group.

Mel, KL7GG - Manager, Alaska Motley Group

## 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.





# ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 5, 2025

Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC)  
6721 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK  
Approved

## Call to Order

The meeting (hybrid w/ Zoom and in-person attendance) was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Richard Tweet KL2AZ. A quorum was established.

## Introductions

Jeremy Haygood KL7EC was introduced for his presentation of Parks on the Air (POTA).

## Presentation

Here is the summary of his presentation:

- Jeremy presented a comprehensive POTA introduction to over 35 attendees at the meeting via on-line Zoom and in person at the RSOC explaining activator and hunter roles with a 10-contact minimum for park activation credit.
- Jeremy demonstrated the POTA website navigation, park reference system, and logging procedures using apps like PoLo and HAMRS that auto-upload to the POTA database.
- Jeremy shared three challenging activation adventures including minus 34-degree winter camping and a Denali fly-in.
- Equipment recommendations included radios, lithium batteries, buddy poles, and Wolf River coils for portable operations.
- Jeremy explained POTA as fusion of outdoors and ham radio, solving his S7-S8 noise problems at his home station.
- POTA provides a no noise level operating environment in parks, dramatically improving signal reception and transmission capabilities.
- Alaska activations are highly valued by hunters nationwide, with some operators waiting 2-3 years for Alaska contacts during solar cycle peaks.
- Hunters work activated parks from home stations or mobile, no logging requirements on their end.

## POTA website navigation

- Spotting page shows real-time activations with band and mode filtering capabilities. QRT feature displays recently vacated frequencies for activators to claim before pile-ups form.
- The "Getting Started" section contains comprehensive rules, personal conduct guidelines, and reference materials.
- The website includes activator reference guides, CW guides, digital mode information, and awards certificates.

## Park maps and reference system

- 169 parks are available for activation in Alaska, with 40-50 never activated.
- Parks identified by reference numbers like US-7208 for Big Lake North, with GPS coordinates and boundary information.

- Multiple Park types include state parks, national parks, national forests, heritage areas, trails, and wild/scenic rivers.
- Operators can potentially activate 3-4 different park entities simultaneously at intersecting boundaries.

## Personal activation adventures

- Minto Flats winter activation with Sean and Doug used buddy poles and chameleon antennas in knee-deep snow.
- Denali fly-in activation with Doug's ski-equipped plane, making 1560 contacts on a remote lake.
- Challenging minus 34-degree winter activation required wood heat and propane backup, with our gear freezing overnight.

## Equipment and antenna recommendations

- A Yaesu 891 radio is recommended as a reliable 100-watt portable option and a Discovery TX500 for QRP hiking activations.
- Battery options include a 30 Ah LiFePO4 for 100-watt rigs and a 9 Ah LiFePO4 for 5-to-10-watt QRP operations.
- Antenna recommendations include buddy poles, Wolf River coils with 6 ground radials, and wire antennas for backup.
- 33-foot portable masts work nicely, though many operators lean antennas against trees without guy wires.

## Logging and awards system

- Jeremy achieved 166 activations, 188 total attempts, with awards including Worked All States and 1000 QSO Kilo award.
- PoLo and HAMRS apps are recommended for field logging, with automatic GPS park detection and POTA database upload.
- Operators can sync logs to QRZ and Logbook of the World for master record keeping.
- Awards include rover awards for 5 parks at specified distances, activator challenges, and state-specific achievements.

## POTA Q&A session

- No permits are required for most Alaska parks. Rangers are generally familiar with amateur radio operators.
  - Failed activations are still valuable for hunters working toward awards. This should be uploaded regardless of the contact count.
  - QRP voice operations are challenging compared to 100-watt setups, CW and digital modes are more effective for low power.
  - SOTA (Summits on the Air) operates under different rules with 2-5 contact minimums and an annual activation limit.
- Business**
- Richard Tweet KL2AZ reported about the upcoming public service events: Alaska Run for Women Saturday June 7th with 11 volunteers, the Dog Jog on July 26th, and the Anchorage RunFest on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Club board introductions
- Richard Tweet KL4AZ is the club President.

- Dave Webb N9AIG has been appointed as the new club secretary after resigning from his director position. The Board unanimously approved Dave's secretary appointment as per club bylaws. (Dave is implementing the Circle Back AI engine for automated meeting minutes and board documentation).
- TJ Sheffield KL7TS serves as vice president and Radio Science Operations Center station manager.
- Keith Clark KL7MM is a board member and the trustee of KL7AA. □ Kent Petty KL5T is the club treasurer. Upcoming public service events
- Alaska Run for Women Saturday June 7th with 11 volunteers signed up, largest participation number achieved.
- The Dog Jog on Saturday July 26th is seeking additional volunteers, TJ Sheffield KL7TS is coordinating.
- The Anchorage RunFest Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> is coordinated by Keith Clark KL7MM as a contact person.
- Father's Day weekend antenna and tower maintenance scheduled with a 65-foot boom lift rental. (Funded by TJ Sheffield KL7TS and Dave Webb N9AIG)

#### **General Discussion**

Richard Tweet KL2AZ reported on:

Craig Taylor Equipment completed installation/testing of the snowblower on the AARC John Deere 1445. The unit has been returned to the RSOC by Kent Petty KL5T.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted as recorded by Dave Webb N9AIG  
(AARC Secretary) on June 5, 2025

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## **ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ZOOM BOARD MEETING**

May 20, 2025

Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC)  
6721 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK

#### **APPROVED**

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

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (VIA ZOOM):**

Richard Tweet KL2AZ, Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH, Kent Petty KL5T, Dave Webb N9AIG, Wigi Tozzi KL0R.

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

TJ Sheffield KL7TS, John Lime KL4OF, Keith Clark KL7MM, Rebecca Weicht.

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

None

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

None

#### **VISITORS:**

None

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

A Board discussion was held regarding the vacant Secretary position and the need to have all Officers positions filled as required. Dave Webb N9AIG announced his resignation as a KL7AA Board Director effective immediately which was accepted. A motion was made by Kent Petty KL5T, seconded by Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH to appoint Dave Webb N9AIG to the vacant AARC Board Officer position of Secretary immediately. The motion passed unanimously, and the membership will be notified of the appointment at the next membership meeting as required in the AARC Bylaws.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **SECRETARY REPORT**

Richard Tweet KL2AZ provided the April 2025 AARC Board meeting minutes and May 2025 Membership meeting minutes for review. Motion made by Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH, seconded by Wigi Tozzi KL0R, to approve the minutes as presented. With no objections, the motion passed.

##### **TREASURER REPORT**

Kent Petty KL5T referred to the emailed report to the board. Discussion noted the Grubstake repeater site rent increase to \$162.50 per month, the John Deere grant from the Rasmusen Foundation is ready for close out, and licensing revenue generated.

##### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

##### **GAMING COMMITTEE**

As TJ Sheffield KL7TS was excused, no report was given.

##### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Dave Webb N9AIG reported there was no use of the KL7G callsign.

##### **PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH reported that he had installed 4 runs of Cat 6 up the AB105 tower with 3 now available and 1 plugged into the Power Beam MESH antenna. Kent Petty KL5T reported on a call from an AARC member asking about the possibility of an amateur station in the Anchorage Pioneer Home as his wife is now a resident.

##### **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (includes ROP)**

As TJ Sheffield KL7TS was excused, no report was given.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kent Petty KL5T referred to the emailed report to the board. There was no further discussion.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kent Petty KL5T referred to the emailed report to the board. Kent noted the AARC Charter requirement of providing education and the need for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program. Kent noted the lesson plan developed by Jeff Wolf N8EX which is available to educators such as the AARC.

## EQUIPMENT REPORT

As TJ Sheffield KL7TS was excused, no report was given. Richard Tweet KL2AZ noted a decommissioned satellite dish had been offered to the AARC and information had been sent to the AARC Development Committee.

## EMCOMM

Kent Petty KL5T reported on efforts to obtain a SHARES authorization for a Soldotna station and that the SHARES Program Office noted authorizations are on hold for legal review. Kent reported on working with Scott Nelson of the State EOC for access for operators.

## VEC PROGRAM

Kent Petty KL5T reported that the program continues with regular testing and Anchorage in person testing is available prior to each AARC membership meeting with 2 individuals scheduled for the next session.

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Discussion noted the successful participation in the Gold Nugget Triathlon the previous weekend and the three upcoming events: Alaska Run for Women, Dog Jog, and Anchorage Runfest.

## OLD BUSINESS

01. Vacancies – Newsletter Editor, Membership Coordinator, and now an AARC Director are vacant positions. The Treasurer position becomes vacant mid-August. Discussion noted the need to find a replacement for the Treasurers position in order to provide training from the current treasurer.
02. KL7AA Repeater Site status. Grubstake rent has increased to \$162.50/mo.
03. RSOC Watch Officer – Nothing new. Placeholder
04. Shared POD for Pahrump – Nothing new.
05. AARC Weatherport sale – Nothing new.
06. Postcard mailing to prospective hams. Wigi Tozzi KL0R will send Richard Tweet KL2AZ a price for obtaining contact information.
07. In-Person Board meeting(s). Tentative July 15th.

## NEW BUSINESS

01. Honorary Life Membership for KL7QN. Motion made by Kent Petty KL5T, seconded by Dave Webb N9AIG to provide Life Memberships to both Mr. Bruce Chandler KL7QN and his wife in appreciation of their support of the AARC. The motion passed unanimously.

02. Richard Tweet KL2AZ noted the annual cancellation of the July membership meeting. Motion made by Kent Petty KL5T, seconded by Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH to cancel the July Membership meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
03. POTA presentation by Jeramy Haygood KL7EC has been rescheduled to the June Membership meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 05/20/2025 by Richard Tweet KL2AZ, AARC President

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## Kenai Peninsula – Moosehorn ARC Hamfest Scheduled for 7/19/2025

The Moosehorn ARC has scheduled a hamfest for July 19, 2025. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the attached flyer for specific information.

Contacts:

- Hamfest Chair – Ed Cole, KL7UW, (907) 776-5829
- Club President – Dave Tremper, KL7ZK, (907) 252-3015

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)

**From the Past - -  
(2005)**

**BZZZT!**

Jim Wiley, KL7CC

Ahh spring - the time when a young man's fancy turns to things other than radio, flowers begin to bloom, and birds and power lines break out in song! Its that last part that's the problem - power line problems that have been dormant during the winter seem to come out all at once in the spring, and can drive a ham batty all summer long. This article is going to be rather lengthy, so grab some coffee and sit down. So, how do you identify the trouble, and once identified, what do you do about it? Well, first off, let's remember that power lines (in fact any electrical circuit) should be considered very hazardous - do not attempt to repair problems yourself. Get a professional! That being said, the first thing to do is identify the problem. Many instances of "power line noise" are not from power lines at all, but other sources. For example, famous candidates are defective thermostats on electric blankets, aquariums, and home heating systems. Other problem areas include brush-type motors (mixers, electric drills, sewing machines, etc.) - plus fluorescent lights, SCR type light dimmers, neon signs, "smoke-eaters", cash registers, and oil burners. Some types of interference come not from "sparking" devices, but from RF sources that sound like

arcing, such as "touch- control" lamp dimmers, TV set horizontal oscillator harmonics, medical and industrial RF heating devices, and so on. Step 1 - Is the noise intermittent or continuous? If the noise is intermittent, coming on for a few (or several) seconds once in a while (several minutes to perhaps an hour between cycles), it probably is a defective thermostat, oil burner, or similar on-off controlled device. If the noise exhibits a "whining" characteristic, particularly if it changes up and down in pitch, then it probably comes from an electric motor. If the noise is found every 16 KHz or so across the band, it is from a TV horizontal oscillator, whereas if the interference is found every 50 to 150 KHz, particularly if it drifts slowly up or down the band, it is likely to come from a "touch control" dimmer. Defective advertising signs show up as a BZZT - BZZT - BZZT - BZZT on a regular cycle, usually from 1 to 10 seconds in duration as the sign makes shifts from one lighted pattern to another. Cash registers sound like signs, but cycle in an irregular manner, and of course stop once the particular sales slip is completed. True power line noise is different in duration and sound - typically it lasts for several minutes to hours, and is affected by wind or rain (makes it better or worse). Primary (high voltage) leakage often has a "singing" or "whistling" sound (listen on AM mode), as parasitic capacitance causes each arc to "hit" several times on the positive and negative peak of the 60 Hz cycle. If you have a scope attached to your set, power line problems are easily separated from other problems by the type of display they present. Power line (and other) noise often is better (or worse) on some bands as opposed to others. This effect is caused by natural resonances in the "antenna" connected to the interfering device. Step 2 - How to find the problem. First, try to get some indication of direction by pointing a beam antenna at or away from the source and noting the relative strength. If you have other hams nearby (within a few blocks) ask them if they are having problems too. Power line problems can cover up to 1 mile (occasionally more), most other problems are limited to several hundred feet. If you are the only one bothered, the problem is almost certainly very close at hand. If others hear the problem, see if everyone gets it from the same or different directions. If you are lucky, you will be able to do some rough triangulation to narrow down the search. Use a DF loop if you have one - even a modest DF loop will often lead you directly to the house or power pole with the problem. A standard AM transistor radio makes a good tool for some problems, the ferrite "loopstick" antenna in the set is basically a loop antenna, and will give peaks and nulls as the set is rotated. Experiment first to see how the set performs on a known signal, preferably one from some distance away. Try driving around the suspect area in your car, using the broadcast AM radio (tuned off station) to hear the noise. When you are really close, the noise will come in loud and clear on almost anything! Once you have found the problem, now you have to get it corrected. Step 3 - Correcting the situation. If the source of your interference turns out to be a power line, then your problem is basically solved. Call the power company (Chugach or ML&P, as applicable) and let them know what you have found. The utilities are very good about helping, and they give fairly rapid response. Typical response from Chugach is 3 or 4 working days - if you have the problem localized! Do try to get the source at least approximately located, however. The power utilities have other priorities, and

frankly, RFI complaints are not high on their list. If you can give them a well defined search area or even a particular pole or line segment, then they become much more interested in helping correct problems. Basically, the power companies have some RFI location gear, but their personnel are not well trained in it's use, and for most HF type interference it isn't even the best tool to use. If, however, the source of the interference is not a power line, but in another persons home or a commercial business, then things can become more difficult. It often takes considerable persuasion before a business owner will have a defective sign serviced (costs money, you know) or a filter installed on a cash register. Isolating problems in private buildings can be complex. Occasionally a business owner or home owner will let you temporarily turn off the building power at the main breaker, but this is rare. Of course, if they do let you make the test, and the interference stops as soon as you open the switch, it is a pretty convincing demonstration. Caution - for large commercial buildings, have this test done only by a licensed electrician - there can be complications in stopping and starting large commercial loads. Another complication: Many times the interference will not begin again immediately as soon as power is restored. The problem is frequently caused by something that is heat sensitive, and it make take several minutes for the device to start causing problems, even if power is interrupted for only a few seconds. Homeowners are even worse - after all they aren't having any problem (usually) and they usually couldn't care less about ham radio. In fact, some are downright antagonistic! In each case, you need to use tact, and point out the following facts: (1) Defective electrical devices are a proven fire hazard. All that arcing causes heat, and the arcing itself further wears the defective part, making the problem worse. Eventually the item will fail, hopefully not disastrously, but why take the chance? (2) Interference is definitely under the jurisdiction of the FCC, who has the power to force the owner of the interfering device to correct the problem, and can levy fines if the owner fails to act. (3) Defective appliances, signs, etc. all waste electricity - and in these times who has money to throw down the drain? (4) If the device is producing RF interference (as opposed to arcing type interference) often installing a line filter can correct the problem - and see (2) above. Many hams have a line filter or two to use for testing, and frequently installing one of these can correct (or reduce to tolerable levels) thermostat and small motor type problems. Electrical appliances, particularly in commercial applications, should be repaired or serviced by experienced electricians. Unfortunately, most professional electricians have little or no knowledge of RF interference problems or how to cure them. Therefore, you may find yourself in the position of advising the expert, so to speak. Most electricians will gladly accept help and advice if you don't become pushy or try to show them up. Correcting these problems often requires coordination between the ham, the owner of the interfering device, and the service person. The ARRL handbook is a good source of additional material on this subject, as are the few books specializing in interference location and elimination. It would be a good investment for any ham to have such a book as part of his or her permanent collection. Eventually, one or more of these methods will succeed, and you will be rewarded with truly quiet, low noise listening. If you have never operated from a quiet location,



you have a treat coming. I try my best to track down each problem as it comes up, and the results are nothing short of amazing! Many times I have been asked how it was I was working some DX station that another ham only a few miles away couldn't even hear - and the only difference was that my noise level was zero, or nearly so, and the other guy was trying to listen through a S-3 noise level.

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## 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 Fred Meyer for their charitable donation programs. If you aren't 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

Northwestern News  
Volume Two, June 2025

Greetings fellow Northwestern division members. I see on the calendar that Summer is upon us, however as I check the weather report for the upcoming weekend, it's calling for snow in the higher elevations. What gives Mother Nature?

SEA-PAC, another successful Convention  
It looked like everyone had a great time in Seaside again this year. The weather was great and so was the crowd. The ARRL booth was busy all weekend and we had a good turnout for the forum. ARRL 1st VP McIntyre was our guest, coming up from California, and commented several times

about how friendly everyone was at the event. I think she has already made plans to attend again next year. Gordon West had the honor of being the keynote speaker Saturday night and the crowd enjoyed his "tails". He also spent most of the weekend in the booth along with 2nd VP Ritz, VD Sterba, EWA SM Whitney, Director of Marketing Inderbitzen (from HQ) and yours truly. Oregon SM Rosenfeld, WWA SM Purdom, and AK SM Stevens were also roaming the venue.

Wenatchee Hamfest  
VD Sterba and I attended the Wenatchee Hamfest. The weather was a bit warm this year but a good time was had by all. This is always a fun event.

Inland Empire VHF swapmeet  
EWA SM Whitney made the trip back up to Spokane to attend this event and reports attendance was good and got to set up her table between the kettle corn folks and the hot dog guy. I wish I had gone along after hearing that.

ARRL Teachers Institute (from the ARRL web)  
ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® welcomed the year's first cohort of educators to attend a session of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI) at headquarters this week. The group follows on the success of the Louisiana-based session last week, and one on Staten Island in New York City this past in January.

The educators traveled from all over the country to attend and learn how to take radio and wireless technology back into the classroom as part of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) lessons. Many of the teachers took and passed their amateur radio license exams during the week, including Professor Charnell Long, Ph.D. She is a professor at North Carolina A&T University who works with pre-service educators to become certified teachers. She hopes to be a multiplying force for the information. (HDX note) The board of directors of the Comm Academy that used to take place each year in the Puget Sound area has donated it's remaining funds to ARRL in support of a TI to be done in the Seattle area, stand

by for details. If you are an educator here in the Northwest it would be a great opportunity to participate. For more information on TI see <https://www.arrl.org/teachers-institute-on-wireless-technology>

#### Field Day 2025

FD is coming up fast and with it comes hours of radio fun, bad chili, fun times, and with luck, many contacts in the log. A news story with all the relevant links can be found on the ARRL web at <https://www.arrl.org/news/2025-arrl-field-day-are-you-ready> Remember to have fun most of all, be safe, and make every attempt to bring a new ham with you or invite others that may be interested in Amateur Radio. Our ranks are shrinking with respect to “active” hams. After the last two months, I’m spending the weekend on the air handing out Eastern WA. I hope to see you in the log.

#### ECFSC Committee

ECFSC has been very busy lately working on updating materials for clubs and hamfests. New documents have been posted to the ARRL web. Two in particular, which were years outdated, are the Club Primer and the Rules pertaining to hamfests and conventions. The Primer is here: <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/ARRL%20Club%20Primer-rev%20March%202025.pdf> and the new Hamfest and Convention document is here: <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Rules%20for%20Hamfests%20Trunkfests%20Conventions.pdf>

#### ARRL Second Board of Directors Meeting: (repeat)

July 18th and 19th will be the second meeting of the board in Ct. VD Sterba and I have our travel plans made and are looking forward to the trip. As some will remember, in January, we postponed the vote on a change to By-Law 46 until July. To date the committee that worked on this document has not received any further input from board members about what was presented so I anticipate it will pass as written. A member bulletin was sent out last year with the proposed change and can be found here: BL 46 proposal (note this bulletin also includes information on BL 18 changes which were already passed in January. The report from the committee can be found at the following link and I would encourage members to read it for the background on this By-Law proposal. Report to the board

Upcoming ARRL sanctioned Hamfests and Conventions through August  
Check the always updated webpage of Assistant Director Burlingame at [n7cfo.com](http://n7cfo.com)

July 18-19 and 20 – Glacier Waterton Hamfest in East Glacier (MT)  
July 19th - Kenai Peninsula Hamfest in Kenai (AK)  
July 19th -Richmond Amateur Radio Club Swap in Richland BC (Canada)  
July 26th – Chehalis Vally ARC Swap at the Southwest WA Fairgrounds, Chehalis (WA)  
August 9th – Idaho State convention in Post Falls Idaho  
August 15-17th Pacific Northwest DX Convention in Clackamas, OR

Mark J. Tharp KB7HDX  
ARRL Director  
Northwestern Division  
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And now some words of wisdom from Vice Director Sterba:

Hello Northwestern Division!

The past couple of months have been quite a ride! I have some bittersweet news: SteppIR will cease operations on the consumer side on August 31, 2025, and OptiBeam is being acquired by WiMo Antenna, which will integrate their products. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported our ham radio community. On a positive note, I've attended several events recently, each offering unique experiences and valuable connections. A recurring theme is the need to reinvigorate our amateur radio ranks. Director Tharp and I are brainstorming ways to promote amateur radio to a broader audience.

One highlight was the Stanwood Camano Island Electronics Swap-meet, a treasure-filled event hosted by the Stanwood - Camano Amateur Radio Club, which has grown to be the largest swap event north of Seattle. I also enjoyed the ARRL Northwestern Convention at SeaPac, where dedicated volunteers keep the momentum going year after year. Most recently, I attended the Apple City ARC Hamfest in Dryden, WA, a family-friendly event with fun activities, VE testing, and a bonus presentation on the pros and cons of magnetic loop antennas. Now, onto some business from my first Administration and

Finance

Committee Meeting in early May. Here are the key points:

Favorable:

- Advertising and other revenues are trending higher.
- Expenses are below plan.
- New book models are receiving great feedback and sales.
- The Teacher's Institute is progressing, with opportunities at John

Hopkins University.

- LoTW is performing better post-cyber event, with a planned downtime for updates.

Less favorable:

- Operations are running at a deficit.
- Products and sales are below plan.
- Dues collected are lower than expected due to reduced membership.
- Awards are also lower than anticipated.

The committee is working on ideas to reinvigorate our community, and we'll share insights at the next meeting in July.

Field Day is coming up! Let's connect with our communities, bring your best, engage, stay safe, and have fun! Looking ahead, I'm excited for the 2nd ARRL Board Meeting in July. The talent and diverse perspectives at the table are inspiring!

Populations at the time of this writing (Lagging Indicators):  
Northwestern Division Membership: \* 10,551 (Decrease from 10,628) \* 181  
(New) \* 78 (Lapsed that re-joined)  
National Membership: \* 134,529 (Decrease from 135,468)  
License Counts: \* 71,886 (Division total) \* 8 (New) \* 0  
(Upgrades)  
(Reporting under maintenance) \* 743,006 (National total)

(Broken record warning, but it is true) 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, KG7HQ  
ARRL Vice Director Northwestern Division  
kg7hq@ARRL.org

ARRL Northwestern Division  
Director: Mark J Tharp, KB7HDX  
kb7hdx@arrl.org

## 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

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**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 – 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/KL7JFT 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.

**Swap & Shop – Ameritron AL-811H Amplifier, 12/21/2024, WL4DX**

Ameritron AL-811H Amplifier \$900 shipping not included. If needs to be shipped it will be calculated at the time of purchase. Photos below. Contact Misty at (907) 444-4085 or [mistynotte13@gmail.com](mailto:mistynotte13@gmail.com)



## ARRL Announces Logbook of The World® Systems Upgrade

Dear LoTW user,

ARRL's Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) is the 2nd most popular benefit among members. It is also an extremely popular service internationally for non-members, as it is the primary means for providing confirmations for ARRL Awards, such as DXCC and Worked All States.

As a part of the ongoing modernization of the ARRL systems infrastructure, LoTW will be receiving major upgrades to the operating system it is running on, the relational database system it uses to store and access logbook and awards data, and server hosting, where it will be fully migrated to the cloud. These changes will, among other improvements, ensure LoTW performance needs can be better met based on user demand.

**LoTW will be unavailable from June 27 to July 2, 2025, to complete these upgrades.** We will bring LoTW back online if it is available sooner than July 2.

Logbook of The World can be found at [lotw.arrl.org](http://lotw.arrl.org). More information about the popular service is available at [www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world](http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world).

If you are a user of LoTW and not an ARRL member, please become a supporter of LoTW by making a \$20 (or more) donation to the **ARRL LoTW Fund** or visit [www.arrl.org/donate](http://www.arrl.org/donate).

Very 73, and see you on the air!

David A. Minster, NA2AA  
ARRL CEO







