

# Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

## Next Meeting on February 5 ! ←

### **Officers**

<b>President</b>	Richard Tweet, KL2AZ
<b>Vice President</b>	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
<b>Secretary</b>	Dave Webb, N9AIG
<b>Treasurer</b>	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  
 David Nicolai, K1TAQ  
 Rebecca Weicht, Associate

### **Board Appointees**

<b>Station Manager</b>	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
<b>Activities Chairman</b>	Vacant
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Keith Clark, KL7MM/Temp.
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Vacant
<b>Trustee</b>	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  
 Moosehorn Net 147.84/.24 repeater Sunday 6:30 PM.  
 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  
 146.42MHz 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/>  
Delta Amateur Radio Club <http://www.kl7drc.org/>  
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](mailto: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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## FEBRUARY EVENTS

**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>.

**February 17: 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.

**February 27: 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. <https://kl7jfu.com>



**Coming up February 26!**

### Why Do We Do Public Service Looking Forward to Our Next Events!

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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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all,

Just a reminder that we resume our monthly membership meetings on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The meetings will remain as both in-person and Zoom sessions. The Zoom link is on the [www.kl7aa.org/events](https://www.kl7aa.org/events) calendar page. I hope to see you at the meetings!

As everyone files for their PFD this year, please consider the Pick, Click, Give option with your application to support The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. A reminder that the PFD application period closes on March 31<sup>st</sup>, but individuals may add or adjust their pledges through August 31<sup>st</sup>.

We appear to be okay for now, but with another large snowfall, we will be looking to clear the flat section of the roof at the club station. Most likely, this will be done on a Saturday, so watch for a club blog post and let me know if you

can help. I can be reached via email ([president@kl7aa.org](mailto:president@kl7aa.org)) or text (9072319155).

Thank you to Marty KL7AM for repairs to the club's ACOM amplifier. This has been returned to service and is greatly appreciated.

Please watch the KL7AA.org website for upcoming Public Service events and consider volunteering for any/all of the events.

As always, thank you for your support of the AARC.

Richard Tweet KL2AZ  
President, AARC

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## Alaska Section News October 2025

No information received this month.

David W Stevens KL7EB AK SM  
[KL7EB@arrl.org](mailto:KL7EB@arrl.org)

### Grubstake Repeater!!

The Grubstake repeater system is on the air on 147.33 with plus offset and a tone of 103.5 Hz, with full power 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 more upgrades. Please see [kl7aa.org](http://kl7aa.org) for a link for financial support this site.



### MOTOROLA EQUIPMENT

If you are interested in any older Motorola training material, manuals, or old equipment, a 36 year retired Motorola engineer and Field Tech Rep is wanting to clean out his shed and shop. To view please call: Scott Hulse, 907-240-4028 to arrange an appointment.



## ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**There was no January General Membership Meeting**

## ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ZOOM BOARD MEETING

December 16, 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, Dave Webb N9AIG, Wigi Tozzi KL0R, John Lime III KL4OF, Dave Nicolai K1TAQ, Rebecca Weicht, Keith Clark KL7MM, TJ Sheffield KL7TS, and Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH

### **EXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:**

Kent Petty KL5T

### **UNEXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:**

None

### **REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH requested that we add I.T. discussion to the agenda.

### **VISITORS:**

None

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

None

### **REPORTS:**

#### **SECRETARY REPORT**

Dave Webb N9AIG provided the November 18, 2025, AARC Board meeting minutes and the December 4, 2025, membership meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made by Keith Clark KL7MM, to approve the minutes and was seconded by Dave Nicolai K1TAQ with several corrections. With no objections, the motion passed.

## **TREASURER REPORT**

Kent Petty KL5T was not available but he sent out a two-page report.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that he did send out a finance report to the board of directors. Keith went on to say that we have an interested party for purchasing the weather port for \$5,000.

## **GAMING COMMITTEE**

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that nothing was new.

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Keith Clark KL7MM noted the KL7AA callsign was not used and Dave Webb N9AIG reported that KL7G was not used either.

## **PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that we have a VIP tour scheduled for early January and we would also be hosting the Girl Scouts in early January.

There was not any damage to our outdoor equipment during the last high wind event.

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

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that we had contact with the 301st intelligence squadron. These are the same people that Kent Petty KL5T did his active duty with the Air Force. They were given a tour, and they are interested in a radio school. We need to reach out to them because we have not heard from them since their visit. We should call them with available training and some firm dates.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Kent Petty KL5T was not available, but he did send out a report that indicates 297 members. There may be a few members out there that still need to renew their membership. This would increase the membership numbers.

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that he is working on sending out mailers to amateurs that are not members to encourage them to join KL7AA.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Kent Petty KL5T was not available to comment.

## **EQUIPMENT REPORT**

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that we do have quite an inventory of equipment that we need to process. Many radios are older and probably are going to be hard to find someone that wants it. We have more modern equipment, and it's stacked in the storage room off the big classroom. It's essentially the way we brought it in the door. That equipment may be more desirable to find amateurs that want that equipment.

As part of our cleanup for the Girl Scouts and VIP tour, determining which equipment is useful versus 30 years old and not as useful needs to be performed.

Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH indicated that he can place the equipment up for sale, but he needs pictures and an indication that the equipment is in working order.

Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH also indicated that we have 44 days to make a decision on which of our computers we would like to add licenses. Unfortunately, this is an example of Microsoft pulling back the free benefits for a nonprofit organization. This is happening after the Windows 10 scenario where support stops after a certain date. So, Mathieu recommends a reduction of the older machines. All 37 that we have registered, that number only includes those that were onboarded to the management tool that I have. Otherwise, we'll need to make a decision cost-wise on how many of those licenses to purchase, because that will be an expense moving forward if you want to maintain Microsoft Office. Depending on how many we buy, there might be a discount, but I would budget for the full \$8 per device. Our Microsoft Office licensing cuts off on January 30th of 2026.

At that time Microsoft will actually uninstall Office or present license activation prompts to everybody and not let them do anything to open a document. And then sometime after that, that uninstall will take place automatically without our ability to do anything about it. So, we do have to decide before that and fund a certain amount of those licenses and pick which devices they'll be applied to.

This issue has been moved to the Development committee for a recommendation back to the Board of Directors.

Mathieu Ostrander KL4QH also brought up the Makerspace topic. Makerspace may or may not shut down. Their rent is very high, and their membership can no longer support the cost. To consider merging with them will take a review of the lease. The last time this was visited, we cannot sublease space to another entity.

If the organization goes out of business, there could be some equipment that KL7AA could use to fabricate communications projects. If they did cease to exist, their existing membership may resort to liquidating some of their more sophisticated equipment to reimburse the membership for their out-of-pocket expenses. (a description of Makerspace can be found here: [www.anchoragemakerspace.com](http://www.anchoragemakerspace.com)) Mathieu proposed examining donation-based space arrangement if they're interested, though subletting restrictions remain a concern. This issue has been moved to the Development committee for a recommendation back to the Board of Directors.

## **EMCOMM**

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated:

- Washington Emergency Management Division held COMEX Communications Exercise with Scott Dakers inviting club participation
- Club participated first weekend (Friday and Saturday) taking over net control for West Coast net
- Second weekend canceled due to real-world flooding in Washington that activated their EOC
- Exercise included Washington and Oregon, expanding club's ability to work with both states
- Scott Dakers appreciated club's participation and has club on his radar for future exercises

- Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) proposing training exercise involving ham radio at two locations: 5W and their warehouse.
- ANMC emergency manager Lori Olson coordinating the communications drill
- Michael Kubler from Providence stopped by Wednesday net to discuss drill

### VEC PROGRAM

Kent Petty KL5T sent out a report indicating the total number of volunteer examiners and volunteer hours.

### PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Keith Clark KL7MM has also received notice about a coordination meeting for the RunFest. It will be in March or April 2026.

Richard Tweet KL2AZ attended the first Gold Nugget Triathlon Zoom meeting that happened on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

Richard also indicated that the first Alaska Run for Women meeting is the first Monday of each month starting in January. Dave Nicolai K1TAQ volunteered to be the club's point of contact for some of these public service events. He indicated that he could make the GNT and the Alaska Run for women in 2026.

No updates regarding Dog Jog (usually in June or July).

### OLD BUSINESS

01. Vacancies – Newsletter Editor (we may have someone interested; more information come spring), and Membership Coordinator remain vacant. The search for a new Treasurer continues.

02. KL7AA Repeater Site status. Both Glen Alps and Site Summit need immediate attention to resolve access issues and lease verbiage.

03. AARC Weatherport sale – We have an interested party.

04. Postcard mailing to prospective hams went out with KL7AA receiving new membership sign-ups.

### NEW BUSINESS

01. Richard Tweet KL2AZ asked that he be contacted for membership meeting speakers.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 12/16/2025 by Dave Webb N9AIG, AARC Secretary.

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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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### WINLINK

For those of you who regularly check in to the South Central Simplex Net, you have probably heard net control say that we are also taking check-ins on Winlink.

Winlink is another tool in the toolbox that will be very important in an emergency and we encourage you to install the program on your computer.

We are currently running the Winlink sessions in Telnet mode so that everyone, especially those not connected to a radio, have the opportunity to practice before we go RF live peer to peer.

Winlink can be downloaded at:

Winlink.org

Click on the download tab

Then select user programs

Then select winlink\_express\_install\_1-7-28-0.zip

Once downloaded follow the install instructions.

We look forward to seeing you on the next South Central Simplex Net.

### From the Past - - (2005)

#### The Vertical End-Fed Halfwave vs an Inverted V By Bruce Draper, AA5B

Special to The ARS Sojourner There was a lot of discussion on QRP-L a while back about the relative merits of a traditional dipole and an end-fed half wave. The end-fed wire is especially attractive for backpackers who would rather carry a small tuner than a roll of coax. But does the end-fed wire work as well as a traditional dipole? There were plenty of reports like "I worked W1ABC in Vermont" or "I got a 589 in Utah" or "It really seems to get out" or "It tuned up really well," but I didn't see any one-on-one comparisons. So, with the Flight of the Bumblebees looming on my calendar, I decided to run some experiments myself. In these tests, I compared antenna configurations that I thought I and other QRPers might use in the field. Basically, I looked at groundmounted end-fed vertical half-wave wires versus inverted Vs at different heights.

In Experiment No. 1, I compared a 40-meter inverted V to an end-fed "vertical" half-wave. The inverted V was fed with about 70 feet of RG8x to the apex at 52 feet with the ends at about 30 feet.

That's pretty typical of what I can put up while hiking. The end-fed wire antenna was 66 feet long, attached directly to a tuner at nearly ground level, and the top was at 50 feet. The wire was pulled away from the tower in the middle, so it wasn't vertical . . . again, I think this is typical of what I might do on the trail (I don't often find trees higher than 50 feet around here, so I use inverted Ls or bent verticals).



The tuner was connected to the radio through a very short piece of RG8x. Consistent with the recent discussion on QRPL, I added a couple of 33-foot radials at the tuner, but I found that they had very little effect on the SWR or the tuning. The tuner was able to get the SWR down to about 1.2.

Using an antenna switch so I could make very quick changes, I made comparisons with dozens of stations in Europe, Asia, South America, and all over North America, daytime and nighttime, receiving and transmitting.

The antennas were always very close in performance, but the end-fed wire was never better than the inverted V.

Instead, the V was often about 3 dB (half an S unit) better - never more than a full S-unit (and even that was rare). So I'd say that an end-fed half-wave vertical is roughly comparable to an inverted V with the apex at the same height as the top of the vertical.

Experiment No. 2 was on 20 meters, and allowed me to compare an end-fed half wave wire "vertical" to an inverted V that was much higher than the vertical.

The end-fed wire was 33 feet long, attached to the tower at about 25 feet and pulled away in the middle to make a crooked vertical (as before, it was fed directly by a tuner at ground level which was connected to the radio by a short piece of coax, and two quarter-wave counterpoises were laid on the ground).

The inverted V apex was at 52 feet, with the ends about 40 feet above ground. So, unlike in the 40-meter tests, the V was on average a lot higher than the end-fed wire.

This time, the high inverted V was always better than the halfwave end-fed bent vertical, by an average of nearly two S units. Sometimes the difference was as much as 3 or 4!

Taking this one step further, Experiment No. 3 compared the same 20 meter vertical half-wave to a dipole at about 20 feet.

The result, as expected: The vertical half-wave outperformed the low dipole by about an S unit everywhere except sometimes for the close-in stuff (stations within 1,000 miles or so).

#### IN SUMMARY

The best: High dipole (higher than the top of an end-fed halfwave wire).

About equal: End-fed half wave vertical and a dipole at the same maximum height.

The worst: Low dipole.

My final conclusion: If you can get a dipole or inverted V up in the air at least as high as the top of an end-fed half-wave wire you're thinking of using, and you don't mind carrying the

extra coax, do it. The dipole will be better . . . sometimes by a lot.

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Bruce Draper, AA5B, is a prolific writer, QRP operator and outdoorsman who is a frequent contributor to The ARS Sojourner. A former editor of the ARRL's National Contest Journal, Bruce lives in Albuquerque, NM. (Used with Permission from August 2001 ARS Sojourner)

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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. There is an interested party so to add your name as an interested party, please go to [info@kl7aa.org](mailto:info@kl7aa.org).

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#### ARRL Division News Northwestern Division

No current report at time of publication.

#### 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>

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/>

#### Telescoping tower for sale

Cushcraft 3 element 10, 15, 20 band with 40 m add on. Plus roof mount tower 'kit'. \$100 or best offer Contact: Andy Kmak WE9H 661-992-9224 20610 Jayhawk Drive Chugiak,...

An older ham who is retiring his station has a number of items to sell. Anyone interested in any of the items please contact the Club at [info@kl7aa.org](mailto:info@kl7aa.org).

Ameritron AL80B  
Ameritron SPS75MV  
Ameritron ALS500M  
Kenwood TS890S  
Yaesu FT 857D  
Yaesu FT 2900R  
Mosley TW-32  
Hygain Tailtwister  
Hygain TH3MKY  
LDG AT-600 Pro II  
MFJ 9390Y  
MFJ941E  
MFJ 962C/D  
ACR Terra Fix (GPS)  
Pixel RF Pro-1b

Older listings can also be found on the Club website.

### Motorola Equipment

If you are interested in any older Motorola training material, manuals, or old equipment, a 36 year retired Motorola engineer and Field Tech Rep is wanting to clean out his shed and shop.

To view please call: Scott Hulse, 907-240-4028 to arrange an appointment.

## Anchorage ARC Youth Licensing Scholarship Established!

By KENT PETTY Published DECEMBER 16,  
[2025 DONATIONS, EDUCATION, FUNDRAISING, LICENSE TESTING, PRESS RELEASE, VEC](#)

The Anchorage ARC has established a Youth Licensing Scholarship.

This scholarship was established to foster youth development by reimbursing qualified applicants for the Anchorage VEC amateur radio license examination fee and, for new licensees, the FCC license application fee. The program is funded through donations from individuals and organizations and is open to any youth under the age of 18. Scholarships are awarded on a funds-available basis. If the Scholarship Fund is depleted, awards will be suspended until additional funds are received.

Learn how YOU can support the fund via your donations and how youth candidates can apply for the scholarship by [clicking here](#). (Link is on the KL7AA Blog site)

73,

Kent Petty, KL5T, Treasurer

## The early days of POTA





'Oh, yeah? Well, *my ol'* man has  
326 countries confirmed *and* five band DXCC!'





