

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Friday May 1, 1998

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Officers

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Vice President	Paul Spatzek WL7BF
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Activities Chairman	John Lynn KL0CY
News Letter Editor	Edythe Lynn KL0EO

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Bruce McCormick WL7YR
 Mel Saunders AL7PB
 Harvey Rookus NL7DK

One Year Board Members

Dianne Hammer NL7KN
 Fred Erickson KL7VC
 John Orella KL7LL
 Corny Eastman KL0FK
 Jack Crowell W6BUS
 Dave Filley WL7CDJ

WEB PAGES:

AARC <http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>
 Email to kl7aa@akconnect.com
 SCRC <http://www.servcom.com/worcester/scrc.htm>
 EARS <http://ww2.customcpu.com/kl7air/default.htm>
 KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>
 Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>
 Propagation Report Recording 566-1819
please let us know if there are other club pages or good starting points that should appear here

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Edythe Lynn, KL0EO must be received 2 wks before meeting
 Email: edielynn@gci.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791
 Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
 AK time, every day
 Frequencies: 3575 KHz and 145.35 MHz
 Sending Speeds: 22 wpm, 15 wpm, 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:
 Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 1900 UTC daily
 Alaska Bush Net 7.087 MHz 2000 UTC daily
 Alaska Motley Net 3.933 Mhz 2100 UTC daily
 Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net 14.292 MHz 8:30 AM M-F
 QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 9:00 PM local
 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 9:00 PM local
 Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local
 Big City Sideband Net 144.20 USB Tuesdays 8:30 PM local
 ARES net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 8:00 PM local
 PARKA net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft
 146.34/94 Mhz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL
 223.34/224.94, 25 watts, no patch, no PL
 444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 PL
 KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 4,700 ft
 147.30/90 Mhz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL
 KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.
 146.16/76 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
 KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC club
 146.97/.37 Mhz, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL
 KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.
 147.09/.69 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL
 444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
 KL7JFU, Palmer, MARA club
 146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL
 KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS
 147.27/.87 no patch, 107.2 Hz PL

This Month's Speaker

Dan Spears, NL7UW will be demonstrating authoring of a web page using the Front Page software. Come see how easily a web page be built.

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Board Meeting Minutes

by Susan Woods, NL7NN

On April 8, 1998, the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club held it's monthly Board Meeting. It was held in room 150 of Grant Hall on the Alaska Pacific University Campus. The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by the President. Board Members present were the following: President Peter Bailey, WL7BF; Secretary, Susan Woods, NL7NN; Treasurer, John Lawson, NL7NC; Trustee, John Wolfe, AA0NN; Past President Rob Wilson, AL7KK; Three Year Board Members: Bruce McCormick, WL7YR; Harvey Rookus, NL7DK; One Year Board Members: John Orella, KL7LL; Dian Hammer, NL7KN; and Fred Erickson, KL7VC. Also present were AARCX Members: Frank O'Connor WL7ZU; Kris O'Connor, WL7ZT; Richard O'Connor, WL7CPG, and Rick Marvin, KL7YF.

The March Meeting minutes were read and approved unanimously by the Board. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Harvey Rookus, NL7DK, with a second by Bruce McCormick, WL7YR.

John Lawson, NL7NC, presented the treasurers report: As of April 1998 the AARC's business account had \$1,441.95; the gaming account had \$34,848.77; and the life membership account had \$24,794.18. John Layson, NL7NC, will attend the Boniface Bingo Board Meeting on April 9, 1998 and receive the disbursement for March.

Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs was given \$1,000.00 in March; however, they only wanted \$750.00. so a check for that amount will be issued to them.

A check was issued to John Lawson, NL7NC, in the amount of \$330.00 for the printing of February Newsletter; for he paid Parnell Printing with a personal check.

Parnell Printing claims to be in desperate need for cash and has been hounding both Edythe Lynn, KL0EO; and John Lawson, NL7NC; for payment. The Board recommended that Edythe be allowed to pay Parnell Printing on the spot with a check provided by the AARC. It was also recommended that Edythe be allowed to scope out a new printer.

Alaska Pacific University has been providing refreshments in the form of coffee and cookies/rolls/muffins for the Members of the AARC. The cost of this service has been \$75.00 per month the University has indicated that they are going to increase this amount now to \$90.00 a month. Edythe Lynn, KL0EO, said that she could do it for about \$30.00 to \$36.00 per month. A motion was made by John Lawson, NL7NC, to have the PARKA's do the catering for a fee of \$50.00 per month and the PARKA's would then reimburse Edythe for the expenses. It was seconded by Peter

Bailey, WL7BW. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. PARKA was issued a check in the amount of \$300.00 to cover six months of catering.

The Membership Chairman, Fred Erickson, KL7VC, reports that the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club has about 310 members. About 100 members have E-mail addresses. Fred is looking into notifying club members about the tower ordinance via E-mail. Corrections to addresses; mailing, as well as E-mail, should be requested from Life Members every five years or so. Otherwise, they tend to be lost in the shuffle.

Rick Marvin, KL7YF, gave us a brief VHF Committee report. The Alyeska Repeater is back in working order.

The LK7ION repeater, 147.30+, has recently been subject to a noise floor increase due to a dirty transmitter in the vicinity. Testing to locate the source of the problem is proceeding.

Gene Eaton, AL7HX, turned down KSKA's old transmitting antenna that resides at Grant Hall, APU. Three request to take down the antenna did not include the tower. The antenna itself has no scarp value and therefore would not be worth the risk of taking it down.

The recommendation of Richard O'Connor, WL7CPG, to fill the vacant Board Member position will be presented to the General Membership in May. Regular Members of the AARC are those amateurs who hold a valid operator's license, and have reached the age of majority. Associate Members of the AARC are those amateurs who do not hold a valid operators license, or are not at the age of majority. Richard, being a Sophomore at Dimond High School, and 16 yr. old, is recognized as an Associate Member of the AARC. According to the AARC's By-laws Article III, Section 2. "All members of the Board shall be elected from the REGULAR MEMBERSHIP, except the six one-year Directors, who may be elected from either the REGULAR or ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. The motion was made by John Orella, KL7LL, with a second by Bruce McCormick, WL7YR. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

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NON-MEMBERS WELCOME: You don't need to be a member of the club to attend the meetings or any other AARC events, although we do encourage any non-member to join our group. See THIS MONTH'S EVENTS for the location and time for the meeting.

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VEC Eagle River Testing Discontinued from Mike McLaughlin WA7USX

We will no longer be giving the monthly tests in Eagle River beginning in June 1998 and lasting at least through August. We may start up again in September or start a regular test in

Palmer or Wasilla in its place. I will let you know when a final decision is made.

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VHF NETS ABOUND

All of you new HAMs take note: there are lots of nets and nice folks to visit with. The Son of Sideband Net runs each Monday night at 9:00 PM local on 144.200 Mhz USB with a 6 Meter extension on 50.150 Mhz USB. On Tuesday night, the Big City Sideband Net operates on 144.200 USB at 8:30PM local and then on 50.150 USB at 9:00 PM. On Thursday the ARES net starts at 8:00 PM on the 147.30/90 repeater with Amateur News line followed at 9:00 PM by the PARKA net. On Sunday there are two nets at the same time. In Anchorage, the QCWA net runs at 8:00 PM on the 146.97/37 repeater (103.5 Hz PL) and in the valley the 850 No Name Net runs on the 146.85/25 repeater.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES; All articles from members and interested persons are very welcomed. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted on computer disk, faxed, or via Email to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least to weeks prior to the meeting.

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Regular HAM Gatherings:

* **Tuesdays, 11:30am to 1:00pm:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, Old Seward Hwy. (South of Dimond Center). Although billed as the QCWA lunch, this is open to all and is a good time of fellowship.

* **Saturdays, 7:30am:** Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

ABACUS RADIO REPAIR

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.

Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

May 1: AARC general meeting at 7PM Carr-Gottstein Building APU Campus. Talk in on 146.94 repeater

May 6: VE Licence Exams. 6:30pm Carr-Gottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion

May 8: SCRC general meeting at 7PM RM 220, Business Ed. Bldg., UAA campus. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

May 9: VE License Exams, Hope Cottage Offices, 540 W. International in the Board Room. At 2pm. Be sure to bring photocopy of your license, photo ID, and any certificates of completed elements.

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Red Cross Opening a Success:

The American Red Cross has a new facility at 235 E. 8th Ave., PO Box 10-1139, Anchorage, AK 99510-1139. On April 4th the Red Cross had the dedication of it's new building. It had a great turn out from the community.

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Disasters & Drills

Municipality of Anchorage/ARES Mass Casualty Drill from Lil Marvin NL7DL

The Municipality of Anchorage, the Joint Medical Emergency Preparedness Group, ARES, the Red Cross, and ARCO are planning a mass casualty drill to be held Thursday, April 30th, from approximately 9:00 AM until approximately 3:00 PM. The purpose of the drill is two-fold: 1. to test the groups' ability to respond to a full-scale mass casualty emergency; and 2. rectification of hospitals and city emergency response organizations.

The mass casualty drill will occur as follows: On April 30th, at approximately 8:30 AM, the city will be hit by a 6.5 earthquake, followed by several aftershocks of approximately 6.1 in magnitude. The Beluga power plant will lose all power. A reverse thrust of the quake will destroy Tudor Road, the site of the primary major damage. Signature Aviation Fuel, on West International Road, will suffer heavy damage, spilling fuel and chemicals, resulting in burns and contamination of many of the victims. Damage will also occur along 32nd Avenue off of Minnesota. Critically injured victims will be transported via bus to Providence Hospital, Alaska Regional Hospital, and the Alaska Native Medical Center. Some noncritical patients will be downloaded via bus to Providence Extended Care (on Eagle off of International Airport Road), Ernie Turner Rehab Center, Charter North Hospital on DeBarr or API (on 36th behind McLaughlin Youth Center). Non-injured victims will be transported to the Red Cross shelters listed below.

Incident Command centers will be set up at the following places: 3500 E. Tudor Road (the Municipal buildings next to the Tudor Track); the old Northern Lights ABC school (on 32nd Avenue off of Minnesota), ; and Signature Aviation Fuels on West International Airport Road. The Red Cross will

set up shelters at Chinook Elementary School (on 88th, just west of Dimond High School), and at Homestead Elementary School (on Baranof in Eagle River). The Red Cross will also transport supplies to the shelters and incident command centers via emergency response vehicles (ERVs).

The Municipality has requested amateur participation at the EOC (Emergency Office Coordinator) office, all three incident command centers, all three major hospitals, Charter North Hospital, API, Providence Extended Care, Ernie Turner Rehab Center, on buses, Red Cross headquarters, shelters and emergency response vehicles, the Blood Bank, and at the PEPPA (an organization set up to provide emergency housing for pets and livestock) animal shelters to be located next to the Red Cross shelters. Many of these positions have already been filled, but amateurs are still needed for the following: buses, Red Cross vehicles, Charter North, API, and the rehab center. Amateurs are also needed for standby, in the event that another amateur must cancel out of the drill at the last minute. Hams who are interested in participating in the drill should contact Susan Woods NL7NN at 243-5833, or Lil Marvin NL7DL at 277-6741, or via Lil's email at rlment@alaska.net.

ARCO is planning participation in the mass casualty drill by running an amateur radio station at the ARCO Tower building between the hours of noon and 2:00 PM on the day of the drill. ARCO has both HF and VHF capability. They will monitor the ARES repeater on 147.30/90. They hope to pass health and welfare traffic from ARES, via HF to Prudhoe Bay and possibly Kuparuk. ARCO is requesting 2 hams to man their station, one on HF and one on VHF, to provide communications. ARCO would also like amateurs outside of the Anchorage area to monitor 7.087 MHz, with 14.292 MHz as an alternate frequency, during the drill, and to act as possible relays. In preparation for the drill, ARCO will be setting up a net on Tuesday, April 21st, at 12:00 noon, on the frequencies listed above. The net is unnamed as of yet. For more information, contact John Lawson NL7NC at 265-6309 or Email him at jlawson@mail.aai.arco.com.

Amateurs who have not yet volunteered for the mass casualty drill are strongly urged to do so, if at all possible. The municipality and other organizations involved in the drill are requesting far more amateurs than have been traditionally used in the past. This will be a most opportune time for amateurs to show their community and their city government just what they can do for the benefit of the public.

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ARES MAGNETIC SIGNS AT BARGAIN PRICES

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club has ordered amateur radio magnetic signs, styrene plastic amateur radio signs, and bumper stickers which will be offered for sale to amateurs at greatly reduced prices. The magnetic signs are approximately

8 inches high by approximately 19 inches wide, and will be sold for \$4.00 each. The plastic signs are approximately 6 inches high by approximately 12 inches wide (about the size of a license plate), and will sell for \$1.00 each. The bumper stickers will sell for 25 cents each. These items will be particularly useful in making hams visible to the general public, most especially when providing communication for emergencies and community-related activities. Communities which are aware of the services that hams provide for them may be less likely to tolerate city ordinances which impose limitations on amateurs' towers and equipment. Hams interested in purchasing any of the above items should contact Susan Woods NL7NN at 243-5833, or Lil Marvin NL7DL at 277-6741.

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BATTERY CARE GUIDE

With summer, volunteer events and outdoor battery operations coming up, here are some tips on care and feeding of batteries, taken from the Internet:

When you first get your battery: Run your rechargeable battery through at least 3 full charge/discharge cycles before putting it into ordinary service. This will help obtain maximum capacity of the battery.

Storing your battery: Store your battery in a cool dry place. Do not leave your battery exposed to direct sunlight or temperatures below 30 degrees F and above 100 degrees F. Always discharge NiCd, NiMH and Li-Ion batteries before storing; and fully charge lead acid batteries before storing.

Charging your battery: Rechargeable batteries will perform better when trickle charged. Rapid or Fast charging can be used with NiCd, NiMH and Li-Ion batteries, but you must be sure that your charger can handle the cell chemistry involved. Please consult your charger manufacturer's user guide for these specifications. To calculate charge time for your battery, use the following equations:

Slow charger: (Cell capacity in MAH / Charging rate in ma) x 1.4 = Time in hours

Fast charger: (Cell capacity in MAH / Charging rate in ma) x 1.5 = Time in hours

For example if you have a 1700MAH battery and a charger charging at 700mA, you will need to charge the battery for approximately 3 1/2 hours.

Exercising your battery: Battery life will improve when you exercise your battery. To exercise a rechargeable battery, first discharge the battery to 1 volt per cell (or until your equipment complains of "low battery"). (NiCd and NiMH batteries consist of 1.2 volts per cell - i.e. a 4.8 volt battery contains 4 cells). Finally, charge your battery with a trickle charge until fully charged. When fully charged a NiCd

battery will show approximately 1.35 volts per cell, and a NiMH battery will show about 1.39 volts per cell.

NOTES on Battery Chemistries:

NiCd: Nickel-Cadmium rechargeable batteries are very durable and reliable. You may slow or fast charge most NiCd's, but some manufacturers make different types of cells specifically for rapid charging or specifically for slow charging. NiCd battery performance is improved dramatically by interspersing discharge pulses between charge pulses. This is known as "burp" or "reverse load" charging. This method of charging allows the battery to more efficiently degas while charging. NiCd batteries should not be left in a charger for more than 30 hours. Also, NiCd batteries should not be subjected to shallow discharge (i.e. using the battery for a short period of time, then recharging).

This type of use may result in crystalline formation inside the battery which will diminish performance. This is known as the "memory effect".

NiMH: Nickel-Metal Hydride rechargeable batteries are the next level up from NiCd. They offer up to 40% more run time per volume than NiCd. They are also more environmentally friendly. The biggest advantage of NiMH over NiCd is their ability to accept a charge at any time without suffering from the "memory effect". The best way to charge NiMH batteries is either with the "burp" charging described above, or with a Delta V terminating charger.

Before charging your NiMH battery, check with the charger manufacturer to make sure their charger can handle NiMH.

Li+: Lithium Ion is the latest technology in rechargeable batteries for portable equipment. They have the highest energy density among commercial batteries; twice that of NiCd. They also have a very low self-discharge rate. Li-Ion batteries are the most expensive batteries available commercially. Disposal of lithium based batteries may cause some concern since any moisture which may creep into the cell after corrosion could present danger of explosion.

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The Joy of Morse

David Sumner, K1ZZ

For now, the issue of the Morse code testing requirement for an HF license is settled. ARRL members were asked to consider whether or not to support the elimination of the requirement, and by a margin of better than two to one they favored the *status quo*. The ARRL Board of Directors heeded this mandate.

About 30% of the ARRL members disagree. That's a minority, but a substantial one: about 50,000 members. Some believe deeply that the League's position is wrong, and no doubt they will continue to work to change it. They are welcome to do so; representative democracy can be messy and even unpleasant at times, but if history has taught us anything

it is that there is no good substitute for constructive discourse for the mutually respectful clash of competing ideas. Meanwhile, it is important for all of us to remember that the issues on which we agree are far more significant than the ones on which we may disagree. It is fundamental that Amateur Radio as a whole needs to be promoted and defended, and the ARRL is the best means to that end; all else is secondary.

The league's position does not necessarily determine the issue. The Morse requirement is a part of the international radio regulations; these regulations are subject to the will of administrations, not of Amateur Radio organizations. But they have the force and effect of a treaty, and the earliest that administrations will even consider amending or eliminating the treaty document will be toward the end of the year 2001. Two or three more years would pass before any changes in domestic rules could take effect. In short, even those who support change must now accept that the peak of the new sun-spot cycle will have come and gone before any change could possibly occur. It's time to move on to other matters.

The licensing requirement debate has obscured how CW is doing as an operating mode. To those who don't listen carefully to the parts of our bands where Morse is used, the answer may be surprising: it's doing very well indeed, even in the part of the spectrum for which it is no longer a licensing requirement. In his February column VHF columnist Emil Pocock, W3EP, discussed "The Necessity of CW" in exploiting unusual propagation modes, even in the world above 50 Mhz. This month Jim McMasters, KD5BUR, describes a marriage of CW and computers to take advantage of the most fleeting, yet the most reliable, of VHF propagation phenomena: meteor scatter.

QRP-operating with 5 W or less-is an increasingly popular pursuit for which CW is particularly well suited. Turning quickly across an HF CW band with your receiver set to an SSB bandwidth, you will miss the fact that there are scads of weak stations whose operators are happily pursuing a low-impact, minimalist approach to radio communication-often with equipment they have built themselves. Not only is it fun, it combines several of the best aspects of Amateur Radio: improvement of one's operating skills, technical self-training, and the development of an emergency communications capability.

CW contest operators can only chuckle when they hear of the impending demise of the mode. The fact is that scores keep climbing as both the number and skill of participants continue to increase.

The ARRL staff regularly commissions random-sample member surveys to find out what you like and don't like about *QST*. The surveys also ask questions about your operating interests and activities. In a late 1997 survey, 46% of all respondents said they used CW regularly or occasionally. This places CW third in popularity among the operating modes, with FM at 78% and SSB at 74%. Among Extra, CW and SSB were at 81%. In other words, CW

remains a strong second in popularity among HF operating modes, well ahead of everything but SSB.

Finally, if you read our mail you would be forced to conclude that amateurs who operate CW must enjoy Amateur Radio more than others. Complaints about rude behavior, inappropriate language and jamming almost invariably involve voice (and occasionally packet) modes, almost never CW. For many, simply chatting by Morse with old and new friends remains the core of Amateur Radio and a pleasant way to wind down after a hectic day.

But there's another side to this happy picture. While there are enough skilled CW operators among the Baby Boomers to keep the dits and dahs flowing for another three decades or more, recently those of us who enjoy this mode have not done a sterling job of motivating and assisting others in developing those same skills. We have permitted Morse to be seen as an unpleasant obstacle to be overcome, not as an enjoyable skill to be developed for its own sake. Except in a few local training nets, it is rare to hear poorly sent, slow Morse on the air any more. Paradoxically, that's not a good sign. CW operating is learned by practice, and you have to do it badly before you can do it well.

So, here is a challenge to accomplished CW operators and an invitation to other HF licensees. Sometime over the Easter weekend or at some other convenient time during the month of April, *get on the air* in the CW Novice bands. Maybe, invite a friend to join you in your shack. Keep your speed down. Seek out and encourage struggling operators. Don't collect contacts as if they were scalps. Rather, collect them as you would new acquaintances with whom you share common interest.

If you're a new comer to CW, no matter what your license class or how long you've been licensed, don't be afraid to make mistakes; that's what the Novice bands are for. We were all struggling beginners at one time, even if selective amnesia protects us from the memory of how truly awful we were!!!!

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State, Local Legislation a Reaction to Antenna Concerns

Steve Mansfield, N1MZA

Recent federal legislation introduced to strengthen the hand of states and municipalities in telecommunications siting issues is just one piece of a much broader mosaic of the state and local initiatives. The intent is to contain the unrestricted proliferation of cellular and PCS antenna structures. Indeed, many municipalities have begun to impose moratoria on the further development of commercial antenna structures, citing either aesthetic or RF health concerns. Those moratoria have, in turn, triggered legal action on the part of cellular and PCS interests, most notably from the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association. This conflict between commercial telecommunication and citizens is a growing worldwide phenomenon as the cellular and PCS build out continues.

The federal legislation, S. 1350 in the Senate and HR. 3016 in the House, is generally thought by Capitol Hill insiders not to have much chance this session. Even so, cellular and PCS industries see the bills as possible harbingers of more troublesome initiatives waiting for introduction next session. The motivations behind the federal legislation, is to provide a kind of umbrella authority for the proliferation of the state and local ordinances.

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FCC Report Fuels Rumors

Steve Mansfield, N1MZA

The Federal Communications Commission recently released a list of 31 proposed proceedings for 1998. The wording of at least one of those proposals has fueled rumors of some sort of radical restructuring of the administration of Amateur Radio and the licensing process. But the rumors may be a bit overblown. In its Report #GN 98-1 posted on the FCC web site in February, the FCC noted its intent to pursue "broad, comprehensive internal review of all existing FCC regulations and informal input from the industry and the public". The report says that could include streamlining the Amateur Radio Service "to privatize further the administration of the Amateur Radio Service and to simplify the licensing process." Our contracts within FCC tell us that the proposal simply refers to internal administrative housecleaning matters, rather than any sort of radical restructuring. The staff in the Wireless Bureau is still drafting a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. However, you can be sure we'll be watching this one.

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from the April 01, 1998 Federal Register.

Reported by Tom Taormina, K5RC/7

FCC Abolishes Deed Restrictions Washington DC, April 1, 1998 - In a landmark decision, the Federal Communications Commission voted this morning to take jurisdiction over all deed restrictions, CC&R's and local ordinances. The Commission said in its Report and Order that it was sick and tired of local committees and do-gooders trying to stifle ham radio enthusiasts from realizing their dreams of large towers and monoband antennas. Effective today, the FCC has decreed that the FCC and FAA rules governing radio towers will supersede all deed restrictions and CC&R's.

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Amateurs Take Things into Their Own Hands

ARRL

In some areas, amateurs have begun to fight legislation that would restrict antenna installations. They are working to introduce legislation themselves that would ensure that amateur antenna installations are not inadvertently (or

intentionally) swept into the same basket as commercial installations. In Virginia, amateurs worked with Senator John Edwards to introduce a bill requiring any ordinance involving the placement of antennas to "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio antennas. The language reflects the FCC's "PRB-1" ruling, long a mainstay in amateur tower siting disputes. The bill, which has passed the Senate and was in the House as we went to press, states:

"Any ordinance involving the placement, screening or height of antennas shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas and shall impose the minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the locality's legitimate purpose. No local ordinance shall (i) restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 200 feet above ground levels permitted by the Federal Communications Commission, (ii) restrict the number of engineering practices for antenna erection, unless an amateur radio antenna clearly represents an unreasonable risk to human health or life."

Should this bill pass, we'll report further on the substantial effort of amateurs to have it favorably considered. We'll also report further on another bill in the Virginia legislature, HB 453, which creates a special program for Amateur Radio license plates. The bill was introduced by Representative Karen Darner, with the help of ARRL Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF.

AMATEUR SPECTRUM PROTECTION BILL

this material copied from the ARRL Letter

At the request of the ARRL, a bill has been introduced in Congress to ensure the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The bill, HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. The bill was introduced March 27 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida, a Republican, with the co-sponsorship of Rep Ron Klink of Pennsylvania, a Democrat.

If approved, the measure would amend Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preclude reallocation of any primary Amateur Radio allocations or diminution of any secondary allocations, and would block any additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to Amateur Radio, unless the Commission at the same time provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Service.

The bill points out that a basic purpose of Amateur Radio is to provide "voluntary, non-commercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and that Amateur Radio has "consistently and reliably" provided emergency communication during and after disasters. The measure notes

that the FCC has "taken actions which have resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs."

HR 3572 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. An effort is under way to enlist additional cosponsors for the measure. Amateurs are encouraged to contact their Representatives and urge them to support the bill or to sign on as cosponsors. The full text of the bill is available at

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572)

FEMA offers on-line courses:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a series of self-taught courses that might be of interest to amateurs involved in public service disaster response. Course titles include Emergency Program Manager: An Orientation to the Position; Emergency Preparedness, USA; Radiological Emergency Management; Hazardous Materials: A Citizen's Orientation; A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance; and Basic Incident Command System. Course materials are provided as Adobe Acrobat PDF files. See <http://www.fema.gov/emi/ishome.htm> for details on how to enroll.

The Curse of the Vanity Calls *Richard Shongut, W2QFR*

In days gone by a call sign would tell you which area of the country an operator inhabited, and whether he was a relatively new ham or an old-timer. With the advent of the latest FCC abomination known as "vanity" call signs, all bets are off. Witness ARRL bulletin No. 2 of January 9, 1998, wherein a family of hams obtained vanity call signs, all with the same suffix, but with different numbers in the prefix!

It's becoming impossible to tell where a ham might be located from his/her call sign. This is causing substantial confusion on the air. Shame on the FCC!!! It needed to change its original method of call sign issuance like the powers-that-be needed many year ago to change the descriptive phrase, cycles per second, to a meaningless proper name, Hertz. (Hertz had long since been honored when radio waves were named Hertzian waves.)

St Pierre et Miquelon: The Capone Connection *Mel Vye, W8MV and Rick Lindquest, N1RL*

The Prohibition Era provided a big boost to the economy of St Pierre et Miquelon. Back then, Canada passed a law prohibiting the exporting of liquor to this country. But just two years after the Volstead Act became law in 1920, France lifted its prohibition against importing foreign spirits,

creating a bonanza for St Pierre. Chicago gangster Al Capone personally went to St Pierre to supervise the construction of massive warehouses there to store Canadian liquor that would eventually find its way into US speakeasies, courtesy of the rum runners who plied the Canadian and New England coastlines. Additionally, the rum runners-and especially their high-speed boats-generated a lot of business for St Pierre in the marine trades. Major distilleries eventually set up warehouses and distribution facilities on the islands.

Because of his role, Al Capone became a local folk hero in St Pierre et Miquelon. Even today, you'll find an Al Capone Bar and an Al Capone Museum. In 1996, SPM had an Al Capone Day and people dressed up in pin-stripe suits, put carnations in their lapels and smoked cigars.

When the US repealed Prohibition in 1933, the St Pierre and Miquelon economy went into a deep recession, and, eventually, the islanders turned back to fishing. Now, there is a moratorium on cod fishing, so the province is trying to promote tourism (even hams are welcome). With its relative inaccessibility and climate, only about 20,000 outsiders visit the islands annually. Rumor has it that the smuggling of spirits into Canada is fairly prevalent today. Because St Pierre is a free port, booze can be purchased for about one-third of the cost in Canada, then smuggled by boat into Newfoundland.

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A Practical, Personal History of Call Sign License Plates *By Mike Ludkiewicz, W1DGJ*

Collecting Amateur Radio call sign license plates has been a steady sideline for years. But one ham's quest to collect "first year of issue" plates from all 50 states went way beyond casual. It took determined sleuthing, which uncovered fascinating historical details about ham plates and how they were issued.

After writing an article about call sign license plates for the January 1995 issue of *QST*, I thought it would be interesting to assemble a collection of "first year of issue" ham plates from all 50 states. Such collections have been attempted by others, but I've never heard of one being successfully completed. It's not something for the *Guinness Book of World Records*, but it's an important part of Amateur Radio history nonetheless.

There are some problems associated with collecting "first year of issue" ham plates. Many states issued their first ham plates in small numbers-perhaps because many states had relatively few licensed Amateur Radio operators at the time. Not many hams chose to pay the extra fees required to obtain special call sign license plates. And many states restricted the use of ham plates during the Cold War period to communication emergencies. Some states required operators to install mobile radio gear in cars displaying special plates. Several first year of issue ham plates are 45 years old, which makes the original owners at least 65 years old. Most are

now Silent Keys, and their prized plates were often discarded after their deaths. Besides, how many people save expired auto license plates, anyway.

Personal Treasures

I have to thank the many thoughtful hams who helped me compile this unprecedented collection. Without their help it would have been impossible. A few plates were received from family members of Silent Keys, who donated the plates to my collection in the deceased ham's memory. I can sympathize with some who would not part with their first ham plates: Being a ham myself, I might feel the same way! I offered to pay a "reasonable price" to anyone who had a sentimental attachment to their vintage ham plates, but fewer than 4% wanted more than the cost of shipping, which generally totaled less than \$2. Many wanted nothing in exchange and were delighted to add their plates to this prestigious collection (but I always reimbursed them for any expenses). Two hams priced their prized plates at \$1,000.00 each-which let me know in very certain terms that they were reluctant to part with them!

One Old Timer in his 90s misunderstood my request and sent me his original 1951 FCC Amateur Radio license. He hoped it would fit my needs. I returned the ham ticket to him with my thanks for his interest in helping me, along with the thorough explanation of what I was trying to collect. Two other Old Timers, also in their 90s, donated their first ham plates to my project, saying their plates would have "better homes" in my collection rather than facing an uncertain future. One ham sent me his first year plate along with 27 other plates he's received in successive years!

One first year of issue ham plate was sent to me by the widow of a Silent Key who asked that the plate be added to my collection in her husband's memory. The only problem was that the plate had been repainted in silver, with his call sign in black. He had displayed this expired ham plate on a second vehicle and did not want to be stopped by the authorities for using an expired plate! I tried a little lacquer thinner on the back of the plate and found that it removed his paint without affecting the original paint. (most likely a durable enamel). Under his workmanship I found an impressive first year plate for my collection. Unfortunately, I did not have the foresight to photograph his handiwork, which had protected the plate for many years.

Almost every plate in my collection has a personnel story associated with it. One plate came from a judge who asked me to excuse his poor paint job: It had been manufactured by a rather unmotivated worker at the state prison. I assumed that the judge himself was responsible for incarcerating his plate's painter, which may explain the quality control issue?

Another plate came from the wife of a ham who was terminally ill. She found my letter intriguing, and remembered recently seeing the plate I had described as her husband's "radio junk." She sent me one of his first-year plates for my collection and said that the matching plate would be buried with her husband upon his death. I'm not a

highly emotional person, but this letter brought me close to tears as I regarded her husband as a fellow ham. His call sign was recently listed in the Silent Keys column.

Detective Work!

Most of the information about first year of issue ham plates was gained at the rather extensive ham radio library at ARRL HQ in Newington, Connecticut. In searching *QST* from 1937 through 1973, I discovered that some of the information I had obtained from Old Timers wasn't always reliable. Perhaps time does have a way of clouding memories! A few helpful hams sent me copies of legislation authorizing ham plates in their states. In some cases, it seems, passing laws allowing ham plates wasn't always directly followed by actions on the part of motor vehicle authorities in providing them. A good example is Oklahoma, where the call sign plate bill was signed into law in mid-1952, but plates weren't available until 1958.

I'd heard stories of Oklahoma ham plates showing up as early as 1938, and I even found a few confirmations of the mysterious black-on-yellow '38 plates, but I was unable to confirm them as "official," so I have to assume they were souvenirs.

The first Amateur Radio license plates were issued in Michigan in 1939. The Great Lakes Amateur Radio Telephone Association of Detroit, under the leadership of James Strang, W8NFR, proposed the special ham operator plates. The group petitioned Secretary of State Leon D. Case to grant the request under legislation that allowed a maximum of three letters and three numbers. The 1939 issues were actually vanity-type plates, and 500 or fewer were issued to hams (see March 1939 *QST*). After the first year, officials felt that the system was an administrative burden, and the state stopped issuing the plates the following year. Michigan hams had to wait until 1954 to receive official call sign license plates.

The next call sign plate issued was a 1950 Florida plate that is generally considered to be the first "true" ham plate. The Florida plates were made possible through the efforts of Florida State Senator Lloyd F. Boyle, W4IMJ (see January 1950 *QST*), and Eddie Collins, W4SM, a good friend of mine. I was unaware of Eddie's achievement until after his death. Mississippi followed Florida by issuing ham plates in November of 1950 (they expired, however in October of 1951).

Rarest of the Rare

I consider the key plate in this collection to be the 1951 Nevada plate, since there were only 182 hams licensed in Nevada during 1951, and only 30 of them are now listed in take 1997 *Radio Amateur Callbook* as still living in Nevada. The remaining 152 ops have become Silent Keys, moved to other FCC districts, upgraded their class of license and requested new call signs, or have given up Amateur Radio in the intervening years. None of the present-day Nevada hams were able to help me find a 1951 Nevada ham plate.

At the start of my search, the only 1951 Nevada ham plates known belonged to a California plate collector and a Nevada ham who is the original owner. I managed to find a California ham who had left Nevada in 1952. He eventually gave up Amateur Radio for 10 years and let his license expire. After his retirement he retook the FCC exam and got back into ham radio with a new call sign. Thanks to modern technology I was able to locate him on a CD-ROM call sign directory. He felt that his ham plate was better in my collection rather than hanging on his garage wall where it had been for the past 44 years!

The last plate I was able to locate to complete this unique collection was the 1950 Mississippi issue. There were 535 hams licensed in Mississippi at the close of 1950, and I was able to find 210 of them still licensed (there or in other states). Many acknowledged having had a 1950 Mississippi ham plate, but only one ham had retained his original. Perhaps the 1950 Mississippi plate is the rarest in this unusual collection? I was very fortunate that W5PUI decided to donate his so I could complete my compilation.

I believe this collection of first year of issue ham plates from the 50 states and the District of Columbia may never be duplicated. The scarcity of some plates in this collection will be further enhanced with time. The original owners who kept them for personal reasons will pass on, and their old expired plates will be thrown away.

Tidbits

Six states used radio slogans on their first-year ham plates. The 1951 Arkansas design used **AMATEUR RADIO**; the 1957 Idaho plates used **RADIO AMATEUR**; the 1956 Illinois issue used **AMATEUR RADIO**; the 1973 Kentucky offering used **AM. RADIO**; the 1951 Tennessee used **RADIO**; and the 1954 Texas call sign plates used **AMATEUR RADIO OPR**.

Alaska and Hawaii were US territories when they issued their first ham plates. In 1973, Kentucky became the last of the 50 states to issue Amateur Radio call sign plates.

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Tower Law Success ARRL

Hams in Mason County, Washington, won't be encumbered by a telecommunications ordinance that would have restricted the height of ham radio towers to 70 feet and imposed other stringent requirements. Andrew Forsberg, WV7M, reports that several hams in the largely rural Western Washington county (population approximately 30,000) cited federal preemption over coal regulation of Amateur Radio activities as well as the hobby's public service dimension to get the County Board of Commissioners to exclude ham radio from the new law earlier this year.

Forsberg said the drafters of the new ordinance at first seemed unmoved by Amateur Radio considerations. In addition to federal preemption, the county hams pointed out

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Following are e-mail and phone numbers and some suggested topics:

Charles Wohlforth wohlforth@compuserve.com 274-2271
Dan Kendall kendall@alaska.net 343-4113
Ted Carlson No e-mail 688-2573
Fay Von Gemmingen fayvong@alaska.net 562-1615
Joe Murdy j.murdy@micronet.com 248-4143
George Wuerch wuerch@alaska.net 563-2737
Kevin Meyer kmeyer@mail.arco.com 344-9374
Mark Begich mbegich@alaska.net 337-6748
Cheryl Clementson clements@alaska.net 333-0738
Pat Abney pabney@customcpu.com 343-4121
Bob Bell No e-mail 248-5361

SOME THOUGHTS TO WRITE ABOUT:

1. This law will fail any legal challenge. Stop Planning and Development from wasting city money on a unwanted, illegal law.
2. This law is not legal by FCC's PRB-1 regulation.
3. This law puts the fate of many Anchorage business directly into the hands of Zoning and Platting. The way it is written very few business will survive. It will be a matter of who can influence Z&P most, which means who has the most money to spend on survival. This kind of thing has big potential for graft and corruption.
4. The Muni. of Anchorage has vastly more "towers" that should come under this law, since it is to maintain "community vistas and identity", they are called street light towers. They are higher and maybe worse looking.
5. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Removing all antennas in Anchorage will not make the city more beautiful. Perhaps removing all tall rusty electromagnetic radiating "street light" towers would. (Light is exactly the same electromagnetic radiation that is used by radio stations!)
6. The Anchorage airport has at least 36, and probably more, different radio stations, this alone would nearly fill the limit of antennas allowed by the law for the city. The law might not allow the Instrument Landing System at the airport. If it was allowed, would the Radar have to go? Or perhaps the tower's radio used to talk to the pilots? Does Zoning and Platting have the technical ability to select locations and types of antennas for landing airplanes? If enforced equally we see the real possibility that Anchorage will be cut off from the world

thanks to this truly bad law. This law is not fixable by the non-experts writing this law!

7. In an emergency, and there have been emergencies in Anchorage, who will supply the communications? Certainly not cell phones, they quit working due to overload at the Big Lake Fire. And this law will reduce the number of cell phone stations anyway! By the way who will the trained communicators in the next emergency be when this law eliminates them?
8. Anchorage has been selected as one of the best places to live in the U.S. This status does not depend entirely on the "community vistas and identity". Indeed much of the identity has to do with the people like radio amateurs who built Anchorage's character. Such a restrictive and Machiavellian law will certainly damage Anchorage's reputation far beyond any fantasized benefit.
9. This is a purely benevolent law. Such pompous benevolence is exactly what many people come to Anchorage to avoid. This law will be about as popular as the "photo radar"!
10. This Machiavellian law will severely hurt employment opportunity in the Anchorage bowl where there is presently a strong and vital communications industry infrastructure spread over a vast number of suppliers and users.

Below are the community council meeting dates and times. These are another opportunity to educate the public and influence the assembly members who attend them.

Airport Heights	3rd Thu 7pm	Airport Heights Elementary School
Fairview	2nd Thu 7pm	Fairview Community Center
Gov't. Hill	3rd Thu 7pm	Gov't Hill Elementary School Library
Mt. View	2nd Mon 7pm	Mt. View Recreation Center
Northeast	3rd Thu 7pm	Muldoon Mall
Rogers Park	2nd Mon 7pm	Rogers Park Elementary School
Russian Jack	2nd Wed 7pm	Willawaw Elementary School
Scenic Foothills	4th Thu 7pm	Scenic Park Elementary School
Tudor area	3rd Tue 7:30	Call for location
University Area	1st Wed 7pm	College Gate Elementary School

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc
Post Office Box 101987
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1987

Bulk Rate U.S. Postage PAID Anchorage, AK Permit No. 223
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Roger Hansen KL7HFQ L036
POB 520343
Big Lake AK 99652-0343



Top 10 Things a Ham needs in His/Her Shack *Robert Mauro, KZ2G*

1. 589 copies of *QST*, each carefully catalogued by dates, product reviews, and articles in your Pentium II computer.
 2. A Pentium II computer.
 3. Numerous unwashed coffee mugs with your Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, Extra and first, second and hopefully *last* vanity call sign on them.
 4. A very big box of assorted resistors, capacitors, ICs, LCD's, transistors, insulators, and 256 unread copies of *QST* - still uncatalogued in that Pentium II computer!
 5. Various copies of *US Call Books* with your Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, Extra, and first second and hopefully *last* vanity call sign.
 6. Several extremely green slices of what vaguely resembles pizza from last year's three-day DX contest. They're beside the unwashed coffee mugs. See number 8 above.
 7. 2876 QSL cards you still haven't mailed.
 8. 5865 DX QXL cards you still haven't catalogued in that Pentium II computer.
 9. A picture of you with your arm lovingly wrapped around your loved one, ie, that brand new transceiver!
- A lot of free time!!!!!!