

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting October 1

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News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting

Email: KL0CY@arrl.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791

Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

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

Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily

Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net 14.292 MHz
8:00 AM M-F

QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM local

850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM

Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local

Big City Simplex Net 146.520 FM Tuesdays 8:00 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 & Mat Valley 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

temporary down 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, KGB road, MARA club

146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL

KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS

146.67/.27, 1072. Hz PL

KL7G West Anchorage & Events

449.65/444.65 MHz, patch, no PL

Anchorage & Mat Valley Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency

147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat

146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat

146.41 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

AK time, every day Frequencies: 3575 kHz, 7075 kHz &

145.35 MHz: Sending Speeds: 22 wpm, 15 wpm, 7 wpm

~~~ **HOT LINKS** ~~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

- AARC <http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>
- SCRC <http://www.servcom.com/worcester/scrc.htm>
- EARS <http://www.qsl.net/kl7air>
- MARA <http://www.obarr.net/mara/>
- Moose HORN ARC <http://www.alaksa.net/~kl7fg>
- ARES <http://www.qsl.net/alaskaares>
- KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

Fairbanks AARC:

<http://ffdlmlmac.uafsom.alaska.edu/aarc/aarc.html>

Yukon Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html>

HAARP Project:

<http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/projects/haarp/>

<<Amateur Radio Reference Library>>

<http://www.area-ham.org/library/libindex.html>

Hamradio: <http://www.hamrad.com/>

Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/>

Propagation Report Recording 566-1819

*please let us know if there are other club pages or good starting points that should appear here*

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**ABACUS RADIO REPAIR**

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

Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

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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 computer disk, fax, or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

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**Regular HAM Gatherings:**

\* **Tuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, Penland Park, East.

**Saturdays, 7:30 AM:** 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.

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**This Month's Speaker**

Sergeant Barry Reid of the Anchorage Police Department will describe the Police Auxiliary and how HAMs can help out through it.

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**THIS MONTH'S EVENTS**

**October 1: AARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month in the Carr-Gottstein Building, on the APU Campus. Talk in will be on 147.300.

**October 5: EARS general meeting at 7:00 PM** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB.. Talk in on 147.27 simplex.

**October 6: VE License Exam 6:30 PM,** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, Carr-Gottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**October 8: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month in room 220, Business Ed. Bldg., UAA campus. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

**October 9: ARES Planning Committee 09:30 AM to 12:00 PM.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Will be held at the Alyeska Main Building on Bragaw north of Northern Lights.

**October 9: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International in the Board Room. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**October 12: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Phillips International Inn, Arctic & International. No host dinner at 6:00 PM for those who want to eat.

**October 16: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

**October 29: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month at the MTA office in Palmer.

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**Special Notice from Bruce McCormick, WL7YR**

I have a source for decals for you car/motor home back windows. The first line is call sign, second is frequency and third is City and State (Example **W L 7 Y R 146.520 Anchorage, AK**). He can make them up in White, Red, & Reflective. He has a couple more colors but I forgot what they were. They come as a stencil with a back you peel off and discard. You place the stencil on a clean window and

then peel off the transfer tape. He wants \$15.00 for decal but will give me a break if I can get 5 or more to order at one ne. Please contact me by e mail. Bruce W McCormick, WL7YR, [mccorpp@gci.net](mailto:mccorpp@gci.net) 611 Lori Drive Anchorage, Alaska, 99504 or at 333-0340

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**Letter from the Editor**  
**KL0EO**

A brief editorial from you news editor. In the last month we have had two major events happen. The first was the Alaska State Fair and the other was the Alaska ARRL Hamfest.

The Alaska State Fair was a wonderful time, at least that is what I hear. I can only speak for the last week-end of it as that is the only one that I was able to work. But for the three days it was gorgeous, the sun was out, the people were out. It seemed to me that this year was the best for weather out there. There were lots of contacts mad, Dan Obarr was there with several of his rigs, a lot of people helped. Some of them were Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Susan Woods, NL7NN, John Lynn, KL0CY, Bruce McCormick, WL7YR, Dan O'Barr, WL7BD, Tom Stuart, KL0QQ, David W. Stevens KL7EB and several others. If I have not mentioned your name it isn't that I am leaving you out, it is just that I have a very poor memory. I would like to thank you all for the excellent help and hope at you all enjoyed it as much as I did. As you can see Dan and some of the others were having a blast. As you can tell we kind of started out small then grew. Maybe next year we will have more space. Who can tell.



Now for the next but by no means the least the Alaska ARRL Hamfest. Let me begin this by expressing my personal thank you to some very special guests: Agie Heibert, Gordon West, WB6NOA, by the way Gordon even made some special friends with the Regal Hotel Catering staff, (even with some interest in Ham Radio). The Northwest Regional Manager Greg Milnes, W7OZ. I would like to take this time and express my very special thanks to this years organizers, Rick

Marvin, KL7YF, Lil Marvin, NL7DL, John Bury, KL7QZ, Paul Spatsek, WL7BF, Susan Woods, NL7NN, and my own John Lynn, KL0CY as the MC at the Hamfest and at the Banquet. I have added several photos of the Hamfest and Banquet for every ones enjoyment. This is also the time that I would like to say thank you to the ARES group for the coffee, tea, and lemonade that they provided. Especially since the Parka group were not able to have a food booth this year. As I mentioned before I'm sure that I have forgotten to mention someone, if so please forgive this old lady for her bad memory.

I would also like to express my regrets in seeing Lil Marvin, NL7DL, step down from her office as President of the ARES group do to personal problems. We are surly going to miss you at the monthly meetings, you had great ideas and insight into the workings of local, state, and federal government along with the Ham community.



Again thank you to all of the Hams that help to make the Alaska State Fair and Alaska ARRL Hamfest such a great success.

God bless  
Edie Lynn, KL0EO

PS more hamfest pictures in the back...

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**CEPT Agreement—In Plain Language**  
**David Splitt, KE3VV**

Operating in a number of countries outside the United States without a lot of red tape just got a whole lot easier, thanks to recent action by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration (CEPT) to approve the FCC's application to participate in CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01. In Europe, the CEPT license can be used in Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France

(including Corsica), Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the U.K. (including Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man).

There are also a few 'DX entities' that are separate dependencies of France that are included in the current CEPT list, namely Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, St. Bartholomew, St. Pierre and Miquelon, St. Martin, and Reunion. The list is updated each time a new CEPT country accepts the terms of Recommendation T/R 61-01, so if a country you want to visit is not on the list, check with the FCC, the ARRL, (or CEPT at <http://www.ero.dk>) for changes.

The CEPT license can be used by all classes of U.S. amateurs EXCEPT Novice class licensees. In all the participating countries, Technician Plus, General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra class amateurs have the same operating privileges as Class 1 operators in the 'host' country. Technician licensees can operate with Class 2 privileges. The basic difference is simple—Class 2 licensees are not allowed to operate on Ham bands below 30 MHz.

The CEPT operating privileges are for temporary visits, and are subject to the regulations of the country visited. In other words, an American amateur still has an obligation to get a regular host country license if establishing residency in that country. The other rules and restrictions are contained in Appendix I of CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01, "General Conditions for the Issue of CEPT Radio Amateur Licenses." (NOTE: European amateurs should not take offense at the different spelling in quotes from the CEPT rules. I have changed some of the words to the 'American' spelling to keep my spell checker software from going berserk) [NOTE: This article is typed as written in World Radio magazine].

The 'CEPT radio amateur license' is really a combination of documents. Under Appendix I of the CEPT rules, the minimum requirements for a CEPT license include:

A declaration according to which the holder is authorized to utilize his Amateur Radio station in accordance with this Recommendation in countries where the (Recommendation) applies;

- the name and address of the holder;
- the call sign;
- the CEPT license class;
- the validity;
- the issuing authority.

According to the notice issued by the FCC, if you have a valid license issued by the FCC, to operate under the CEPT license, you must have in your possession three documents:

Your FCC operating license (which includes your name, address, call sign, and the issuing authority);

Proof of U.S. Citizenship (such as your passport or other document you must have to legally visit the host country); and a copy of the official Public Notice No. DA-99-1098, issued 07 June 1999 by the Federal Communications Commission.

A copy of the official notice entitled "Amateur Service Operation in CEPT Countries," is available by fax on demand (202/418-2830), on the Internet at: [http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Digest/1999/dd990607.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Digest/1999/dd990607.html)

**CAUTION:** You will notice that the notice is in English, French, and German. Be sure you print out the full notice in all three languages, both as a courtesy to any non-English-speaking officials you may have to show it to, and because require you to have the notice in all three CEPT official languages.

So, you've got your FCC license (the wallet edition that you have neatly laminated in plastic to keep it dry on Field Day), and a copy of the FCC Notice, and your passport. You are ready to operate in Lithuania. Not quite. You are not legal to operate, but there are a few more details you need to add to your storehouse of CEPT license knowledge.

The most important information you have to find out about is the local rules. The CEPT license is not a license to use American FCC rules in Lithuania. The host country rules govern your actual operations, as well as a few general CEPT rules.

If you are a Tech Plus, General, Advanced, or Extra class amateur, using a Class 1 CEPT license, you can use all frequency bands allocated to the Amateur Service and amateur Satellite Service authorized in the country you are visiting. If you are a Technician licensee using a Class 2 CEPT license, you can use all frequency bands allocated to the Amateur Service and Amateur Satellite Service above 30 MHz and authorized in the host country. Appendix I also has some general operating rules:

On request you must show your CEPT radio amateur license (all three documents) to the appropriate authorities in the country visited. Don't quibble about the 'appropriate authority' part. If a toll booth operator on the autobahn wants to see your CEPT license, fish it out.

The rules allow operation of a portable or mobile station, and define a 'portable' station' as "any station using mains electricity at a temporary location, e.g. a hotel or a camping site." The definition of mobile is restricted to mobile operations OTHER THAN airplanes, gliders, and balloons. Operating under a CEPT license aboard an aircraft is prohibited. Of course, you can also use "the station of a radio amateur holding a permanent license in the host country."

As a bona fide CEPT licensee, you must observe the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations and any special regulations in force in the country visited. The CEPT Rules add that "any restrictions concerning national and local conditions of a technical nature or regarding the public authorities must be respected. Special attention should be paid to the difference in frequency allocations to the radio amateur services in the three ITU Regions." This last one is really important. Don't be calling "CQ 40 meters on 7.235 from Lithuania.

The rules require the use of a specific operating call sign modification. When transmitting in the visited country you must use your national call sign preceded by the CEPT call sign prefix and separated by either the character "/" (telegraphy) or the word "stroke" (telephony). For example, if I were using my CEPT license on 20-meter phone in Croatia, I would sign as "Nine Alpha Stroke Kilo Echo Three Victor Victor."

When operating portable or mobile, your call sign must ALSO be followed by the characters "/M" (telegraphy) or the word "mobile" (telephony). For a portable operation, your call sign must be followed by the characters "/P" (telegraphy) or the word "portable" (telephony). For example, if I were to fire up my mobile rig in Greece, I would identify as "Sierra Victor Stroke Kilo Echo Three Victor Victor Stroke Mobile." Depends on what you are doing' i.e., 'different strokes for different folks.'

There is one other odd provision in the regulation that states, "The CEPT license holder cannot request protection against harmful interference." I guess that means that when you head for Europe, you don't need to take Riley Hollingsworth's phone number. The CEPT Recommendation also notes that it does not govern or relate to "the import and export of Amateur Radio equipment, which is subject only to relevant customs regulations." In other words, just cause you have a CEPT license in your possession does not mean that you can waltz into Austria with a couple IC-706's and a fishing rod case full of hamsticks without doing all the normal customs paperwork.

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### **Packet Radio** *Jim Wades, WB8SIW*

The continuation of last months article on Packet Radio.

#### *Camping and hiking season*

Now that summer is here, many of us will take a QRP transceiver along when camping or hiking in remote areas. In many of these locations, cellular telephone is inadequate or nonexistent. A simple QRP CW transceiver makes it possible to check in to an 80-meter Section Net or an independent

wide-area traffic net on 40 Meters in order to transmit messages to family and friends back home. Such messages may be as simple as letting others know you are OK, or perhaps notifying someone of a change in one's plans. Likewise, such a rig may come in handy should an emergency arise in a remote area.

During a recent hunting trip in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I used our CW traffic net to alert the families of two members of our party of their intent to leave two days early. Despite the fact that three cell phones were available amongst the group, no service was available and the nearest pay phone was a half-hour drive away. The messages arrived just fine and considerable inconvenience was prevented.

#### *Preparing a 'jump kit'*

Along with summer comes severe storm season, which will be underway when you read this column. This is a good time for ARES and RACES members to put together a 'jump-kit' containing common items which are essential to most emergency communications activities. When assembling your kit, don't attempt to cover all eventualities. The goal is to have on hand those items most likely to be used. Since most emergency communications takes place on 2 Meters, this typically means a hand-held radio and related accessories. The author's recommendations for the contents of a 'jump-kit' include:

- 1) Two meter hand-held transceiver with spare battery packs (alkaline preferred)
- 2) cigarette lighter plug adapter
- 3) Magnetic mount antenna
- 4) Variety of RF adapters
- 5) Flashlight
- 6) Clipboard, pens, pencils
- 7) 100 copies ARRL Form FSD-244
- 8) Quantity of message blanks and pads of paper
- 9) ARES/RACES Identification
- 10) Emergency telephone number reference list
- 11) Emergency medical identification (keep in your wallet in case you are injured)
- 12) Heavy 'workshoes'
- 13) Detailed map(s) of surrounding

These items can be kept in a small bag or briefcase, which can be carried in the back of one's vehicles or kept at the office for immediate use in time of emergency. If an emergency occurs while one is at work, at the park, or on the golf course, it's a simple matter to grab the gear and proceed straight to the assignment.

The reader will note that an 'alkaline battery pack' is recommended for the hand-held radio. This recommendation is made for two reasons:

- 1) If you forget to charge a Ni-Cad pack it may be of no value when most needed.
- 2) Dry cell batteries (usually type 'AA') are available everywhere.

Other items of critical importance include the 'magnetic-mount' antenna and cigarette lighter plug. Many radio

amateurs mistakenly assume they will be most needed in their own vehicle. This is not always the case. Some situations may require you to temporarily communicate from a public safety vehicle, American Red Cross ERV, or similar mode of transportation. The simple fact is, 'rubber duck' antennas don't work well from inside vehicles.

Finally, note the 'work shoes.' I keep an old pair of U.S. Navy-issue steel-toe shoes in my kit. This is done because many disaster sites present hazards such as nails protruding through boards, jagged metal, and uneven surfaces. Experience has shown that my 'wing tips' or 'Red Ball Jets' simply do not hold up well under such circumstances! Even if one's tetanus shot is up-to-date, an injured communicator just adds more problems for disaster workers.

#### *Traffic handling tip*

I'll close with a tip from E.E. Bruckner, which he provided in his preface to the 1923 edition of the *Phillips Code* manual. He wrote; "Paradoxical as it is, it isn't the time one makes, but the time one loses that really counts on any circuit." This is good advice for any traffic handler.

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#### **Collector's Edition 2000 ARRL Handbook in Hardcover!**

Dear fellow ARRL Member,

You must act quickly on this unique opportunity to guarantee your reservation for the edition every ham will want to own—

#### **Only 2000 copies will be produced!**

Hurry now to order your own personalized copy of Amateur Radio's most popular book: The ARRL Handbook

The ARRL Board of Directors commissioned this limited run collector's edition for the year 2000. The book will be casebound (hardcover) with leather on the outside cover and gold-foil lettering. Each book will be sequentially issued and numbered. The text of this special edition is exactly the same as the softcover edition. I just saw the production design this morning, and I promise you this book will be a keepsake all hams will treasure!

We're offering personalization (your name and call sign imprinted in gold foil on the cover) for orders received by October 31. Orders will be shipped in early-December.

The ARRL Handbook 2000--Collector's Edition ARRL Order No. 1859--Price \$75\*

\*Shipping/Handling: US \$9 (UPS)/International \$37 (Airmail)  
Orders can be placed online at the following ARRL Website:  
<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/1859>

Or, telephone the ARRL at 1-888-277-5289, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 8 PM Eastern Time. But Hurry! Don't be left searching the hamfests and web auctions for this collector's edition!

73,

Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R  
Customer Relations Supervisor 355.

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#### **ARRL PUBLICATIONS NEWS!**

- \* HURRY! Less than 750 copies of the Collector's Edition 2000 ARRL Handbook
- \* NOW SHIPPING! The ARRL Antenna Compendium VOLUME 6
- \* NOW SHIPPING! The QEX Collection CD-ROM
- \* NOW SHIPPING! The ARRL Satellite Anthology
- \* NOW SHIPPING! ARRL's MINILOG book
- \* COMING SOON! ARRL World Map--New Azimuthal Projection

Greetings fellow ARRL Member,

When we announced the Collector's Edition ARRL Handbook earlier this month, we had no idea it would attract so much attention! We're sure to sell out earlier than expected, so please pass this message onto anyone who might be interested in their own copy--because when they're gone...they're gone!

Remember, only 2000 copies of this special leather-bound edition ARRL Handbook will be produced. It's a very special edition for the Year 2000:

- \* Hardcover, leather-bound.
- \* Gold foil cover lettering.
- \* Each copy will be sequentially-numbered.
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Or, telephone ARRL at 1-888-277-5289, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 8 PM Eastern Time.

Your interest in ARRL Publications goes far in supporting ongoing ARRL programs--all in the interest of Amateur Radio. I've included other new products, below. I know you'll find there's something for everyone here!

Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R  
Customer Relations Supervisor

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## ARES/RACES CONTINUE FLOOD RESPONSE

The ARRL Letter  
September 24, 1999

Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service groups in North Carolina and Virginia continue efforts to respond to flooding resulting from Hurricane Floyd. Some parts of the region received additional rain this week as a result of Hurricane Gert.

North Carolina suffered its worst flooding disaster ever due to Hurricane Floyd. "As far as I can tell, we're still on the uphill slope," North Carolina Section Manager Reed Whitten, AB4W, said this week. "There's no reason to believe things will get better soon." Whitten estimated that upwards of 300 amateurs statewide are actively involved in the Hurricane Floyd response. Whitten said hams are staffing EOCs and shelters, handling traffic, and acting as net control stations, as well as supporting outside relief efforts by the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and others.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service/RACES is providing backup communications between the eight Southern Baptist Convention mobile kitchens and the American Red Cross to support their joint feeding efforts," Whitten said Thursday. He said the Red Cross also enlisted Amateur Radio technical assistance in locating a site for and installing a Red Cross UHF repeater system. "This system, using Red Cross equipment, should be operational early next week," Whitten said.

The American Red Cross currently is housing some 6000 people in 65 shelters in North Carolina, and hams also are providing communication for evacuees. The Salvation Army is operating mobile feeding units and one shelter.

Relief operators continue to be scheduled to travel into hard-hit Edgecombe County. Amateur Radio operators also are providing communication for the State Emergency Operation Center in Raleigh and in Pitt, Edgecombe, Craven, Hertford and other counties. Amateurs from North and South Carolina have traveled to the affected area to assist.

Most of the problems result from flooding of the Tar, Neuse, Cape Fear, and Lumber, rivers in eastern North Carolina. The town of Tarboro was completely cut off by the flooding of the Tar River, and relief workers have had to be transported in and out via helicopter.

While most amateur traffic is being handled on VHF and UHF, the statewide Tar Heel Emergency Net on HF is operating from 8 AM until midnight to support state and county operations. Whitten has requested that the FCC rescind the voluntary communications emergency for 3923 and 7232 kHz in North Carolina.

To the north, Virginia Section Manager Lynn Gahagan, AF4CD, reports the City of Franklin--near the North Carolina border--has experienced its worst flooding ever with the downtown area and businesses under more than 12 feet of water. Nearly all traffic going in and out of Franklin--including police and fire communication--is being handled by ham radio. He said hams were using VHF and repeaters for the most part, and he predicted telephone service could be out for another couple of weeks or more.

ARES/RACES officials in North Carolina and Virginia have requested that prospective volunteers first sign up with ARES officials. In North Carolina, contact SM Reed Whitten, AB4W, at [ab4@arrl.org](mailto:ab4@arrl.org). In Virginia, contact SM Lynn Gahagan, AF4CD, at 757-545-1290, or the Virginia Department of Emergency Services at [vaec@w4za.ampr.org](mailto:vaec@w4za.ampr.org). In no case should volunteers in either state attempt to travel to stricken areas without being specifically requested to do so.

Elsewhere, the Southern Florida ARES Net activated on HF as Tropical Storm Harvey brushed Southern Florida Monday and Tuesday. Assistant SEC and Net Manager Jim Goldsberry, KD4GR, reports more than 400 people took advantage of Red Cross shelters in Pinellas County overnight. Other shelters were open in Lee and Polk counties. The EOC was staffed in Highlands County.

The Hurricane Watch Net activated this week for Hurricane Gert. Net Control Station Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, said Hurricane Gert passed to the east of Bermuda leaving only minor damage. The Net closed after it became clear that Tropical Storm Harvey had ceased to be a threat.

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## FCC DISMISSES FOUR APPLICATIONS AS EXAM AUDIT CONTINUES

The ARRL Letter  
September 24, 1999

The FCC has dismissed four Amateur Radio applications resulting from an examination session in Yonkers, New York, last spring, but its investigation continues.

FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote the four applicants two months ago seeking answers to specific questions about the May 2, 1999, session conducted by Metro 70 cm Network Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiners under the ARRL-VEC. All four were warned that

failure to provide the requested information would lead to dismissal of their applications. On September 9, Hollingsworth wrote the same four applicants to dismiss their pending applications.

Dismissed were an Amateur Extra upgrade application from Keith Murphy, KB2YOI, of Spring Valley, New York; a Tech Plus upgrade application from Keith Jones, KC2EDT, of Brooklyn, New York; an Advanced upgrade application from Winston A. Tulloch, KC2ALN, of Paterson, New Jersey; and an application for a Technician license from Claudies Anderson of Detroit, Michigan.

The FCC says Murphy, Jones, and Tulloch failed to respond to the initial inquiry, while Anderson told the FCC that the test papers the FCC questioned him about were not the ones he'd turned in at the exam session.

All four applicants were advised September 9 that "the issues surrounding the examination session" will have to be resolved before the FCC entertains another Amateur Radio application from any of them.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL that the next step in the investigation would be to contact the Volunteer Examiners at the session.

In its initial inquiries to Murphy, Tulloch, and Anderson, the FCC questioned the appearance of blue markings next to most answers and asked which marks the applicants had placed on the answer sheets and if any marks were already on the sheet when it was handed out. The FCC similarly queried Jones about his Morse code answer sheet, asking if it was the only one he'd filled out on May 2 and if any of the answers were modified after he'd turned in the sheet; the others who took code tests were asked if they had written down any of their copy, and, if so, what they did with those notes.

Anderson also was asked if he was actually present at the test session and if he'd had access to an answer template before or during the test session. All four applicants also were asked to name the Volunteer Examiners who handed out their paperwork and to whom they gave their completed answer sheets, as well as any discussions they might have had with the examiners.

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**HARVARD'S WIAF: 90 YEARS OLD AND STILL  
GOING STRONG  
The ARRL Letter  
September 24, 1999**

The Harvard Wireless Club celebrates its claimed status as the oldest Amateur Radio club in the US with a special event operation on the weekend of October 2-3. During the club's

90th anniversary observance, members will attempt to work as many stations as possible around the world.

The Harvard Wireless Club--an ARRL-affiliated club--dates its origin to early 1909, when it was founded by Prof George W. Pierce. First known as the Radio Society of the Institute for Geographic Exploration at Harvard, the club assumed its current name the following year. The WIAF call sign dates back to the early 1920s. Frank Wright, N3OQB, is the current club president.

This year's 90th anniversary special event October 2 and 3 will include operation from three HF positions and one VHF position. WIAF will be on the air each day from 1200 to 0000 UTC--24 hours in all. HF SSB frequencies include 3890, 7270, 14,270, 21,370 and 28,390 kHz. HF CW will be 35 kHz up from the lower band edges. On VHF, look for WIAF on 50.150, 144.200 and 432.150 MHz SSB.

A special 90th anniversary QSL card will be available for stations working WIAF during the special event. QSL to Harvard Wireless Club, WIAF, Harvard University, 6 Linden St, Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information, contact the club at [wlaf@havard.edu](mailto:wlaf@havard.edu). The club's Web site is at <http://www.hcs.havard.edu/~wlaf/>.

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**ARRL Bulletin 13 ARLB013  
From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT  
February 26, 1999  
To all radio amateurs  
FCC shuts down troublesome Bay Area repeater**

The FCC has shut down for 120 days the K7IJ repeater facility on Grizzly Peak in the San Francisco Bay area. The FCC also told the licensee, Bruce Wachtell of Carson City, Nevada, that his ham ticket could be in jeopardy. The FCC took the action by modifying K7IJ's license to prohibit repeater operation starting midnight February 28, 1999. The repeater operates on 145.29, 223.78, 440.175, and 441.175 MHz.

In related actions, the FCC also set aside recent license grants of four individuals accused of unlicensed operation on the repeater prior to obtaining their amateur tickets and other behavior. The cases, the first major VHF/UHF enforcement actions the FCC has taken in recent months, were brought to the Commission's attention by the Amateur Auxiliary.

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, said that for almost a year, the repeater's control operator, identified as Blake B. Jenkins, N6YSA, of Berkeley, California, "has apparently not only allowed, but encouraged, use of the repeater by unlicensed operators, rebroadcast of cordless telephone calls, playing of music, and profanity and obscenity." He said

extended QSOs have taken place between the control operator and unlicensed stations.

Hollingsworth said the situation was brought to Wachtell's attention, but nothing was done. He said Jenkins' "actions and omissions" while control operator were under separate FCC review, along with those of the secondary control op, Steven R. Rossi, KE6LNH, of Novato, California. The FCC set aside the recent license grants or upgrades of James C. Walker, KF6VAA; Gordon B. Reese III, KF6QKA; Michael J. Nichols, KF6UAS; and Eric B. Shuler, KF6BMG (ex-KF6UJU) pending further investigation. The FCC has permitted Reese, who just upgraded to Tech Plus, to retain his Technician operating privileges while its investigation continues.

The FCC also issued warnings to two other individuals in the case.  
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**New VHF Net  
Edward R. Cole,**

I've been thinking about starting a new VHF net.

We have the ARES Net which does an amirable job covering emergency preparedness and as a swap net. The Big City Simplex Net also focuses on emergency communications. Parka is a fine get-together roundtable, as does the QCWA Net and No Name Net for local check ins.

Other than the Son-of-SideBand 2m SSB Net (which used to QSY to 6m at 2200) there is no forum for discussion between non-FM VHF enthusiasts. The 2m SSB Net was doing a pretty good job under KL7FZ's tutelage, but has faltered of late. However, it really never achieved its potential to stimulate wide-area 2m "weak-signal" operation. IMHO this was mainly due to the fact that many Anchorage and Valley hams treated it as a "local net" and utilized very minimal stations/antennas that were unable to communicate more than 10-20 miles. I know that if I could have heard more than six-to-a-dozen stations, I could have acted as net control in Steve's absence to keep the net active. But when the acting Net control station is too weak to be heard by many of the local participants, let alone the outlying stations (I'm only slightly over 60 miles SW of Anchorage), it results in poor net participation. Ultimately, interest dwindles.

Last night, three North Kenai 2m SSB stations were on looking for the net. Fortunately, Steve came on frequency, but over the past couple months we have suffered in "silence". I estimate that there may be 8-12 stations in the Kenai-Soldotna area with 2m SSB capability. Some of them also have 6m and 432 SSB. I believe that properly outfitted VHF stations can communicate from as far north as Talkeetna and

south as Homer (and Kodiak when conditions are good). In other words, a VHF Net could draw from an area of 150 miles radius, where population and mountains permitted, on a fairly regular basis.

How can I say this? From experience. During the mid-sixties I chatted on a nightly basis with both Detroit (>60 miles) and Chicago (>90 miles) on 2m AM with 100w and a small 8 element beam, at the same time! Now the equipment of the time was not near as sensitive (Nuvistors were the ultimate low noise device at 3 dB noise figure). You know that AM does not work near as well as SSB!

What is the solution? Well for one, I think a more varied program. Second, I would propose rotating VHF/UHF bands on different weeks. Third, I would have a "special topic" night once a month covering such things as: satellite operation, eme, meteor scatter, antennas, amplifiers, microwave bands, APRS, digital radio, spread spectrum, ATV, "weak signal" operation, six meters, VHF+ propagation, aurora, even computers in the ham shack... In other words making the net a place for interested hams to discover and learn about some of the more technical and "exotic" modes available to them. What I'm thinking the net would be called would be the Alaska Experimenters Net, or the Alaska Tech Net, or...? The net would not cover traffic handling, emergency, or HF topics. Other nets are doing this quite well, already!

Where would this Net meet? Here's the most controversial part of my proposal: I propose that the net start each week on a wide-area 2m FM Repeater. Yes, you read that right. Why? Well, at this time there is a limited number of south central hams that are really capable of operating very far in the simplex (FM or SSB) mode. The idea is to get together to have a discussion net on how to get on some of these other "mode of ham radio" and develop a station with long-range capability. So I would start on a repeater with check in (5-10 min.); news briefs on certain VHF topics such as satellite, six meters, special events (10 min.). Then the net would go round the check-ins for brief comments/activity reports (15 min.). At this point, those with non-FM capability would QSY to the VHF/UHF band for that week (Initially I propose a 6m, 2m, and 432/1296 night). Check-ins would be taken and a general round-table discussion would follow. Those that could not follow could have a general discussion on the repeater. Hopefully they would be encouraged to want to get onto some of these new bands and modes.

Once a month, a special topic would be chosen and volunteer "experts" would give a short presentation, or maybe a Q&A session would be held. This would be done on the FM repeater so that everyone and anyone could take part, regardless of their station status or current capability.

Now eventually, I would hope that this would lead to more and more stations becoming capable of operating on more of our VHF+ bands in many more modes of operation than FM.

In fact, in time, the need for the 2m FM starter net may fade away. Perhaps enough special interest would develop into separate nets.

What needs to be sorted out is what night, what time, and what repeater could be used? I would like your opinions? Oh, BTW, I'm not suggesting eliminating the Monday 2m SSB Net.

Thanks et 73  
Ed

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**Subject: Y2K fix for win95 & 98**  
**Bill R. Balzarini, KL7BB**

This is a fix for a small Y2K problem.  
Run this TEST:

Double click on "My Computer."  
Double click on "Control Panel."  
Double click on "Regional Settings" icon.  
Click on the "Date" tab at the top of the page.  
Where it says "Short Date Sample," look and see if it shows a "two digit" year.

The default setting for Windows95, Windows98 and NT is a two digit year. This date setting is the date that feeds application software and **WILL NOT** roll over in the year 2000. It will roll over to 00.

Click on the arrow button across from "Short Date Style" and select the option that shows MM/dd/yyyy. (Be sure your selection has four "y's" showing, not two.)

**IMPORTANT:** Click on "Apply" and then on "OK" at the bottom.

Now your computer will be ready to roll over to the year 2000.

73's de Bill KL7BB,

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**From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT**  
**August 31, 1999**  
**To all radio amateurs**  
**No word yet on restructuring**

An FCC staff member says the Commission staff is "diligently working" towards getting a Report and Order on Amateur

Radio license restructuring out the door. But beyond that, the FCC staffer--who did not want to be identified by name--said it was impossible to predict when that would happen. He said FCC rules prevent him from revealing any information about "internal thinking or scheduling" regarding the proceeding, known formally as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143).

The FCC's move last spring into consolidated offices at The Portals also disrupted routine work flow.

A year ago, the FCC proposed phasing out the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, leaving Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra in place. The FCC also asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no recommendations.

The previous month, the ARRL Board of Directors issued its own plan to restyle Amateur Radio. Among other details, the ARRL plan also called for four license classes and for "refarming" Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional phone spectrum for higher-class operators. Under the League plan, the Technician license would remain unchanged, and the General would become the entry-level ticket for those interested in HF operation. The ARRL proposed Morse code requirements of 5 WPM for General and 12 WPM for Advanced and Extra class.

"We are simply in that period of time when no information is available," the FCC staff member said. "This is a normal part of the Commission's quasi-judicial decision-making process and a necessary part of being objective and fair to all."

Before the long-awaited Report and Order sees the light of day, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff first must digest the 2200 comments, filed mostly by individuals. Then, the staff will circulate its recommendation to the Commissioners. Commissioners and their staff will mull the WTB input and arrive at a plan.

The ultimate FCC decision will come either at the Commission's monthly meeting or it will be handled "on circulation"--outside of an actual meeting. A Public Notice will be issued, and the actual Report and Order will follow.

The bottom line is that Amateur Radio operators will have to wait a few weeks or a few months longer before the restructuring issue is resolved.

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Gordo receives the HTX-200 radio, a door prize contributed by Radio Shack on Bensen Boulevard



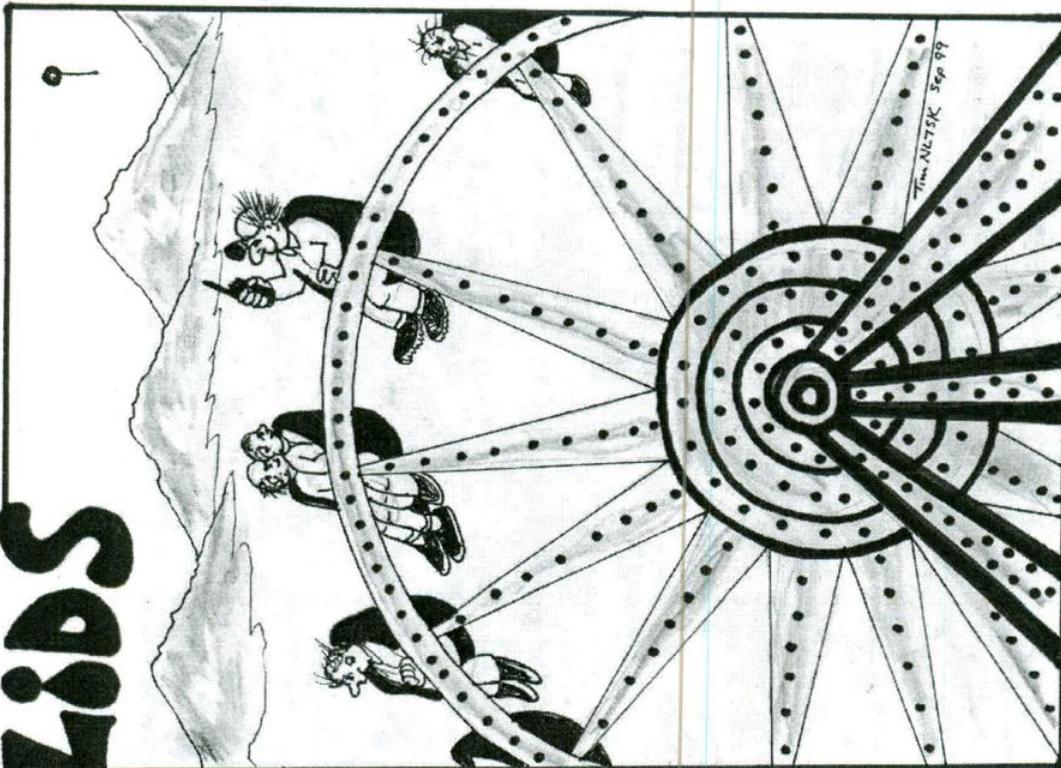
Peter Bailey presents Augie Heibert with a stamp commemorating HAM radio support in the 1964 earthquake.

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club News

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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Stretch takes his 2 meter HT to the fair. "Hey, Stretch, you're a great copy about 25% of the time. Are you mobile?"