

# Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

## GENERAL MEETING ON March 2nd

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Hear guest speaker **Herb Shaindlin** at March general meeting!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: START YOUR ENGINES!

SB78: The new Alaska Amateur Antenna Bill

How about ARES

Inquiring minds want to know..."

And Much Much More

#### Officers

<b>President</b>	Randy Vallee, AL7PJ
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Larsen, AL7fs
<b>Secretary</b>	Keith Clark, WL7CSR
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<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Fred Erickson KL7VC
<b>Past President</b>	John Lynn, KL7CY

#### Three Year Board Members

Bruce McCormick WL7YR  
Mike Borer, WL7CKB  
David Stevens KL7EB

#### One Year Board Members

Hannelore Kelliher, NL7EA  
William Theuer, KL0QK  
Jim Tvrdy, KL7CDG  
Bill Reiter, KL7ITI  
Peter Bailey, WL7BW  
Marium Clare, WL7CFA

#### 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 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 repeater Thursdays at 8:00 PM local  
PARKA net 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

#### AARC web page & Email contact addresses

Homepage: <http://home.gci.net/~lawson/>  
Email Reflector: [KL7AA@QTH.NET](mailto:KL7AA@QTH.NET)  
Webmaster: [lawson@gci.net](mailto:lawson@gci.net)  
President: [vallee@gci.net](mailto:vallee@gci.net)  
Membership: [frederickson@iname.com](mailto:frederickson@iname.com)  
Newsletter: [kl7el@arrl.net](mailto:kl7el@arrl.net)

#### News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting  
Email: [KL7EL@arrl.net](mailto:KL7EL@arrl.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, 7075 kHz &  
145.35 MHz: Sending Speeds: 7 wpm

#### Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft  
146.94/34 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  
KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC & QCWA  
146.97/.37 MHz, 30 watts, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL  
KL7M Anchorage Hillside  
147.21/.81 MHz, Iphone, no PL  
KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 3,940 ft  
147.30/90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL  
KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS  
146.67/.07, 107.2 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  
KL7DOB, Wasilla near armory  
146.64/.04, simplex patch, no PL  
KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.  
146.76/16 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

#### South Central Area 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  
146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat  
147.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat



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

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

AARC <http://home.gci.net/~lawson/>

SCRC <http://www.home.gci.net/~vallee/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://ffdlm1mac.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 clubs pages or good starting points that should appear here*

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**ABACUS RADIO REPAIR**

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

**Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662**

**Regular HAM Gatherings:**

\* **Tuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, "South, on Old Seward Highway.

**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.

**THIS MONTH'S EVENTS**

**March 2nd: 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. Hear guest speaker **Herb Shaindlin's** humorous look at life in Alaska

**March 6th: VE License Exam 6:30 PM,** Hope Cottage offices, 540 W International. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**March 6th: 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 147.67/.07 repeater.

**March 9th: SCRC meeting at 7:00 PM** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at Denny's on Debarr & Bragaw. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

**March 10th: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM.** Hope Cottage 540 W. International. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**March 13th: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at **Hope Cottage** 540 W. International.

**March 1st & 15<sup>th</sup> & 29th: Moosehorn ARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** every other Thursday in the Soldotna Borough Offices on North Binkley. Talk in on 146.88 repeater or 147.42 simplex.

**March 17th: ARES General meeting 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Will be held at Alyeska Building on Bragaw Street.

**March 17th: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

**March 30th: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month at the MTA Business Office in Palmer.

**March 31st QCWA monthly luncheon:** 11:30 AM, Royal Fork restaurant, Old Seward Hwy about ½ mile south of Dimond Blvd.

**Approximately March 24<sup>th</sup>: LEO Society:** Basic Satellite primer

**April:** Amateur radio classes begin in April. The exact days and times will be announced at a later date. Classes run for approximately eight weeks. Location: Red Cross Building, 235 E. 8th Avenue. More info: 277-6741, [rlment@alaska.net](mailto:rlment@alaska.net).

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**February General Meeting Minutes**

The following minutes from the general membership meeting, have not been approved as correct, and are subject to minor revisions. — by Keith Clark, WL7CSR, Secretary

The General Meeting was held on Friday, February 2, 2001. The meeting was opened by President John Orella, KL7LL at 7:04 p.m. There were 37.5 people in attendance.

The meeting opened with committee reports.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Richard Block, KLØVP, noted that the Club operates on a calendar year, but that the tax year is from July 1 to June 30. At the last Board meeting it was decided to change our fiscal year to match with the operations of the rest of the Club. As a point of information, he advised that in trying to clarify all the designated monies, he did some research into the Building Fund account. What he found was that it was established out of some excess money approximately 30 years ago, and as far



as he can tell nothing has added or done with this fund since then. Also, Bill Capers, AL7BB, questioned the line item of \$28,450.00 for the Alpenglow repeater, saying that we didn't have a repeater at Alpenglow. That provided Richard another opportunity to explain how he had pulled these figures together, mentioning that the Alpenglow name was possibly a confusion from other activities, and that this could easily represent other AARC installations (or even a composite of installations) in the local area, such as at Glen Alps (Flatop Mtn) and other sites. He again made the request for anyone with information about cost, location, conditions, etc., of Club equipment, to please let him know so we can get our records as up to date and as accurate as possible.

#### Activities Report:

TJ, KL7TS, is still working on the Slope. John Lynn, KL7CY, is acting Activities Manager in his absence. John indicates that there is lots going on and that our speaker for the evening will fill us in on some volunteer opportunities a little later on.

#### Hamfest Committee

Jim Wiley, KL7CC, tells us that what we know so far is that it will be a one day event, on Sat. Sept. 15. There will be a dinner the night before, and that he is currently looking for volunteers and a location.

#### Gaming Committee

John Lynn, KL7CY, then opened discussion about the distribution of Gaming proceeds from 1999. He presented a proposal showing what had been disbursed and what was being proposed to disburse. The total of both being \$96,698.00. Richard Block made a motion to accept the proposal to disburse funds from the 1999 gaming proceeds, as presented. It was seconded by Craig Bledsoe, KL4E. After discussion a vote was taken by hand count to establish that a quorum was present. There were 33 for and 2 opposed. The motion passed.

President John, KL7LL, advised that since tonight is his last meeting, that the Board has made a recommendation that Vice-President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, be elected President, and Jim Larsen, AL7FS be elected Vice-President.

A motion was made by Jim Wiley, KL7CC and seconded by Pat Wilke, WL7JA. The motion passed unanimously.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Clyde Raymer, KLØCW, from GCI. He discussed communication preparations for the Iditarod. He gave a synopsis of what GCI was trying to establish during a multi-year development of race communications. He also introduced Mark Kelliher, KL7TQ, John Wolfe, AAØNN, and Dan O'Barr, WL7BD, who are handling the various aspects of the race, and invited all present to place their name on one of the volunteer sign-up sheets on the front table.

#### New Business:

Edie Lynn, KL7EO announced that she is now heading-up the committee for the World Championship Dog Race for Fur

Rendezvous, and that she needed volunteers to help. The Dates are Feb. 16, 17, & 18.

Mike Borer, WL7CKB, reminded people that he will be needing people for the Grand Prix car race to be held Feb. 10, & 11. As a further enticement he just happened to mention an as yet unnamed Brew Pub that will be hosting the participants and volunteers for a FREE pizza and beverage party after the race.

Our guest speaker was presented with the traditional thank-you gift.

Dan, WL7CKB, mentioned a Girl Scout event Sat. Feb 3. Teresa, KLØWW is setting up a satellite demonstration and would invite anyone to help by listening for satellite contact opportunities.

Jim, KL7CC, then gave a demonstration of the new radio kits that are being prepared for ARES. One was an APRS kit that could be put in a bus, ambulance or any other vehicle that we would wish to keep track off. The other is a portable repeater kit, that also has two HT's and two FRS radios included. Both kits are self-powered and well built.

There being no further business, and following the raffle of door prizes, the meeting was adjourned by President John Orella, KL7LL at 9:20 p.m.

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### **Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, February 13, 2001 – Summary of Activity**

There were ten (10) people in attendance. The meeting opened at 7:17 p.m.

#### Health and Welfare:

Board member Jimmie Tvrdy, KL7CDG, was absent as he underwent angioplasty earlier in the day. He is home and doing a fine.

Treasurer Richard Block, KL7RLB, gave an oral report. He informs us that all bills received prior to the meeting are paid and that we have a little money left over. John Lynn, KL7CY, indicated that we had received a check from Bingo operations of \$10,000.00.

The Board passed three motions during the evening.

(1) To establish a Board level committee to develop a formal procedure for reviewing and approving grants.

(2) To authorize the VEC Chairman to investigate the cost of, and present a budget for, sending a representative to the national VEC Conference in Gettysburg, PA.

(3) Nomination of 3 persons to fill vacant seats.

There were also discussions about Hamfest details, the APU endowment fund, and ARES activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.



## The Mood of Meanness

No one knows how badly it feels to be the brunt of meanness until it happens to them.

I was traveling with my IC W32A through the rolling hills and rambling roads of the Berkshires in western Massachusetts and eastern New York State. My Repeater book suggested that monitoring 146.91, a repeater atop Mt. Greylock, would be fruitful. Indeed it was. Lots of hams ragchewing and very welcoming when I chimed in with my KL0VP call sign. "Say, where you from?" "Strange call sign, but glad to have you." "New Ham?" and of course our favorite, "ALASKA??"

That was Saturday and Sunday. On Monday evening there was a net on 146.91 and I checked in. Lo and behold, the moderator of the net laid into me with a diatribe about there being no such call sign as KL0VP and, in any event, "0" is not an Alaskan designator and, moreover, you cannot have a 2 x 2 call sign unless you are a general and have passed the code. He told everyone I was illegal and bumped me from the net. I even telephoned him and told him that he should check the various web directories and he would find I was legal, but in his arrogance, he refused to be corrected.

It really hurt. After all, the ham community, I thought, were friends with a common interest. Although we want a sense of order in the use of precious bandwidth, we never became hams so we could police each other. We joined to learn and teach, help and be helped, provide emergency service and have fun with our hobby. To be told that I was barred from participating because my call sign was incorrect, seemed very petty at best and mean, even defamatory, at worst—especially since I knew my call sign was correct.

Recently some similar events have taken place on our repeaters in Anchorage. Whether there has been a violation of protocol, I cannot say, and it really does not matter. The response from fellow club members still should not create a mood of meanness. If someone is not following local custom or agreed protocol or even not obeying the law, there are discreet, friendly and less disruptive ways to get the message across. Hams taking it upon themselves to correct others should do so more like friends, teachers or mentors and less like enforcement officers.

Some ideas that may permit some constructive correction without creating a mood of meanness include:

(1) **Do not do it on the air.** Everyone with a license is listed on one or more web licensee directories and may also be listed on a club membership list. Call them on the phone, or send an e-mail.

(2) **Wait and be sure** you know that what they did is wrong and that you are right. Be sure you know the circumstances. It could be embarrassing if you are wrong and they are right. Waiting allows some deliberate thinking before responding. Unless, of course, you enjoy demonstrating that you can be the South end of a North-bound horse!

(3) **Approach the matter from a positive perspective**, that is, tell them the right way to do it, not just that what they did was wrong. In some cases, particularly if it is a matter of custom or local protocol, share the background, the reason for the rule, etc. Remember, if it doesn't violate an FCC law or regulation, they are legal.

The ham community is looking for more people to take up the hobby and join us. One way to help that is for us to be more kindly towards those who are still learning.

KL7RLB (formerly KL0VP) Dick Block

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## ITEMS FOR SALE

By Roy Gould KL4T <kl4t@gci.net> 222-6015

Kenwood TS-930SAT: Mint \$750.00.

Kenwood TH-22AT Little Use \$85.00.

Kenwood TH-225A \$90.00.

Kenwood TM-221A With Mike \$125.00. Excelent.

Swan Mark II Antique Amp. Needs repair. Make offer.

Two N/O 3-400Z Tubes For Swan Mark II \$85.00 EA.

MFJ-989C Legal Limit Antenna Tuner, Needs Repair. Make offer.

I am in the Pioneer Home (small room), and I'm falling over these items daily. Please Call for more info

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by Paul Jendryk 248-5312

10 meter mobile Uniden radio, HR2600, AM, FM, CW, USB, and LSB. Ex cond. \$100

Icom handi talkie IC-T8A tri-band, 2m, 440, 6m, with accessories, like new. \$250

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## Eagle River Classic

Thanks to the recent snowfall the Eagle River Classic will be held next weekend 2/24 and 2/25 at the Beach Lake Trail system. The race will start at 2:00 pm each day - Hanna Kelliher, NL7EA will be running in the business persons race at 12:00 on Saturday at Beach Lake - everyone is welcome to come early and cheer her on.

The drawing for starting position will be at the Barrier Free facility at Beech Lake Friday evening at about 7pm.

Everyone is welcome. The banquet will be Sunday evening at about 7pm at the Bella Vista restaurant in Peters Creek. The Chugiak Dog Mushers club will provide dinner tickets for the Hams that work the race. Additional tickets are available for \$17 if you wish them. This is pretty much a good time event with a Chinese auction - bring your dollar bills! Let me know if you can make the dinner, so I can reserve tickets for you.



## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN START YOUR ENGINES!!!

By MIKE BORER, WL7CKB, DEC ALASKA DIST. 7 ARES

With that announcement, the 2001 Fur Rondy Grand Prix car race was off and running. The race was run on February 10 & 11, 2001 in downtown Anchorage. The race course is laid out in the railroad yards and is bounded by 5' high snow berms. There were nine classes of cars from modified, street legal sports cars, to full-blown NASCAR trucks and sports sedans.

Our reasons for being there were several. First, we were there to provide communications for the race officials. Next, we helped provide crowd control, assisting the race officials and Anchorage Police officers. And, for the first time, we experimented with AMATEUR TELEVISION.

We had 11 amateur radio operators, including two professional video people, and one very competent net control. We staffed 8 positions around the track, which included Edythe KL7EL acting as net control, Phil KL0QW as head ATV operator and Paul WL7BF as Phil's assistant. We spent about 6 to 7 hours each day, which put some of our equipment to the test. Saturday was almost a pleasure due to the nice, although chilly, weather. Sunday changed all that when we woke to cloudy skies and falling snow, ending with at least 2" of accumulation. Saturday found us constantly reporting numerous crashes, fortunately there were no injuries more serious than sprains, but again this changed on Sunday, as the drivers were a lot more cautious with the dangerous track conditions. With Edie as net control for the third year, We had the advantage of our own operators on our chosen simplex frequency, plus Edie, listening to the UHF Race frequency, was able to keep us up to date of any and all changes to the schedule.

Phil, KLQW, and Paul, WL7BF, did a yeoman's job of operating, what was to us, a new mode for the race, supplying an ATV signal that we received and recorded at the Net Control Motor Home. Even though it was a simplex UHF signal, it was received approximately 3 miles away, and was recorded by Bob, KL7HIU. Those VHS recordings will be added to the ones we made on Sunday. The plans are to edit these tapes and show them, at a future club meeting. All of the race officials, as well as a few local network news photographers, were very impressed by the quality of the transmitted images. A hearty round of thanks goes to Phil and Paul.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out on this race, especially those who helped for the first time. Whether newly licensed like Di, KL0VX, and Preston, KL0ZW, Bob, KL0SU, or to the long time ham Fielder, KL7FHX, who has just recently reactivated. You are the future of ham radio in community service and I look forward to working with all of you in the near future.

## SB78 - ALASKA ANTENNA LEGISLATION

By Kent Petty, KL5T, ARRL Alaska Section Manager

Thanks to the dedicated and tireless efforts of Dan Squires, KD7WN, Rob Wilson, AL7KK, and Greg Milnes, W7OZ (ARRL North Western Division Director), an Alaska amateur radio antenna bill, intended to mirror the guidance set forth by the FCC's PRB-1, has been introduced in the Alaska State Legislature. Senator Robin Taylor has enthusiastically sponsored this important legislation. As I understand it, Representative John Coghill, Jr. has also stepped up to the plate as a strong supporter. The bill is was introduced on February 8, 2001 and is identified as SENATE BILL NO. 78, AN ACT RELATING TO MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF RADIO ANTENNAS.

Now that we've got the groundwork laid, we need each and every member of the Alaska amateur radio community to step up to do his or her part to help make passage of this bill a reality. It's time to contact your state senate and house representatives to express your support for the bill. If you don't have your senator's or representative's contact information, you can find it on the web at: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/>. Following is a sample of what your letter might look like. Feel free to modify this to your taste:

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Dear Senator or Representative XXXXX,

I am writing you in support of Alaska State Senate Bill number 78, An Act relating to municipal regulation of radio antennas, sponsored by Senator Robin Taylor. I believe it is of great importance to Alaska to have such a bill since it supports our ability to provide emergency and public service communications in a remote part of the world, and is supported by the FCC's PRB-1 ruling.

I have been a government licensed Radio Amateur (for XXX years)(or add your profession, like police officer, engineer, technician, medical person, etc., etc.) and understand how very important this bill is for the security of the people of Alaska in any number of emergencies and communications situations. I am only one of a large number of citizen radio amateurs supporting this bill.

Alaska is still remote in many ways, and the thread of communications tying it to the lower 48 states is still thin. Earthquakes, undersea landslides, and other events can and have broken the single undersea glass communications fiber connecting us with the lower 48 states. Similar conditions can misalign satellite dishes leaving us without adequate communications. Fires can, and have, burned up wire communications links. Emergency situations have overloaded cellular and conventional telephone systems beyond any real ability to be useful.



When a disaster strikes, we Amateurs Radio operators are there to assist with relief operations immediately. In 'ALASKA'S DARKEST HOUR' on that Good Friday in 1964, Amateur Radio operators were there and they did their job for over a week after the quake. We continue to provide such support over 35 years later. We practice our craft regularly, and directly supported emergencies such as the Miller's Reach Fire, the Juneau/Thane Avalanche, and the Turnagain Pass Avalanche. We team with and work side-by-side with government agencies and officials during mass casualty and other disaster preparedness drills. We donate thousands of hours of support volunteering our time and equipment to provide communications for such public events as the Iditarod, Anchorage Fur Rendezvous, Walk for Hope, the Yukon Quest, and countless others.

Restricting antennas to unreasonably low heights puts us in jeopardy of losing much of our unique Alaskan backup communications ability. Radio amateurs can, and have in the past, provided this spare link in the communications chain. Radio amateurs are ready to help again tomorrow, or whenever the call for communications comes.

Federal regulations, such as the FCC's PRB-1 ruling insist that certain radio stations be allowed to have antennas, and have antennas of reasonable height. The height is technically essential for communications to take place. The bill I support follows this FCC requirement. Nine states have already adopted similar legislation, and others are in the drafting stage now. The language of the bill ensures that the minimal technical requirements to conduct amateur communications are preserved.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

Here is the actual wording of the proposed bill:

Sec. 2. AS 29.35.141. Regulation of radio antennas.

- (a) A municipality that regulates the placement, screening, or height of radio antennas must reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas. A municipality may require reasonable and customary engineering practices to be followed in the erection of amateur radio antennas. A municipality may impose only the minimum requirements relating to amateur radio antennas that are necessary to accomplish the legitimate purposes intended to be served by the requirements.
- (b) A municipality may not restrict the number of support structures for an amateur radio antenna. Based on the most recently published United States Census, a municipal restriction on amateur radio antenna height may not be lower than (1) 200 feet above ground level as permitted by the Federal communications

Commission in areas with a population density of 120 or less per square mile; or (2) 75 feet above ground level in areas with a population density of over 120 per square mile; or (3) 140 feet above ground level in areas with a population density of over 120 per square mile and a lot size equal to or greater than 1 acre.

- (c) Subject to (a) and (b) of this section, a municipality may, by ordinance, impose a minimum of requirements to meet clearly defined objectives in regards to screening, placement, aesthetic, health and safety factors with respect of the erection, maintenance, and operation of amateur radio antennas.
- (d) This section applies to home rule and general law municipalities.

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## ALASKA, NEVADA JOIN STATES SEEKING PRB-1 LEGISLATION

Two more states have joined the list of those seeking to get Amateur Radio antenna legislation on the books. Efforts are under way to incorporate the provisions of the limited federal preemption known as PBB-1 into state law in Alaska and Nevada.

The Alaska proposal, Senate Bill 78, seeks a minimum regulatory height limit of up to 200 feet for Amateur Radio antennas or structures--similar to the Virginia Amateur Antenna law. The Nevada proposal, Assembly Bill 61, represents the first attempt on the state level to limit the impact of private covenants, conditions and restrictions--so-called CC&Rs--on Amateur Radio antennas.

ARRL Alaska Section Manager Kent Petty, KL5T, credited "the dedicated and tireless efforts" of Dan Squires, KD7WN, and Rob Wilson, AL7KK, as well as ARRL Northwestern Division Director Greg Milnes, W7OZ, with moving the bill forward. Sponsored by Sen Robin Taylor, SB 78 was introduced February 8 and referred to the Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

The Alaska bill would establish a three-tier minimum regulatory height schedule that depends on the population density of the community in which the antenna is installed and the size of the lot on which it is sited. The minimum would be 75 feet in areas with population densities more than 120 people per square mile. A minimum regulatory height of 140 feet would prevail in areas with population densities of more than 120 people per square mile and a lot size of an acre or larger. The top-tier 200 feet minimum regulatory limit would apply in areas where the population density is 120 people or less per square mile.

Petty is encouraging members of the Alaska Amateur Radio community to contact their state senators and representatives to support the measure (visit <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/> for more information).



In a unique twist, however, the Nevada measure would make "void and unenforceable" any provision in a deed covenant, restriction or condition that "precludes amateur service communications" or "unreasonably restricts the placement, screening or height of a station antenna structure" that might significantly decrease antenna performance or that does not allow for the use of an alternative station antenna "at a comparable cost and with comparable efficiency and performance."

The bill's provisions would not apply to CC&Rs in Nevada already "executed and recorded" at the time the bill goes into effect.

Ten states now have incorporated the essence of PRB-1 into their law books. For more information on PRB-1 and Amateur Radio antenna regulation, visit ARRL Web, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/#local>.

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## How about ARES?

By Jim Wiley, KL7CC

The Alaska district 7 ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. Normally, the meeting is at 9:30 AM until Noon in one of the conference rooms at the Alyeska Pipeline Service HQ building, on Bragaw streets between Northern Lights and Debarr. Meetings are open to all interested parties, and let us tell you, this is where things are happening these days.

We have recently applied for and received call signs for the ARES club station. We will be applying for "custom" call signs soon, to reflect the nature of our activities.

The ARES group recently took on the task of providing a selection of man-portable emergency communications systems, to be deployed in time of need. While the primary purpose of these "kits" is to supply communications in time of emergency, they will also be available for public service events such as dog races, school outings, and similar events. The kits consist of several types. One is a complete battery powered cross-band voice repeater, operating on the 146 and 440 MHz bands. It has everything needed in one box to provide an "instant" repeater should such be needed. It has a radio, antenna, gel-cell batteries (good for 12 hours or more), charging and battery control circuits, 2 UHF hand-held transceivers, 2 FRS (Family Radio Service) UHF transceivers, spare batteries, connecting cords, in short, everything needed to set up in a hurry. Another kit contains a complete packet terminal, including a VHF radio, TNC, laptop computer, dot matrix printer, and like before, batteries, antenna, UHF radio and accessories. A third set will operate as a packet-radio digipeater, again battery powered, that can be deployed anywhere, even alongside a road, to relay signals from the emergency event site to a command center. The fourth type of

kit also uses packet radio, but it also contains an integral GPS unit, and is intended to be left (temporarily, of course) on a bus, ambulance, fire truck, or whatever to keep track of the vehicle's location via the APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System). Each kit will operate off internal batteries, external 12V DC (as from a car battery cigar lighter outlet) or 120V AC, if available.

One kit of each type is being built as a prototype, and if no problems are found, up to 4 additional kits of each type are likely to follow.

Even more exciting than the portable kits, however, is the fact that funding was recently approved to purchase and outfit a RV (Motor Home) as a mobile communications headquarters. It will contain several HF, VHF and UHF radios, and not all of them will be ham band sets. We anticipate installing systems for municipal police, fire department, and utilities, plus Alaska State troopers, VHF and HF marine radio, VHF and HF aircraft, FRS/GMRS (license free) radios, and yes, even a CB set. Also anticipated: Amateur satellite packet message relay, commercial utilities sets (Enstar, Chugach Electric, etc.), and MARS systems. Also, we will have a couple of cell phones and several computers. Some of the computers will be for things like satellite tracking and packet radio links, but at least one will be reserved for Internet connections, via the cellular phones.

The idea is that this vehicle will be available on a moment's notice to assist public agencies at emergencies and public service events. The number one complaint, heard again and again, is that when something happens, the cops can't talk to the fire department, who can't talk to the utility company, who can't talk to the (fill in the blank) – you get the idea.

When this rig is not out on an actual emergency, it will be available likewise for public service activities, such as dog races, the various "walks" for assorted charities, support of groups like the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and the like. It will also be a featured item at the Alaska State Fair, and taken on frequent outings to local schools for "show and tell". We expect that we will be able to recruit dozens if not hundreds of young ham radio prospects, and in the meantime provide their parents with handouts and other things to grab their attention. And last, but certainly not least, it will give us an "instant" setup for our annual Field Day outings. When used in conjunction with one of the newly remodeled "Tower and Power" trailers, we can be on the air with a KW in literally minutes.

What about those trailers? Well, as many of you know, the AARC, and more recently SCRC, have both assembled trailers with 40 foot crank-up masts and tri-band beam antennas. One or two persons can set up these rigs in literally a few minutes. Recently, funding was approved to purchase and install a 12KW Diesel generator set on each trailer. When complete, each trailer will be able to support at least 2 1500 W class stations simultaneously, plus additional power will be



available for heaters, lights, etc (and to run all the stuff in the RV).

All these things have been, and are being provided by generous grants from the Anchorage ARC (who will retain ownership), but for the most part, the plan is to schedule activities and the operation of these new facilities via the ARES group.

How do you fit in? Well all this new hardware is nice, but we also need lots of trained operators to make it go. Here is the answer to those who say "but, I don't have any gear", or "I don't want to risk my own set, it might get lost or broken". Well, now you don't have to worry about it - just show up and help. And make no mistake, you will have to show up at the ARES meetings to get checked out on the new gear, and learn how to interface with public officials, and all the other things needed if we are to present a professional appearance and encourage others to make use of Amateur Radio in their planning.

You will notice in the monthly schedule of events that the name of the monthly ARES meeting has been changed from "ARES planning meeting" to just "ARES meeting". This reflects a change, in that instead of just the planning group., we are encouraging everyone who is interested in any part of ARES operations to attend.

We are setting up schedules for training classes (via on-line interactive courses) and local certification programs. You will need to attend (in person or via computer) these classes to receive your ARES certification. There will be no cost to you (the charges, if any, are paid by ARES), and there is much useful information to be obtained.

More next month!!

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## Inquiring minds want to know!

from Craig Bledsoe, KL4E

Here's an extract from Curt Lewis' American Airlines Safety Newsletter that would be well worth reprinting.

LONDON - Do penguins topple over when they peer into the sky watching planes and helicopters fly over?

Finally, a full blown scientific study has come up with the answer. They may waddle away in fright but they do NOT lose their balance and topple over. Rumors of falling penguins have abounded since British plane and helicopter pilots returning from the 1982 Falklands War claimed their flights had toppled the earth-bound birds.

To settle the issue, a favorite of cartoonists and penguin jokes, environmental research scientist Richard Stone spent five

weeks watching helicopters fly over two King Penguin colonies in the Antarctic, studying their effect on more than 1,000 birds.

"We saw birds moving away from the noise (of helicopters and planes)," he said. "Not a single bird fell over after 17 flights."

"As it (the helicopter) approached, the birds went quiet," he said. "They didn't appear to turn around and look."

Some birds waddled away from the helicopters. Others became quiet. A few minutes later, they waddled back.

"We don't know if it's the noise or the visual aspect -- whether it looks like a potential predator," Stone said.

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## The Merlin Story

By Douglas "Duke" Warren

Everyone knows the Spitfire story, how Joseph Mitchell, based on some of the knowledge from building the Supermarine Schneider Trophy seaplane racers designed it. However it is not acknowledged that without the Merlin engine the Spitfire would not have been the exceptional aircraft that it was. In the following paragraphs some interesting facts about the Merlin will be revealed. It is presumed that the reader will be familiar with basic technical details, e.g., twelve cylinders "V" designs, liquid cooled supercharger, etc.

The Battle of Britain was a pivot point in WWII and the history of the world. The Merlin engine was an important factor in the success of the RAF. Merlin design and development was a private venture by Rolls Royce. No government funding was provided and it was called the PV-12 (Private Venture). The engine was first flown on April 12, 1935, in a Hawker Hart biplane.

By strange chance, both the ME109 and HE113 fighters in Germany were first flown with a Rolls Royce engine, the Kestrel, as the Daimler-Benz engine was not yet available. As a further note -- the ME109s featured in the post-war Battle of Britain film were Spanish ME109s fitted with Merlin engines.

Merlins, in many different MKs, were fitted to Spitfires, Hurricanes, Wellingtons, Defiants, Lancasters, Halifaxes, Mustangs, and Mosquitos. When the Allison-engined Mustang came to England it was very fast at low altitude (350 mph), but pretty useless above 10,000 feet. However when fitted with the Merlin the speed increased to 450 mph and it had excellent performance at altitude. The official speed record for a piston engine powered aircraft is held by a Mustang (499.048 mph), powered by a Griffin engine which was a later development of the Merlin.



Churchill considered the Merlin so important that early in the war he secretly ordered a set of drawings sent to America in case England was overrun. In 1940 production was arranged in the U.S.A. where the Packard plant in Detroit made them. Henry Ford turned down the chance to make the world's greatest engine because he thought Britain would lose the war.

All aircrew who have flown in Merlin-engined aircraft will pay tribute to the performance of these engines. The post-war North Star was noisy but at least one knew that the engines were doing their job! Lord Trenchard, when reviewing the Battle of Britain, gave full credit to the

Merlin engine as one of the chief factors in the RAF victory.

But I think the greatest tribute of all is in the Derby at the Rolls Royce factory. There in the front hall is a stained-glass window featuring a young pilot as a memorial to all the pilots of Hurricanes and Spitfires who defeated the Luftwaffe. The inscription reads:

"To the pilots of the RAF who, in the Battle of Britain, turned the work of our hands into the salvation of our country."



#### READY GET SET GO!!!!

It is that time of the year yes that's right – DOG RACING. We have several of them coming up. The biggest one is the Iditarod. But not to out do it is the Jr. Iditarod, Along with the Chugiak Classic, the Yukon Quest, the Eagle River Classic. And if that isn't enough for all you out door people we have the Iron Dog. But this year we have even something special - -That right the Winter Special Olympics. Be sure to get out there and help in any way you can. If you need more information, contact us and we will be able to help. But be sure to have FUN, FUN, FUN.

Photo courtesy of the Fur Rondy Web site.



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**QST QST QST QST**

**Alaska radio personality**

**Herb Shaindlin**

**Will be our guest speaker at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> general meeting.**

**Come and hear Herb's irreverent and pithy humor as regards life in our state.**

**Herb will answer your questions too – here's your chance to find out the truth (or something?!)**