

# Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

## General Membership meeting October 4th

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Randy Vallee, AL7PJ
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Larsen, AL7FS
<b>Secretary</b>	Keith Clark, WL7CSR
<b>Treasurer</b>	Richard Block, KL7RLB
<b>Trustee</b>	Jim Feaster, KL7KB
<b>Activities Chairman</b>	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
<b>News Letter Editor</b>	Edythe Lynn KL7EL
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Fred Erickson KL7FE
<b>Past Past-President</b>	John Lynn, KL7CY

### Three Year Board Members

Lil Marvin, NL7DL  
David Stevens, KL7EB  
Pat Wilke, WL7JA

### One Year Board Members

Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV  
John Murray, NL7WW  
Steve Jensen, KLØVZ  
Mike Borer, WL7CKB  
Dan Horvath, WL7CLX  
Tony Gangi, NL7PB

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

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency  
147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat, 103.5 HZ PL  
146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat  
146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat  
147.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat

### **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  
850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM  
Grand Son of SSB Net 144.20 USB Mondays 8:00 PM local  
Big City Simplex Net 146.520, 446.0, & 52.525 FM  
    With Packet 145.01 Tuesdays 8:00 PM local  
ARES net 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 8:00 PM local  
PARKA net 147.30/.90 Thursdays at 7:00 PM local

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

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft  
146.94/34 MHz, 80 watts, autopatch, 141.3 Hz PL  
224.94/223.34, 25 watts, no patch, no PL  
444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 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, on IRLP, 97.4 Hz PL

KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon, PARKA 3,940 ft  
147.30/90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL  
KL7AIR Elmendorf AFB, EARS  
146.67/.07, 107.2 Hz PL  
KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA club  
146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL  
KL7DOB, Alcantra (Wasilla Armory)  
146.64/.04, simplex patch, no PL  
147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL  
KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.  
444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL<down>  
KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft. ??down??  
146.76/16 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

#### KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

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

AK time, every day on 145.35 MHz @ 7 wpm

#### 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: [edielynn@gci.net](mailto:edielynn@gci.net)

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

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting  
Email: [edielynn@gci.net](mailto:edielynn@gci.net) faxcsimile: 907-338-4791  
Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

#### ~~~ HOT LINKS ~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

AARC <http://home.gci.net/~lawson/>  
SCRC <http://www.KL7G.org>  
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/aresalaska>  
QRP AND HOMEBREWING LINKS <http://www.njqrp.org/data/links.html>  
KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>  
Fairbanks AARC: <http://www.kl7kc.com/>  
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, 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 Lunch, 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 Breakfast, 7:30 AM:** Here is a good 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 EVENTS**

**October 1st: VE License Exam 6:30 PM,** 1st Tuesday of the month at the Hope Cottage offices, 540 W International. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**October 3rd: EARS general meeting at 6:30PM** 1st Thursday of the month, in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB. Talk in on 147.67- repeater.

**October 4th: AARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** 1st Friday of the Month in the Carr-Gottstein Building, on the APU Campus. Talk in will be on 147.30+ repeater.

**October 11th: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM** the 2nd Friday of the month at Denny's on Debarr & Bragaw. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

**October 12th: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM.** 2nd Saturday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International . Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**October 12th: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** 2nd Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

**October 15th: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** 3rd Tuesday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International .

**October 3rd 17th & 31st 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.

**October 18th: Alaska QRP Club meeting at 7:00 PM** the 3rd Friday of the month at Denny's on Debarr & Bragaw .

**October 19th: ARES General meeting 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.** 3rd Saturday of the month. In the Carr-Gottstein Building on the APU Campus .

**October 25th: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month in the MTA business office in Palmer.

**October 26th Valley VE Licence Exam at 7pm,** 4th Saturday of the Month at A1 Driving School in Wasilla

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## Letter from the Editor

I would like to thank all of you that were so generous with your articles and humor for the newsletters. I am sorry that due to other commitments that I have had to tender my resignation to the Board of Directors of the AARC Cub. This will be my last newsletter. I have enjoyed my time as the newsletter editor. Please be advised that due to a snafu at the printers this newsletter will be a combination of September and October.

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## FOR SALE

An antenna mast. It is made of 1 1/4-aluminum tube, 48' tall, in four sections. In Glennallen \$750.00 OBO. Call 822-3865 or twcg@alaska.net

Thanks,  
Graham Ward

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## Alaska QRP Club First Meeting

The Alaska QRP Club will hold its first meeting on Friday, October 18 at 7:00PM at Denny's Restaurant at 3950 DeBarr Road. We will follow the same format as the South Central Radio Club meaning that those that wish can meet for supper at 6:00PM.

The first program is mostly defining what everyone wants to do but will most likely include a discussion on what we can all build to enhance the fun of ham radio. There will be a series of articles on QRP building in this and future AARC newsletters.

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## Proposed structure for an Alaska QRP Club - Anchorage.

**What, who we are.**

**By Jim Larsen**

Welcome to the Alaska QRP Club - Anchorage, a group of QRP enthusiasts. Started in South Central Alaska in October 2002, it is now seeking members to participate in local QRP meetings, homebrew building, QRP kit building, operating and other activities.

Our interest is to promote QRP fellowship by means of our monthly meetings.

Let me preface the description of our meetings by addressing the organization of the club itself. First and foremost, there are no officers, directors, nor constitution. Neither are there any dues.

Having no officers, nor any structure of any significance, every member is equal to every other one. This means that, for example, if you want a QRP net, start one. No permission is needed. You want an official club badge? Have one made, whatever color or design you like. It is an official Alaska QRP Club badge. Contest? Great idea! Organize it any way you like, but make sure you get the details to the current holder of the email list (currently AL7FS) in sufficient time for him send out emails.

We like this lack of structure and ensuing equality. It avoids the usual club problems of personalities, politics, and factions. Moreover, our egos do not even require that the club continue to exist. If it continues to serve a need via our meetings and projects, fine. If not, it will die, as well it should.

As with any organization, however, there is a need for housekeeping. Jim Larsen, AL7FS, is the current keeper of the email list and the keeper of the Alaska QRP Club home page at <http://www.qsl.net/k17aqc/>.

We meet the third Friday of the month starting on October 18, 2002, at the Denny's at 3950 DeBarr Road. The time is 7PM with those that wish to eat coming at 6PM. This is the same type schedule as the South Central Radio Club meetings.

These meetings have no formal agenda, just come as you are, and bring whatever you think is of interest. Come early or late, stay until everyone is gone, whatever meets your time and interest?

I hope members will be satisfied with this lack of formal agenda, but if e get tired of it, we will try something else, or chuck the

whole thing. This is our meeting philosophy as well as our format.

Email information will be the primary means of sharing information. Delivery time is strictly a haphazard matter, over which, obviously, the Club will have no control. The needs of the club will dictate.

Each QRP Club email may share internet addresses of interest or articles, ranging from the technical to the humorous. Members are encouraged to submit copy, writing or drawings to [ailto:jimlarsen2002@alaska.net](mailto:ailto:jimlarsen2002@alaska.net). Writing skills are not necessary; so do not let modesty in any creative area deter you, please. Share what you are doing.

Thank you for your interest in QRP and the Alaska QRP Club-Anchorage, a club that will march to a different drummer. QRPer are a great group of Ham Radio enthusiasts; to me the cream of the crop, not easily frustrated, nor frantic to be at the top of the pile. Rather, mellow and laid back, a super group of helpful friendly hams.

And perhaps also, the last of the home brewers?

72,

Jim Larsen, AL7FS  
3445 Spinnaker Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99516  
Phone 345-3190  
<mailto:jimlarsen2002@alaska.net>

Credit to NORCAL QRP Club.

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#### KL7AA Website and Electronic Newsletter

Please visit the Club website for info on this month's program.  
I will post the newsletter when it is available.

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

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#### (Unapproved) Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, July 16, 2002

The AARC Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2002, at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building at 540 West International Airport Way. President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ at 7:06 p.m, opened the meeting. The following officers were in attendance: President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, Vice-President Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Secretary Keith Clark, WL7CSR, Treasurer Richard Block, KL7RLB, and Activities Manager T.J. Sheffield, KL7TS. The following Board Members were in attendance: Pat Wilke, WL7JA, Lil Marvin, NL7DL, David Stevens, KL7EB, Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV, John Murray, NL7WW, Steve Jensen, KLØVZ, Mike Borer, WL7CKB, and Dan Horvath, WL7CLX. AARC club member, VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC, and Past President John Lynn, KL7CY, were present.

Minutes from the June 18 Board Meeting were reviewed. Richard Block, KL7RLB made a motion to accept with one minor change. It was seconded by Mike Borer, WL7CKB and passed unanimously.

#### REPORTS

##### Health and Welfare:

No news is good news.

##### Membership Report:

Fred Erickson, KL7FE, Sez we picked up some members at the last meeting.

##### Treasurer's Report:

Richard Block, KL7RLB, has a written report available. He has two notes for the Board to review on the written report. He would like the Board to review project budget standings, and Insurance coverage limits.

**Gaming Committee Report:**

John Lynn, KL7CY, has nothing new to report. There is now new news on the State issue, and business at Boniface Bingo is down due to the summer months.

**VHF Committee Report:**

There is no written report at this time

**VEC Report:**

Jim Wiley, KL7CC, noted that the Extra Class exam pool has now changed. He also reported that the remote testing project is moving forward. Also that Someone at APU is working on a Beta test site for the Web.

**ARES:**

Mike Borer, WL7CKB, updated the calendar list of upcoming events. It was noted that the ARES Kits have received their circuit boards and building will resume. An update on the CCV indicates only two items left to complete, and then there was discussion about the public service radios to be used in the facility.

**Grant Committee**

Now news tonight.

**Old Business:**

No old business tonight.

**New Business:**

There was discussion about the repeater at Alyeska. A motion was made By Jim Larsen, AL7FS, to remove the equipment and discontinue the phone line service. Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV, seconded. A friendly amendment was accepted, to table the repeater equipment discussion till next month, but cancel phone service to save the \$150.00 per month fee. The motion passed with three opposing. (Voting record attached)

***BOARD VOTING RECORD 07-16-02***

Vote to cancel telephone service for the Alyeska Repeater.

**FOR**

Randy Vallee, AL7PJ  
Jim Larsen, AL7FS  
Keith Clark, WL7CSR  
Richard Block, KL7RLB  
TJ Sheffield, KL7TS  
John Lynn, KL7CY  
Jim Feaster, KL7KB  
Pat Wilke, WL7JA  
Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV  
John Murray, NL7WW  
Steve Jensen, KLØVZ  
Mike Borer, WL7CKB  
Dan Horvath, WL7CLX

**AGAINST**

Lil Marvin, NL7DL  
David Stevens, KL7EB  
Tony Gangi, NL7PB

Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV, presented the following motion for censure:

Mr. Chairman :

It is with regret that I would like to present a motion for censure of board member Lil Marvin for unfair and improper conduct as a member of this Board.

In specific,

1. Ms. Marvin failed to support a board action, which was duly discussed, debated and voted on at the last meeting of this board.

2. Ms Marvin improperly solicited proxies from a select group of members, apparently chosen solely to support her position.

Failure to support a board action in which one has duly been heard and participated is contrary to good governance and a very fast way to destroy the board's effectiveness. The duty here was to explain the board's actions, perhaps pro and con, but not to lead a revolt. If Ms. Marvin felt so strongly that her actions were necessary, the proper course would have been to resign from the board and then take action.

Likewise, it is totally improper to solicit proxies from a select group. It is only right that proxies should have been solicited from *the entire membership* with full written disclosure of the arguments and the reasons for opposition thereof. The method in which proxies were actually solicited effectively disenfranchised other members of the club.

Club rules may permit these actions, but that does not make them right. I consider them to be a breach of ethics.

I would like to speak to this resolution after it is seconded. The board may add or substitute other names as appropriate.

I have been in this club for 27 years, but not active until recently. Here is part of the reason.

It appears to me as a newcomer that there is a turf war going on here.

It is also apparent that the Mt Susitna repeater project was proposed as a solution to problems. There never will be a perfect project or answer. This project got nothing like a fair hearing at the meeting. No airing of pros and cons, no reasoned discussion.

I felt that there were two valid objections.

1. Maintenance - these concerns were addressed, and with substantial funds in the bank, the true risk is small and manageable.
2. The other repeaters in town are not used much.

I think this is, in part true, because these repeaters perform poorly.

27 years ago, I could use 34/94 from inside a bus in Muldoon with a 2 watt handheld. Likewise I could hit it from my house which was in the shadow of a hillside bowl. When I moved to a location near Boniface Mall, I had a clear shot, but gradually performance deteriorated until I could no longer hit it. The 90/30 (KL7ION) machine has poor coverage in many areas south of Huffman road. Both it and 25/85 in the valley are over the lip of a hill from me. I can hit 25/85, but rarely 90/30.

Both of these need improvement - with or without Susitna - and Susitna has potential to provide far better coverage, and to be a much better resource. KL7M's set up is by far the best performer in the area. We need something better.

This club cannot serve the community if it sticks to the tried and true and is unwilling to attempt imaginative change. If all hams had behaved in this manner we would still be using spark gap. Risk taking is a part of the process, and those risks can be managed here.

In conclusion, if Ms. Marvin and others wish to circumvent the board and impose their own will, one must ask what is the purpose of the board. I have not been active in this club in part because I do not wish to spend my Friday evenings in a meeting with a club trying to do business as a committee of the whole, endlessly debating how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. It serves no purpose for the board to debate and decide if the same process must be rerun for everyone. This should have been easy - it wasn't.

If this process continues it will kill the club.

The motion was seconded by John Lynn, KL7CY. After much discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn.

Jim Larsen advises that progress on the inventory of Club equipment is progressing, but slowly. He is putting inventory stickers on all equipment for a permanent record.

There was discussion about storage location for the CCV this winter, and also a training program for Club members who may be either driving the CCV, or operating equipment in the CCV.

Richard Block, KL7RLB, stated that he feels a need for the Club to develop long range strategic planning for the Club to have a better defined structure for how we are going to use our funds to enhance our hobby and the community at large.

Dick also advises that he received from the State, a notice of involuntary Corporate Dissolution. He will do the research to find out what the solution is.

Jim Larsen reminded the Board that we still have a request to find a new newsletter editor.

There being no further business, Mike Borer, WL7CKB, moved to adjourn, Pat Wilke, WL7JA, seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Submitted by H. Keith Clark, WL7CSR, Secretary

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## (UNAPPROVED)

### Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, September 17, 2002

The AARC Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2002, at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building at 540 West International Airport Way. President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The following officers were in attendance: President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, Vice-President Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Secretary Keith Clark, WL7CSR, Treasurer Richard Block, KL7RLB, Past-President John Lynn, KL7CY, and Trustee Jim Feaster, KL7KB. Also in attendance: Pat Wilke, WL7JA, Lil Marvin, NL7DL, David Stevens, KL7EB, Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV, John Murray, NL7WW, Steve Jensen, KLØVZ, and Dan Horvath, WL7CLX. AARC Club members, Susan Woods, NL7NN, and VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC were also present.

Minutes from the August 21st Board Meeting were reviewed. Richard Block, KL7RLB, made a motion to accept. It was seconded by Jim Feaster, KL7KB and passed unanimously.

### REPORTS

#### Health and Welfare:

No news reported.

#### Membership Report:

No report tonight.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Richard Block, KL7RLB, provided a written report indicating that the Club is solvent, and that there is nothing remarkable to report. The Club is slightly over budget on in a couple of areas, but he explained them to the Boards satisfaction. David Stevens, KL7EB, and John Murray, NL7WW, both raised questions about line items on the budget for the Mt. Susitna/McKenzie repeater, and the Site Summit/Alpenglow repeater. Richard will verify this information and report back to the Board. David Stevens moved to accept the report pending the above mentioned verifications. The motion was seconded by Pat Wilke, WL7JA, and passed unanimously.

#### Gaming Committee Report:

John Lynn, KL7CY, received \$9,200.00 from the Bingo operation this month. The pending State issue was discussed, with a request for John to check with our attorney about possible changes to State legislation regarding bingo operation and reporting requirements

#### VHF Committee Report:

No written report provided. Comments were that Anchor was still down, and also the dial up to the packet bulletin board is down as well.

#### VEC Report:

Jim Wiley, KL7CC, indicated things are running smoothly. He advises that there is national interest in the AARC remote testing project, and that we have gotten good support from Bill Cross with the FCC.

#### ARES:

Richard Block, the new DEC, advises he is now publishing an ARES newsletter. He placed a big emphasis on training ARES members and that the first session would be at the ARES meeting on Sat., and would concentrate on the portable communication kits. He gave a tentative schedule of training, and advised that he is putting together a staff for the Anchorage ARES organization.

#### Hamfest:



John Lynn says he got lots of positive comments about Hamfest and the demonstrations held throughout the day. Gordon West suggested a checklist of items to be considered for next years event. The Board would also like to express appreciation for the effort and support received from Bill Cross, Gordon West, HRO, Comet Antenna, Frigid North, Aventure, Radio Depot, Jim Fenstermaker, Mark Cook, and a special thanks to Fred Meyer for providing freight space to bring equipment up the highway. Mike Romanello, KL7BK, did a great job making it happen!

**Contributions and Grants Report:**

No report this month.

**Newsletter Report:**

No report was submitted.

**Activities Report:**

No report submitted

**Old Business:**

There is no old business to discuss.

**New Business:**

Jim Larsen reports that the By-Law committee met again for two hours and will meet again on Oct. 12th

Randy informed the Board that Richard found a possible Clubhouse/CCV storage area. He will get more information for the Board's review.

Randy reported on a conversation he had with the folks in Fairbanks. They would like to swap days at next years event. Mike Romanello has volunteered to organize next year's event and so will run a committee with Jim Wiley, Pat Wilke, Randy Vallee, and David Stevens, to study the request.

Richard received a request from the Moosehorn ARC for a volunteer to provide coms at Providence during their Emergency exercise. Susan Woods, NL7NN volunteered.

The annual Christmas party was set for Fri. Dec. 13th John Lynn will coordinate with the Royal Fork South.

John Lynn is still waiting for a helicopter ride to install the repeater on Mt. Susitna. After some discussion Jim Feaster moved to spend up to \$1,500.00 as a travel expense, as a contingency if the free ride from Procomm doesn't materialize. It was seconded by John Lynn, and after a friendly amendment to set a cut-off date for Procomm, the motion passed unanimously.

Richard reported that the donation jars from Hamfest provide \$21.00 to Newsline, and only \$10.00 for QSL.net. Dick then moved to donate an additional \$90.00 to send to QSL.net. After several Board members made donations, Jim Larsen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Richard indicates the Certificate of Incorporation has been reinstated. He suggests that the Club should hire a pro to look after the Corp. records at a cost of \$200.00 per year. The sense of the Board was for him to make it happen.

It was also noted that this is Edie Lynn's last month as Newsletter editor. Jim Wiley will check with APU to see if there is a student that would like to take on the project.

There was discussion about CCV maintenance issues. It will be researched so that the Board can have more information at the next meeting.

Richard indicates that we have received Statements from APU. He will provide a copy to be included at some point in the minutes.

There being no further business, John Lynn, KL7CY moved to adjourn. Dan Horvath, WL7CLX, seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Submitted by H. Keith Clark, WL7CSR, Secretary

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**(UNAPPROVED)**

**Anchorage Amateur Radio Club General Meeting, September 6, 2002**

The AARC General Meeting was held on Friday, September 6, 2002, at The Carr-Gottstein Building on the APU Campus. The meeting was opened by President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ at 7:20 p.m.

Activities Chairman T.J. Sheffield, KL7TS, introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Phil Manny, KLØQW. He gave a fun and interesting presentation on Amateur Television.

After a short break, there was discussion about the upcoming Hamfest, and planning for Club outing of a rail/cruise to Resurrection Bay for \$128.00. Contact Randy if interested.

### Treasurer's Report:

Richard Block, KL7RLB, says that we are in good shape, and that the Club's books are up-to-date.

### Old Business

#### New Business

It was announced that Richard Block has volunteered to accept the position as District Emergency Coordinator for Anchorage ARES. Richard gave a presentation about his plans for ARES and asked everyone to get involved.

President Randy, AL7PJ, announced that the Nominating Committee had been established. Anyone interested in running for a Club office is asked to contact Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Jim Wiley, KL7CC, or Susan Woods, NL7NN.

It was reported that the Mt. Susitna repeater was not up on the mountain, but is working at Jim Wiley's house. The repeater operates on 147.270+, with a tone of 100.0 hz.

Note was made that Bill Cross from the FCC would be the guest speaker at the Hamfest Banquet, on Friday night at the Royal Fork South.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, at 8:36 p.m.

The program for the October general membership meeting will feature Mr. Robert Wilson, AL7KK, speaking on "Economical Low and Medium Frequency Antennas".

As we pass through autumn and settle into winter conditions, the low bands become increasingly important for DX and regional communications. The potential for an amateur allocation at 5 MHz is still a possibility and activity on the low bands will no doubt increase as Solar Cycle 23 winds down. Be sure and attend the upcoming club meeting to find out how you can hear and be heard on our low and medium frequency amateur bands!

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**Northwestern Division Director    Northwestern Division Vice-Director**

**Greg Milnes, W7OZ,    Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF**

**July 29, 2002**

Jim and I are now back from the ARRL Board of Directors' meeting held near Newington, Connecticut on the 18th through 20th of July. Hot, humid, thunder showers...yep! That's summer in the east for you. You can find the Board minutes on the web: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). I'll hit some high spots. Good news first. During the meeting, we got word that the League was chosen to receive a large grant for emergency communications training. \$180,000+ will be coming through the Office of Homeland Security. More details will follow soon. The "big" issue for the ARRL Board this summer was a proposal to move Section News from QST to the web. It passed but there was a strong minority position (I was in that minority). Starting with the January issue, Section News will only be on the web. If you or someone you know doesn't feel comfortable with (or have) the web, write the ARRL or me and you will receive a hard copy of your Section News via mail. It was also voted to treat contest line scores similarly. We are now supposed to see more QST editorial content in the future, involving what's going on in the Sections and what's happen' in contests. The main words about the future harmonization of the worldwide forty-meter band are "cautious optimism." As you know we have 7.0 to 7.3 MHz in the Western Hemisphere but the rest of the world only has 7.0 to 7.1 MHz. We're working hard internationally to get 300 kHz for everyone. I think it is still looking good for us to get a couple of new bands: around 5 MHz (60 meters) and the 136 kHz (sliver band). Likewise all things seem to be on track for upgrading some frequencies in the 2.4 GHz band to primary from secondary. Vice Director, Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF has now moved north to: 14508 24th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA 98037-5919. He's trying to get something up to radiate RF. His phone is: (206) 930-9372. [k9jf@arrl.org](mailto:k9jf@arrl.org) I'm going to be out of the country visiting relatives for a few weeks. I leave for Amsterdam on the 7th of August, then go on to Nairobi, Kenya in East Africa. I'll be back on the 29th of August. Unfortunately the diplomatic climate in Kenya won't allow US hams to operate from 5Z4-land at this point. Remember to write your Congressman in support of H.R. 4720, a bill aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants (CC&Rs) in erecting antennas. Go to the ARRL web page ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) for more information, including a sample letter. I find it easiest to simply type 4720 in the Search Site box at the top of the page. Scroll down for lots of articles on this subject. I was pleased to bring to the ARRL Board the nomination of William Drummond, W7QT, as the 2001 ARRL Professional Educator of the year. My motion passed unanimously. Congratulations Bill! Upcoming hamfests and conventions:

Aug. 2-4, Pac. NW DX at Portland, OR;

Aug. 10, Lower Columbia at Longview, WA;

Aug. 17, Hellgate ARC at Missoula, MT;

Sept. 14, RCT, at Tacoma, WA;

Sept. 14, Alaska State Anchorage, AK;

Sept. 15, Arctic ARC at Fairbanks, AK

Sept. 28, Chehalis Valley at Chehalis, WA;  
Oct 12, E. Wash. at Spokane, WA;  
Oct 12, North Kitsap at Silverdale, WA;  
Oct. 26, Mid-Valley at Rickreall, OR  
73/Greg Milnes, W7OZ (the Oz)  
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NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 6, 2002--The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has endorsed experimental use of videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. Meeting July 26 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the NCVEC voted to back a one-year trial run to be conducted by the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Jim Wiley, KL7CC, of the Anchorage VEC told his VEC colleagues that tens of thousands of Alaska residents living in remote areas are at a distinct disadvantage under the current ham radio testing regime. "It is ironic that of all the people in Alaska who could best make good use of ham radio, these 'bush' residents are the very ones the present exam system discriminates against," he said.

The vote followed discussion on whether having a VE team remotely monitor a test session while an unlicensed individual proctored the exams on site would comply with FCC Part 97 rules. Section 97.509(c) calls for three VEs to be "present and observing" the examinees.

"It was a classic 'how to do something' discussion," the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, told ARRL. Cross was among several FCC staff members attending the annual gathering. "I told them that the VEC and the VEs are responsible for the proper conduct of the exams and that no rule changes appeared to be necessary because the rules do not address the 'how to' of exam administration." Cross said VECs already have authority under Part 97 rules to determine the manner in which their VE teams conduct examination sessions.

During the conference discussion, Cross noted that colleges already use videoconferencing technology to present for-credit courses and that, once licensed, Alaskans living in remote regions could themselves become VEs. Cross-pointed out to the conference that no VEC would be required to coordinate an exam session using a method of testing that it was not comfortable with. "The conference was willing to allow the Anchorage VEC to conduct a trial in Alaska of the program it has developed after it describes the program in further detail," he said.

Wiley said the average cost of sending a three-person VE team to remote Alaskan community's runs about \$2600, including airfare and room and board. With only two to four candidates at a typical session, Wiley said, the per-person cost could be as high as \$1300. Travel by air from areas where there are no roads to a central testing site could set a candidate back more than \$800, he estimated.

Wiley said he believes ham radio tests can be administered using videoconferencing technology without compromising exam integrity while maintaining "the same level of confidence in the testing process that the present system provides." He agreed to provide progress reports to the NCVEC on the videoconferencing trial.

Six of the eleven VECs attending the session voted in favor of endorsing the videoconferencing experiment, while three were opposed and two abstained. ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said he abstained from voting because he did not believe a vote was necessary, since the FCC's Cross had indicated that the concept could be applied under existing rules.

In other business, the NCVEC gathering turned back a proposal to bring back multiple-choice format Morse code examinations. The vote was 9-2. The NCVEC also decided unanimously to create a Web site over the next few months to post news, question pools and other exam-related information.

John Creel, WB3GXW, of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club VEC in Maryland chaired the NCVEC conference. Next year's conference will be July 25, 2003 in Gettysburg. Creel will remain chairman for the 2003 event.



**KL7CC celebrating progress on remote testing**  
**Or "Life is uncertain, eat desert first!"**  
(four banana splits plus a hot fudge Sunday)

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**ALASKA SECTION NEWS OCTOBER 2002**  
**David W Stevens KL7EB**  
**Alaska Section Manager**

The IOTA (Island on the Air), Deer Island Expedition on July 31 through August 5 to a remote eastern Aleutian Island was a great success. There were almost 10,000 contacts made by Rick Kaplan KL7AK, Larry Biederman KF6XC, Blain Berg KL7TG, Linda Berg NL7RE, and Jim Model K9PPY. Robert Wilson AL7KK has written a new book, *ECONOMICAL ANTENNAS FOR LOW AND MEDIUM FREQUENCIES*. It can be found CD ROM or pdf at [www.antennex.com/Sshack/loafer/loafer.html](http://www.antennex.com/Sshack/loafer/loafer.html) Venture Scouting need your help: contacts Anchorage Jim Wiley KL7CC 338 0662 or Craig Bledsoe KL7E 694 4730; Fairbanks Dianne Marshal AL7FG Wassilla Teresa Nunes KL0WW 373 5224. Fairbanks ARES Net 2000 Sunday KL7KC repeater, Anchorage ARES 147.30 Thursday 2000, Snipers 3920 at 1800, Bush Net 7093 at 200, Motley Group 3933 at 2100, and Alaska Pacific Net M-F 14.292 0830.

**NTS Participation Needed**  
**Kent Petty, KL5T**

Hello all packeteers,

This is a call for assistance to all packet operators in the Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Kenai areas. NTS routing into and out of Alaska is now being accomplished via the AL7PI HF Pactor Gateway. The gateway also has a VHF packet port that lives on 145.05. This is where we have been moving all traffic to and from the lower 48 as of late. Any Alaska traffic bound for the lower 48 is routed to Anchorage, placed on AL7PI's system and routed to "NTS@N7YSS.WA.USA.NOAM." It is sent to N7QDN over HF, then to N7YSS via a packet link. NTS operators that access the N7YSS system then pull the traffic and insert it into the CW NTS Network through the OSN (Oregon State Net). From there, it gets routed to the RN7 (Regional Net 7), then to PAN (Pacific Area Net), and beyond, as needed. Traffic bound for Alaska does the same in reverse.

Where assistance is needed is here in Anchorage, Mat-Su, or Kenai. Basically, anyone that can get into the Anchorage area packet network could help. We need liaisons between AL7PIs system and the other nets in the state such as Snipers, the Bush Net, Motley, Alaska Pacific Preparedness Net, and the ACWN (Alaska CW Net). It would require stations to run traffic between these entities. Traffic coming from the Statewide nets would be routed to Anchorage/Mat-Su/Kenai for insertion onto AL7PIs system by a local op. Local ops would check AL7PIs system for inbound traffic on a daily basis and relay traffic from there to the statewide nets. You get the idea. Right now, I'm the guy doing all of this myself. While I don't mind it, there are two problems. One is that at times traffic loads can be a bit heavy. Just splitting up the responsibilities or workload would help. The other is that I travel out of area at times and can't perform the task. Therein lies the reason for my call for help.

Also, in particular, we need CW operators that can participate in traffic handling on the ACWN. This is probably the best, most efficient, and most accurate method to move traffic....and hey...it's a bunch of fun.

Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me here, on e-mail at kl5t@arrl.net, or by telephone at 694-5856 for additional information and to volunteer to assist.

My discussions with the NTS handlers in the lower 48 have revealed to me that NTS into and out of Alaska has been the "Achilles Heel" of the NTS system for years, simply because we can't find operators to run NTS.

And by the way, make no mistake about the fact that we DO handle traffic. So far this month I've handled 28 pieces....more to follow, guaranteed.

Please consider stepping up to the plate. This is a critical aspect of our Amateur Radio existence, and deserves participation by as many stations as possible.

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### **So You Want To Be A Builder, Huh?**

This question was asked by QRP ARCI Hall of Famer, Doug Hendricks, KI6DS.  
Doug wears many hats and one of them is that of a teacher.

In answering his own rhetorical question, Doug has published a series of articles to help those who are wary of electronic building. This is a great series and illustrates the fact that a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering is not required to become a proficient electronic builder.

Doug has graciously granted permission to AARC to publish his articles (there are more to come) and for that we are most grateful. Keep up the good work Doug, we certainly understand how you came to be in the Hall of Fame.

This month you can read Parts 1 and 2. We will publish additional articles, as they become available.

73, Jim Larsen, AL7FS

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### **So You Want To Be A Builder, Huh? (Update of What Kit To Build) Part 1 by Doug Hendricks, KI6DS**

A few years ago, I wrote a series of articles for a talk that I gave at Hamcom in Dallas. In it, I talked about what kit to build, and why. Got a lot of nice comments on it, and it is probably still on the web somewhere.

A lot of time has gone by since then, and the series needs updating, so here it goes. By the way, this is gonna be long, it is gonna be my opinion, but I will support my opinions with reasons, hopefully valid. Now what makes me think that I am qualified to write about this subject? Well, I have built over 100 kits in the last ten years, have managed every NorCal Kit Project (thousands of kits), and have advised several other clubs and companies about kits. I don't know everything, and I am certainly not the world's authority, but I do have some real life experience.

When I was in grade school, I read the library copy of Boy's Life religiously. Every month, I would drool over the ads for the Ham Radio receivers. I even went so far as to write Hallicrafters and ask what a receiver cost. When they told me \$48.00, it might as well have been 48 Million, because there was no way that I had that kind of money as a 10 year old kid growing up in Kansas. I had no idea what the ARRL was, there were no hams in my hometown, and it was just a dream. Then when I was a sophomore in high school, our science teacher took us on a field trip to a ham's house in the next town. Wow, I could not believe all the stuff he had out in his garage. It was piled floor to ceiling with equipment, and it all glowed in the dark in 1964. I asked him how to become a ham, and he was not very friendly, said that you had to take FCC tests from the government, follow all kinds of rules, etc. He did say that he built most of his equipment from old military surplus and tv sets. Hey!! That was my ticket. I would build my own stuff. That night and many nights after, I dreamed of being a ham and building my equipment.

I finally got my ham ticket in 1976, that means that I could officially be a member of QCWA now grin. But I didn't build any of my equipment, I bought it second hand. I was on the air, made 499 qso's as a novice, but didn't feel like a real ham because I had not built my equipment. I wanted to be like the guy I met in high school and build my own station. I am sure that many of

you who have never built anything and lurk on this list can identify with me. Stay with me, and I may be able to help you.

I have been very lucky to have met and known some wonderful builders in my time as a QRPer. Dave Fifield, Dave Meacham, Derry Spittle, Ed Burke, Vern Wright, Wayne Burdick, Eric Swartz, Jim Kortge, JayBob Bromley, Keith Newman, Chuck Adams, Dave Benson, Dennis Foster, Mike Gipe, Paul Maciel, Dan Tayloe, John Liebenrood, Wayne McFee, Paul Harden, George Heron, Joe Everhart, Mike Fitzsimmon, and many others. They all have one thing in common. Do you know what that is? They all learned how to build by building. None of them was a master builder out of the box. They had to put in their time and make their mistakes. But they did it. They built everything that they could. Some of those guys I mentioned are EE's. Some aren't. One is a dentist another worked in the auto industry and several are just average Joe types of guys. Anyone who can learn how to solder, read and follow directions, learn how to understand a schematic, and identify parts can become an excellent builder. But it takes practice. Chuck Adams told me once that education costs. You will pay for it one way or another. He is 100% right. I know guys that have never built anything and start with a K2. Do I recommend that?? NO WAY. But it has been done. No, I don't recommend building the K2 or K1 as a first kit, they came quite a way down the road, but they do come. What I do recommend is that you start with a good soldering iron, some good solder, read on the web about good soldering techniques, and practice with some resistors because they are cheap, grin.

My method involves a gradual learning curve. You start with simple projects that don't cost an arm or a leg, and you learn on the inexpensive kits. (That means you will make your first mistakes on them). The next installment of this article will cover a couple of easy kits, that are cheap, fun to build, and they will work!!

72, Doug, KI6DS

**So You Want To Be A Builder, Huh?**  
**(Update of What Kit To Build)**  
**Part 2**  
**by Doug Hendricks, KI6DS**

This is the second in a series of articles on how to become a successful builder of ham radio equipment. The opinions are my own, and just that. What I say is not gospel, nor the final answer, but it is based on my experience as a builder, teacher, qrper and guy who likes to grin and have fun. I am writing the series to share with my fellow hams. Enjoy.

I have 3 favorite kits that I think are super values, fun and easy to build, and the best part is that they are cheap. Before you build, you will need some tools. They include a good 15 – 25 watt soldering iron, with a small, but not tiny tip. It's even better to buy one that can take interchangeable tips. You don't need a \$100 soldering station to learn on!! Just a good quality iron. You will need a good pair of side cutters, needle nose, and chain nose pliers. I like to use 2% silver solder with a water soluble resin flux. DO NOT USE ACID CORE SOLDER!!! That stuff is for plumbers. And you will need some solder wick or a desoldering hand pump deal from Radio Shack. When you have all of that stuff, you are ready to get started.

The first kit you should build is the VE3DNL Marker Generator from the Fort Smith QRP Group. You can order one for \$12 postage paid from Jay Bromley, 9505 Bryn Mawr Cr., Ft. Smith, AR 72908. The Marker Generator can be seen at: <http://www.fix.net/~jparker/norcal/marker/marker.htm>. Check it out. The kit is simple, 7 parts to solder and comes with all needed parts, a beautiful silk-screened solder masked board, and a comprehensive assembly manual. Don't let the simplicity of this baby fool you. You will be building a quality, useful piece of test gear that you will use many, many times in your future building career. What does a Marker Generator do? Well, as the name implies, it generates markers, so that you can use it to calibrate a dial, use it as a simple signal generator to peak a receiver, and several other uses. Believe me, you will use it. But the best part of this kit as a beginning is that it only has 7 parts. I am a science teacher, and one thing every scientist knows is that if something doesn't work, you look at the parts for causes. Let's say that you build a marker generator, plug it in to a 9V battery and listen for it on your receiver. Nothing. Nada. Now what do you do? Well, you start going through it part by part. My first step would be to check every solder joint. Is everything soldered? If not, you better solder it. But don't worry, you only have 33 solder joints to check. Takes just a few seconds. Make sure every solder joint is bright and shiny. If not, reheat and add a dab more solder, making sure the joint liquefies before you take away the heat. Ok, you do that, check it out and it doesn't work. My next step would be to make sure that I had put every part in the right place. Now this not only involves putting it in the right holes, but the right way. There is a right and a wrong way to mount the chip. And there is a right and a wrong way to mount the diode. The manual will explain how, but each part has a mark that is used to orientate the part, it is an important step, and one that you will need to master to become a successful builder. You only have 7 parts to check not hundreds that you would have in the K2. The bottom line is that the VE3DNL Marker Generator was chosen because it is useful, cheap, only has 7 parts, and is almost impossible to not build successfully.

Now do you see why we start simple and build up to complex. Let's say the absolute worst case scenario happens. You cannot solder, you cannot build (which I seriously doubt), how much are you out if you bought a VE3DNL? Just \$12. What if you bought a several hundred dollar kit to find that out??? Not a fun thing to explain to your wife. But I know that you will be successful in building the VE3DNL, it is almost impossible to mess up. But if you can't possibly get it to work, you get on qrp-l,

swallow ahem your pride, and ask for help. Guess what? Guys like Jim Duffey, Dave Fifield, Mike Gipe and others just like them will step forward and help you. QRPers are a friendly bunch, and they love to help other QRPers.

Ok, we got the VE3DNL working, what next? Well, we're gonna spend \$15 this time and build a piece of ham radio history, the famous Tuna Tin 2, that was designed originally by Doug DeMaw, and updated by Dave Meacham, W6EMD. The Tuna Tin originally used parts that were all available from Radio Shack. But sadly, a couple of those parts are extinct. Mr. Meacham came to the rescue and figured out how to build the kit using modern easily available parts. The Fort Smith QRP Group, Jay Bromley and the boys, also sell this kit. You don't have to chase down any parts, because the kit comes with a board, all board-mounted parts, and a manual. All that you have to do is provide an empty tuna can or cat food can, some connectors, and you can build a transmitter !! Whoa, now we are talking real ham radio. Yes, you can build a transmitter with about 300 mW of power for your own shack, and the best part is that it only costs \$15 delivered!!!!!!! Again you order this from Jay Bromley at the address above. Send him \$15 for the kit, US funds, check or money order made out to Jay Bromley, not Fort Smith QRP Group. It helps a bunch if you enclose a self-addressed mailing label. When you build the Tuna Tin, you will get to do a couple of new things. One, you will learn how to wind toroids. Don't despair, it is very simple, and two you get to solder parts that are not on the circuit board. Again, very easily done. This may be the most popular QRP rig ever kitted. Thousands have been built. It is easy to build, fun, and will always draw comments from your friends when they see a tuna can with a radio transmitter built in. You can see a Tuna Tin 2 kit at [www.norcalqrp.org](http://www.norcalqrp.org) Just scroll down the page and you will see it.

Simple kit #3 is another piece of test gear, and it comes from the Arizona ScQRPions and Bob Hightower. It is the ScQRPion Stinger Singer, and is a Frequency Counter for \$20!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Yes, you read it right, Twenty Bucks!! Dan Tayloe, N7VE, designed this little jewel that fits in an Altoids tin, and the secret is a small chip called a PIC that is programmed to read a frequency and then give the output in audio via Morse Code. This kit again, has all the parts included, and has 17 parts, plus a beautiful circuit board that was laid out by Dave Fifield for the ScQRPions. The Arizona group of QRPers is great people, and they are very similar to the Ft. Smith group in size and both groups host an outstanding QRP Forum that you will want to attend. In fact, when you buy the kits that I am talking about you will be supporting those forums. It is a good cause. You can see a picture and get ordering details on the ScQRPion Stinger at: <http://www.extremezone.com/~nk7m/cwafc.htm> and you can also specify whether you want slow or fast speed chips. The slow chip runs at 10 - 15 wpm, the fast 18 - 27. What do you do with the Stinger Singer after it is built. You use it as frequency readout for that rigs that doesn't have readout on it. You check oscillators to see how stable they are and where they are oscillating, use it to determine what frequency crystals are, use it to match crystals, in short, you use it for anything that you would use any other frequency counter for, and the best part is that it doesn't cost \$100 plus. It is \$20 and you get the fun, pleasure and satisfaction of building it yourself.

Do you have to build all three kits? No but I strongly suggest that you do. You will be building separate skills with each kit, and you will be gaining some confidence in your abilities as you go. Get out the checkbook, order the kits and get that solder flowing. As my good friend, Steve Weber, KD1JV likes to say, Melt Solder. The next installment will cover our first transceiver kit.

72,  
Doug

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### A fairy tale, sort of -

Once upon a time there was a group of people. Ordinary people, actually, who discovered they all had a common interest. What they had in common was what some would call a hobby, but others might think of as a way of life. This hobby had lots of different aspects, so while each person had different areas of interest and different amounts of skill, they all realized that by working together they could create something as a group that would be much more than any one person could manage by themselves.

It turned out that some of the members of this group discovered that their hobby, while enjoyable in itself, also had some actual value to the rest of their community from time to time. Being good citizens, they decided to see what they could do to help their neighbors, or at least be ready to help their neighbors should the need arise. This seemed like a good idea. And besides it was fun, because they were doing something they enjoyed, and if having fun also helped their neighbors, they all received a nice warm feeling inside. They were, in a word, content.

At first, the things they did were kind of small. You know one on one, neighbor to neighbor gestures that didn't cost much, and seemed to help. Sort of like loaning your neighbor a tool so he could fix his fence, or looking after his mail while he was on a trip. That sort of thing.

After a while, helping one's neighbors got to where it seemed the natural thing to do. It became a reason in and of itself for being part of the hobby. It became sort of a second job. One that the members did because they wanted to, not because they had

to. And like any craftsman, they found that as they became more experienced, they could do a better job with better tools.

One fine day one of the members of this group stood up, and said, "I've got an idea!" "Let's all work together and do something that will help all of us. We all know that if we had this marvelous gadget, we could get more from our hobby, and at the same time help our community even more. We can build a wonderful semaphore that can send our messages far and wide." About this time, someone else from the group stood up and said, "Yes, this is true." "If we had this gadget, it would be great, but look how much it costs! Can't we do this some other way? Where will we get the money?" The first person said, "I don't know." "I guess maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all", he said. And sat down.

However, good ideas seldom go away forever, and this was a good idea. So the members worked and saved, and worked some more. After a while, by scrimping and using their skills and their hands, they managed to fashion a semaphore. They took some old boards and sanded and painted them so they could be part of their new semaphore. They had garage sales and salvaged old soda pop bottles to raise cash. They even got a local business to donate some stuff they were going to take to the dump anyway. And pretty soon, they had their semaphore. Not new, not even very pretty, but it worked. And that was what counted. And all was well, and the group could point with pride at what they had done.

And time passed. Once in a while another member of the group would stand up and say something like: "I've got an idea! We could buy a wagon to haul food to our neighbors in case there is a flood." And they would talk it over, and they tried to decide if a wagon was worth the trouble. Mostly, if the person with the idea cared enough, and could convince enough of the other members that his idea was worth the effort, it would get done. So the garage sales started again, and the members put in some labor, and the "scroungers" went to work. And now the group had a different tool that they never had before.

Sometimes, however, the members would all shout "No!" "That sounds like too much work! And we are tired of all the garage sales! And what we have works well enough! And we don't like this because it is blue – and we already have a red one!" And sometimes even good ideas got lost in the uproar.

Now it turned out, because this is after all, a fairy tale, there was a Fairy Godmother. She didn't look very much like a Fairy Godmother, but she was one, nevertheless. And the Fairy Godmother looked at all this and decided that because this group really did want to help their neighbors, that she would wave her magic wand and grant their every wish. And she did! POOF! There was a pile of gold. "Use it wisely", she said. "If you do, I will bring more each year." "But", she said, "Remember if you fail to use it properly, there will be no more!" And with that, she vanished.

Suddenly, everything changed. What was once only a dream became reachable. What to do? What to do? Some of the members jumped up and said, "Let's build a castle!" Others said, "Let's buy a tractor!" Some even went so far as to suggest that maybe they should build some more semaphores.

"But wait!" said some of the members. "Maybe this good fortune will evaporate tomorrow. Maybe it is only a dream. Let's not rush into anything. Let's not commit ourselves to anything! We might be sorry!" And so they waited. And they fumed. And not much changed.

Now, again because this is a fairy tale, there was also an Evil King. "Heh! Heh! Heh!", he said. "If Miss Goody Two-Shoes (AKA the Fairy Godmother) can wave her wand that way, I'll just see if I can't throw some sand into the works to even things out. I'll just find a way to confuse the issue. Let me see now. Hmmmmm . . ." "I know!" he said, "I'll make a law that says "Anyone caught with a pile of gold at midnight on the last day of the year will have to forfeit it all to me. And if that happens, the Fairy Godmother will be so mad, they'll never see another cent". "Heh! Heh! Heh!"

And so the members fretted and dithered. Once in a while, something would escape from the gloom, and a new gadget would appear. A few members continued to work on their ideas, and some of them moved ahead, at least a little. They even managed to improve some of their semaphores. And time passed.

Suddenly, on New Year's Eve, one of the members looked at the clock. And he rushed to call all the others together and said, "Look at the clock! It's almost midnight, and we still haven't done a thing with all that gold. If we don't get rid of it, we will lose everything!" Needless to say, pandemonium reigned. Suddenly, one of the members had an idea. "Let's give all the gold away to the needy!" he said. "Then the Evil King won't get anything, and the Fairy Godmother will see that we have used the gold for the needy, and she will give us more." And so they did.

And the same thing happened year after year after year. The members loved to look at their shiny pile of gold, and took pride in how big it was. But each December, as the New Year approached, they were forced to give away all their gold just so they could get more next year. But they never seemed to be able to do much of anything with it. And so it just sort of sat there. But it was a beautiful thing to see.



Some of the members of the group began to get restless. "All that gold", they would say, "Can't we do something with it?" they would say. "No", said their leaders, "We are afraid to do anything with it, because we don't understand it. It appears by magic, after all, and it is best not to mess with things we don't understand. But look how well we take care of it for you! And see how we give it away every year to make others happy." And so it just sort of sat there. But it was a beautiful thing to see.

One day, in our fairy tale, there appeared a sort of a prince. He definitely wasn't Prince Charming, but he was a prince. The prince saw the pile of gold, and asked the members "What's this?" The members replied "It's magic. We don't understand it. It appears every year, but we don't know what to do with it. It's best not to mess with it. We give it all away. It has a curse. It's very beautiful, isn't it?"

And the prince was stunned. "Wait!" he said. "I know what to do with it! I understand piles of gold! The curse can be banished!". But the leaders were afraid. "It's magic", they said. "We are afraid of it. Don't touch it. And besides, we like looking at it." And the prince wandered off mumbling to himself. And the gold just sat there.

Time passed. The prince tried and tried to get the leaders to let him do something with the pile of gold, but they didn't understand it, so nothing changed. And besides, they had done things in their way for so long that it had become the natural way of doing things. A few of the leaders noticed that there seemed to be a lessening of the noise level at their meetings. Could it be because there were fewer people in the crowd? No – surely not that. Probably the members were becoming more polite and better behaved. That had to be it.

One day some new faces came to call. They came from other groups, some near, some far away. They had heard about the group with the magic pile of gold and wanted to see for themselves what it was all about. They brought gifts of their own. Some brought the gift of vision. Others brought the twin gifts of experience and history. Another group of visitors brought the gift of management expertise. They saw the magic pile of gold and were amazed. But, like the others, they weren't sure what to do with the pile of gold. They asked the leaders about the pile of gold, and were told "It's magic. Don't mess with it. It has a curse". And the leaders said, "See how shiny it is!"

Then one of the visitors noticed the prince.

After they introduced themselves, they asked the prince about the pile of gold. "Why doesn't this group do all sorts of interesting things?" they said. "What good is a pile of gold, if all you do is look at it?" "What's the story on this curse we've been hearing about?" And so the prince started to talk. He explained about how he understood the pile of gold. He knew what to do about the curse. He said "I think I know a way we can use the gold to build semaphores and wagons and water wheels and even start saving some of it so we can build a castle." And as this conversation went on, other members began to drift by, and they listened too.

Now we all know that time has a way of changing even the most permanent things. What is now the Grand Canyon was once only a small stream running across the desert. Some of the members wondered if it was time for some new ideas. And it became time to choose their leaders, as they had done so many times before. As always, it was hard to find members that would agree to give their time to the group. The job was, after all, discouraging. There seemed to be little else to do but guard the pile of gold, and no one would help them. But this time something was different. Some of the visitors stood up and said, "I think I can do this", and "I have some new ideas" and "Here is a reason to vote for me." And the members were amazed, because never before had anyone actually seemed to want the job. And so there came to pass a great change. And there was confusion.

For the first time, the members saw that there was another way of looking at things. They began to see the pile of gold not so much as a magical thing, but instead started to look at it in a new way. They began to see the pile of gold as a tool. A tool with great power, to be sure, in fact a tool that required unceasing vigilance to operate lest it strike out and injure or even kill the craftsman, but basically, just a tool. But, like any tool, it was only a benefit if it was being used. They knew that an idle tool, any tool, that is not being used just takes up space.

As they began to look at the pile of gold as a tool, they started to think of ways to use it. They discovered that their tool would allow them to embark on projects that would have been impossible dreams only a few years before. One of the visitors with vision stood up and said "Here are some ways to use our gold to help not only ourselves, but to help other groups like ours. We can help groups build semaphores, and buy wagons, and do other things that they cannot do on their own." And the members talked and talked about these new ideas, and decided that they would use the gold to do these things.

But, some of the members were uneasy. "All this is very interesting", they would say, "but what if we run out of gold?" "How can we continue with these new ideas if there is no gold? At least before, we had the pile of gold to look at, and it was very shiny." And others of the members were unsure of the new ideas as well. After all, these weren't *their* ideas. And if they weren't *their* ideas, they probably were bad ideas. And besides, hadn't some of the members said they liked the red ones just fine, and how come we needed blue ones, all of a sudden?

About this time the new leaders became uneasy about certain things, things that had taken place in the days long before their time, and started to wonder if everything was all right in the kingdom. They talked and talked about these things, and finally came to the conclusion that they just didn't know enough to make the correct decisions. So they decided to seek out a wise man. They found a wise man and a wise woman too. After the new leaders explained their dilemma, the wise man and the wise woman went away and thought about things. And they discovered some problems that no one else had noticed, problems that could have brought the whole empire crashing down in ruins. Fortunately, the leaders were able to act just in time, and the empire was saved. But, there were still questions about what to do with their new tool.

And the wise man and the wise woman thought some more. In time, the wise woman said, "I think we have the problems solved, and this is what you want to do in the future, and here is why". And the wise man and the leaders talked some more and discovered still more ways to use the tool. Ways that had never been tried before. And to no one's surprise, the tool grew in strength and polish. After all, this tool was now being worked like it had never been worked before. And the members said "Wow! Look at our pile of gold now. It is a wonderful tool. It is even shinier than it was before we discovered the secret of the curse! And look at all the interesting new gadgets we have too! When the time comes, we will be able to help our neighbors like never before."

But some of the members were still unhappy. They worried about whether or not the group could continue if the magic pile of gold vanished, as it had threatened to do. Could they even meet their obligations, or would they have to go back to their old home made semaphores and has more garage sales to even stay in existence? They buzzed and murmured among themselves. They remembered when the group had no magic pile of gold. They were afraid of the unknown. They wanted to go back to the old ways of simply staring at the pile of gold, but not actually doing anything with it. And they remembered how proud they were because it was so shiny.

As time passed, the new members came to better understand the "old timers", and learned to respect their concerns. The old timers had indeed been the basis of the group, and had worked very hard indeed, and had seen many changes. In the same manner, some of the older members decided to sit down and talk with some of the newer members, and see what ideas they had, and share some of their own. And they tried to find a way to keep their group healthy, because so many others had become ill and died. They remembered that if nothing changed, nothing new would ever happen, and then eventually their group would either die or become irrelevant. Either way, it would cease to exist, and the Fairy Godmother would be sad, and there would be no more piles of gold.

And so finally the members started to work as one. After all, their common interest was what had originally brought them together. At first there were just a few, but as time passed, more and more of the members began to realize that what they could do together was far more important than worrying about who got the credit for what, and fretting about which group had more influence than another. Some of the members just couldn't change, at least at first, because they had done things their way for so long that they had come to believe their way was the only way, and that all the other ways were bad ways. But, in the end, even these individuals began to realize that they were happier when they found a way to contribute, and found to their amazement that their "power" was even greater than it had been before.

How does this fairy tale end? Does the handsome prince ever meet the fair maiden? Do they go off to live happily ever after, or does a wicked sorcerer somehow manage to kill them all by feeding them poisoned apples? Only time will tell. The end

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### **Nominating Committee for 2003 Officers**

The nominating committee is already busy gathering nominations for the 2003 club officers. The chairman, Jim Larsen, AL7FS and members Lil Marvin NL7DL, Susan Woods NL7NN and Jim Wiley KL7CC would be pleased to have your suggestions for officers for next year. We would like to have a short statement from each candidate to publish in the newsletter. Some of the important issues are what the club should be doing to build membership and provide value for the members, along with how the proceeds of the gaming permit should be spent.

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### **The New ARES**

David Stevens, KL7EB, SM for Alaska, has just appointed Richard Block, KL7RLB, as District Emergency Coordinator of Anchorage, (District 7) with a request that the Anchorage ARES be brought to a ready status to meet emergencies in the area

with the same level of response readiness as is being asked of other primary response agencies in the Municipality.

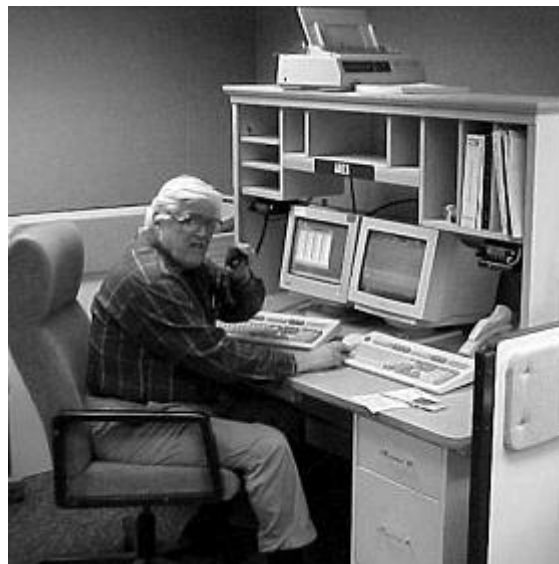
This will mean bringing personal capabilities to the newly acquired high level to which our equipment capability has been elevated. Now outfitted with a motorhome with superior radio equipment, tower/power trailers that make VHF and HF communications possible at any remote location, communications kits that enable portability for voice and packet, and a repeater network that is now very good but continually expanding and improving, it is necessary that ARES provide training that brings ham radio operators to an operating capability equal to our equipment and the expectations of served agencies.

Accordingly, Anchorage ARES is being organized to maximize training opportunities and to have closer and more meaningful relationships with the several served agencies with which we could be working in the event of an emergency.

The new emphasis is being supported by three significant initiatives. ARES will be meeting at a new location, which will accommodate 40-50 people. The new location is the auditorium in the Carr-Gottstein building on the APU campus, the same place AARC meets on the first Friday of the month.

Training will receive a new emphasis. Our Saturday meetings (the third Saturday of every month) and our weekly meetings (every Thursday evenings on the ARES VHF net) will feature a training segment. Training will include use of ARES equipment, radio procedures in an emergency environment, Incident Command System and safety and risk management and will frequently involve hands on training and training from experts at the agencies we will be serving.

ARES will have an organization that takes advantages of the particular talents of the members of the ham community in Anchorage and brings them into a structure that maximizes the value of their talents to the ham community and to the agencies we serve.



**KL7RLB at the controls of the recently upgraded ARES station in the Anchorage Emergency Operation**

# KIDS



**STRETCH KNEW THERE HAD TO BE A LACK IN COMMUNICATIONS WHEN HE ORDERED AN ANTENNA SWITCH AND RECEIVED A PAPER CUT OUT OF AN ANTSY WITCH!**

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

Center.