

# Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

## No Meeting on December 6!

## Christmas Party with SCRC on December 13<sup>th</sup>

### Officers

**President** Randy Vallee, KL7Z  
**Vice President** Jim Larsen, AL7FS  
**Secretary** Phil Mannie, KLØQW  
**Treasurer** Steve Jensen, KLØVZ  
**Trustee** Jim Feaster, KL7KB  
**Activities Chairman** John Lynn, KL7CY  
**News Letter Editor** Jim Larsen, AL7FS  
**Membership Chairman** Fred Erickson KL7FE  
**Past Past Past-President** John Lynn, KL7CY

### Three Year Board Members

Lil Marvin, NL7DL  
 Richard Block, KL7RLB  
 David Stevens, KL7EB

### One Year Board Members

Pat Wilke, WL7JA  
 Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG  
 Judy Ramage, WL7DX  
 Craig Bledsoe, KL4E  
 Sue Hilton, NL7AV  
 Edie Lynn, KL7EL

### 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: [JimLarsen2002@alaska.net](mailto:JimLarsen2002@alaska.net)

### News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting  
 Email: [JimLarsen2002@alaska.net](mailto:JimLarsen2002@alaska.net)  
 Mail: 3445 Spinnaker Drive, Anchorage 99516

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

### **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

### **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  
 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM  
 Grandson 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  
**147.27/87 MHz, no patch, Mount Susitna 100.0 Hz**  
 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  
*KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft. <down >*  
*147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL*  
*444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL*  
*KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft. ??down??*  
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, 103.5 HZ PL  
 146.49 MHz Anchorage area simplex chat  
 146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat  
 147.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat

## Internet Links, the favorites from our readers:

QRP and Hombrew Links

<http://www.njgrp.org/data/links.html>

<http://www.qsl.net/al7fs>

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>

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. Report dead links or bad info to [JimLarsen2002@alaska.net](mailto:JimLarsen2002@alaska.net).*

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**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES;** All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by mail, computer disk or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed above. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor **no later than the 14 days prior** to the meeting or it may not be included.

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## Regular HAM Gatherings:

**Alaska QRP Club, Third Friday - 7:00 PM:** Hams with QRP (low power under 5 watts) and Homebrewing interests meet for a social meeting monthly. Meet at Denny's on DeBarr & Bragaw in the back room. Info contact Jim Larsen, AL7FS, [JimLarsen2002@alaska.net](mailto:JimLarsen2002@alaska.net) or 345-3190.

**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. Attendance varies from 8 to 24 each week.

**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

**December 13 NOT 6: AARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** will be a Christmas Party at The Royal Fork South on the Old Seward Highway, just south of Dimond. Bring a gift for each person in your group so you can participate in the fun Gift Exchange game.

**December 3: VE License Exam 6:30 PM,** 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**December 3: EARS general meeting at 6:30PM** Ears meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the club house/shack in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB. Talk in on 147.67- repeater.

**December 13: SCRC general meeting at 7:00** will be a Christmas Party at The Royal Fork South on the Old Seward Highway, just south of Dimond. Bring a gift for each person in your group so you can participate in the fun Gift Exchange game.

**December 14: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM,** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**December 14: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** 2nd Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

**December 20: Alaska QRP Club. 7:00PM** at Denny's on DeBarr in the back room. Info: Jim Larsen, 345-3190 Bring projects to share with the group.

**December 17: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

**December 21: ARES General meeting 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Call Dick Block at 277-7260 for questions.

**December 27: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month in the MTA business office in Palmer.

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## **Elmendorf AFB Radio Club (EARS)**

Ears meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the club house/shack in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB. Talk in on 147.67- repeater. EARS has a club shack with two HF operating positions, one packet position, and a VHF position. No other club in town has that! The club also has internet access for email and for accessing dx clusters for contest work. At the present time, EARS operates barefoot on HF. They also have a room that is used for a work shop for doing repairs and building amateur

radio related things. The clubhouse also has a coffee pot and a refrigerator with soft drinks available. What other club offers this much to its members? For more information contact John Murray, NL7WW at [nl7ww@corecom.net](mailto:nl7ww@corecom.net) John is the current club President.

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## Alaska QRP Club 2nd Meeting

The Alaska QRP Club held its second meeting on Friday, November 15 at 7:00PM at Denny's Restaurant at 3950 DeBarr Road. Those that wanted supper arrived at 6:00PM. There were 13 hams at this second meeting with five new members bringing the total to 19.

The program consisted of show and tell and lots of fun stories and chatting. We reviewed a beautiful multiband antenna built by Clyde Bloker, KL7IBY and a nice 4:1 balun built by John Hendricks, AL7OK. Fieldor George Dowding, KL7FHX shared his under \$50 80 meter PSK-31 kit that is in the process of being built. Some of the other items of interest included: Larry Cohen, AL7RI – DX QSL cards for QRP contacts with his 5 watt Yaesu FT-817, Jim Larsen, AL7FS – RockMite-20 transceiver kit almost complete, AL7OK –Name Tag that sends call in morse code. Clyde Bloker also showed us how he built an aluminum case for travel with his QRP rig, PS, tuner and antennas. There were a few other items that I cannot recall at this time but it was lots of fun.

Remember, in the QRP Club, first and foremost, there will be no officers, directors, nor constitution. Neither will there any dues. We will concentrate on fun, action and social gathering.

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## Subject: So You Want to be a Builder, Huh? Part 4

Doug Hendricks, KI6DS

This is part 4 of a series of articles that I am writing on how to become a builder of qrp ham radio gear. I plan on going from a rank beginner to advanced projects and giving suggestions on how to become a good builder. This installment will cover a couple of projects that are very important station accessories, a set of PC Board Paddles, and the NorCal BLT Tuner.

First the paddles. I have a good friend, Dave Gauding, NF0R, who loves to build simple gear. He has messed around with building simple paddles for as long as I have known him. He also has a set of very nice Brown Brothers paddles, yet he continues to experiment because he likes to build, and it gives him pleasure to build a project and have it turn out. When Dave saw the PC Board paddles on the NorCal page, he told me that they were the real deal and worked surprisingly well for such a simple idea. The key to the paddles is that it uses PC Board for the arm of the paddle, nothing new with that, but the unique thing is that the board is given more flexibility by drilling a hole in it. Check out the drawings and

pictures on the NorCal page and you will see what I mean. Here is the URL:

<http://www.fix.net/~jparker/norcal/paddle/nb6m.htm>

Wayne McFee, NB6M, designed these single lever paddles, and they work brilliantly. The NorCal page has a full set of instructions on how to build them, all that you need is some double sided PC Board and a good iron. I use my soldering station and turn the heat up to 850 degrees and it works fine. You can also use a Weller soldering gun, which will provide plenty of heat. One of the things that often happens in ham radio is that one guy will come up with a good idea, and someone else will improve it. That happened in this case. Carol Mulder, PA0CMU decided to make a set of iambic paddles using Wayne's method, and he was very successful. Here is the URL to see the double lever iambic paddles.

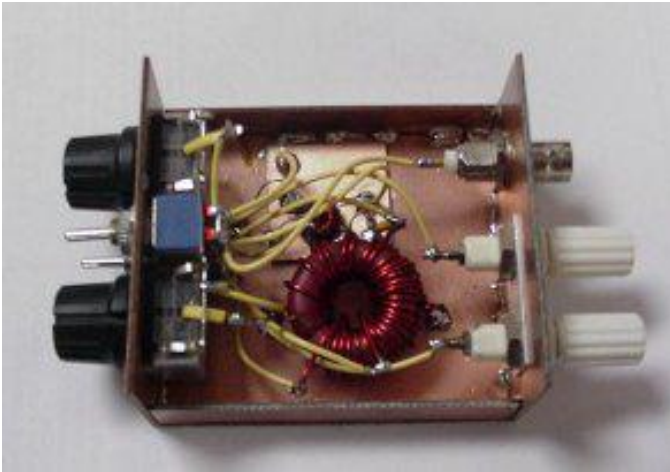
<http://www.fix.net/~jparker/norcal/paddle/pa0cmu2.htm>



Carol even shows you a simple way to put silver contacts on your paddles. This is a neat one evening project, and when you finish, you have a nice set of paddles to use with your station. Seabury Lyon, who lives in the Northeast, showed me a neat trick at Lobstercon. Seab likes to use something called poster stick, which is also called blue tack, to hold his paddles on his rig. Gives it a nice solid base, it doesn't move around, and is always handy. You can buy it at Staples or any office supply store. And, just in case you are wondering, that is ribbon cable being used as a cord for the paddles. Another "freebie" and a great idea. The neat thing about this project is that it is almost free to build. One hint, be sure to use steel wool to polish your pc board before you solder it. It works a lot better that way. Also, when you have to drill holes in small pieces it is better to drill the holes first, then cut off the piece from the larger piece. No kit is available for this one, so you get to scrounge the parts yourself. Ask around at the next radio meeting for help in finding the parts, or better yet, go to a swap or flea market and look for old relays and double sided pc board pieces. If you live near a PC board fabrication shop, ask them for their waste pieces and they will be glad to give you all that you need.

The next project is the NorCal BLT tuner which is a bargain at \$25 + \$4 shipping and handling from me. Here is the URL on this project:

<http://www.norcalgrp.com/blt/blt.htm>



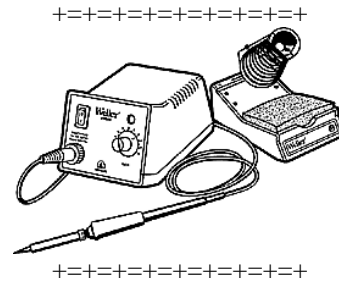
This tuner was designed by Charlie Lofgren, W6JJZ, who is the world's leading authority on Z-Match tuners. I asked Charlie to design a simple tuner that would work on 40 meters for a talk that I was going to give in Ft. Smith, Arkansas at Arkiecon, and he came through with the BLT. When it was tested with a 44 ft. doublet, **we found that it worked on 40 through 10 meters**, not just 40!! What a deal. I designed the case, which comes with the kit, and the case is one of the reasons that I picked this kit to be part of this series. You will learn how to build good, solid cases out of PC board material. The parts come pre-cut, all that you have to do is assemble them. Plus, the kit is not built on a board, it uses Manhattan style construction, which uses small pads glued to the circuit board as tie points for the components and the board itself for the ground plane. You just follow the schematic and build as you go. Very easy to do, and it frees you from having to build only projects that have a board. The kit goes together easily in one day, and when you finish, you have a QRP tuner that will handle up to 10 watts. The name BLT stands for balanced line tuner. This was designed to be fed with twin lead, ladder line, TV lead, any balanced line. But you can have a long wire and coax tuner too just by doing a simple mod. Put another BNC connector on the back of the tuner. Place a wire from the center conductor of the new BNC to one of the binding posts on the back (on the inside of the tuner of course). Then mount a SPDT switch with one side going to ground, and the other to the other binding post. Now, when you want to use the coax tuner or a long wire, simply throw the switch and ground the binding posts. Throw the switch back to use as a balanced line tuner.

Plus, the tuner comes with a built in dummy load/SWR Indicator designed by Dan Tayloe, N7VE. The Indicator uses an LED that will go out when the best match is made and SWR is lowest. Pretty neat idea, and it works great. Also, the kit comes with a very nice Lexan cover which were made by Dennis Foster, KK5PY. They really set off the tuner, and I love the "look" it gives it. You will like to show it off to your

friends, and you won't need to take off the top to show it to them. Neat idea, thanks to Dennis for coming up with it, and making all of those covers.

The two projects in part 4 will give you some more building experience, and teach you how to mount connectors, solder wires, do point to point building, and gives you a start on a great, tool, the Manhattan method of building. Hope you enjoy the series, and I encourage you to keep building and learning. Part 5 will be our first serious rig. It is a single band transceiver, and it comes with VFO and is a classic kit. You will enjoy it.

72, Doug, KI6DS



### Is there a way to invigorate an ARES organization?

How about combining a training exercise with an ARRL contest? It sure worked for Anchorage ARES! Thanks to each and every one of you on the ARES staff. In my view, it was a BIG success and the credit belongs to all of the staff.

Early stats show we made 575 good QSO's. 36 hams showed up and participated. Most all present got their ID cards. Most all present got training in, use of contest logging software, use of sophisticated HF transceiver gear (I think Yeasu Mark V has more buttons and knobs than any other ham gear made), participation in ARRL contest, and orientation to the set up, take down, operation and maintenance of the tower/power trailer and the CCV. If that is all that was accomplished, I would count it a great success.

But, to top it off, we made contact with all 80 ARRL sections for a contest clean sweep!! Email is coming in from hams across the country thanking us for our QSO with them and congratulating us on using this opportunity for ARES training.

Thanks to--for-- TJ Sheffield for the idea, for planning, for instruction in contesting Jim Wiley, for set up of the equipment, for instruction in use of Mark V Heather Hasper for keeping the books, getting registrations filled out and ID cards issued Dave Stephens for help in moving gear, set up and clean up Phil Mannie for getting the word out, photo documentation Mike O'Keefe for security and to many others not on the ARES staff who supported this effort, particularly the HF hams who came out and mentored and the techs who came out with enthusiasm to learn and participate.

Richard Block, KL7RLB

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## **Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, November 19, 2002**

The AARC Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2002, at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building at 540 West International Airport Way. The meeting was opened by President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ at 7:00 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, and Trustee Jim Feaster, KL7KB. Also in attendance were Board members 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, VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC, Membership Chairman Fred Erickson, KL7FE, Bill Capers, AL7BB, and Dave Boynton, KLØUV were also present. Also attending were incoming Board Members Craig Bledsow, KL4E, Judi Ramage, WL7DX, Sue Hilton, NL7RV, Phil Mannie, KLØQW, Edie Lynn, KL7EL, and Jim Tvrdy, KL7CDG.

Minutes from the October 15th Board Meeting were reviewed. After one change, Jim Feaster, KL7KB, made a motion to accept as amended. It was seconded by Steve Jensen, KLØVZ, and passed unanimously.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Health and Welfare:**

No news reported.

#### **Membership Report:**

Fred Erickson, KL7FE, reports that our membership increased at the last General Meeting to 268. The Board discussed buying patches for members and Fred agreed to research pricing.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Richard Block, KL7RLB, provided a written report. He advises that Smith Barney was confirmed as our Broker and that Oct. gaming proceeds were good. He says that a lease has been signed for storage space for the CCV and there was discussion about utility costs.

#### **Gaming Committee Report:**

John Lynn, KL7CY, advises that the Permanent Fund provide a good month and that there are no significant problems. He reports that our attorney is still working on the final settlement with the State.

#### **VHF Committee Report:**

No report was submitted. David Stevens, KL7EB, mentioned that the 147.27 repeater, on Mt. Susitna was in operation.

#### **VEC Report:**

Jim Wiley says everything is going smoothly. He also reported on new procedures for filing exam results, a new process for processing VEC applicants, and current progress on the remote testing program.

#### **ARES:**

Richard Block described the Nov. ARES training session that coincided with Sweepstakes. Good fun was had by all, a clean sweep was recorded, and BP provided lots of support.

#### **Old Business:**

Jim Wiley reported on the Susitna Repeater project. He explained that coverage studies were ongoing. John Lynn did the installation and reports that we were able to secure a free ride up.

Richard Block discussed the terms and costs of the lease for the CCV storage. And Craig Bledsoe, KL4E, indicates that a Rotary Club may be interested in donating some free space for storage. He will let us know.

There was discussion on the purchase of Commercial radios for the CCV. Richard advises that this is on hold pending solidification of our agreement with the MOA. Bill Capers, AL7BB, mentioned that the Club should see about having the CCV weighed to make sure we don't have it overloaded. John Lynn gave a more complete description of the gaming settlement agreement with the State.

#### **New Business:**

Richard Block presented a proposal for the club to purchase GIS mapping software. He moved to approve up to \$1,500.00 to acquire the software as a capital expense. David Stevens, KL7EB, seconded and the motion passed with two dissenting votes by Lil Marvin, NL7DL, and John Murray, NL7WW.

Jim Larsen, AL7FS, presented an idea for member education, for further thought and discussion.

Richard presented a 2003 budget for review and discussion.

The need for a new gaming coordinator was discussed and a request for everyone to look for someone to fill the spot.

Richard raised an issue about a policy regarding the use of Club purchased software. After gathering group consensus, he offered to draft wording for a policy to present at the next Board Meeting.

Dick also discussed development of the Club website and the status of spent funds from the gaming account.

Lil Marvin made a request for the Club to donate funds to pay freight for donated radio equipment to be shipped to Vlad in Russia, estimated to be \$150.00. After discussion of Club policy restrictions, Jim Wiley offered that SCRC would provide the necessary funds.

John Murray questioned the election results saying that the member winning the tie by a double blind coin flip was not actually an elected Board member and that there should be a runoff election.

Jim Feaster thought that there was a real problem with the proxy ballot procedure at the election. It is an issue that will be dealt with during the review of the By-Laws that is ongoing.

John Lynn opened discussion about Club jackets.

Jim Larsen asked that newsletter item be delivered to him by Fri. the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There being no further business, John Lynn, KL7CY moved to adjourn, it was seconded by Pat Wilke, WL7JA and the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Submitted by H. Keith Clark, WL7CSR, Secretary

## N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

December 2002

### 40 METER FOXHUNTS

Fox Hunt - Thursdays - 9pm EST, 8PM CST, 7PM MST and 6PM PST.

Info: <http://www.cqc.org/fox>

Truffle Hunt - Thursdays - 30 min before Fox Hunt

Info: [http://fpqrp.com/pig\\_hunt.html](http://fpqrp.com/pig_hunt.html)

QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*

Dec 1 - 2000z to 2400z Rules:

<http://personal.palouse.net/rfoltz/arci/holispr.htm>

Adventure Radio Society - Spartan Sprint (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*

Dec 3 - 0200z to 0400z (Monday Evening US/Canada)

Rules:

[http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan\\_sprints/ss\\_rules.html](http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan_sprints/ss_rules.html)

QRP ARCI Topband CW & SSB Sprint \*\*\* QRP CONTEST \*\*\*

Dec 4 sunset to Dec 5 sunrise Local time (Any 4 Hrs) Rules:

<http://personal.palouse.net/rfoltz/arci/top.htm>

MDXA PSK-31 DeathMatch ... QRP Category

Dec 7 - 0000z to Dec 8 - 2400z Rules:

<http://www.geocities.com/mdxa1/deathmatch.html>

TOPS Activity 80 Meter Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

Dec 7 - 1800z to Dec 8 - 1800z Rules:

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/topsac.htm>

The DPX digital prefix Contest ... QRP Category

Dec 14 - 0000z to 2400z Rules:

[http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/070\\_dpx.html](http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/070_dpx.html)

ARRL 10 Meter Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category

Dec 14 - 0000z to Dec 15 - 2400z Rules:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2002/10-meters.html>

The Great Colorado Snowshoe Run (40m CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*

Dec 15 - 0200z to 0400z Rules:

<http://www.cqc.org/contests/index.htm>

AGB (Belarus) Party Contest (CW/SSB) (80m)... QRP Category

Dec 20 - 2100z to 2400z Rules:

[http://www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agb\\_party.htm](http://www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agb_party.htm)

Croatian CW Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

Dec 21 - 1400z to Dec 22 - 1400z Rules:

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/9acwc.htm>

Holiday Milliwatt CW Contest \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*

Dec 26 - 1800z to 2200z

Dec 27 - 2000z to Dec 28 0000z

Dec 28 - 2200z to Dec 29 0200z

Rules: <http://www.knightlites.org>

RAC Canada Winter Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category

Dec 28 - 0000z to 2359z Rules:

<http://www.rac.ca/CANWIN.htm>

Stew Perry (W1BB) Topband Distance Challenge (CW) ... QRP Category

Dec 28 - 1500z to Dec 29 - 1500z Rules:

<http://jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt>

Original QRP Contest (CW - 80, 40 & 20m) ... QRP Category

Dec 28 - 1500z to Dec 29 - 1500z Rules:

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/origqrpc.htm>

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, ARRL and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.

Source: Ken Newman - N2CQ

N2CQ@ARRL.NET

<http://www.njqrp.org/data/contesting.html>

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## A Helping Hand to Russia

Rick and Lil Marvin, KL7YF and NL7DL have arranged for an HF transceiver to be sent to Russia to help out a club station in Magadan. At the AARC Board Meeting, Jim Wiley, President of the South Central Radio Club (SCRC) agreed to pick up the shipping charges to get the radio gear to the Russian hams. Jim Wiley states, "The members of the South Central Radio Club (SCRC) are pleased to be able to assist this individual and his radio club. Likewise we are pleased that you (Lil and Rick) have so generously managed to obtain a satisfactory radio station for their use. It is this spirit of cooperation that makes ham radio the wonderful thing we all know and appreciate."

Well done Rick and Lil for successfully arranging the radio to be sent.

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## Alaska Section News December 2002

I am very sad to report that Dan Robbins KL7Y passed away the end of October 2002 in Hawaii. He was over there for a contest and all Alaska contester will miss him. Dick Block KL7RLB reports that the Anchorage ARES had 36 people who showed up and worked the ARRL Sweepstake contest. District seven AREA's used this contest as a drill on HF using the new ARES Communication Command Vehicle. STM Linda Mullen AD4BL is taking volunteer for the Two Rivers 2002 race December 27-28 2002. Also it is time to volunteer for the Yukon Quest and Iditarod Dog Sled Races. Fairbanks ARES Net 2000 Sunday KL7KC repeater, Anchorage ARES 147.30 Thursday 2000, Snipers Net 3920 at 1800, Bush Net

7093 at 2000, Motley Group 3933 at 2100, and Alaska Pacific Net M-F 14.292 at 0830.

SAR KL5T October received 11 sent 12 delivered 8 originated 5 total 36  
 PSHR KL5T October 1/40 2/17 3/20 6/10 total 87  
 SAR AL7N October received 17 sent 21 delivered 4 originated 8 total 50  
 PSHR AL7N October 1/38 2/50 3/20 total 108  
 SAR AD4BL October sent 15 received 23 Delivered 2 total 40  
 PSHR AD4BL October 1/4 2/40 3/30 total 74

Anchorage ARES Net sessions 3 stations 112 NM KL0QW  
 No Name Net September sessions 5 Checkins 87 NM NL7SK  
 ACWN October sessions 31 checkins 62 traffic 38 NM AL7N  
 Alaska Morse Wire October Sessions 7 checkins 14 traffic 12 NM AL7N  
 Snipers Net October sessions 31 checkins 1235 traffic 41 NM KL7GG  
 Interior Net October sessions 4 checkins 49 traffic 10 NM NL7HW

David W Stevens KL7EB AK SM  
**David says if you don't have a clue what all his abbreviations mean just send him an email and he will fill you in on the whole list. [KL7EB@arrl.org](mailto:KL7EB@arrl.org) <ed.>**

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**Anchorage Amateur Radio Club  
 Summary of Financial Affairs  
 January-October, 2002**

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Assets                             |           |
| Gaming Account                     | \$100,573 |
| All other Current Assets           | \$122,492 |
| Fixed Assets                       | \$195,874 |
| Boniface Bingo                     | \$19,989  |
| Total Assets                       | \$438,928 |
| Liabilities                        | \$0       |
| Equity                             | \$438,928 |
| Operating Income                   | \$6,795   |
| Operating Expenses                 | \$25,531  |
| Gaming Income                      | \$77,884  |
| Contributions                      | \$8,567   |
| Gaming Funds xfrd to General Acct. | \$152,500 |

This summary does not include notes or other information which are an integral part of a complete Financial Statement and should not be relied upon as a complete or accurate statement of the Club's Financial Condition.

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**Election Grand Prize Drawing Results**

Yaesu's new top-of-the-line VX-7R handhelds!  
 Winners: KD7PXM - Ken Fisher  
 KL7FSE - Frank Pratt, Jr.  
 KC2BYX - Paul Williams  
 KL7ZP - Beth Gamel

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**PLANNING - THE 2003 ALASKA HAMFEST**

This info is extracted from an email (with permission) from AARC past president, John Orella, KL7LL.

Regarding the suggestion from Gordon West. It is a good one. Here in the middle of Pennsylvania the clubs are so fractionalized that people living 10 miles apart will not cooperate with one another. There are FIVE hamfests during the year within a 20-mile range. Not one of them is much larger than the room formerly used at APU for the AARC Board meetings. It is a waste. He has valid points that I think should be given some serious thought. Whatever ones opinion is of Mr. West, he does have experience in this regard. We are a geographically large state - let us not proceed into the future as a divided state.

**John Orella**  
 KL7LL  
 11/9/02

Extract from West comments:  
**PLANNING FOR THE 2003 ALASKA HAMFEST WEEKEND by Gordon West, WB6NOA**

This e-mail is intended for BOTH Anchorage and Fairbanks Hamfest organizers, and everyone in between. For the 2003 Hamfest, may I suggest BOTH cities work together as one single Alaska Hamfest. This will be a much easier "sell" to anyone coming up from the "lower 48."

Whether you call it a hamfest or an ARRL State Convention, make it a both places weekend. Combine your efforts and have one point of contact for both venues. Decide this year which city will host activities on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, with the other city hosting activities on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

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### Great QRP web pages

<http://www.njgrp.org/data/links.html>

<http://www.qsl.net/al7fs/>

QRP - Getting Started - Using your current rig on QRP

<http://www.qsl.net/al7fs/AL7FS1.html>

Elmer 101 and Low-Cost QRP Transceivers - SW40+, SST

<http://www.qsl.net/al7fs/AL7FS3.html>

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### Vanity Call Sign Information:

#### VANITY APPLICATION REMINDERS BEAR REPEATING

When applying for a vanity call sign, the application purpose on FCC Form 605 should always be "Modification" (MD). ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, advises that vanity applicants within their 90-day license renewal window should not attempt to do a "Renewal/Modification" (RM) when applying for a vanity call sign.

"I would recommend that you renew first," Jahnke said. "If vanity processing is delayed for some reason--as happened last fall and spring--your license could expire while awaiting processing, and your application would be dismissed."

The fee for a vanity call sign increased to \$14.50 in September. Jahnke says it is possible for vanity applicants to register a name, address or contact information (e.g., e-mail or telephone number) change with the FCC while also applying for a vanity call sign, since both actions can be dealt with as a Modification. Note, however, that if you're only changing such data as name, address or contact information and not applying for a new call sign, you should check "Administrative Update" (AU) as the application purpose--and, yes, this is confusing.

By the way, unlike a vanity application, which requires a fee and goes to the FCC's fiscal agent in Pittsburgh, an Administrative Update application requires no fee and goes directly to the FCC in Gettysburg.

Amateur applications may be filed electronically via the FCC's ULS Web site <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> or on paper (using FCC Form 605). The FCC says that anyone filing any application with the FCC--whether for a vanity, license renewal, upgrade or modification--first must be registered with the Commission Registration System (CORES) and have obtained an FCC Registration Number (FRN).

For more information on vanity filing, visit the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Signs page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html> on the ARRL site.

### Mount Susitna Repeater!!

The Mount Susitna 2 meter repeater is on the air on 147.27 with plus offset and a tone of 100.0 Hz. It's really way up there so give it a try. This is a KL7AA repeater that is being operated by ARES for the benefit of South-Central Alaska hams.



### Mount Susitna Repeater Report John Lynn, KL7CY

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club AARC / ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) HAM Repeater Initial Installation at Mt. Susitna; completed on October 31, 2002 by John Lynn

Procomm Alaska LLC, the Site Manager for the Mt. Susitna Radio Site, made a trip to the site on October 31, 2002. A total of four people went to the site by helicopter on the morning of October 31 including a Procomm technician, a Pacific Detroit Diesel mechanic, a State of Alaska technician, and a HAM Radio technician, John Lynn. Two round trips were required to take the people and equipment up to the site and two more in the afternoon to extract them.

The initial installation of the HAM repeater was completed at Mt. Susitna during this day trip. The equipment was set directly on the floor in position number 22 of the lineup on the west side of the building. The equipment is not attached to the Unistrut framing that defines the positions. The AC power is plugged into the outlet strip on the left hand rear vertical of this position which is labeled "ckt. 8". The equipment consists of a Vertex VXR-5000 VHF repeater and TX-RX four can band pass / reject duplexer with an isolator and harmonic filter on the transmitter port. A Kenwood TM-461 mobile is used as a UHF control receiver and is mounted on top of the repeater. It connects to the antenna with a VHF / UHF Diplexer through a two can DB Products bandpass filter.

The antenna was mounted on the north side of the antenna silo. This silo is a round structure approximately 12 feet in diameter and 40 feet tall. It has antennas mounted inside of it, on top and one on the side. It consists of a metal frame covered with a combination of corrugated metal and fiberglass panels. There are five levels of panels from top to bottom. Most of the panels are missing from the fifth level at the top and also the next level down where the HAM repeater antenna is mounted. The HAM repeater antenna is mounted with offset brackets to one of the "C": beam verticals where the fiberglass corrugated paneling is missing, presumably due to the wind. The offset mount runs parallel to the side of the silo so that the antenna does not extend out from it. A second



bracket of non conductive material holds the top of the antenna to minimize its flexing in the wind. The reasoning for this mounting orientation is to protect the antenna from ice that may fall from the exposed beams above it. It also places the clamps on the smaller dimension of the rectangular beam, thereby reducing the chance of their shifting. The antenna is a Diamond model X50NA, it is about 5 feet tall and has a white fiberglass radome about 1 inch in diameter. The feed line is Times Microwave LMR-400 and is about 62 feet long.

Anchorage is roughly to the east of the site. Not surprisingly, most of the antennas at Mt. Susitna are on the east side of the several mounting structures there . A large collinear antenna is side mounted on the east side of the silo. The mounting position for the HAM antenna is at about the same level, with about 8 feet of horizontal separation and intervening metal framing of the silo. The HAM antenna is somewhat shielded toward the south east in the general direction of Anchorage. It was a clear view from ENE to WNW which should cover up the Glen Highway past Sutton and the Parks Highway and the Iditarod trail perhaps as far as Rainy Pass. It also looks back through the silo where the siding is missing toward the Kenai Peninsula.

The repeater transmits on 147.270 Mhz with a 100 Hz tone. It receives on 147.870 MHz and requires a 100 Hz tone. The UHF control receiver is on a non published frequency in the 440 to 450 MHz band. When the repeater was first activated it experienced interference, which we suspected to be intermodulation products from other radios at the site, which caused it to remain keyed for varying periods after receiving a valid signal. We suspect that at least one of the transmitters involved has a 100 Hz PL tone. The squelch setting was increased to maximum by remote control and this change mostly eliminated the problem. We have since noted sporadic receiver desensitization during conversations. We suspect that intermodulation products are causing this desensitization. Two pictures are included (These are not the same picture John had in his report)



**(Unapproved)**  
**Anchorage Amateur Radio Club General Meeting, November 1, 2002**

The AARC General Meeting was held on Friday, November 1, 2002, at The Carr-Gottstein Building on the APU Campus. The meeting was opened by President Randy Vallee, KL7Z at 7:15 p.m.

Randy asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Dan Robbins, KL7Y, who passed away yesterday.

President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, then turned the floor over to Jim Larsen, AL7FS, to proceed with annual elections. Jim first requested proxy votes go to Fred Erickson, KL7FE, for validation. Jim then opened the floor for nominations for all positions except one-year Board positions. Each candidate was able to make a statement about themselves, and then voting proceeded.

After voting, the results were as follows:

**PRESIDENT**

1. Randy Vallee, KL7Z

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

1. Jim Larsen, AL7FS

**SECRETARY**

1. Phil Mannie, KLØQW

**TREASURER**

1. Steve Jensen, KLØVZ

**ACTIVITIES MANAGER**

1. John Lynn, KL7CY

THREE YEAR BOARD (full term)

- 1. Richard Block, KL7RLB

During the election process, Richard Block discussed the need for garage space for the CCV. He then moved to authorize the Board to spend up to \$1,500.00 per month for six months to find an adequate garage space.

The motion was seconded by Heather Hasper, KE6SYD. The motion carried with two opposed.

Dick then presented current and coming attractions for ARES. The next activity/training session will be Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, in the CCV, for group participation in Sweepstakes. Contact him if you would like to participate.

After a break, the election results were announced as noted above, and nominations were then take for One Year Board members.

Voting was done for the one-year positions, and while votes were tabulated door prizes were drawn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25. The vote tabulation was completed after the meeting was adjourned with the following results.

- 1. Pat Wilke, WL7JA
2. Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG
3. Judy Ramage, WL7DX
4. Edie Lynn, KL7EL
5. Sue Hilton, NL7AV
6. Craig Bledsoe, KL4E

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ARES Thoughts – Thinking about emergencies

To assist you when participating in emergency communications drills or actual emergencies. See the following Internet address for a complete checklist: http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/training/ARES\_Emergency\_communications\_guide.htm - Type this all on one line in your internet browser.

Also check out the entire ARES Website at: http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/

ARES badges are in process of being completed. In response to higher security at agencies that ARES would be providing assistance to during a disaster operation, ARES badges are now required for all HAM Operators while providing communication services. During the next few ARES meetings and Radio club meetings we will be taking photos for anyone who does not yet have an ARES badge and hope to have the process completed and all operators to have badges by January. Once completed, your ARES badge is good until your radio License expires. Heather Hasper KE6SYD



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A Few Notes:

- 1. Remember the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) newsletter can be read online at:

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

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- 2. Alaska QRP Club meets the Third Friday of every month - 7:00 PM (Some show for dinner at 6PM): Hams with QRP (low power under 5 watts) and Homebrewing interests meet for a social meeting monthly. Meet at Dennys (in the back room) on DeBarr near Bragaw. Contact is Jim Larsen, AL7FS, JimLarsen2002@alaska.net or 345-3190. Information on the QRP Club and what kits we are building can be reviewed online in the past two AARC newsletters at http://home.gci.net/~lawson/

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The American Red Cross and Amateur Radio
A perspective by Michael O'Keefe (KL1EK)

A small group of amateur radio operators got together during the summer of 01 prior to 9/11. Some of the names that were mentioned were Bruce McCormick, Rick and Lil Marvin, and David Stevens to name a few. It seems that Rick was teaching a No Code Technician class at the American Red Cross (ARC) for new and aspiring amateurs. David Stevens or Rick Marvin could tell you the whole story in detail but just suffice to say that Rick decided to teach a class on how to assemble a tower. Somehow one was procured, cleaned up and painted by someone or someone's in the amateur community. David and Rick along with the people going through the class helped to assemble it and attach it to the Ann Stevens American Red Cross Building. David Stevens or Rick Marvin could give you the whole story as they were instrumental in using a boom truck and jeb to help install the tower and it's supports. I know I am leaving out the names of a whole bunch of people who volunteered their time to accomplish this feat but I just don't know who they all were as this happened prior to my joining the American Red Cross.

I came along just before 9/11. I had joined the ARC in the summer of 01 and was busy taking different disaster classes to get my ARC Disaster Assistance Team (DAT) rating. I heard about Rick's class and realized the only way to communicate on the Alinco DR 610 that was located at chapter headquarters was to get my technician ticket. So I enrolled in Rick's class on Monday the 10th of September. Little was I or the rest of

the class to know what profound changes would occur within the next 24 hours that would change our lives forever. As I was going through Rick's class it became painfully apparent that no one at the American Red Cross except for a select few amateur radio operators knew how to work the communications equipment that had been installed in the radio room.

It also became apparent that no one from the American Red Cross knew exactly what type of equipment they had at their disposal or where it was all located. So my first task was to quiz the amateur radio community to see who all was involved with the American Red Cross and what they knew about their equipment and where it was located. That is where I reconnected with Bruce McCormick and Dan OBarr. I've known Bruce since the 70's when we both did emergency communications and Dan through his wife when she worked for me as a security officer at the state fair. I also met with Paul Spatzek and Walt King. I knew both of them through the Anchorage Police Department Auxiliary Search Team where I work as a volunteer police reserve liaison. Between them I was able to get an accurate picture of what equipment the local American Red Cross Chapter had in their possession and where it was located. From there it was a simple task to develop a database that listed all the communications equipment that the ARC owned.

My next task was to see what worked and what didn't. The ARC has at a minimum six different types of communications equipment. They consist of two types of VHF FM (commercial and amateur), two types of HF (commercial and amateur), satellite and cell phones. Paul, Bruce and Rick were instrumental in helping to provide the test equipment to accomplish this particular task. It was around this time I met Heather Hasper. She was working on developing a historical document for the Red Crosses anniversary. She put in countless hours on the Internet helping to research ARC's communications protocols and written regulations on how, when and with what to communicate. It was determined that the commercial VHF FM, the 47 MHz HF and the satellite radio were not operational. The SGC HF worked marginally due to antenna problems and the Alinco DR 610 wasn't programmed with the right frequencies.

Once it was determined what worked and what didn't, it was time to try and fix it. This is where I met Jim Wiley who is currently working on trying to gain access to a 47 MHz GE radio so we can change out the finals so it will once again transmit. It is important to mention that the GE base station was donated by an amateur long before I came into the picture. Jim also was responsible for repairing a SGC antenna tuner that the ARC had damaged due to neglect. Bruce, Heather and myself repaired the broken satellite dish antenna connections and Bruce donated over 300 dollars to have the commercial VHF FM repaired. Bruce also reprogrammed the Alinco DR 610 so it would hit the 30/90 repeater. I purchased the VHF mobile antenna and installed the commercial VHF FM in one of the ARC's vehicles.

Bruce had told me about a beam antenna that had been donated to the ARC back during the summer of 01. It had

been in Bruce's back yard for over a year. I went over with the wife, piced up the antenna and took it home. From there it went out to the Civil Air Patrols storage facility so it could be cleaned and assembled. Again Heather Hasper stepped up to the challenge and helped by cleaning and assembling the antenna. Once that was accomplished it was time to install it. That is where you (AL7FS), Randy (KL7Z), and Jim (KL7CC) played a part with your counsel and advice. I ordered the rotor plate and contacted David Stevens. We arranged for a time to get together and put the beam on the tower. I transported the antenna up to the top of the building and with Heathers help reassembled it in preparation for installation. Then I met with David one evening and he placed the beam on the tower. You (AL7FS) donated the coax and once I get a few free moments I'll tackle running the coax through the ceiling and up to the beam. I am working on getting the ARC to purchase a rotor and rotor cable as you already have the rotor control.

I have managed to hang a 174 foot long wire antenna over the ARC's west parking lot but there is still a great deal of work that needs to be accomplished. All of the communications equipment in the Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) needs to be functioned checked for serviceability. The 47 MHz radio needs repaired and re installed at the base station. Radio checks need to be accomplished between the HF (commercial and amateur) radio's that are installed in the base station and the Emergency Response Vehicle. The coax needs to be strung from the base station to the beam. The beam needs tightened down at 110 degrees and some time in the future a rotor and control need to be installed.

Like I said at the beginning Jim, I am not one for doing articles for newsletters. I know you would like something clear, concise, and short but there has just been to many things accomplished and way to many people involved to not mention them all. If I had to sum it all up I would have to say that the mission of the American Red Cross is to communicate logistical and personal information in times of a disaster. They would be unable to accomplish this without the help of the local amateur community. Everyone of the amateurs I mentioned, and also all those who I don't even know about, who donated countless hours in assisting the ARC in communications need to take a bow and get a pat on the back for a job well done. They are the true heroes that stand behind the scenes and get the job done so that the mission will get accomplished.

Have a great day and thanks for all your help.

Michael O'Keefe (KL1EK)



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