

# Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

## Next Meeting on April 4

### 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:** [KL7Z@gci.net](mailto:KL7Z@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

### **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  
**ACWN (Alaska CW Net)** 3534, 7042 Daily @ 0700 –  
1000, and 1900 - 2400 Alaska Time - AL7N or KL5T  
monitoring.

Net Purpose: Formal NTS traffic via CW.  
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*  
*KL3K, Girdwood*  
146.76/16 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 97.3 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.njqrp.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 [www.kl7jfu.com](http://www.kl7jfu.com)

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://www.haarp.alaska.edu/>

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. Hungry QRPers start showing up about 6PM. 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday each month - AARC general meeting - 7:00 PM** in the Carr-Gottstein Building, on the APU Campus. Talk in will be on 147.30+ repeater.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month: EARS general meeting - 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.

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

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM</b> at Hope Cottage 540 W. International. All are invited and encouraged to attend.
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**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month: 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. Some show up at 6:00PM to eat.

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

**The last Friday each month: MARA meeting at 7PM** in the MTA business office in Palmer.

**The last Saturday each month at 11:00 AM: Quarter Century Wireless Assoc - QCWA** at the Royal Fork, South of Dimond on Old Seward Highway. You need not be a QCWA member to attend.

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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. For more information contact John Murray, NL7WW at [nl7ww@corecom.net](mailto:nl7ww@corecom.net) John is the current club President.



## A Proposed Upgraded Repeater Plan for the Anchorage Area

### Special General Membership Meeting Set for March 28, Friday

**Time:** 7 PM at APU, Carr-Gottstein Building

**Purpose:** To discuss the Proposed Upgraded Repeater Plan for the Anchorage Area

**Details:** In March Newsletter or download at <http://home.gci.net/~lawson/>

We will be having a special club meeting this month, on Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the possibilities of upgrading the Susitna system to full dual redundant repeater hardware and adding UHF cross-band capability. If you have suggestions or criticisms to offer, please attend this meeting. The object of this meeting is to give every interested club member a chance to voice his or her opinion on this project. Once the discussion has been completed, the intention is to re-submit this proposal (with any modifications resulting from the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting) to our board of directors for consideration as a FY 2003 capital project. Please attend the meeting if you can, and if you cannot, please send us an email or have someone bring your concerns on this issue.

Email comments should be addressed to: President Randy Vallee (kl7z@gci.net), or John Lynn (johnlynn@gci.net).

### Background:

Because the "universe" of Amateur Radio operators (and equipment) has changed in favor of VHF and UHF operations, we have identified a requirement to strengthen our available infrastructure against future emergency and public service needs. Where we once relied primarily on the HF operators and systems, we now need systems that will enhance our VHF and UHF capabilities. The short response to this need is to provide robust and versatile VHF/UHF nodes (repeaters) that will tie together the individual emergency responders into a harmonious whole. To this end, we are proposing that the temporary demonstration system atop Mt. Susitna be replaced with a permanent, fully integrated VHF/UHF dual/crossband system, including dual redundant hardware and backup control systems. Once this system is fully operational, we are proposing that a similar system be installed atop Grubstake Peak (in the general vicinity of Hatcher Pass and Independence mine). The coverage from both the Mt. Susitna and Grubstake Peak sites is outstanding. These two sites, and these two sites alone, offer virtually complete coverage of the entire Anchorage – Eagle River – Palmer – Wasilla – Big Lake – Willow area.



## What do we need from you, as club members?

We need each club member to examine this proposal carefully. We need to hear your suggestions, criticisms, comments, and alternatives. We plan to have at least one, more likely two planning meetings that will feature this project. The object of these meetings is to take advantage of as many useful ideas as we can, to give the club members (that's you!) an opportunity to raise objections, to find solutions, to reduce the potential for problems to the smallest value possible before spending club funds on this project.

If you think this is a bad idea, then please come to a meeting and tell us why, and offer your suggestions or at least your reasons for objecting. Do you object to some particular portion of the plan? Let us know. Do you think you have a better idea? Let us know. Do you think the whole concept is too expensive, impractical in some way, or should just be scrapped? Again, let us know.

Do you, on the other hand, think this is a good idea? Do you see some possibilities we have overlooked? Can you help us get the hardware assembled and ready to use? Then, again, let us know. Show up at the meeting to add your support, to learn more about the project, to get to know those involved.

Projects like this start with just a few people, and all too often good ideas and cost saving alternatives are not heard until it is too late. There are sure to be some considerations that we few who have assembled this report have overlooked. And please, if you object to some portion of the plan, be prepared to offer at least one alternative idea. We as the initial planners are certain of one thing, if nothing else: We aren't the only ones with ideas to offer. Your ideas might well be better than ours, but we need to hear them so that everyone can hear all points of view, and make the best decision.

This is your invitation to be part of the planning process, to offer your input and ideas. If you cannot attend one of the special meetings, then send us your commentary by email or letter, but do it in writing so we don't miss an important point. Even if you come to a meeting in person, please be prepared to submit your comments in written form, again so they don't get overlooked or forgotten. Then, when we have all the technical, planning, financial, and other aspects figured out, please attend the board of directors meeting where this idea will be formally presented and discussed. Any club member can attend any board meeting, and if you have comments on an issue, you may speak when recognized.

Email comments should be addressed to: President Randy Vallee (kl7z@gci.net), or John Lynn (johnlynn@gci.net).

## Susitna Repeater Buried Alive!

### Grubstake Peak only hit by falling ice.

Reports from the top of Mt. Susitna indicate that the "test" repeater atop Mt. Susitna has suffered the ignominy of having its VHF antenna buried under several feet of snow drift. As you may remember, we decided to replace the single VHF/UHF antenna with separate antennas, and to move the "new" VHF antenna outside of the silo-like structure. This was done to enhance the VHF signal, and it certainly did that! Unfortunately, however, the new antenna location was a bit too low on the tower, and winter snows have managed to bury the antenna completely.

All is not lost, however, as many of you can attest, since the repeater is still communicating just fine, thank you very much, albeit at somewhat reduced signal strengths. For most users, this is not an issue, as they can still access the repeater just fine. Only those users in "fringe" areas have noticed that they have to take extra steps (more power, directional antennas, etc.) to access the system. Most of us in the Anchorage - Palmer/Wasilla area have not noticed any difference at all!

And of course, every cloud has the proverbial silver lining. In this case, since the antenna is completely buried, that means it is also completely protected against wind damage and falling ice. There has been some discussion as to whether we should try to move the antennas into a more "in the clear" spot (higher on the tower), or just leave them the way they are.

As a related side issue, it is interesting to note that the KL7CC VHF/UHF cross-band system (147.570 / 447.570) located atop Grubstake Peak (near Hatcher Pass) suffered an antenna failure when falling ice from a higher antenna smashed into the venerable Diamond X-50N antenna and wrenched it off its mounts and smashed the fiberglass radome. This happened during the recent hurricane force winds that swept the area and did so much damage to various structures. Now the antenna elements are flopping in the breeze, and occasionally users hear static noises as the antenna shorts against the tower structure.

However, the system still remains operational, with a replacement antenna scheduled for installation as soon as a crew can access the site. This episode (and the buried antenna at Mt. Susitna) both serve to illustrate just how good these sites are! Both systems, even though they have suffered situations that would silence lesser systems, remain on the air. In fact, during initial installation, the Grubstake Peak cross-band system started working and could carry traffic even before the antenna was connected! Not good for the transmitter, to be sure, but what an eye-opener for those responsible for getting the system up and running.

With the coming of summer, both sites will be visited and "spruced up" as necessary. To date, we have been able to accomplish all repairs, replacements, and other required maintenance at no additional cost, due to the generosity of other users or the site owners in making available free fides or offering to perform the needed on-site tasks "gratis" as a side activity to their other "professional" visits.

We will be having a special club meeting this month, on Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the possibilities of upgrading the Susitna system to full dual redundant repeater hardware and adding UHF cross-band capability. If you have suggestions or criticisms to offer, please attend this meeting. The object of this meeting is to give every interested club member a chance to voice his or her opinion on this project. Once the discussion has been completed, the intention is to re-submit this proposal (with any modifications resulting from the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting) to our board of directors for consideration as a FY 2003 capital project. Please attend the meeting if you can, and if you cannot, please send us an email or have someone bring your concerns on this issue.

Email comments should be addressed to: President Randy Vallee (kl7z@gci.net), or John Lynn (johnlynn@gci.net).

Please, for the convenience of everyone, and to make sure nothing gets overlooked, have written copies of your suggestions or comments available if they are more than a couple of sentences in length.

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### Blue "KL7AA" Club coats

Blue "KL7AA" Club coats with Call signs and the Club logo embroidered on the back are being made available to club members once again. **The cost to the club member is \$50.00 per coat.** So we can get an idea of how many people are interested please email **KL7SP** at [747sp@arctic.net](mailto:747sp@arctic.net) (Call Jim Larsen, AL7FS at 345-3190 if no internet available) **if you are interested in purchasing the coat. Please indicate** how many you would like to order, the proper spelling of your name as you would like it embroidered, and your Call Sign. Depending upon the response, we will attempt to get a discount on the purchase. The more people who want to purchase the item, the less expensive it will be.

73, Heather Hasper, KL7SP

### Iditarod Notes and Comments

Subject: Iditarod Start - Setup/Staging Net  
Date: Mon, 03 Mar 2003 08:48:49 -0900  
From: Fielder George Dowding [fgdowding@iceworm-enterprises.net](mailto:fgdowding@iceworm-enterprises.net)

Greetings all,  
My heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the Iditarod Start Saturday, 28FEB2003, and especially to those amateurs and non-amateurs who did such a wonderful job on the Setup/Staging Net (146.46 MHz, Simplex). You showed a high level of professionalism as well as enthusiasm in your conduct on the air as well as on the ground. There was no way at my age and physical decrepitude that I could have been of much use out there on the ground.

I am putting this out on the list because I may not be able to

attend the March AARC meeting this coming Friday.

73 and thank you. fgd. KL7FHX  
Fielder George Dowding, Chief Iceworm  
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Subject: The Iditarod Special Event! & MARA Meeting  
Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2003 09:02:22 -0900  
From: Mike Willmon <mwillmon@gci.com>

Is kinda disheartening not hearing more HF traffic during the Iditarod. I'm not sure if the 40m and 80m freqs are still designated for Iditarod use but I know I heard no one on those freqs from the Halfway Checkpoint at Eagle Island. I was however able to check into the Alaska Bush Net a few times and even the Late Net Stateside. I know all too well the extent that internet and long distance phone connectivity provided by GCI makes the need for a Ham operator less necessary. However as can be seen in any of the emergency situations lately, it is the Radio Operators that are the most reliable and most flexible in providing those emergency communications. I am wondering what it would take to get the interest back up in getting Hams back out on the trail even as a backup resource. A person could easily secure a spot as a volunteer by wearing two hats as a regular Comms Volunteer and Ham Radio operator. Providing essential communications is the most important goal of the Iditarod Comms Volunteer, a job well suited to most Hams in our community. What would you think of trying to get enough dedicated involvement to run a contest during the Iditarod. Maybe an award of Worked All Checkpoints could be achieved if we could get operators to ALL the checkpoints. I'd like to see increased involvement next year. I know a well run HF net could rival the internet and long distance phone service in relaying essential race traffic. It would also be good practice for Hams to operate away from home (in the Bush) under Alaskan Winter conditions, in a coordinated fashion. What do you say?

If you're interested in next years event let me know. I can put you in touch with the people that can put you on the trail.

Mike Willmon (AL1D)  
Eagle Island Comms  
for Iditarod 2003

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### **The SPIRIT of the IDITAROD 2003** **Heather Hasper, KL7SP**

Well once again Amateur Radio came to the rescue of the Last Great Race. A year ago I inquired to many long time Anchorage radio operators why the Iditarod was so hectic and unorganized. I was given the typical response that the Iditarod had not been totally cooperative with the radio operators for many years since obtaining other sponsors.

So this year when a last minute ARES meeting was called to come up with people who could 'volunteer' to work and organize the Iditarod, I said what the heck, I've got the time. Little did I know that time was not the greatest asset. Patience and the ability to deal with chaos and an unorganized organization would be the greatest assets of all. Of the 10 people sitting in that room, only two people who had never done the job volunteered. Now I have a full understanding of why. We then nominated probably the greatest asset of all **David Stevens KL7EB** to be the coordinator.

While to list all the challenges encountered by the "communications" team would take more room than the newsletter has pages, let us say that to be the communicator at the Iditarod means to be the problem solver for everyone else but yourself. Dealing with communication problems between checkpoints is one thing. But when you get an email from a Senior GCI satellite specialist stating that they can't get their fax machine to work and is asking if you have a copy of the user manual, then I question who is really doing the work for the race. With a little resourcefulness as most Radio Operators have, I got online and found the User Manual in pdf format on the manufacturer's website.

Some of the Amateurs that saved the Race this year include **John Hendricks, AL7OK**. When John arrived in Tannana, he immediately tried to make communications with Headquarters only to find the phone line did not work. John has been on the trail before, and while he had never been to Tannana, has a telecommunications background. He was able to get the phone line in TANANA repaired and operational. He also brought some Amateur Radio equipment with him, and was fortunate to be able to link into the NENANA Amateur radio

repeater and relay information as needed until the lines were fully operational.

This was one checkpoint, only the second checkpoint in the race. By the end of the race, when 8 out of 15 checkpoints had phone lines that didn't work, you have to wonder who or what agency should be responsible for the failure of being ready and prepared. At one checkpoint the phone line was wired to the wrong building, at another it was wired to the outside of the building, but not inside with a jack to plug in the phone. At this location, if it had not been for sending another Amateur to this location, **MIKE HOLLAND, NL7RV**, we would not have had landline communications and would have been completely dependent on the satellite phones and pagers for all race communications.

The satellite pagers rescued us this year even though they were not activated until two days into the race. There were many conflicts in the communications division of the IDITAROD that could have been prevented. As we evaluate the challenges overcome this year by the communications team, we try to balance prevention of future problems as well.

In order to prevent some of the chaos and problems of this year and the past, I have with the approval of the Race Director and the ARES Section Manager, drafted a **STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING (SOU)** between the ITC and ARES. The SOU requires that should the IDITAROD TRAIL Committee want Amateur Radio Services in any component of the race, they must contact the District Representative by the close of business of the first week of January of the year of the race. An ARES representative must be allowed to attend planning meetings and work side by side with the Communications sponsor to ensure a safe and efficient use of our communication resources and volunteer community.

Some might question why an ARES person should be contacted, because this is not an EMERGENCY SERVICES event. It only becomes an Emergency every year due to the lack of planning on behalf of ITC and lack of allowing involvement by the Amateur Community. Hopefully the SOU would prevent this from happening in the future. For those of you who have worked this race for many years and have other suggestions please feel free to submit them to me. If not for the purpose of making the race easier to operate then simply for the next volunteer who chooses to take on the communications challenges of the Spirit of the Last Great Race.

One of the key principles of leadership is confidence under fire. To be clear, concise and confident during a crisis is what defines a true leader. Also being able to let go of the negative and emphasize the positive.



The positive this year is all the volunteers who gave hundreds of hours of time and energy to assist in the race being a success once again this year. **David Stevens, KL7EB** for stepping up to an assignment that he did not want, but knew could not be accomplished successfully without someone with previous experience in the title. To **Kathy O'Keefe KL7KO** for keeping HQ staffed and addressing questions and problems that continued to arise. **Tom Choate, KL7JA** and **Jerry Trodden, KL1HD** came in daily to help organize the checkpoint boxes and the office. **AL1W, Gordon** for organizing the start and **Dan O'Barr KL7DR** for running the restart. And to the many non-amateurs who spent many hours every day for the last month helping at HQ to organize the chaos. **Sam O'Connor, Bernie Fraties, Diane Olson, Sharon Heiny, Stan Hecker Joe Murdy, and Grant Jacobson** are a few that come to mind.

Bottom line, the IDITAROD is a community service event. To participate in it means working with your community with the resources available. You won't be able to solve all the problems, but you might be able to bring a little organization into an organization full of chaos. Because of your efforts, the race was completed successfully again this year. To all of you who came to the **RESCUE** of the IDITAROD and your fellow Amateurs this year, **THANK YOU. KL7SP**



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## Red Cross update

Michael O'Keefe, KL7MD

Not much new to report on the Red Cross. Special thanks to David Stevens and Heather Hasper for assisting the ARC during the last big wind storm this week.

I got a call from Rebecca Noble who is the emergency coordinator for ARC. She had stated that the antenna's on the roof of the ARC were in danger of leaving the building. I got a hold of David and Heather. Heather and I went up through the inside access panel while David scaled the tower. We got the antenna's secured and got back inside.

It was neither a pleasurable or safe experience. The winds were up to 60 knots when David scaled the tower. When I opened the hatch from inside the wind caught it and pulled me right off the access ladder. Luckily David was in a position to stop the hatch from being ripped off of the building by the wind. We completed what needed to be done in record time and got back into the building as soon as we could. Even then, we all suffered from wind and cold.

But all's well that ends well. Make sure you mention Big Dan (KL7DR). He manned the ARC EOC in Wasilla and did an outstanding job. I am sure KL0QW or KL7HHO and give you more detail. Dan is an extraordinary man.

73's

Mike

## VEC Report – KL5T

Four AARC VEC testing sessions were held in Anchorage, one was held in Wasilla, and one was held in Palmer during February. No sessions were held in any other locations. The following table provides some basic statistics for February 2003 and the past 12 months:

|                                    | Feb 2003 | Past 12 Mths |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Sessions                           | 6        | 53           |
| Number Tested                      | 28       | 258          |
| Licenses Granted (new or upgrades) | 12       | 114          |
| Upgrade Rate                       | 43%      | 44%          |
| Passed Elements                    | 17       | 156          |
| Failed Elements                    | 12       | 165          |
| Element Pass Rate                  | 59%      | 49%          |

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## Remember:

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

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

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## Alaska QRP Club

The QRP Club is a club interested in having fun and fostering QRP so nothing is formal with this group. We have no officers, no board, no dues, and no set program. Bring your project ideas and questions to each meeting. Between 12-15 QRPers have been attending this meeting and having lots of fun. With over a dozen RockMites in hand this month we can expect discussions about building this excellent project at future meetings. See you at the meetings at Dennys on Debarr at 7PM the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Jim, AL7FS

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## Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting

(Unapproved)

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, March 18, 2003

The AARC Board met Tuesday, March 18, 2003 at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building, 540 West International Airport Road. The meeting was called to order by President Randy Vallee, KL7Z at 7:05 PM. The following officers were in attendance: President Randy Vallee, KL7Z, Vice President Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Secretary Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Treasurer Steve Jensen, KL0VZ and Activities Manager John Lynn, KL7CY. Also in attendance were Directors David Stevens, KL7EB, Richard Block, KL7RLB, Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Sue Hilton, NL7AV, Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG, and Pat Wilke, WL7JA. VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC, John Murray, NL7WW, Kyle Sandel, AL7J and Heather Hasper, KL7SP were also present.

Club members are reminded of the Special Meeting Friday, March 28, 2003, 7 PM at the Carr-Gottstein Building, APU. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed Susitna-Grubstake repeater project.

Minutes from the February 18 Board meeting were reviewed and accepted.

### Reports

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Jensen submitted a written report stating that the Club's finances are healthy. An expenditure of \$300 to the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous for the Special Event station was noted.

#### Gaming Committee Report

John Lynn reported that taxes have been paid and presented a copy of the state settlement for the Club archives. Steve Jensen added that deposits in the amount of \$17,000 and \$14,000 from gaming revenue were made in January and February.

#### VHF Committee Report

There was no formal report from the committee. John Lynn reported that the Mt. Susitna repeater was inundated with snow and that Procom reported much antenna damage at the site. It is unknown if our equipment has been damaged. A trip to the site is planned in the near future.

#### VEC Report

Jim Wiley reported that a new Technician examination question pool would come in to effect in July. AARC VEC Technician exams will be reprinted next month. The remote testing web site is on-line for testing purposes. Remote testing methodology and rationale will be posted on the Club web site.

#### ARES Report

Richard Block reported on February ARES public service events, most of which were canceled due to the weather, thanked Iditarod volunteers and reported on the first emergency use of the CCV. He noted that local emergency responders were now aware of its utility as a mobile incident command post, and suggested that the remaining communications equipment be installed as soon as possible. David Stevens reported briefly on the Iditarod. There were many last-minute changes due to the weather and the commercial communications systems were generally unreliable.

#### HAMfest

David Stevens again reported no confirmations yet on ARRL speakers. Jim Wiley reported that Riley Hollingsworth will be unable to attend. Suggestions were taken for other speakers and Board members were delegated to make contacts. It was noted that the MARA HAMfest is scheduled for Saturday, May 17.

#### Old Business

Randy Vallee reported that the Alyeska repeater, now KL3K, 146.76MHz, 97.4Hz tone, has been moved to its new location and has been frequency coordinated. The MoU between the Club and Dave Cloyd, KL7M has been signed and a copy will be filed in the Club archives.

Steve Jensen reported that ARRL Library sets have been purchased for Wasilla, Soldotna and Anchorage public libraries and book plates indicating the Club's donation will be affixed to the books. He added that the donation was well received by library officials and the Club may wish to add libraries to the project.

#### New Business

Jim Larsen reported that the Hope Community Resources grant request has been submitted to the Grant Committee. The

Committee anticipates coming to a decision in the next month.

Heather Hasper presented a proposal to purchase AARC coats. A motion was made to make the coats available to members for \$50 each with the Club defraying additional costs, which vary with coat size and embroidery. Club expenses should not exceed \$40.20 per coat. The motion passed with Richard Block casting the dissenting vote.

Randy Vallee presented a proposal to activate the KL7AA.org domain. It is to be operated as a virtual domain on an existing server. Corliss Kimmel has volunteered to code the web site. Expenses would be \$10 per month for a static IP address. The motion passed unanimously.

John Lynn proposed that the Club expend no more than \$1000 to acquire a laptop PC for VEC morse code testing. The motion passed unanimously.

John Lynn proposed that the Club expend \$300 per year to join the Anchorage Convention and Visitors' Bureau for the purpose of disseminating our literature in various tourist spots. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Wiley proposed that the Club acquire 100 code practice oscillator kits for this year's Girl Scout encampment at a cost of about \$750. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Secretary

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#### N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

April 2003

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ARS Spartan Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!!

Apr 8 - 0100z to 0300z (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)

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QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party (CW) .....QRP Contest!!!

Apr 12 - 1200z to Apr 13 - 2400z

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

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Low Power Spring Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category

Apr 21 - 1400z to 2000z

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/apr.html>

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QRP To The Field (CW) ...QRP Contest!!

Apr 26 - 1500z - 2400z (Pick any 6 hours)

Rules: <http://www.norcalqrp.com/>

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(ARRL), WB3AAL and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.

Ken Newman - N2CQ

[N2CQ@ARRL.NET](mailto:N2CQ@ARRL.NET)



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### Great QRP web pages

<http://www.niqrp.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>

+ a bonus site

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

Draft Alaska Threat Level Procedures

Alaska Threat Procedures in PDF format. Fort Richardson, The State of Alaska is currently developing procedures for use with the State Homeland Security Advisory System. The draft document provides recommended actions for critical facilities, state and local government, as well as anticipated public responses and recommendations for citizens.

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### 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 SouthCentral Alaska hams.

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### Ham Stuff for Sale

Elecraft K1 Transceiver #1265 is for sale with 40/20m and 30/15M bands, ATU, stand, noise blanker, and manual. Complete and all tuned up. Here is the list of Elecraft components: K1-2, K1B40, K1B30, K1B20, K1B15, KBT1, KAT1, KTS1, KFL1-2, KNB1 See <http://www.elecraft.com> I am asking \$550 which is less than you can buy all the components to build it. Its brand new only used a couple of months and of that used very little. Alan, KL1HC my phone number 907.745.6482

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### New For classified Ad page An Announcement from KL7G Sysop

The KL7G webpage url, <http://www.kl7g.org> will be hosting a classified ads page software donated by the FAA Amateur Radio Association ( KL7FAA ) for all hams to use..also there DXCluster is up and running smoothly now on telenet.. to access the cluster just telenet to **24.237.4.235 port 8000** and **login with your callsign**. The Telenet program that came with windows is lame..I recommend using a free program call puTTY it is downloadable from the net..just search for puTTY.. The 2 meter radio access is going to be back online soon. A full set of instructions are online for the cluster at the KL7G webpage..Also, any members wishing to host a webpage on the KL7G server is welcome..just drop me an e-mail I will set them up with an account. Accounts also come with an e-mail address @kl7g.org .  
73 es have fun!

Frank KL7FH sysop KL7G

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**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](mailto: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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### Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Summary of Financial Affairs

|                    |                          |           |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Assets             |                          |           |
|                    | Gaming Account           | \$154,344 |
|                    | All other current assets | \$125,602 |
|                    | Fixed assets             | \$195,874 |
|                    | Boniface Bingo           | \$ 19,989 |
|                    | Total Assets             | \$495,809 |
| Liabilities        |                          | \$0       |
| Equity             |                          | \$495,809 |
| Operating Income   |                          | \$ 342    |
| Operating Expenses |                          | \$ 4,351  |
| Gaming Income      |                          | \$ 7,000  |
| Contributions      |                          | \$10,000  |

Gaming Funds Transferred to General Account \$ 0  
This summary does not include notes or other information which are 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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## If it's good enough for Carnegie, it's good enough for AARC!

Carnegie built libraries throughout the country, and he put books on the shelves.

Now it is our chance to support the legacy and help the amateur radio community by providing radio books for libraries. AARC agreed to send books to local libraries, seven libraries in all. As this is written, ARRL is supporting this effort by providing a great bargain on the books, and doing the work of shipping a collection of 16 titles to each of these seven libraries. The City libraries in Wasilla and Soldotna will receive a collection of books, and all branches of the Anchorage Municipal Libraries will receive collections of HAM radio titles. We have asked to have the books labeled with a book plate to identify the book as a donation from AARC.

With success we may expand this program and extend the reach of this effort by sending books to even more libraries.

Steve Jensen  
KL0VZ

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## A Word to the Wise, again and again + once more

<http://www.google.com> is the place to go for help in finding almost anything. Google is a great search engine and if you go to the advanced search, you can search for exact phrases. Give it a try with your callsign or name. AL7FS

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## Technical Committee

this month in review.  
Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX

Short VHF report.

The KL7AA VHF/UHF/220 repeater system survived the wind storm. Winds were measured at 107 MPH average with peaks above the measurable point (149 mph) on Site Summit (home of KL7ION Repeater) for several hours during the high winds in the local area. However all packet and voice equipment under KL7AA callsign remained on the air. Nothing much else to report. Still trying to work out the packet gateway problem. I've got some idea's which I need to go over with NL7NC the gateway operator when his schedule and mine mesh.

KL7IKX

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## Elmendorf ARS Repeater is Now Linked

John Wolfe <aa0nn@arrl.net>

Folks,

Just a heads up that the KL7AIR repeater on Elmendorf AFB is now linked via Echo Link, using Voice over Internet Protocol technology.

The KL7AIR repeater frequency is 146.67 (-), with a 107.2 Hz subaudible tone.

Rick/KL0NE has graciously offered to park his Echo Link-interfaced base station on the base repeater frequency, attempting to breathe new life into a little-used repeater.

While the link will not be hot all the time to a specific location, the link will enable Echo Link users all over the world to connect to it. Conversely, users of the repeater, with the appropriate codes, can dial up distant end stations, links, repeaters, etc. This setup is similar to Dave/KL7M's repeater that was on 147.21 at the time I left last October.

If you have other questions about how Echo Link works, you can go to their site at [www.echolink.org](http://www.echolink.org). They give a good explanation in easy to understand terms.

73,  
John/AA0NN  
Columbus, MS

## **Suggested Terminal Node Controller (TNC) Parameters (Parms)**

**From : KL7IKX, Doug Dickinson 12-1993  
updated 3/03**

Greetings to all the new packet operators that Santa helped get into this wonderful hobby, as well as all the old-timers (operators with more than two weeks under their keyboards!) I'd like to suggest a couple of parameter's that everyone should look at in their TNCs **that will help with overall network operations, as well as keep you on the GOOD PERSONS list.**

### **BEACON:**

This was a fine idea when packet was in it's young days, but kinda bogs down the frequencies now. If you absolutely must BEACON your station. PLEASE set your BEACON to AFTER 250. This means after 250 x 10 seconds AFTER the last station is heard by your TNC you will BEACON ONCE! If you have NO BEACON TEXT loaded in your TNC, this will disable the BEACON option on most TNCs. But to be sure please set the BEA to AFTER 250. More frequent beacons are NOT needed, and just clutter up already busy frequencies. If your looking to see who else is on the frequency, use your MHeard list to see who you've heard.

Bulletin board stations beacon more often, they usually beacon what mail their holding for certain stations. This is an acceptable use of the BEACON command. Also you may see a BEACON running from a Node, or hi-profile Digi site to announce a particular event, scheduled outage or meeting. These will almost always be set to BEACON AFTER 250, so as not to add QRM to the frequency .

### **ID:**

If your TNC has the option to send a ID at a pre-set time, please set this to AFTER 250 also. AND BE SURE your ID does NOT use CW. There is NO reason to ever send a CW ID on packet. The FCC recognizes packet as a valid ID. In each and EVERY packet you send your callsign is part of the packet, the FCC recognizes this as a valid way to IDENTIFY your station.

Please be sure if your TNC, or TNC program has the ID function, that the CW ID portion is disabled. The disable usually takes the form of CW AFTER 0. or CW EVERY 0. Be sure that your CWIDtext line is blank to be safe!

PacLen - Packet Length. How many characters will be included in each "packet". For HF operations a PacLen of 32 - 64 is most often used. The longer the PacLen on HF the better chance of it being disrupted before the receiving station gets it. Which means lots and lots of re-tries. On VHF a pacLen of NO MORE THAN 200 is recommended. Most stations however use a PACLEN of 128 or less. The limit on 200 helps the network, the Nodes used to direct and pass traffic around our networks will fracture a packet of more than 200 characters, this is because their software needs the 201-255 character

range to add error correction and other information the Nodes need to move your traffic efficiently. A packet length of more than 200 means that the Nodes will have to fracture, and store your packets for a longer time in order to move them across the network. This results in slower times for all users.

PERSIST ON (Usually referred to as PP ON) - This parameter is STRONGLY recommended for all stations. All the Node and BBS Node stations use Persist and Slot time for efficient use of the frequency. So in order to assist this orderly use of the frequency, I recommend you also use these commands.

PERSist This is part of the timing sequence used by your TNC when PP is ON. PERSIST OF NO MORE THAN 128, Values down to PERSIST OF 64 are strongly recommended. Along with Persist is the command SLOT. SLOT is the other part of the PERSIST command, SLOT values of 1 to 10 are recommended. IF you are running the suggested PP ON and SLOT then PLEASE SET YOUR DW (Delay Wait) TO 0 .

BE SURE YOUR TNC IS SET TO AX25V2 THE VERSION 2 IS THE LATEST RELEASE, IF YOUR TNC IS RUNNING V-1 SOFTWARE YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS PASSING TRAFFIC THROUGH THE NETWORK. MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR SANTA TO MAKE ANOTHER VISIT TO YOUR SHACK.

There are to my knowledge very few TNCs left that still have V-1 as their only option. IF you have a choice, use V-2.

FRack - After transmitting your packet this is the time delay that your TNC waits to get back the ack that the particular packet was received, before it either RESENDS the first packet, or moves on to the next packet. FR should be set to a minimum of 3 for VHF, and a minimum of 6 for HF, you may need to extend this if the frequency is particularly busy, and you're seeing alot of re-tries. Maximum value is usually 15, though much more than FRA of 8-10 will probably never be needed.

FULLdup - Full Duplex. Should BE OFF, unless your running a special modem, or actually operating in full duplex mode, ie:transmitting and receiving at the same time. There is only ONE full duplex packet system in operation in Alaska that I'm aware of at this time. And it's a point to point link system to get KL7AA BBS to 145.05. (operating on a ARRL coordinated UHF repeater pair, and very low power (<100mw).

FRAme - The maximum number of frames that your TNC will allow to be transmitted without receiving a ACK. This is also the Maximum number of frames that will be sent in a continuous transmission. Values of 2-4 are recommended. NEVER exceed 7. This parameter works in conjunction with the PACLEN command. Obviously if you have poor conditions, you want to shorten up both PACLEN and MAXframe to help get your packets through without being disrupted and having to have a number of re-tries.

RETry The number of times your TNC will try to send a packet without getting an ACK back. Recommended value is

10 for VHF, you may want to extend this to 15 for poor conditions on HF.. DO NOT SET THIS VALUE TO 0!

**TXDelay** This is probably the most critical parameter in your TNC. This parameter is the time delay AFTER your TNC keys your radio, BEFORE the packet is sent from the TNC to the RADIO. A TXD of 30 (which equates to 300 milliseconds) is RECOMMENDED. There are several variables to this however. IF you are using an external amplifier you will need to stretch this out to about 40 to 45 (400-450ms), This is because after your TNC keys your radio, your RF then keys the Amplifier, and there is a finite time needed for everything to come up, stabilize and be ready to send the packet. IF you make your TXD too SHORT, the first part of your packet will be clipped off, you will probably never get a connect, or if you do, you may not be able to get farther than the first connect sequence. IF you make your TXD too LONG, nothing bad will happen, however your using up more time on the frequency than you really need to.

In general crystal controlled radio's with diode switching don't need much time, synthesized rigs need time for the Phase Locked Loop to lock on the correct transmit frequency, and allow RF to be generated from the radio. Radio's with mechanical switching (relays) need even more time for the physical movement of the relay. This value will also vary depending on the particular station your communicating with. Remember if you have TOO SHORT a TXD the other station may not have time for the radio to fall back to receive from the transmit condition. Once you unkey from a packet, your radio has to turn on the receiver, unquench it, and be on frequency and waiting for the incoming packet. This takes a finite amount of time it's not an immediate thing. If your relay switched, the relay has a mechanical time to move between contacts. If your diode switched, and synthesized, the radio takes a shorter time, but still has to synthesize the receive frequency, be sure that power is removed from the transmitter, and applied to the receiver. In general start with TXD of 30 (300ms) and work UP from there till reliable communications can be maintained.

One final note. DEVIATION. Packet via VHF requires CLEAN audio to work correctly. Multi-path signals can absolutely kill packet in most conditions. So be sure you have a good path to the station you want to communicate with. Second, be sure your audio drive level from the TNC to the radio is not excessive. The recommended level is 3Khz deviation maximum.

Most of you won't have an easy way to set this, so what I recommend is a second radio (your handheld perhaps), connect your station up, listen to the frequency for that obnoxious sound of packet (like love-sick wasps in mating season) and then transmit a packet, if your level from your radio sounds equal to or slightly less than the other stations your ok. IF you are LOUDER than the other stations, turn your audio drive level from the TNC to the radio DOWN, and try it again. As a final test, connect to yourself using another station, (use your MH list to find a station your hearing) then Connect to yourself [yourcallsign] via {other callsign}. If you can reliably move packets to and from your station, then your deviation level is close. If however you can't

seem to get packets to flow reliably, and see lots of re-tries, or your TX light keeps flashing, but the STA light stays lit, which means that the packets are not moving out, then adjust your deviation and keep trying to send yourself a packet. TOO LOW is MUCH BETTER than TOO HIGH!

While the human ear can make out voices in a multipath condition, and the human brain (much better...usually than the fastest computer ever made) can fill in what the multi-path takes out or distorts, digital tones on the other hand are not so easily copied by the TNC. Any distortion be it from over deviation, or multi-path can seriously compromise your ability to communicate. The faster the packet speed the worse multipath or distortion will be for reliable communications.

I hope these suggestions help you out. Please read your manuals that come with your TNCs, BE SURE you use SHIELDED cable for your AUDIO to the RADIO, and if you get into a problem that just doesn't seem to make sense, ask for help.

**73 Doug KL7IKX @ KL7AA**

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## Words of Wisdom from the TSA

If you ever plan to fly on a commercial aircraft, this guidance may prove useful. I recently traveled to Iowa and carried on my Elecraft K2 transceiver which has a 7AH gel cell battery in it. I had my FCC license with me and just to be safe the documents printed off the internet that described my equipment in detail and it had pictures. I had no trouble with the TSA inspectors but they did send my radio back through the x-ray for a second look. de AL7FS

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United States Department of Transportation  
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20590

MAR 11 2003

H. Hasper

Dear H. Hasper:

Thank you for your letter of January 22, 2003, regarding prohibited items on Part 139 commercial aviation aircraft.

On February 14, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) published an interpretive ruling updating its prohibited items list. I am pleased to report that the updated prohibited items list does not include the communications and radio equipment that you describe in your letter, such as radios, battery cables and packs, and wiring.

In the interest of customer service, I would like to make two suggestions that will make traveling with radio operations

equipment safer and more convenient for yourself and the members of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. As you ask in your letter, **advising your members to carry their Federal Communication Commission (FCC) licenses while traveling with their equipment is appropriate.** While your members will still be subject to the full screening requirements whether or not they present an FCC license, identifying themselves as a card-carrying member will facilitate communication between passenger and screener. As with all electronic equipment, the screeners must assure themselves that the items in question are in fact what they are represented to be.

It would also be **wise to advise your members to carry on any expensive equipment rather than pack it in their checked baggage,** because TSA now advises passengers to leave their bags unlocked or run the risk of having their locks forcibly opened, if necessary, to resolve an alarm. Packing expensive or delicate equipment in a carry-on bag will ensure that access to equipment by any security personnel would be limited to a hand search at the checkpoint performed in the presence of the passenger.

Thank you for taking the time to request clarification of TSA's prohibited items on behalf of yourself and the members of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club.

I hope the information presented is helpful and useful to your organization.

Thomas R. Blank  
Assistant Administrator for  
Security Regulation and Policy

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**Kodiak**  
**Emergency Communications Vehicle**  
Mike KL7JBV Dolph [dolphone@gci.net](mailto:dolphone@gci.net)

From email sent to John Lynn

Here's 3 more pictures of the bus project with a brief description of each.

Pic #1 - outside rear graphics: We had a local graphics company in Kodiak make all the graphics package for the outside of the bus. The rear outside panel bears the word "Communications," the Fire Service Multease Cross, and the ARES logo. The rear door is one of two accesses into the rear storage area/electronics area of the bus. The Wheel Chair Lift is still fully functional. We'll use it to left our diesel generator in/out of the cargo area in the back. When the chair lift platform is down on the ground, a set of stairs will be placed into that entrance - making a 2nd entrance/exit for the bus at the rear.



Pic #2 - Inside Rear Wall: This wall was built just forward of the wheel chair lift, thus creating a cargo storage area in the back. One "nook" on the streetside wall opposite the chair lift door will eventually be for a toilet. And on the back side of the wall is where we'll mount trunked radio & interface, complete phone switch and all phone cross-connects. Line 1 of the phone switch has a radio interface unit that connects it to 800MHz trunked radio phone system - so we have wireless "dial tone" with the use of commercial radio circuits/service.



Pic #3 - Comms Countertops: The professionally finished countertops make the communications radio positions in the front section of the bus pretty much ready for mounting radios. Again - there are 3 positions, and all radios will be ICOM - so it'll be a real "showcase" of products.



That's it for pics as of now. We've installed 90% of the radios as of last week, but I haven't taken any pics of those yet. I'll get some to you soon.

Hope you're enjoying the storyboard and pictures!

73's Mike - KL7JBV

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## MiteyMouse RockMite20 Rig is on the air

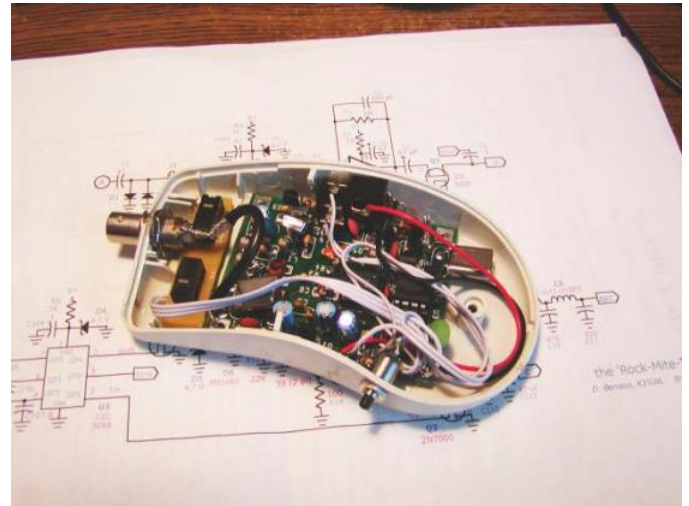
Mike Caughran, KL7R <kl7r@yahoo.com>

I built it yesterday. The surface mount part was missing from the kit but Dave sent me a new one and I my Rockmite (20 meter CW transceiver costing \$25) up and working this morning. The first CQ I made (after I completely rewired) got me a QSO under geomagnetic storm conditions. Here it is (MiteyMouse):

<http://www.geocities.com/kl7r/files/miteymouse.jpg>  
<http://www.geocities.com/kl7r/files/miteyguts.jpg>  
<http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/> Rig details  
 Mike



Note: the mouse buttons are use as the paddles for the Rockmite internal keyer



An entire 20 meter CW transceiver in a Mouse!!

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## Spartan Sprint Weight Rules Revised

Gang -

Starting in March we began using a somewhat revised or clarified definition of the weight rules for the Spartan Sprints.

There have been a number of questions over the last few months about what counts and what doesn't. The goal here is to clarify the rules so that we have a fairly level playing field. This should be especially helpful for those who are pushing the envelope when it comes to developing low weight, trail ready rigs.

We'll try these for a while and see where it goes from there. Your feedback is always welcome.

The new rules are posted at  
 <[http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan\\_sprints/ss\\_weight\\_rules\\_new.html](http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan_sprints/ss_weight_rules_new.html)>

Skinny or tubby, I look forward to hearing you in the March Sprint.

73 de NA8M  
 John Huffman <hjohnc@core.com>  
 Contest Manager  
 Adventure Radio



STANDARD WIRELESS KEY.

## QRP To The Field - 1999

### AL7FS and AL7OK

John Hendricks, AL7OK, and I traveled to Palmer, Alaska about 55 miles north of here. The station was John's new Small Wonder Labs SW20+ (20 meter CW Kit - 2 watts <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/>) that he won at the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club meeting on April 2nd. We diligently put up our dipole to be broadside to the Lower 48 (L48) states and began to operate.

We weren't hearing much but since the numbers were bad for propagation, we just assumed the bands did not open very well. Near the end of the day, I asked a local Palmer ham about compass points (we were operating in unfamiliar territory) and it turns out we had installed the dipole with the end dead on to the L48! Since we were using a dipole and not inverted V, we heard almost nothing (except Japan). Contacts were equal to zero...can anyone else beat that for low QSO rate. :-)

Yes, dipoles are directional. Sigh.

(Note to self: Take a compass in future years!!)

On the bright side, there was also a flea market and John and I set up the station in the middle of the activity. Lots of people stopped and asked questions, some sat down and played with the tiny 20 meter rig and some told their own QRP story. I also gave the "Why QRP?" talk (thanks to N2APB and all others who made that presentation possible- <http://www.njqr.org/whyqrp/whyqrp.htm>) to about a dozen more hams. In all, I have talked with about 85 hams about QRP in the month of April spread out over three presentations.

Saturday was a good day.

Pictured below are AL7FS, AL7OK and the SW20+ station. Note the use of the Microsoft Mouse as a paddle for the keyer.

73, Jim Larsen, AL7FS



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Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1987

PRSRT STD  
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PAID  
Anchorage, AK  
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