



QCWA SPONSORED PICNIC Quarter Century Wireless Association

JUNE 7th JUNE 7th JUNE 7th JUNE 7th

WHERE: ----- KL7CDG'S QTH---AVION ST. And EAST 121ST AVE---(North of Huffman road between Cange and Jerome streets)

Come up or down Huffman road to Avion St. (goes North from Huffman), (the other side of the street is call Furrow Creek). Take Avion north to East 121st (2/10's of a mile). (Look up and to the right and you will see two towers with beams), turn east on 121st and its the first driveway on your left. There's plenty of room to park and if it rains, we'll have a place where we can take shelter inside. Will be monitoring 147.57.

TIME: 11:30 AM till ? ? ? ?

FOOD: Potluck.---Bring your favorite dish. KL7CDG will furnish the hamburgers, hot-dogs and buns, coffee, tea, tools, ice water, grill and whatever.

Will need beans, chili, potato salad, pickles, olives, deviled eggs, potato chips, deviled eggs, mayo, deviled eggs, sliced onions, desserts, your favorite refreshment (with designated driver), and whatever else that goes with a picnic. We'll have coffee, hot water, ice, some pop, cups, paper plates, paper towels, plastic tools and other odds and ends.

RECREATION: Badminton, Croquet, Hoops, Rag-chewing and Mini-Mini golf (you might bring your 3 iron).

Phone (907) 345-3063
E-mail: jtvrdy@gci.net

Jim Tvrdy
KL7CDG

Blue "KL7AA" Club coats

Blue "KL7AA" Club coats with Call signs and the Club logo embroidered on the back have been ordered. The cost to the club member was only \$50.00 per coat, a great deal, and soon you will be seeing these coats at club functions and around town.

Heather Hasper, KL7SP at 747sp@arctic.net was responsible for this great project. Thank you, Heather.

Iditarod Notes and Comments

Iditarod Halfway Checkpoint Adventure

Mike Willmon, AL1D

I left Anchorage on Saturday the 1st of March with all intentions of winding up at the halfway checkpoint at Iditarod. Changes for the start of the race had already dictated a less than typical trail route and after 4 days in McGrath waiting for the weather to turn more winter like it was finally determined that the race would not go through the old mining town of Iditarod. This year the Halfway Hooligans would deploy to Eagle Island. While Eagle Island is a regular checkpoint on the odd years it was certainly not expecting the large crew that is typical of the GCI sponsored Halfway Checkpoint. Out of the 30 or so people that are involved from GCI doing preplanning and behind the scenes work I'm lucky enough to be one of the 6 that are sent to the halfway point to help run the checkpoint and provide communications for the race, the crew and the mushers.



As is usually the case nothing ever goes exactly according to plan. Small oversights are worked around, missing equipment is either found or ordered in and other problems pop their heads up not the least of which was the weather. The mushy

trail conditions in and around Iditarod forced the race to be rerouted along the northern route all the way through Kaltag and then south through Eagle Island. Even two days before we landed at Eagle Island the trailbreakers had run into 2 feet of overflow and slush just a few miles before reaching the checkpoint. A little hope and a little bit of cold weather firmed things up enough and on the 5th of March we were hauling gear into camp.



Setting up at a primitive site typically takes between 3 to 4 days. There are many tasks to accomplish the first of which is getting up shelter for the first night.



Then there is the job of setting up the rest of the 2 weather ports and 3 wall tents, sort the dog food, neatly stack the straw, set up the VSAT terminal equipment, peak and polarize the satellite antenna, pin up the telephone and internet connections, get all the peripherals working and last but certainly not least erect the G5RV, Air-To-Ground folded monopole and the Icom 706. Although we would like all of these tasks to be completed by the time the first musher comes in we just barely got in under the wire on the critical tasks. By the end of the second day we got around to aiming the satellite antenna and finally got it peaked and our primary comms operating about 0130 the morning of the 7th. If you recall Robert Sorlie came trudging in just two hours later.



After a sigh of relief, a quick presentation of the Dorothy Paige Halfway Prize some of us were able to turn in for a quick nap before the rest of the teams started showing up. The rest of the day on the 7th we finished up the chores, which included sorting TWO sets of dog food and musher supplies. We literally had them coming and going. Sometime before sunset on the 7th I was able to set up the Ham rig and with the help of a couple loggers (one Checker and one Vet) I was able to get some 30 foot spruce trunks sunk down in the ice. Since there was about 2 feet of overflow and 4 inches of ice over the top of that, dropping the trunks through a small hole and filling the edges with slurry quickly made the perfect antenna supports. The next morning after letting the slurry have time to set up, I hoisted the G5RV.



Only having to break through 4 to 5 inches of ice was nice for getting the masts in but made an uneasy feeling in my stomach when the wind would kick up and I could feel wave action going on below my feet.

Later that night (or was it the next night) I was able to make some calls but found no one on the Iditarod Frequencies. So, over to the Bush Net for a quick check in. Surprisingly I was able to check in for a couple nights with something less than 5 watts. I think the lowest the rig adjusts down to is 3 watts and the 50 ft coil of feed line added a little more attenuation. The meter on my tuner set to the 30-Watt scale was barely popping up off the peg. I actually had to raise the power to tune up.

Subsequent evenings weren't quite so good but I was still able to QSO with the Bush Net with full power. One night in particular was really bad for local contacts but I was able to get to a Late Net stateside out of Washington. I could hear their check-ins from all over the country on 40m; Maine, Florida, New Mexico and some California stations. A couple contacts and then....."Musher In." I didn't have too much spare time for frivolous rag chewing. It was make the contact, explain what we were doing camping out on the middle of the Yukon River and while they were laughing break with them to report IN Times, OUT Times and file dropped dog reports; Oh yeah, and refill the generator.

The best use I had from the rig though was keeping in touch with the pilots. With about a 5-minute mod I was able to open the rig up on the aviation frequencies. And let me tell you, being able to talk to the pilots while they are 20 to 30 miles out really keeps you from getting behind the ball when they are bringing loads of gear in or showing up to haul people and dogs out. Between talking with the Logistics hubs on the phone, Headquarters on the internet and the pilots in the air we were able to keep a pretty good handle on what was coming our way. Although having an Iridium Sat phone was nice, what I thought was a useful gadget was the Sat Pager. Anyone could go online and e-mail you a text message and you didn't have to huddled around the radio, laptop or phone to get the message.

All in all it was a tiring but fun event. None of the 16-person crew of Checkers, Comms, Vets and Helpers were allowed to sleep more than their share. Mushers coming and going both directions made sure of that. But Debski, our cook,



kept us all fed, the comms gear worked flawlessly (except for a couple bouts with the peripherals), all the mushers were reported In and Out and all except dropped dogs (they had a free ride back to Anchorage) made it to Nome.

Anyone who did not get to volunteer on the trail I urge you to get involved as soon as things start rolling around the end of November. I am going to be more involved with the Ham Volunteer Coordinator in working with radio operators who want to volunteer for the trail jobs. Although it shouldn't be thought of as a free trip to the bush to talk on the radio, you should be able to set up a respectable station for a back up link

to civilization, get in a few QSOs and some quality practice setting up in a remote environment.

What I'd like to see sometime in the future are enough Hams on the trail so that there could be some sort of Worked All Checkpoints award. Although "heavy totin' Hams" are the bane of all the volunteer pilots, I know you don't need too strict of a minimalist attitude to pack a radio out that can keep you in touch with our fellow hobbyists. I'll write more about this idea next month.

Mike Willmon, AL1D



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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 QRPer's 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 3rd Friday of each month. Jim, AL7FS

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VEC Report – KL5T

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

	Mar 2003	Past 12 Mths
Sessions	4	58
Number Tested	18	254
Licenses Granted (new or upgrades)	12	116
Upgrade Rate	67%	46%
Passed Elements	16	155
Failed Elements	6	155
Element Pass Rate	73%	50%

NEW AARC Web Address:

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

<http://www.KL7G.org/KL7AA>

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Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting (Unapproved)

April 15, 2003

The AARC Board met Tuesday, April 15, 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, Trustee Jim Feaster, KL7KB and Activities Manager John Lynn, KL7CY. Also in attendance were Directors Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Craig Bledsoe, KL7E, Edie Lynn, KL7EL, Sue Hilton, NL7AV and Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG. VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC and Kyle Sandel, AL7J were also present.

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

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Steve Jensen submitted a written report. Future reports will be dated as of the first of the month, rather than on the date of the Board meeting. The Club is not disposing of income as quickly as the budget calls for. The Annual Report from Boniface Bingo indicates that the Club received some \$138,275 last year. A failure to properly file documents cost the Club some \$9,000. The Board has addressed this problem by retaining professional assistance in legal and accounting matters.

Gaming Committee Report

John Lynn reported that gaming revenue would soon undergo its annual summer slump. Lil Marvin asked for comments on how legalized gambling would likely affect Club income. John went on to say that since the bingo market is saturated all gaming permit holders would be impacted. He speculated that legalized gambling could cause a 50% drop in Club revenue. Jim Larsen advised that we should closely monitor the gambling bill.

VHF Committee Report

There was no formal report from the committee. The autopatch is reported to be working. Requests for bids have been submitted for Susitna repeater project. John Lynn asked that a bid for the project be sought from Procom. Jim Wiley proposed to purchase the current temporary Susitna repeater to replace his 97 repeater. John Lynn suggested that the KL7DJE call be used for a Valley repeater.

VEC Report

Jim Wiley reported that local testing is proceeding normally. June 1 is the target date for beta testing the remote exam website. The Valdez VEC has elected to become part of the W5YI VEC group.

ARES Report

Phillip Mannie reported plans to change the weekly ARES net to the 27 Susitna repeater beginning May 1, 2003. ARES is seeking a coordinator for the May 3 Walk for Hope. David Stevens, KL7EB, and Harvey Rookus, NL7DK, were suggested.

HAMfest

It was proposed to ask Mike Romanello, KL7BK, if he would be willing to coordinate the Anchorage 2003 HAMfest.

Old Business

Randy Vallee will present the Hope Community Resources grant.

Randy Vallee reported that the March 29 Special Meeting went well. Steve Jensen asked who would make purchasing decisions for Susitna hardware. Randy Vallee, Jim Larsen, Jim Wiley and Doug Dickenson, KL7IKX, will evaluate the bids and come to a final decision. Jimmy Tvrdy asked that the Board be kept informed via email. Jim Larsen suggested that when individual membership comments are solicited that it be made clear that they would be considered but not necessarily responded to directly.

The kl7aa.org domain currently unavailable. INTERNIC reports that the domain registration will expire September 3, 2003 unless renewed. It was suggested to register kl7aa.net which is currently available. The kl7aa.org domain name can later be registered if the current holder allows it to lapse.

Randy Vallee and John Lynn are the primary contacts for the ACVB. KL7BGZ, Neil Thalaker, said to be an ACVB volunteer, has requested a two page brochure with frequency and meeting information. John Lynn will prepare such a brochure.

Jim Wiley reported that the Girl Scout code practice oscillator parts would be ordered Wednesday, April 16. This will include a \$750 expenditure previously approved as well as the current \$750 authorized purchase.

New Business

Field Day is June 28-29. The Club is seeking a coordinator for the event.

The Mayor's Marathon, June 21 is concurrent with the Girl Scout encampment.

Jim Feaster proposed that the Board approve a process to dispose of excess Club equipment. He will draft a proposal for the Board.

The Board approved a request by Philip Mannie to rent a safe deposit box for important Club documents. The Secretary and Treasurer will hold keys.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Secretary

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N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

May 2003

Ten-Ten International Spring QSO Party (CW) ... QRP Category

May 3 - 0001z to May 4 - 2400z

Rules: <http://www.ten-ten.org/>

Indiana QSO Party (All) ... QRP Category

May 3 - 1300z to May 4 - 0500z

Rules: <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/>

New England QSO Party (Phone/CW) ... QRP Category

May 3 - 2000z to May 4 - 0500z

May 4 - 1300z to May 4 - 2400z

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

Adventure Radio Spartan Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!

May 6 - 0100z to 0300z (Monday evening US/Canada)

Rules:

http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/spartan_sprints/ss_rules.html

Nevada QSO Party (All)

May 10 - 0000z to May 11 - 0600z

Rules: <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/nevqp.htm>

Oregon QSO Party (All) ... QRP Category

May 10 - 1400z to May 11 - 0200z

Rules: <http://www.codxc.com/content/index.asp>

FISTS Spring Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category

May 10 - 1700z to 2100z

Rules: <http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>

CQM International DX Contest (CW/SSB/SSTV) ... QRP Category

May 10 - 2100z to May 11 - 2100z

Rules: <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/cqmidxc.htm>

CQWW WPX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

May 24 - 0000z to May 25 - 2400z

Rules: <http://home.woh.rr.com/wp/>

QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!

May 25 - 2000 to 2400 (Local Time)

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

Michigan QRP Memorial Day Sprint (CW) QRP Contest!

May 26 - 2300z to May 27 - 0300z

Rules: <http://www.qsl.net/miqrclub/>

Great Lakes QSO Party (Ph/CW/Digital) ... QRP Category

May 31 - 0000z to Jun 1 - 2400z

Rules: <http://www.mdxa1.org/laglqp.html>

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Ken Newman - N2CQ

N2CQ@ARRL.NET

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

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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 103.5 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.

Mt. Susitna repeater will be replaced with a permanent, fully integrated VHF/UHF dual/crossband system, including dual redundant hardware and backup control systems. The work is to be done during the summer of 2003 and was approved by the general membership at the April 2003 general meeting.

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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 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://www.KL7G.org/KL7AA/>

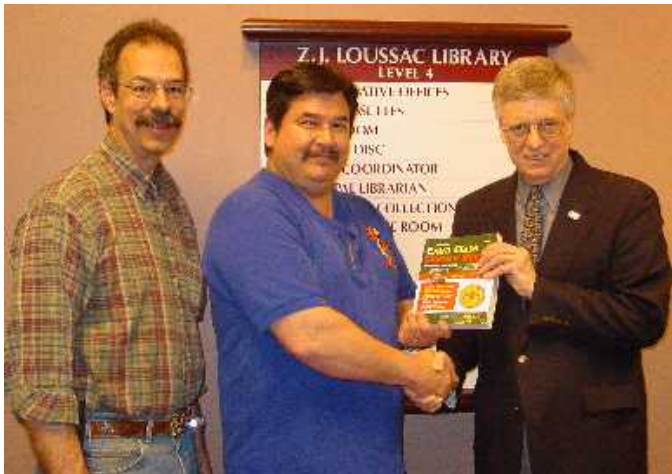
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If it's good enough for Carnegie, it's good enough for AARC! More action.

Carnegie built libraries throughout the country, and he put books on the shelves. Now it is our chance:

**AARC Presents Books to
Z. J. Loussac Public Library**



Steve Jensen, Secretary and Randy Vallee, President

On Friday March 21, AARC formally presented the Head Librarian, Art Weeks, with the ARRL Library set of books. Five sets of books were given to the Municipal Library system here in Anchorage. Art was very excited and pleased to receive such a gift from the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. He commented that the community would put these books to use.

As a child, Art was interested in Shortwave Listening (SWL) and used to listen to Radio Moscow. He was amazed at how the signal would make it here from Moscow. He is now wondering how the Internet has affected amateur radio. I briefly explained Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) and Satellite Radio to him. He was also amazed to hear about the lowering of the Morse Code requirements in amateur radio.

With any luck, we will pickup more amateurs from this book project.

Randy Vallee, KL7Z

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ALASKA SEC NEWS

Linda Mullen AD4BL SEC Alaska

There are some interesting things happening within the Section now as far as emergency communications are concerned.

The umbrella group VOAD [Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster] has reorganized in the state. There is also the national group that VOAD works under. This group combines a number of agencies that provide assistance of various kinds during an emergency. It includes the Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA, Adventist Community Services, Catholic Charities, ARRL, Food Bank, and a great many more. I am representing all of you on the Section level. I encourage you to participate in your local group. It meets quarterly. I have given the State VOAD coordinator a copy of our ARES Field Organization so she will be contacting you..

One really interesting idea that Greg Williams [Red Cross Disaster Services for Alaska] has come up with is to develop a Volunteer Staging area. The purpose of this is to have a central point where all the volunteers would report during an emergency so that resources and needs could be better assigned. Amateur Radio Emergency Services will be an important part of this for two reasons. Having operators at the Staging Area could assist with communications, connecting the area with the rest of the emergency system. The second reason – during an emergency amateur operators make themselves available – but not all are trained in how to operate during an emergency. The amateur operators would also report to the staging center to be assigned where ever radio operators are needed. Having worked a number of emergencies, I know that we will need some kind of screening for incoming amateurs. This Volunteer Staging Area is something that you should look into setting up in your areas.

We have a number of amateurs who are taking the ARRL Emergency Communications Course. The training standards we have set up for the Section are: ARRL ECC I, NTS training, and Incident Command System. These are the minimum requirements for all the Section staff and looking at this for all the ARES members. Some of the ARRL Sections are mandating this training as a requirement to be in ARES. This is something that I am looking into. Times have really changed since Sept 11 and the Homeland Security. As

emergency communications operators we must be trained. The time is past for the independent operator who just appears when there is an emergency.. Most of the officials won't work with untrained operators. There are a lot of changes coming in the way we operate as emergency communicators, many of them you are not going to like.

I am including a list of those who have taken the courses. If anyone knows of someone who is not on the list, please let me know.

We are coming into the fire season in Alaska and we may be called on to assist as emergency communicators. Check out your ready kits and your skills as a communicator. I know how busy everyone is during the summer but take the time to take the training. You can do it online at your convenience. You won't regret spending the time and increasing your communications skills.

Linda Mullen AD4BL SEC Alaska

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications CLASS COMPLETION

<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec001>

LEVEL I

Lake Trump AL7N NM ACWN
Jim Vassant AL7G EC Cordova
Phil Mannie KL0QW NM Anchorage ARES Net
Linda Mullen AD4BL SEC
Charles Armstrong KL7PB EC Kenai Borough
Frank Henrikson KL0SW DEC Kenai Borough
Nick Meecher N3WWE EC Juneau
Leonard Betts KL7LB Wasilla
William Nelson KL7RHY AEC Kenai Borough
Matt Holmes WL7LX Petersburg
Robert Rountree KL1BS EC Valdez

LEVEL II

Phil Mannie KL0QW NM Anchorage ARES Net
Linda Mullen AD4BL SEC
Frank Henrikson KL0SW DEC Kenai
Nick Meecher N3WWE EC Juneau
Robert Rountree KL1BS EC Valdez

LEVEL III

Phil Mannie KL0QW NM Anchorage ARES Net
Linda Mullen AD4BL SEC
Frank Henrikson KL0SW DEC Kenai

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Wisely Find What you Need - Google

<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 or even try my callsign of **AL7FS**.

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Technical Committee

Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX

The VHF committee would like interested amateurs (and family members) who would like to help once in awhile on VHF or UHF projects to please contact Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX, by E-mail so that a roster can be kept of those people interested, a contact point, and their areas of interest. I would like to know what background in electronics, electricity, construction, homebrewing, etc., you have. If you don't have any specific experience, that is ok too. Every so often we need help pulling cable, or acting as safety spotters for those working overhead.

I can be reached at kl7ikx@arrl.net When I get a list put together I'll distribute it to all the others on the list so everyone is on the same page.

All the club data and voice repeaters that I'm responsible for are working as they should. I hope to upgrade the power supply on the HF gateway this spring, as soon as the trail to the site becomes passable by a vehicle.

73 Doug KL7IKX

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New Addition to the CCV

The Club's Command and Control Vehicle (CCV) was recently outfitted with some much needed shelving thanks to the efforts of AL0U Art and AL7J Kyle. The shelves are very stout - built with 2" aluminum angle from KL7CC's shop and fiberboard. The shelves span the driver side and rear walls just above the windows in the radio room. The 2" angle provides a sturdy "lip" so that loose items can't fall off. The underside of the shelves provide space to mount the VHF/UHF transceivers and other paraphernalia currently taking up space on the operating table.

Volunteers Needed

The next CCV project is to mount the two ACOM amplifiers, which are currently sitting on the floor, in the coat closet on the passenger side of the CCV. We need volunteers who are comfortable with building an equipment rack, routing electrical wiring and some general carpentry. Anyone interested should call Kyle AL7J at 748-1675 or email to sandelkw@bp.com <<mailto:sandelkw@bp.com>> .

Kyle Sandel, AL7J

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Great QRP web pages

<http://www.njqrp.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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Originating Third Party Message Traffic

Getting down to the nitty-gritty of actually doing it.

Special care is required when preparing written third party message traffic for transmission over the amateur NTS traffic networks. What is third party traffic?

The generally accepted definition is "short written noncommercial messages between people who are not amateur radio operators".

The objective of NTS is to cause these written messages to transit the NTS system, word for word, character for character, and be able to be handled without alteration via any of the common modes of transmission currently in use such as CW, SSB, VHF-FM, Packet or PACTOR. It is desired to reproduce the message at the far end of the system exactly as it was initially sent, regardless of mode transition enroute.

The main source for any volume of such traffic is usually either of two occurrences.

1. An unplanned event, which forces people to use the Amateur NTS traffic networks due to failure or overload of normal regular commercial facilities or,
2. A planned event, such as a convention, fair or other public gathering which encourages use of the amateur traffic networks more or less as a novelty.

In either case, the average person will need help in composing their messages so they can be properly and expeditiously handled by the NTS network operators. This will be especially so with Health & Welfare traffic coming from disaster shelters in times of emergency.

If any large volume of third party traffic is expected, the radio operator proper must be assisted by another person or persons ("public counter" assistants) who can take care of preparing the messages for transmission. The operator will have his or her hands full just working the radio. The people detailed as counter assistants must be trained and familiar with this kind of message work, but they need not be licensed radio operators.

There are several things that must be considered when taking in message traffic from the general public:

1. The average sender has no idea about putting his message into the standard format which we require to be used, in order for the generated traffic to be capable of being properly relayed through the system. They will need assistance.
2. The word count of the message text must be kept under control to avoid network overloading. Improper or illegal content or symbols that cannot be transmitted must be kept out of the text. The message must be composed so as to convey the desired meaning without unnecessary wordage, and to minimize the possibility of being misunderstood by the recipient.
3. Addressing must be properly done in order for the message to be delivered at its ultimate destination.
 - a) All messages must be sent to a person or organization by name.
 - b) The address must also contain a physical location where the addressee can be found in order to deliver the message. Street number and name, Rural delivery route, post office box, hotel/motel name and room (if known) are common ways of providing this information.
 - c) The address must also contain the destination City, State or Province, Country if not in USA or Canada, and postal code, if known.
 - d) If at all possible, the address should include a full ten digit telephone number NPA-NXX-NNNN, which will greatly aid expeditious message delivery.
4. The sender only needs to furnish the address, text and signature of the message. Normally, messages should be written either by the sender him/herself or the operator's "public counter" assistant for the sender, on plain half sheets of paper 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches in size. This is plenty large for the average 25 word message, and will help discourage excessive wordiness in message texts. Pre-printed blanks are not necessary for messages being sent and represent an unnecessary expense and logistic problem.
5. Messages must be signed properly with a name so the recipient will know who sent it. The sender should also furnish local contact information so they can be reached if there is an answer to their message or if some problem occurs with delivering it. This information should be written on the back of the message blank for future reference if needed.

Appropriate message numbering, precedence, handling codes, Station of Origin's callsign, check, originating point, filing

time (if used) and date must then be properly appended as a preamble in order to route the message correctly through the NTS system from origin to destination. The entire message should then be carefully checked over in regard to legibility and completeness at this time. These tasks are best left to the counter assistant who is trained and knows how to do them.

At this point the message is ready to be handed to the radio operator for transmission. The written message copy is now the "document of record" for the message, and after the radio operator notes on it the time sent, frequency, and the callsign of the station it was sent to, it should be filed in the Originating Station's "Sent" file. The FCC no longer requires copies of amateur messages to be retained, but it is a good idea to keep them on file for at least a year anyway, "just in case".

Only by careful attention to all these details will good service be provided for the public. Messages that are properly originated have a much better chance of making it through the NTS system to destination than those which are not.

Ed Trump, AL7N

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**MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
(MARA) newsletter April 2003**



"March came in like a Lion"

The morning of March 13th brought ever increasing wind velocities, with significant gust duration, to our already hurting Valley. With near zero F temperature conditions we had been barely surviving for almost a week at that point. Wind chill factors were reaching -70 deg F. During a brief late-morning 2 meter qso with Ken Slauson, KL7VE, I was informed that our Borough's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) had been activated, and was being relocated to Fire Station 61, located on Lucille, in Wasilla. With that information, and after a brief chat with the local American Red Cross (ARC) office, a series of calls were made to Matanuska Amateur Radio Association (MARA) Club members that I believed would be able to help with an initial response.

The first responder was John Strange, KL1CL, who could provide the necessary vital radio and power supply to set up the EOC operating location. A fixed antenna and coax had previously been set up there. Next Jim Moody, NL7C, and Rod Reese, KL0FZ, volunteered to man the EOC. Jay Phillips,

KL1IJ, and Dan O'Barr, KL7DR, came forward and went to set up, and operate from, The ARC office in Wasilla. Myself and Kurt Jansson, KC7LGM, set up a station at the recently opened shelter, operating from Wasilla High School (WHS). Soon traffic for health and welfare, as well as a few priority message items, began to flow between the operating locations. It soon became obvious that an "outside relay station" would be needed to relay some incoming damage traffic between the three operating locations, as we were operating on simplex 146.430 MHz. Mike Sanders, KL1HO, quickly volunteered to fill that vital need, passing weak-signal traffic to the various operating locations.

As the day wore on it became obvious that the need for the shelter was increasing, as people's homes without power were freezing up, and that this storm could last for a while. I sent out the call for a second shift of operators to ready themselves to come on duty at midnight. Tim Comfort, NL7SK, performed a great job of recruiting a next shift. Tim, and Ted Walden, KL1HY, later assumed the duties at the WHS shelter. Wayne Groomer, KL7HHO, volunteered to become the outside radio relay link for the night crew! Day two, March 14th, again saw Jim Moody manning the EOC, being joined there by Jay Phillips. David Wilke, AL7LH, later volunteered to help further with increased traffic handling operations! The ARC office operating location, for day two, was ably held down by Charlie and Jan Elliott; AL7MR and KL0VH. Kurt Jansson, and I, were again at the WHS shelter, and Mike Sanders acted as our outside relay. As the afternoon moved on the winds began to subside. Later, preparations were made to curtail, and later, terminate the EOC and ARC operations. Even though the shelter would remain open for a further 18 hours it became apparent that the WHS shelter operation would soon become a stand-alone operation. The decision was made to also shut down that operation, too.

We had risen to the task, not defeating nature's fury, but by ably coping with it! I am so very proud of the selfless response of the above named MARA Club members. That they would leave their families and warm homes to reach out and help our community in its time of need speaks of their character and their professionalism as a Ham. I salute you, and am grateful to call you my Friends!

Len Betts, KL7LB, President MARA

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The MARA Club did a great job for the Matanuska Valley residents and the local emergency authorities. Well done, MARA, well done. AL7FS

KL7AA Website Change

The KL7AA website has moved to a new server. We are temporarily at the new address of <http://www.KL7AA.org/>

Many thanks to John Lawson, NL7NC for the years of hosting the KL7AA website. Thank you, John.

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