

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://www.KL7G.org/KL7AA>

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

EARS <http://www.qsl.net/kl7air>

MARA 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.

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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 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 weekend 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

1st 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.

1st 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.

1st 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.

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

2nd 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

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

3rd Tuesday each month: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM at Hope Cottage 540 W. International. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

3rd 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.

3rd Saturday each month (varies): ARES General meeting 9:30AM to 12:00 PM. Call Dick Block at 277-7260 to confirm actual meeting. Also check for ARES Info at: <http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/>

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.

Who Do I Contact to Join AARC?

Fred Erickson KL7FE - frederickson@iname.com

Phone number: 345-2181



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

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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 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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Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting

(Unapproved)
Meeting, May 20, 2003

The AARC Board met Tuesday, May 20, 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, Secretary Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Treasurer Steve Jensen, KL0VZ and Trustee Jim Feaster, KL7KB. Also in attendance were Directors Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Sue Hilton, NL7AV, Judi Ramage, WL7DX, David Stevens, KL7EB and Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG. VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC and Bob Baker, NL7UH were also present.

Minutes from the April 15 Board meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Steve Jensen submitted a written report. Lil Marvin requested an explanation of the expense category "Maintenance/Storage-Marvin"; Steve will investigate and report his findings. He is still uncertain of the proper accounts for certain telephone bills. He went on to mention that we have received a copy of the Boniface Bingo tax return.

Gaming Committee Report

There was no formal report from the Gaming Committee. Things appear to be fine.

VHF Committee Report

There was no formal report from the committee. The VHF repeater system appears to be functioning well.

VEC Report

There was no formal VEC report.

ARES Report

There was no formal ARES report.

HAMfest

Mike Romanello, KL7BK, will be unable to coordinate this year's HAMfest. Judy Ramage volunteered to assist in event coordination. Event date is September 14.

Old Business

The kl7aa.org web site is operational. Corliss Kimmel, AL1G, maintains the site.

Field Day is June 28-29, 2003. The Club is still seeking a volunteer to coordinate the event.

Jim Feaster, KL7KB, offered a draft policy for the disposal of excess Club equipment. The draft is to be emailed to Board members for review and comment.

Jim Wiley reports that he has not yet received bids from vendors for the Susitna repeater project. Since we must get the equipment in place no later than August, it may become necessary to abandon the bid process and simply select a supplier. He also reports that John Lynn, KL7CY, will initiate an intermod study for the UHF channel.

New Business

Jim Feaster requested clarification on ownership and responsibility for Club tools. This acquisition was authorized at the May 2, 2003 General Meeting. Randy Vallee explained that they would be Club property stored, for the present, in the CCV garage. Randy went on to mention that the Club Vice President is currently responsible for maintaining the inventory of Club assets. At some future time we may need to appoint an individual to manage the tools.

Randy Vallee reports that the Real Estate Committee has been researching potential sites for a Clubhouse. Several Board members have inspected the 121st Street property and found it worthy of closer investigation. Discussion followed.

Randy Vallee requested that information pertaining to the Club's acquisition of property in general and to the 121st Street property in particular should be collected in such a way as to be ready to present to the membership at the June 6, 2003 General Meeting.

Jim Feaster moved that the Board retain competent legal counsel to provide advice on amending the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure. The motion carried with Lil Marvin and David Stevens opposed.

Randy Vallee reported that he had been contacted by Craig Harpel of the Anchorage Historical Preservation Society to ascertain the Club's interest in potentially occupying one of the Alascom Teletype Maintenance buildings on Government Hill. One of these buildings appears suitable for a Club meeting space and office. Known problems with this site include a jet fuel pipeline leak that may render the property unfit for occupancy. Other potential problems may include storage for the CCV, access during earthquakes and the proximity of other RF transmission facilities. Jim Feaster suggested that this opportunity be investigated as well as the 121st Street site.

Jim Wiley reported that most of the parts for the Girl Scout Encampment code oscillators had been acquired and that MARA had agreed to assemble the kits. The project is on schedule.

Jimmy Tvrdy reported that the annual QCWA Picnic is scheduled for June 7, 2003 at 11:30 AM.

Steve Jensen reported briefly on the Gold Nugget Women's Triathlon.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Philip Mannie, KLOQW, Secretary.

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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:

	Apr 2003	Past 12 Mths
Sessions	6	58
Number Tested	25	264
Licenses Granted (new or upgrades)	12	116
Upgrade Rate	48%	44%
Passed Elements	20	155
Failed Elements	17	155
Element Pass Rate	54%	50%

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NEW AARC Web Address:

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

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

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Walk For Hope Lessons Learned

May 3, 2003

Draft by John Lynn, KL7CY, on May 4, 2003

The 2003 Anchorage Walk for Hope was a success from a communications point of view. Sadly, there was a very low turn out of walkers, presumably due to competing events, which was a big disappointment to the organizers. The weather was glorious and everyone enjoyed getting some sun. There were a total of 15 HAMs involved in this event. We tried some new things and they all worked well:

We had two people assigned as net control and so whenever any station called, they always received a prompt answer. The net was conducted on the 147.300 repeater. There were 4 checkpoints on the walking trail and 2 on the bike trail, plus 3 busses performing sag wagon duty.

We used a separate simplex frequency for the shadow for the organizer, which focused the interaction with the organizer as well as kept the discussion off the repeater. We also tried putting an FRS radio on the organizer. It did not receive any use, since the organizer was well served by her cellular phone and the shadow.

We cooperated with the West Side Community Patrol, who provided the sweeps for the walking trail. They used their own trunked radios. KL7RLB was able to get a compatible radio to install in the CCV where the ARES net controls were located. The second net control was able to focus on coordinating with the WSCP and the shadow.

We also supported the medical team, who did not have any significant communications. They were pleased to have the ARES support. Things went smoothly, with them focusing on medical tasks, and ARES providing message handling.

We had expected REACT to also be involved, but their GMRS repeater was down. Chuck, the lead for REACT is also a HAM, WL7DZ and he covered the Hope Cottage headquarters using the HAM repeater.

Early in the morning, there was a checkpoint captain who was not able to get to his checkpoint at Kincaid Park due to a locked gate. Since he was a HAM, he made a call on the repeater. KL7TS, the HAM that was assigned to that checkpoint, picked up the call and made a phone call to get it unlocked before departing for the checkpoint.

We had one incident of a lost pair of children and frantic mother. KL7KO handled the incident very smoothly by asking for detailed descriptions and notifying each checkpoint to watch for these children. Happily they were found in short order. The mother of one of the pair of children, who stood by the HAM as KL7KO requested, rather than running from checkpoint to checkpoint, was very grateful for the prompt and well managed response.

Our one failure was a result of trying to second-guess the race organizer about hauling out checkpoints after they were

closed, rather than asking about each one. We were reminded by this incident that we are only the communicators and not the decision-makers.

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N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

June 2003

Summer FOX Hunt - Sunday June 1 through Sun. August 10.

Sunday July 6,- BYE weekend.

2200-2330Z late Sunday afternoon.

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

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

Jun 3 - 0100z to 0300z (Monday evening US/Canada)

Rules:

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

QRP TACTical Contest (CW) ... QRP Contest!

Jun 7 - 1800z to 2400z

Rules: <http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/TAC-Contest.htm>

SP QRP Contest (CW) ... QRP Contest!

Jun 28 - 1200z to Jun 29 - 1200z

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

QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day (ALL)... QRP Contest!

Jun 28 - 1800z to Jun 29 - 2100z

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

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Ken Newman - N2CQ

N2CQ@ARRL.NET

Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV Comments on WPX QRP

Had a great time with my Elecraft K2 #3263 in the WPX contest. Only spent a few hours and conditions were mediocre at best up here in KL7, but managed **16 countries and 5 continents**. Nothing to brag about, but lots of fun. Worked 20 meters, ran at 5 watts using a dipole and a G5RV (with external tuner). Wanted to get a feel for how this rig would perform in a contest melee, but given condx it wasn't a fair test. However, I was most impressed with being able to operate about 2 Khz away from a local big gun and not even know he was there. No wonder everyone raves about the receiver!

Only comment is that I really have to watch the power output on the external wattmeter - a 3 watt setting on the K2 gives 5 watts on the G5, and a 7 watt setting produces 5 watts on the dipole - but given the discussion of this characteristic on the reflector, I expected this to happen and adjusted accordingly. And I do get the correct power indications on a dummy load. So on this point, thanks to everyone who has commented on it on the reflector.

This is a fine rig, and I enjoy it. Thanks to all who helped during its construction and testing! See you, Lynn

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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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Volunteers Needed – (Still)

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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ALASKA SEC NEWS

Linda Mullen AD4BL SEC Alaska

Greetings to everyone in the Anchorage area from Fairbanks. May 15th, the Anchorage ARES net was run on Echolink and RF. It was an outstanding success. Stations from Juneau to Fairbanks and points in between were able to check into the net either thru the Echolink Internet sites or using RF and going thru a node. I applaud those who worked so hard to make that happen. My hope is that it will continue to happen on a regular basis. We could even start a Section ARES net utilizing Echolink.

This would be a good means to give statewide coverage but might be iffy during a real emergency due to phone and internet outages that happen during emergencies.

Congratulations to Len Betts **KL7LB** , Jim Larsen **AL7FS**, and Dave Wilke **AL7LH** for completing Level 1 of the ARRL

Emergency Communications Course. You can still take the course under the Homeland Security Grant. The grant covers all 3 levels of the course. Level 1 is one of the training requirements for ARES members in Alaska. The other two requirements are proficiency in NTS and knowledge of the ICS . We have a number of trained NTS operators who will be glad to share their knowledge and train operators in NTS. You can take the ICS course thru the FEMA website and there is no charge.

We have other amateurs who are in progress in taking the ARRL ECC courses and I will report on them as they complete the work.

Every month I send the Section ARES report to ARRL, the SM, and the ARES staff in the Section. If your District is not being reported, contact your EC/DEC.

As the Section Traffic Manager, I also send in a monthly Section Traffic report. I really appreciate all the Net Managers who faithfully send in their reports. The report goes to ARRL, the SM, and all the Section Net Managers. This report is very important as it eventually goes to the FCC and helps us keep our bands and frequencies.

I wish each of you a wonderful summer

Linda AD4BL
Alaska SEC/STM

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Google your way to success...

<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**. There were over 1,100 "hits" for items referring to my callsign.

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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.

Rick, KL7YF, and I have traveled to the 146.94/224.94/444.7 site for some spring maintenance, and to do a OSHA required RF site survey. There is NO grandfathering to amateurs as far as OSHA is concerned. The only exception to not having to comply with RF exposure rules applies to handheld and mobile operation, but NOT base stations, or Repeaters including mobile and packet types.

Our shop has recently acquired a pair of personal RF sensors to be used to determine if the tech's are entering too high a RF field. Multiple sites such as the 94 site, the 90/30 site and the Susitna site require a close RF exposure survey, with OSHA mandated reduction in power, change of antenna etc to make sure the 'public' is not over exposed to RF radiation. If a repeater or remote base station supplies 5% or more of the overall RF on a shared site they are responsible under OSHA rules to help keep the site SAFE for the 'public'. Just back from a training session on the OSHA rules, and it's disconcerting to find out that the FCC takes second place to exposure with OSHA on the lead. Most OSHA inspectors know next to nothing about RF yet they are the ones that will enforce any action.

Amateurs need to be sure they have done their 'site' survey of their stations to make sure that excess RF doesn't 'bleed' across the fence line and into the neighbors home.

73 Doug KL7IKX and Rick KL7YF

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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 AARC newsletters at <http://www.KL7AA.org/>

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LINKS

<http://www.njqrp.org/data/links.html> - **Super QRP Links**

<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>

<http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/>
ARES Alaska – the current information

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Ham Gear for Sale

Icom IC-PCR 1000, computer controlled receiver \$190
near new cond. With cable, power supply, manual & software

Pryme/ADI AT-600 Dual band Handheld \$195
Good cond. with 2ea 12v 600ma batt packs, Drop in charger,
Wall charger, AA batt pack, 12 VDC power cord

Kantronics KPC-3 Packet TNC \$75
Ver 8.2 Firmware, APRS Ready W/ cables & manuals

MFJ-259 HF/VHF SWR Analyzer \$149
W/ Manual, Case

Alinco DR-1200 2 meter radio \$75
Has tone encoder, no microphone W/power cable & manual

Call Simon, NL7VR at 561-0340

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Third Party Message Relaying

The stated objectives of the ARRL National Traffic System are stated in the Public Service Methods and Procedures Guidelines:

"OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of these methods and protocols is to facilitate transmission of a properly formatted written formal message from point A to point B such that it arrives exactly as written on the original copy, group for group, character for character, space for space. Messages filed in the NTS must be capable of being transmitted by any mode without message alteration being required. Voice and CW nets must be run with methods and protocols to operate effectively and uniformly so that message traffic may be exchanged with efficiency. Stations operating in the NTS have the responsibility to promptly relay messages along, deliver messages in a timely fashion, or service undeliverable messages back to the originator. Stations must honor this responsibility. Stations operating in the NTS interface directly with the public and served agencies representing all of Amateur Radio. Stations must represent us all well.

The methods and protocols of the NTS MPG are intended to facilitate achieving these objectives. "

Recent observations indicate these objectives are not being met at any acceptable level in the National Traffic System today. There is sufficient evidence that many problems exist in the relaying process from station-to-station, net-to-net, and area-to-area across the country. The problems are not related to the use of any of the current modes or methods used in relaying third party messages. The newer digital modes appear to have problems as well as the more traditional CW and SSB or VHF-FM voice modes.

Perhaps part of the problem stems from lack of training or some other lack of understanding among many of the newer amateurs on the air today. Those who engage in third party written message handling in the Amateur Service need to understand that a certain amount of commitment is required whether it is done for the enjoyment of it or as a part of emergency preparedness planning and training. There is an indication that the shortcomings have been recognized by the ARRL as is evidenced by the recent emphasis on the ARECC training that is now being offered.

Some of the problems that have been noted in the NTS relaying processes are as follows:

1. Altered texts. The message text does not arrive at destination exactly as it was sent at origination. It appears the message "content" is being relayed, rather than exactly what was to be sent in some instances. Omissions in Preambles, Addresses, Text and Signatures are known to occur.
2. Additions of "Handling Extra" codes to message preamble during relaying, Changed points of origin, "additions" (such as telephone numbers) to address information, parts of addresses deleted enroute during relaying.
3. Some names and unusual words are relayed inaccurately.
4. Message check does not agree with number of words/groups in text.

Some of these problems could be due to carelessness or lack of attention to detail during relay work; some could be due to lack of training. Message handling information certainly is not hard to find. There are numerous publications by ARRL and many others available that adequately describe how to do the work.

There seem to be instances where messages are copied and relayed on without any proper verification that what was transmitted was actually correctly received. Misuse of the correct way of "signing" for a message correctly and completely received appears to be a factor. Apparently, the word "ROGER" on voice mode, or "QSL" and "R" on CW is being used when in fact the message has not been properly and completely received and copied down. Perhaps not enough emphasis is being placed on the need to stop the sending operator and get repeats, verification or "fills" before completing the relay work.

Voice modes have unique relaying problems that do not exist in the CW or digital modes where character-by character or file transfer is used. Because of this fact, considerable extra care must be taken to ensure sufficient accuracy is maintained. Unfortunately, the English language has many words that sound the same but are spelled differently and/or have different meanings. Some names are troublesome. (Examples: "Cathy" vs. "Kathy" or "Sara" vs. "Sarah", "Four" vs. "For" etc.). SSB and sometimes VHF-FM can distort the sound of certain words enough to cause them to be copied incorrectly. (Example: "Fifty" vs. "Sixty" etc).

Plural versus Singular can be easily misunderstood. (Example: "Meeting" vs. "Meetings" or "Slide" vs. "Slides" etc.). Some state abbreviations can be miscopied or misused: (Example: "MA" is sometimes relayed as "Maine"; "PA" becomes "W VA" etc.) All operators need to learn the standard accepted abbreviations for all 50 states and use them. Careful message origination can reduce the potential for transmission errors but that is beyond the control of relay operators. They must relay accurately what they receive no matter how strong the temptation is to "correct" perceived errors. Message texts must be protected from alteration at all costs. This is one place where little things DO matter.

If the message text is already messed up, don't make things worse by trying to "fix" it without proper verification from the operator who sent it to you, or better yet from the originating station if possible.

Proper use of phonetics can aid message relaying in voice modes. However, care must be taken to use the standard ITU phonetic code words, not some cute variation that you dreamed up. The meaning might be different to the receiving operator. Learn and use the standard ITU Phonetic Code, always.

Some messages that you relay may not make sense to you. Resist the urge to "edit" or "change" a message text in any way. Whatever it is the message conveys may make perfect sense to the sender and recipient. As a relay operator, your only job is to see that it gets through unaltered and intact. Remember: word-for-word, group-for-group, and character-for-character. That, and only that is your objective. If some problem prevents prompt relaying beyond your station for an unacceptable period of time, service the originating station and request instructions...you might be requested to continue to attempt relay, or cancel the message. However, NEVER throw a message away without direct permission to do so from the sender. Either relay it or service it. NEVER add "Handling Extra" codes in message preambles.

If using a "canned" message form in you computer to handle messages digitally, make sure this is not happening to messages that do not carry "HX" codes from origination. Adding (or subtracting) "HX" codes is NOT optional with relaying stations. Never "add" information (such as telephone numbers) to message addresses. The recipient may no longer be using the number in the listing(s) you have access to. Relay only what the sender puts on the message. Delivering stations may need to look up numbers during the delivery process attempts, but NEVER-EVER "add" anything to a message when you are relaying it.

Never "shorten" or omit items in a message address. Pass it on exactly as you receive it, even if the addressee is known to you. There could be some need for all that information in the actual delivery process, which you as a relaying operator may be unaware of.

Keep accurate records of your message relaying work. File the copies of all messages you handle with proper servicing

information recorded on them. Information such as date/time/frequency/callsign of station received from, and date/time/frequency/callsign of station sent to should be written on the message copy. Then you will be able to properly respond to any inquiry as to your disposition of any message that you handle, should the occasion arise. Note particularly if the message carries an "HXD" handling extra code and respond promptly with the appropriate service message to the originating station. It is a good idea to keep copies of all messages handled through your station on file for a year, "just in case".

Diligence and great care in relaying third party written messages is required of all participants in the National Traffic System. If due regard is not paid to this requirement, all the effort of the other amateurs involved in the process is diminished or wasted. Be a helpful part of the process, instead of part of the problem. **Relay properly with accuracy and timeliness!**

Ed Trump AL7N

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Alaska Section News
David Stevens, KL7EB

HAMFEST. Sea Pac the Pacific Northwest ARRL convention is June 13, 14, 15 in Seaside Oregon. ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie N3KN will be there. September 13, 2003 in Fairbanks Arctic Amateur Radio Club is having their Hamfest with a guest speaker of Ed Hare W1RFI (Mr Technical advisor for ARRL.) Then On Sunday September 14 Anchorage Amateur Radio Club will be having their Hamfest where Ed Hare W1RFI will also attend. Be sure and have an eyeball QSO with your favorite hams at the Hamfest. 2000 Sunday KL7KC repeater, Anchorage ARES net 147.27 Thursday 2000, Snipers Net 3920 at 1800, Bush Net 7093 at 2000, Motley Group 3933 at 2100, and Alaska Pacific Net M-F 14.292 at 0830

PSHR (Public Service Honor Roll) gives 10 points for up to three ARRL section positions and one point for each message (traffic) that is handled. Example S (sent), A (originated or delivered), and R (received), and 5 points per hour of public service. <http://www.arrl.org/FandED/field/psshr/>

PSHR KL5T March 1/40 2/40 3/20 6/10 Total 110
SAR KL5T March Orig/29 Rec/42 Sent/57 Del/12 total 140
SAR AL7N March Orig/19 Rec/56 Sent/63 Del/12 total 150
PSHR AL7N March 1/33 2/40 3/20 total 93
SAR AD4BL March Sent 26 rec 33 total 59
PSHR AD4BL March 1/4 2/40 3/30 4/120 Total 194

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A MARA News Update

Our upcoming Club meeting, scheduled for 5/30, holds a much higher degree of importance than usual. This meeting will begin at 7pm (as opposed to the usual 7:30pm start time) because this will be "a working meeting." This means that while the usual business and presentation (amateur fast-scan television) portions of the meeting are taking place you the members will be placing the necessary pieces-parts into zip lock bags, that will then make up the 200 kits for practice Morse code keyers. These kits will then be used by the attendees to the 2003 Alaska State Girl Scout encampment as a handicraft project. (AARC provided the parts for this project and Jim Wiley, KL7CC, accumulated the parts to pass on to MARA. ed.)

The encampment is scheduled for June 13th and 14th. As we supported the event two years ago, with rave reviews I might add as to our participation. de Woody, KL0TS

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KL7AA Website Change

The KL7AA website has moved to a new server.

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

American Red Cross Reports

Greetings from the American Red Cross. Thanks to KL7FZ (Stephen Tolley) the 47 MHz base station radio is now back on line. Stephen is the one responsible for providing the American Red Cross with another GE Master II radio. He pulled the eprom out of the old GE Master II which had a bad Crystal Frequency Oscillator and put it in another GE Master II that benched checked OK. He also was responsible for checking out the 47 MHz radio in the American Red Cross's Emergency Response Vehicle.

The final remaining project is to complete the installation of the beam antenna at the **American Red Cross headquarters**. Thanks to KL7EB (David Stevens) and KL7SP (Heather Hasper) the beam has been installed on top of the tower. What needs to be accomplished to finish this job is the installation of the rotor plate on the tower, attaching the rotor assembly between the rotor plate and the antenna mast, and stringing the coax and rotor cable from the tower to the radio and rotor control box.

There are still a few items that need to be acquired. A tuner for the beam antenna and the rotor cable to connect the rotor to the rotor control before this job can be completed. The stringing of the coaxial and rotor cables will require someone with special tools and experience in running cables through fire walls within a commercial building.

If anyone wishes to help with this project please contact me at my home phone (243-4675) or you can reach me on my pager (231-3984). Just leave me a number where I can contact you and I'll call you as soon as I can.

As most of you know the lower 48 has been hammered with tornado's recently. Both ARES and RACES has stepped up to the challenges of helping the American Red Cross with their communications needs. The ultimate purpose of this HF beam antenna is so that in case of a national disaster the ARC HQ can communicate with both it's sister agencies here in Alaska and in the lower 48. Any assistance that you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Michael O'Keefe KL7MD

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The **Soldotna office** of the American Red Cross Alaska Chapter is now Radio operational. Two VHF Vertex 2011 Radios were installed with a vertical antenna to provide communications as needed during Disaster Operations. The 24 channel radios were programmed with the RED CROSS nationwide frequency on Channel 1 and other local ARES and Amateur Frequencies on the other channels. Several local Law Enforcement and Fire Departments are also programmed into these radios for emergency operations and communications.

Thanks goes to Mike O'Keefe KL7MD from Civil Air Patrol for donating the radios, Victor Hett from CAP for helping install the antenna and RAVEN ELECTRIC for donating the cable to program the radios and helping with obtaining the antennas.

Any questions about the RED CROSS Communications can be sent to Heather Hasper: KL7SP, 747sp@arctic.net or Michael O'Keefe, KL7MD who can be reached at: michaelokeefe@gci.net

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The Anderson Powerpole: A Statewide Standard??

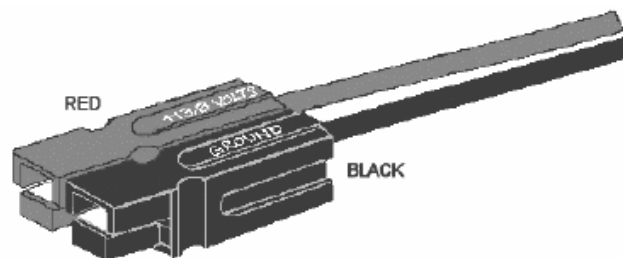
Has the time has come to declare the Anderson Powerpole as a statewide standard for all ARES/RACES groups. The advantages are overwhelming. Clearly, someone has built a better mousetrap. Soldered or crimped – your choice. Either will work with the connectors as manufactured. Current capability is 15 or 30 amps. Durable polycarbonate plastic housings that are color coded (red/black) make it difficult to plug the wrong wires together. Stainless steel contacts ensure corrosion-free matings. The design is genderless (a connector on one wire is exactly the same as the connector on the other wire that it plugs into). There are even clamp receptacles that

permit panel mounting. You can mate a black and a red plug side-by-side to make a single, two-wire connector. You can even do a side-by-side and topbottom arrangement to mate four wires. In other words, you can build your own 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or even more monolithic plug and socket combination. Or, you can leave them free.

All ARES/RACES units might be encouraged to begin switching over to the Powerpole connectors for all 12v DC supplied rigs. Typically, you will need four connectors for a rig – two blacks and two reds. Cut the 12v DC supply lines and insert two black connectors on the black wire, and two reds on the red wire. Be sure to make the cut after the fuse, so the fuse cannot be disconnected from the rig. When finished, your rig will mate with any 12v DC supply using the same connectors.

One caution. If you mate the connectors side-by-side, do it according to the diagram below. Facing the contact side head-on (opposite the wire side), metal tongues go down, red on the left and black on the right. Start switching over!

(Reprinted from The Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator Newsletter)



Here are the Anderson part numbers:

- 15 amp #1395 (red) #1395G1 (black)
- 30 amp #1330 (red) #1330G4 (black)

The connectors can also be panel mounted with clamp receptacles, consisting of two aluminum plates (Anderson part #1462G1), notched to hold the plastic housings when they are dovetailed together. For more information and to see the illustrations in color, navigate to the Anderson Power Products web site at: <http://www.andersonpower.com/>.

Also, there is more detail in the Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator Newsletter at

<http://www.wi-aresraces.org/newsletters/wiec0107.pdf>

A nice feature is that, unlike the old RS 274-222 (Molex) connectors, the Powerpole connector halves are genderless.

One source for the power poles is <http://www.powerwerx.com/>

You can use Google.com to search for more sites.



ARES SUGGESTED PERSONAL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

This recommended list includes many of the items an operator may need to have when deployed for an emergency or public service event. This is only a recommendation. The operator must take whatever is appropriate for their assignment.

1. Identification

- ARES Identification Card,
- ARES Vest
- HAM callsign hat
- FCC Amateur Radio License
- Signs for vehicle (magnetic)

2. Equipment

- Radio(s)
- Radio manuals in zip lock bags
- Microphone(s)
- Headphone(s)
- Power Supply / Charger
- Extra Battery(s) and Cable(s)
- Antenna(s) w/Mount(s).
- Spare Fuses
- Coax Jumper & Adapters
- Extra Coax.
- GPS
- SWR Bridge(s), HF, VHF, UHF

3. Writing Gear.

- Pen(s), Pencil(s), Paper.
- Clipboard, plastic.
- Message Forms.
- Log Book.
- Note Paper.

4. Personal Gear. (for 5 hrs)

- Hat, coat, gloves, boots
- Bug dope
- Sun tan lotion SPF 45
- Snacks.
- Water. (Liquid refreshments)
- Throat Lozenges.
- Personal Prescription(s).
- Aspirin
- Extra Prescription Glasses
- Headlamp / Flashlight w/batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Toilet Paper
- Plastic bags

5. Personal Gear (for 72 hrs)

- Everything in 5 hr list
- Sleeping bag, pad, blanket.
- Cooler w/72 Hr supply food
- Mess Kit, Eating Utensils
- Toilet Articles
- Mechanical Alarm Clock
- Lantern
- Waterproof Matches
- Candles
- Folding camp chair
- 5 gallon bucket
- 8 x 10 tarp or space blanket
- twine, 50 or 100 feet

6. Tool Box (72 hour duration)

- Leatherman
- Slip Joint Pliers
- Screwdrivers, Standard & Phillips
- Pliers, lineman & long nose
- Crescent Wrench & sockets
- Crowbar
- Insulating tape
- Duct tape
- 12/120v Soldering Iron
- Solder
- Volt-Ohm Meter
- Extension Cord / Outlet Strip

7. Other (72 Hour Duration)

- Hatchet or Axe
- Saw
- Pick
- Shovel
- Jumper Cables
- Highway Flares
- Extra Gas & Oil
- Siphon hose
- Bung wrench

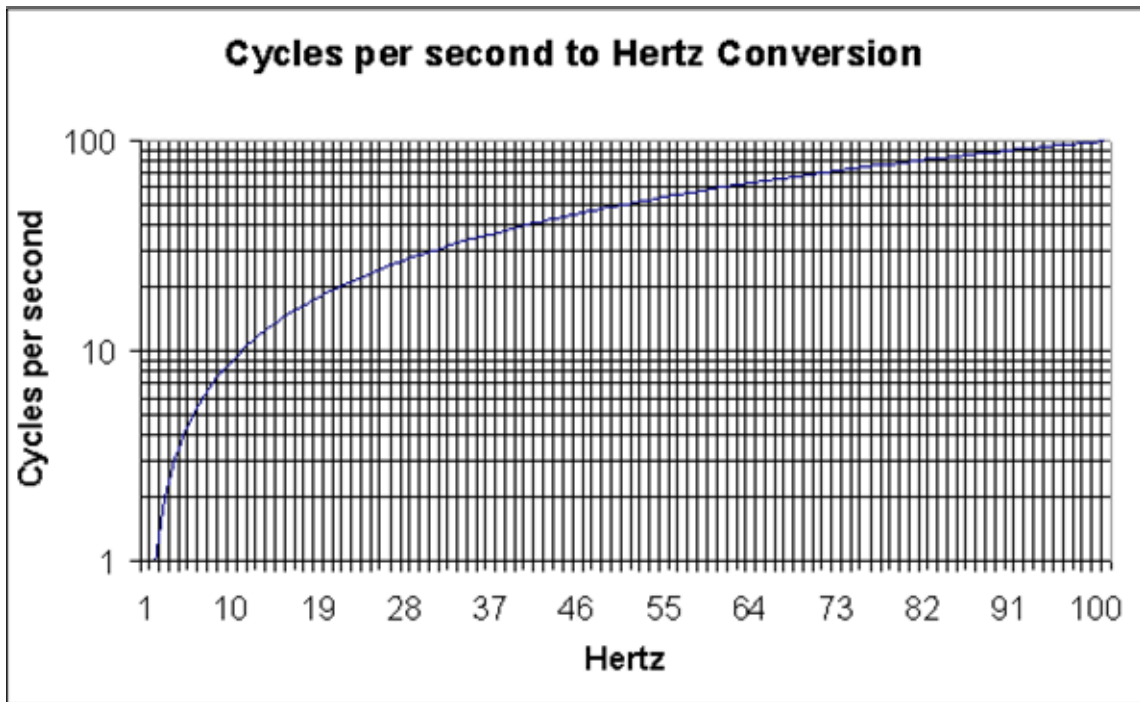
8. Other items that may be required

- Rope
- Jack, bottle or handyman
- Generator
- Antenna Mast
- Antenna Rotor
- Snow Chains
- Rope
- Chain Saw
- Four Wheel Drive
- Maps
- Equipment Manuals



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Frequency Conversion 2003: Those involved in electronics in the 1960's will remember that the unit of frequency measurement was Cycles Per Second. Scaled up, that was Kilocycles per Second or Megacycles per Second. In the mid-60's, The world converted to frequency measurements in Hertz. Abbreviated, it is Hz. The change was to honor Heinrich Hertz. If you still have magazines and books describing frequency in Cycles per Second or Megacycles, you will want to convert those numbers to Hz (Hertz) or MHz (Megahertz). To do that, use the chart above that was graciously provided by long time ham, [Jim WAØAXB](#). To do it mathematically, multiply the frequency in cycles per second by cycles per second and then take the square root of the result. If you have additional questions, just ask at the next club meeting.