Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting on August 1
No meeting in July due to 4th of July

Officers
President        Randy Vallee, KL7Z
Vice President   Jim Larsen, AL7FS
Secretary        Phil Mannie, KLOQW
Treasurer        Steve Jensen, KLOVZ
Trustee          Jim Feaster, KL7KB
Activities Chairman John Lynn, KL7CY
News Letter Editor Jim Larsen, AL7FS
Membership Chairman Fred Erickson KL7FE
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

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 103.5 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
KL7FU, 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

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:
Homepage: http://www.KL7AA.org/
Email Reflector: KL7AA@QTH.NET
Webmaster: al1g_ak@yahoo.com
President: KL7Z@gci.net
Membership: frederickson@iname.com
Newsletter: JimLarsen2002@alaska.net

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:
    Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting
    Email: 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

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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.KL7AA.org/
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.klonidike.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:  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.

Thursdays Brunch, 10:30 AM:  Brunch at Sunrise Grill & Pancake House, 3230 Old Seward Highway just north of Moose’s Tooth.

Saturdays Breakfast, 7:30 AM:  Here is a good way to get started on the weekend 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. ▶ No July Meeting ◀

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
Was held on JUNE 7th
At QTH of KL7CDG

Those who made it to the picnic had a great time and lots of good conversation. The food was very plentiful and CDG got his wish of lots and lots of deviled eggs.

The number of golfers was down this year with Jim Wiley, KL7CC, and Bill Reiter, KL7TI, competing. There was a gallery of one…AL7FS, Jim Larsen.

Next year, make a point to attend. It is lots of fun.

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. We can expect discussions about building kits and such at future meetings. See you at the meetings at Dennys on Debarr at 7PM the 3rd Friday of each month. Jim, AL7FS

Wedding Band Found

A Wedding Band has been found in the AARC/ARES motorhome or CCV (Command and Control Vehicle). It was found on March 11 in the afternoon. It is round. Call AL7FS, Jim Larsen at 345-3190 with a more complete description to claim this wedding band.

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting
(Unapproved)

The AARC Board met Tuesday, June 17, 2003 at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building, 540 West International Airport Road. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Larsen, AL7FS, at 7:05 PM. The following officers were in attendance: Vice President Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Secretary Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Treasurer Steve Jensen, KL0VZ, Activities Manager John Lynn, KL7CY and Trustee Jim Feaster, KL7KB. Also in attendance were Directors Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Sue Hilton, NL7AV, Judi Ramage, WL7DX, David Stevens, KL7EB, Edie Lynn, KL7EL and Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG. VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC was also present.

Minutes from the May 20 Board meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Reports

Treasurer's Report
Steve Jensen submitted a written report. He went on to mention upcoming expenses including a Club tool purchase, components for the Mt. Susitna repeater project and expenses for Jim Wiley to attend the VEC conference. He also reported that a six month continuation of the CCV storage area lease has been signed.

Gaming Committee Report
John Lynn reported that the Boniface Bingo Board would soon meet. He was unaware of any current problems.

VHF Committee Report
There was no formal VHF Committee report.

VEC Report
Jim Wiley reported that he would again attend the VEC conference the weekend of July 25. The examination web site is up and functional, although with minor authentication problems. It is hoped that a number of actual license examinations can be administered through the site before the July conference.

ARES Report
John Lynn reported on plans for the Mayor's Marathon. He is still looking for a half dozen or so volunteers. Jim Wiley reported that he has received quotes on components for the Mt. Susitna repeater. He estimates that the cost will be around $18,500. The equipment order will be placed next week and we should have the equipment in time to assemble, test and install the repeater before the end of summer.

**HAMfest**

Randy Vallee has volunteered to coordinate this year's event assisted by Judi Ramage. No location has been selected.

**Old Business**

**Girl Scout Encampment**

Jim Larsen reported that the code practice oscillator kits were all used over the course of the event. He suggested that we ask Teresa Nunes, KL0WW, and Tim Comfort, NL7SK, to produce an article on the event for publication in QST.

Steve Jensen reported that he has received a thank you letter from the Girl Scouts for a Club grant.

**New Business**

**Field Day**

Field Day is scheduled for June 27 and 28. Jim Wiley suggested that since we will not be using the 40 and 80-meter bands because of broadcast interference at the Klatt Road site, Field Day setup could commence on Saturday rather than Friday evening. John Lynn stated that he is uncomfortable with the Klatt Road site due to the proximity of AM broadcast facilities. He suggested looking into the possibility of using Tozier Track. Judi Ramage will investigate the availability of the Tozier Track facility. In the event we use the Klatt Road site we must remain in the parking lot, as no vehicles will be permitted off the roads due to possible damage to the site.

Edie Lynn has again volunteered to supervise the Field Day kitchen. Jim Larsen suggested that she get an advance to cover dining related expenses.

Jim Wiley reported that Bob Musgrave wished to donate a five meter, solid surface, Cassegrain feed C-band satellite dish to the club. The dish is located at East High School and the Club would need to remove it. The School District would require an indemnification agreement before permitting us to do any work on their property. Jim went on to mention that we could probably get some low-cost assistance in dismounting the dish. Jim Larsen commented that we have no place to store it. Sue Hilton volunteered to store it in her back yard. A motion was made and passed to decline the offer.

The By-Laws Committee is close to a final draft proposal for the revision of the Club by-laws. When finished, the draft will be distributed to the Board by e-mail.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Philip Mannie, KL0QW, 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 May. No sessions were held in any other locations. The following table provides some basic statistics for March 2003 and the past 12 months:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>May 2003</th>
<th>Past 12 Mths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sessions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Tested</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenses Granted (new or upgrades)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade Rate</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passed Elements</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Failed Elements</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element Pass Rate</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**AARC Web Address:**

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

   [http://www.KL7AA.org/](http://www.KL7AA.org/)

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**KL7GN Receives First Place Certificate**

AARC member Gordon Nightingale, KL7GN, was awarded a 1st place, QRP Category - Alaska Certificate for the November 2000 CQWW (CQ WorldWide) CW contest! As Gordon said, “Sure took a long time for it to show up....it arrived 26-MAR-2003”.

Congratulations, Gordon!!

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**N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR**

July 2003

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

Sunday July 6,- BYE weekend.
2200-2330Z late Sunday afternoon.
Info: [http://www.cqc.org](http://www.cqc.org)
Truffle Hunt 30 min before Fox hunt.  
http://fpqrp.com/pighunt2.html

MI QRP Fourth of July Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
Jul 4 - 2300z to Jul 5 - 0300z  
Rules:  http://www.qsl.net/miqrpclub/

Original QRP Contest (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
Jul 5 - 1500z to Jul 6 - 1500z  
Rules:  http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/origqrpc.htm

Adventure Radio Spartan Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
Jul 8 - 0100z to 0300z   (US/Canada Monday evening)  

FISTS Summer Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category  
Jul 12 - 1700z to 2100z  
Rules:  http://www.fists.org/sprints.html

QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
Jul 13 - 2000z to 2400z  
Rules:  http://personal.palouse.net/RFoltz/arc/sumhom.htm

RSGB Low Power Field Day (CW) ...QRP Contest!  
Jul 20 - 0900z to 1200z (80 M)  
Jul 20 - 1300z to 1600z (40 M)  
Rules:  http://www.g4tsh.demon.co.uk/HFCC/

CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush (20 Meters CW) ... QRP Contest!  
Jul 20 - 2000z to 2200z  

Islands On The Air Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category  
Jul 26 - 1200z to Jul 27 1200z  
Rules:  http://www.g4tsh.demon.co.uk/HFCC

Flight of the Bumblebees (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
Jul 27 - 1700z to 2100z  

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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 an AARC 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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Girl Scouts, Code Sender Kits and Ham Radio  
An AARC and MARA Success  
By Teresa Nunes, KL0WW

Once again, the air around the Alaska State Fairgrounds in Palmer, Alaska, rang with the sound of girls. Every two years, Girl Scouts from around the state, country, and world converge on the fairgrounds for a four day camp-out. This year, 1200 girls attended. For the second time, two local amateur radio clubs, the Matanuska Amateur Radio Club (MARA) and the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC), used this as an opportunity to expose young people to our hobby.

In the year 2001, the two clubs participated in the event, building Morse code oscillator kits with numerous scouting troops. We went through 100 oscillator kits in two days. The kit project was kid-friendly and only required a hammer and screwdriver to build. Designed specifically for scouting troops, it had both a speaker and a light so that it could be used for either auditory or visual code. The kits were popular the first year, and we were asked to return in June of 2003. The clubs agreed to attend a second time and revisit the project again. Because of the popularity of the project in 2001, we doubled the number of kits for this year. Armed with 200 kits, we set out to the event.

How did the partnership between the two clubs work? Beautifully. MARA operates in the borough where the encampment took place. 50 miles away, the AARC supported the event from afar. The AARC placed the order for parts and paid for the materials. AARC members fabricated some of the more complicated pieces. They also provided and transported some club equipment so that we could showcase the hobby. MARA provided the labor to assemble the kit packages and aid the girls in the project. This partnership worked well.

Before we could build the kits, we had to capture the girls’ interest.

High over a building called Raven Hall, towered the AARC’s tri-band beam. Brought in with a portable antenna trailer, the...
beam gave us the opportunity to show the hobby in action. Parked behind the hall sat the AARC communications RV, filled with radio gear. The equipment captured the attention of the scouts. Our activity was not on the schedule of events. The tower and RV drew much interest and brought scouting troops over to our work area. From there, we directed them to our activity: building Morse code oscillators. Once word got out that we were there, we had no lack for scouts. We spent two days aiding girls in building oscillator kits.

On the first day, we were mobbed.

In one sunny afternoon, we went through 120 kits. We had tables set up outdoors for perhaps 20 kids to work at a time. 60 showed up. Ever enthusiastic, many of the girls used their bucket-seats as tables. A MARA member made an emergency trip to the store to purchase more screwdrivers. We discovered a minor problem with some of the battery packs. Despite the hurdles, every girl walked away from our tables with a finished and working oscillator.

After they finished the project, we shuttled them into the RV to see amateur radio in operation. They toured the RV, seeing HF, 2 meters, and packet radio at work. Of these demonstrations, the packet radio setup attracted the most interest.

The second day dawned thunderstorms. We lowered the antenna and moved our tables into Raven Hall. Despite the bad weather, girls still came. We used the remaining 80 kits in a single afternoon. Fortunately, we did not run out. Every girl that wanted to build one was able to do so.

Two girls, in particular, stood out. One already knew Morse code and was ecstatic to have an oscillator to practice on. The excited fourth grader built her kit entirely by sight. She looked at the model and worked without the instructions. When she was finished, she keyed out the words “thank you” to the ham volunteers. Another of the girls stood out for different reasons. Using the instruction sheet instead of the model, she meticulously built her kit in twenty minutes. Most of the scouts needed 90 minutes to build theirs. When she was finished, she aided her troop-mates. She did not seem to care about the end result. Her enjoyment came from the process of building. I gave both of their troop leaders my name and phone number in the event that either girl wanted to continue with the hobby. In fact, every girl left with club contact information.

In the months to come, I hope to visit some of the local scouting troops individually, thus perpetuating their interest in our favorite hobby.

Teresa Nunes, KL0WW

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This month I would like to describe the ARES structure within the Section of Alaska. Normally, a section is divided into districts containing a number of counties. Alaska is not arranged in counties, it is arranged in LEPDs, Local Emergency Planning Districts. There are 29 LEPDs in the State.

Several years ago the ARES leadership in the Section, looking at the ARES structure, adopted the use of the LEPDs in lieu of the lower 48 arrangement. Not all of the LEPDs have organized government entities, mostly because of the sparsity of population. ARES is organized in 10 of the LEPDs, each LEPD constituting a District. There are DEC's [District Emergency Coordinator] appointed to most of them. It gets a bit harder when you go to the local levels since we don't have counties. Generally, we have an EC [Emergency Coordinator] assigned to the city or cities within the LEPD.

The EC does most of the work, building up the team and coordinating with the agencies. An EC can have as many AECs [Assistant Emergency Coordinator] as he/she needs in order to handle the different areas in the EC's jurisdiction. The EC reports to and works closely with the DEC. The DEC's report to the SEC [Section Emergency Coordinator]. I look at this as a kind of upside down pyramid. The SEC on the bottom, the DEC's are the next layer, and the EC's are on top. The DEC's and the SEC's primary duty is to support the work of the EC's. They also help with recruiting and building the ARES team within the Section. The SEC supports the DEC's and the EC's, the DEC's support the EC's. It is a whole, connected, interlocking system.

Here are the Section LEPDs and current assignments:

LEPD 1 North Slope Borough Barrow
LEPD 2 Northwest Arctic Borough Kotzebue
LEPD 3 Fairbanks North Star Borough
  DEC Robert Kreiser WL7GK
  EC Larry Ledlow N1TX
LEPD 4 Denali Borough
LEPD 5 Palmer-Wasilla
  ASM Teresa Nunns KL0WW
  DEC Woody Duncan KL0TS
LEPD 6 Copper River
LEPD 7 Anchorage
  ASM T J Sheffield KL7TS
  ASM Gerianne Thorsness WL7RY
  DEC Dick Block KL7RLB
  EC Susan Woods NL7NN
LEPD 8 Kenai Peninsula Borough

--
Linda AD4BL
ALASKA SEC STM
ad4bl@mosquitonet.com
Fairbanks, Alaska

Google does it all…Check here before you ask. Even works for brain teasers.

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.

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/
Gerald G. Schmitt, KK5YY, SK: Jerry Schmitt, KK5YY (ex-KC5EGG), of Los Alamos, New Mexico, died unexpectedly May 23 after an apparent heart attack. He was 60. Schmitt was especially well-known within the AMSAT and APRS communities and was the designer and primary promoter of the portable Arrow antenna used for satellite work; he also had a hand in developing antennas for AO-40. "Jerry was a very good friend of AMSAT's," said AMSAT President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH. At Hamvention 2003 Schmitt assisted at the AMSAT booth and did a live ham satellite demonstration. "He was just a great guy all around and full of humor," Haighton said. "We're all going to miss him." An ARRL member, Schmitt served as a net control operator for the New Mexico Swapnet and took part in providing ham radio communication during the Cerro Grande fires in New Mexico. In 2001, Schmitt managed Earth-station Troubleshooting and Shop Procedure

When you are faced with an equipment breakdown, do you know just what to do? Here are the six basic steps to troubleshooting:

1. Approach the ailing unit with confidence. This will give the idea that you know something. This will also impress anyone who happens to be looking, and if the unit should suddenly start working, you will be credited with its repair. If this fails, proceed to step two.

2. Wave the systems operations manual at the unit. This will make the unit assume that you are at least somewhat familiar with the sources of knowledge. Should this step fail, proceed to step three.

3. In a forceful manner, recite OHMS LAW to the unit. This will prove to the unit beyond a shadow of a doubt that you know something. This drastic step should be attempted only after the first two steps fail. Should this prove unsuccessful, proceed to step four.

4. Jar the unit slightly. This may require anything from three to six hearty blows from a ten pound sledge hammer. However, you must be careful with this step because, while jarring is an approved method of repair, you must not mar the finish on the unit. Again, this is a very drastic step, and if it fails there is nothing to do but go on to step five.

5. 530 HT. He not only gave an excellent demonstration, but he drew graphs and charts on a chalkboard and explained LEO satellite operations so thoroughly that I was hooked. The very next day I made my very first true LEO two-way contact. I used a very long M2 UHF yagi, borrowed from AA0NN as my downlink and I was hearing the bird 100%.

Gerry has been to Alaska many times and in 2001 worked as a communicator for the Iditarod Trail Sled-dog Race (http://www.iditarod.com/). He was here last year for MARA/ARRL Field Day and we had a nice visit with him and his wife. Gerry and I have had some late night in depth conversations and I was amazed at his great intelligence and understanding of the sciences, politics, and religion. I would say we agreed on about 90% of everything we discussed. Gerry and I had much more agreement than I have with most people that I have these types of conversations with, and I truly felt like he was a "Brother". Most of all, he treated me as an equal.

Every time I see an Arrow Antenna, talk on a satellite, or eat Gretchen's homemade tortillas, I'll think of you, KK5YY, and I'll miss you.

Sincerely,
Dan O'Barr, KL7DR (formerly WL7BD)
5. Add a transistor or IC. This will prove to the unit that you are familiar with its design. Also, this will give the unit an added load to carry and will increase your advantage. Should these five steps fail to work, you must proceed to the most drastic step of all. This step is seldom used and must be used with due caution only as a final resort.

6. THINK!

NOTE: This advice is to be used only by highly competent and technically skilled personnel.

Source unknown....

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**NTS Message Tutorial**

National Traffic System messages. NTS messages will form a very important part of your work in emergency communications. The most frustrating event occurs when you realize you have no clue how to properly handle traffic and you are now in the middle of a real event. Public Service events are good training but they do not prepare you for the types of traffic and how to handle them. Fortunately, The local Amateur Radio Emergency Services group has placed a tutorial online that you can read and print out for a ringed binder that you could carry to an emergency. Also, the back issues of this newsletter (http://www.KL7AA.org) have great articles written by AL7N, Ed Trump, of Fairbanks.

The tutorial or How To can be found on the following URL:

http://www.iao.to/NTS_howto.html

The page includes references with headings as below. Go to the site to follow the links.

ARRL Form 218, the complete reference for NTS messages.

KZ1Z's Classroom Email Connection... NTS and Digital Communication.

N8UT's National Traffic System Training Manual, from which much of this material was shamelessly stolen.

ARRL Numbered Radiograms.

2 per page radiogram form in PDF format. You'll need the Adobe Acrobat reader, (or something like it) to print these.

'Printer Friendly' radiogram form in PDF.

Take time to learn and you can be part of the solution in an emergency.
AARC and MARA join to bring CW code practice sender kits to Statewide Girl Scout gathering