

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, KLØQW
Treasurer Steve Jensen, KLØVZ
Trustee Jim Feaster, KL7KB
Activities Chairman John Lynn, KL7CY
News Letter Editor Jim Larsen, AL7FS
Membership Chairman Fred Erickson KL7FE
Past Past Past-President John Lynn, KL7CY

Three Year Board Members

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

One Year Board Members

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

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

Homepage: <http://www.KL7AA.org/>
Email Reflector: KL7AA@QTH.NET
Webmaster: allg_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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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
 KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA club
146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL
 KL7DOB, Alcantra (Wasilla Armory)
146.64/.04, simplex patch, no PL
 KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft. <down >
147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL
444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
 KL3K, Girdwood
146.76/16 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 97.3 Hz PL
South Central Area Simplex Frequencies
 146.52 MHz Calling and Emergency frequency
 147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat, 103.5
 HZ PL
 146.49 MHz Anchorage area simplex chat
 146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat
 147.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat

Internet Links, the favorites from our readers:

QRP and Hombrew Links

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

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

AARC <http://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.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: 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 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. ► **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, KL7ITI, competing. There was a gallery of one...AL7FS, Jim Larsen.

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



KL7ITI

AL7FS

KL7CC

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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. 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

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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.

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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:

	May 2003	Past 12 Mths
Sessions	8	62
Number Tested	48	281
Licenses Granted (new or upgrades)	16	124
Upgrade Rate	33%	44%
Passed Elements	22	172
Failed Elements	31	170
Element Pass Rate	42%	50%

AARC Web Address:

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

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

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!!

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>



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/origqrp.htm>

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

Jul 8 - 0100z to 0300z (US/Canada Monday evening)

Rules:

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

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/arci/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

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

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

Rules:

[http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/bumblebees/bb\\_rules.html](http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/bumblebees/bb_rules.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 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, K10WW

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.



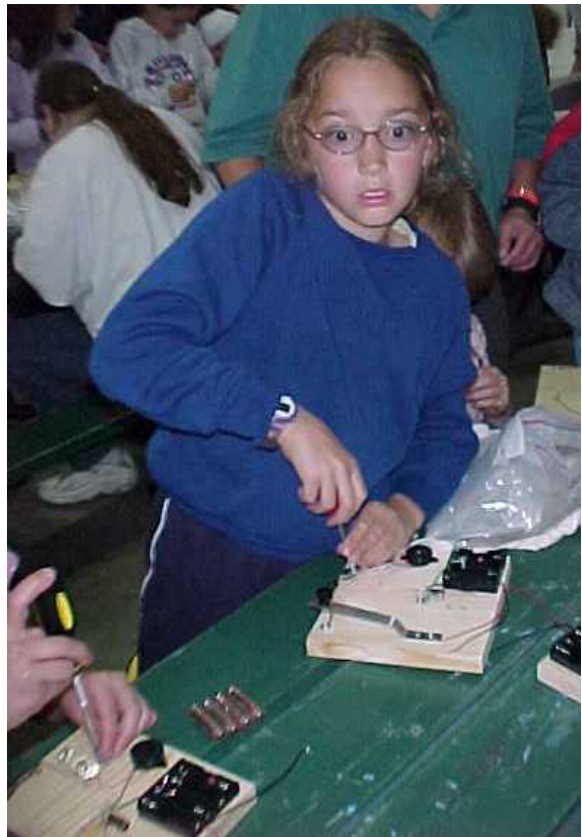
2001 photo

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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## ALASKA SEC NEWS

### Linda Mullen AD4BL SEC Alaska

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

- ASM Ed Cole AL7EB
- DEC Frank Henrikson KL0SW
- EC Charles Armstrong KL7PB
- AEC Bill Nelson WL7BF
- LEPD 9 Northern Southeast Hoonah-Haines [combined with LEPD 10]
- LEPD 10 City and Borough of Juneau
  - EC Nick Meecher N3WWE
  - AEC Jerry Prindle KL7HFI
- LEPD 11 Bristol Bay Borough King Solomon
- LEPD 12 City and Borough of Sitka
  - DEC Dave Lewis KL7DL
- LEPD 13 Aleutians
- LEPD 14 Petersburg-Wrangell
  - DEC Neil Ensign N7ZYS
- LEPD 15 Kodiak Island Borough
  - DEC Mike Dolph KL7JBV
- LEPD 16 Southern Southeast Craig
- LEPD 17 Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- LEPD 18 Aleutians East Borough
- LEPD 19 Bering Straits Nome
- LEPD 20 Yukon Koyukuk
- LEPD 21 Yukon Flats
- LEPD 22 Upper Tanana Basin Delta Junction
- LEPD 23 Lower Yukon
- LEPD 24 Iditarod Region McGrath
- LEPD 25 Kuspuk
- LEPD 26 Lower Kuskokwim Bethel
- LEPD 27 Southwest Region Dillingham
- LEPD 28 Lake and Peninsula Borough
- LEPD 29 Prince William Sound
  - EC - Valdez Robert Rountree KL1BS
  - EC - Cordova Jim Vansant AL7G
- LEPD 27

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Linda AD4BL  
ALASKA SEC STM  
[ad4bl@mosquitonet.com](mailto:ad4bl@mosquitonet.com)  
Fairbanks, Alaska

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**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](mailto:JimLarsen2002@alaska.net) or 345-3190. Information on the QRP Club and what kits we are building can be reviewed online in the past AARC newsletters at <http://www.KL7AA.org/>



## LINKS

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

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

ARES Alaska – the current information

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### Ham known to Alaskans now SK

**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 duties during an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group contact from the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque. He was nearing retirement from Los Alamos National Laboratories and planning to move with his wife, Barbara, KD5CGU, to Alaska. Arrangements are pending.

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**Dan O' Barr, KL7DR sent the following message about the above news.**

Dear LEO friends,

When I opened this E-mail this morning I had a difficult time emotionally. I sent a reply to John with a simple "say it isn't so". Gerry, as I called him, has been at my house, eaten at my table, knew the name of my wife, and all 8 of our children. Most of all, he taught me how to operate AO-27, and started my love for LEO satellites. I cannot remember the exact date, but it was on one of his first of many trips to Alaska when I heard him on one of the local repeaters. I noticed the out of state call and started a QSO with him and he immediately asks me if I knew anything about amateur satellites, and in particular AO-27. I answered that I had been reading about AO-27 and had tried to operate it, but had only heard wisp of voices and not really had a QSO. He told me that the keys to operate AO-27 were a good UHF downlink antenna and a little knowledge on how to track it. He told me that he had been working with the Arrow Antenna Company to develop a dual-band portable yagi and that he was using this new antenna and a dual-band HT to make regular contacts to the lower 48 everyday. I asked if he could show me his setup and he said he'd do one better if possible, he would like to come to Ham club meeting and give a demonstration. I invited him to the next MARA meeting (<http://www.kl7jfu.com/>) and he showed up with his Arrow Antenna and I believe a Yaesu FT-

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. He told me of his plans to retire and move to Alaska. 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)

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### Troubleshooting and Shop Procedure

All Technicians should follow these procedures carefully. The contents will certainly help in your attempts to fix things.

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. 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](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.**

## Alaska Club Presents ARRL Book Sets to Libraries

If there's one thing that the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club understands, it's that information and knowledge are empowering. And it's why the club purchased a number of sets of ham radio books from ARRL to distribute to seven libraries in south-central Alaska.

RANDY VALLEE, KL7Z



From left, Steve Jensen, KLØVZ, and Randy Vallee, KL7Z, present part of a book set the AARC purchased to Art Weeks, Municipal Librarian at Z. J. Loussac Public Library, Anchorage's main branch. Four other sets will go to branch libraries, while two more are destined for outlying areas in south-central Alaska.

AARC treasurer Steve Jensen, KLØVZ, said his club earned the money from running a number of fundraisers in the community. "We've bought single book sets in the past, but never as many as this at one time," Jensen said. "This year we had \$1500 to spend on books and our national organization, ARRL, made the books available at a very attractive cost so we could reach as many communities as possible."

The sets were purchased with the help of the ARRL Publications Branch. Publications Fulfillment Supervisor Zoe Belliveau worked with Jensen to put together sets that are made up of a wide range of League publications, including the *2003 ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, the 19th edition of the *The ARRL Antenna Book*, *The ARRL RFI Book*, *Understanding Basic Electronics* and other ham-oriented books. "The dedication of these sets to the libraries around Anchorage is a great step in broadening the interest and promotion of Amateur Radio in Alaska," Belliveau said. She noted that any club or individual can purchase book sets for donation to a library or school. Visit [www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/libbookset.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/libbookset.html) on the ARRL Web site to get started.

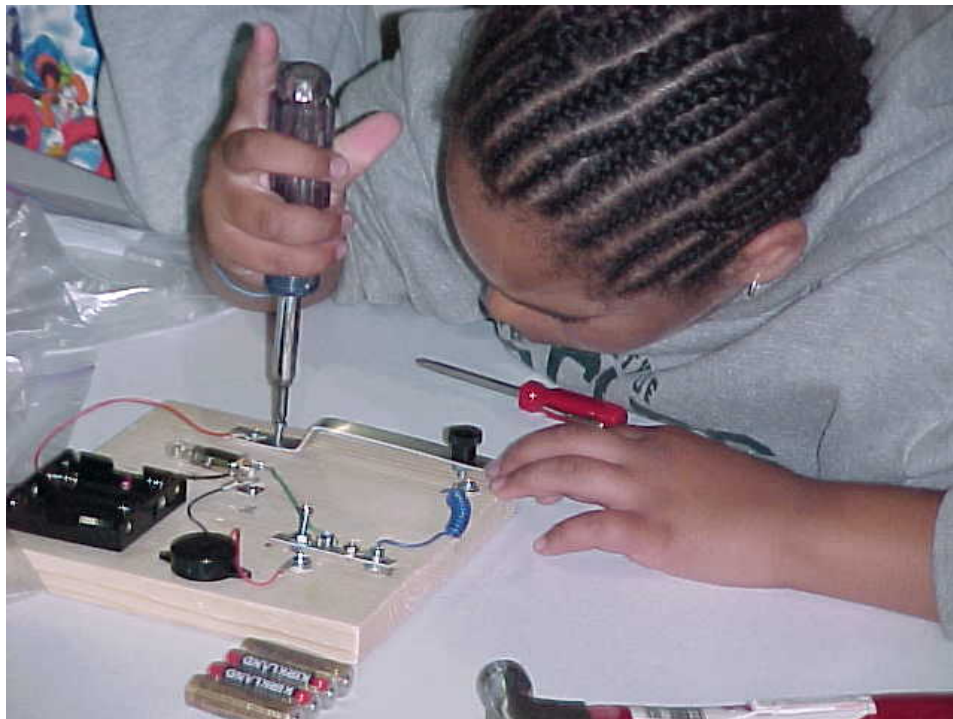
The sets went to five branch libraries in the Greater Anchorage area, and one set each went to the libraries in Wasilla and Soldotna. AARC president Randy Vallee, KL7Z, said that Art Weeks, the librarian at the Z. J. Loussac Public Library in Anchorage, was very happy to receive the book donation from the club.

"Art used to listen to shortwave radio when he was a kid, most notably Radio Moscow and its propaganda of years gone by. He was also excited about Amateur Radio using the Internet for things like IRLP. Maybe he will become an amateur operator someday. The library now has the books for him and everyone else to check out," Vallee said.

"We want to function as a vehicle for people to get involved with radio," Jensen said. "Purchasing the ham radio book sets for the libraries meets that mission."

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**AARC and MARA join to bring CW code practice sender kits to Statewide Girl Scout gathering**