Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting on August 1

an ASDF exercise that became a real response.

Presented by Craig, KL4E and Dan, KL7DR

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:	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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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 147.27/87 103.5Hz - 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.amqrp.org/misc/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.

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

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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Possible changes coming for WWV??
Check the details at
http://www.mindspring.com/~lownoise/wwv.html

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Radio Operators needed
Friends of Pets Dog Jog
For July 26

Radio Operators are still needed for the Friends Of Pets Dog Jog! This Public Service event is held at Kincaid Park, takes a only half-a-day, and starts Saturday morning, July 26, 2003.

Maps will be available at the Saturday morning briefing.

This year we may have some Cadets from the Alaska Civil Air Patrol joining us, so please consider helping out with this fun event promoting Public Service, Amateur Radio and emergency communications training!

Date: Saturday, 26 July 2003
Time: 0630 Portable repeater, mast and antenna setup
Time: 0815 All-hands briefing in the parking lot (near the large map display)
Time: 0845 Water drop and checkpoint deployment begins
Time: 1000 Dogs Jog (event starts)

Also on Friday evening we will help set up the infield and mark the trails.

Repeater frequency: 449.650, minus (-), no tone, the KL7G "emergency portable" repeater

Backup frequency: 146.400, simplex, no tone

Directions: Head west on Raspberry Road and enter the park. Follow the road and note the mileage when you drive under the wooden footbridge. Approximately 0.8 miles beyond the wooden footbridge is a large parking lot on your right. Pull into the parking lot for a briefing and to pick up your maps. If you go all the way up the hill to the Chalet, you've gone TOO FAR.

Control: This is a non-directed net. Call other checkpoints as needed.

General: Expect equipment problems. Bring headsets, HTs, batteries, clipboards, paper, pencils, maps. Have your radio manual with you and be familiar with methods of changing frequency (and PL tone).

Public Service events should be treated as emergency preparedness exercises. Bring sufficient rain gear in your backpack plus food and water for approximately four hours.

Three years ago it rained hard all day, so plan accordingly and bring your SPF 40 sunblock!

We will help dispense water (both people and dogs) and help collect trash.

Bring leather gloves for handling trash bags. Thanks very much!

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The Listening Habit

Submitted by Neil Thalaker, KL7BGZ

We are all good listeners, right? *Thinking Through Writing* by Susan R. Horton is about the idea that we can go only so far thinking off the top of our heads or daydreaming. Thinking and developing more complex ideas is aided if we write. She compares arithmetic. We can perform math in our heads up to a point. Then we must resort to pencil and paper. Part of writing is having something to write about so we need to get ideas from somewhere. One source is internal. Another is external and that is where listening come in. The following from her chapter "Listening Through Writing" investigates listening to others and to ourselves.

Stage 2: The Listening Habit

Not only do you need to watch everything and read everything you can, but you also need to *listen.* This seems elementary, and yet those whose business it is to solve problems often talk about how people need training in listening. George M. Prince, in *The Practice of Creativity,* talks a great deal about what he calls "the evaluative tendency" that keeps us from thoroughly understanding what other people propose as solutions to problems, or explanations of events. We are far too ready to judge what other people say and find it wanting, even before we have understood what they say. Prince suggests that we just try to understand: "Hold in abeyance your negative reactions temporarily" (p.45), he suggest, whenever you read or hear a new idea. Instead he suggests that we think something like, "Well, maybe this is *partly* right. Maybe this is useful. If we adjusted this or that, we would have something." Cultivate that listening habit. Even more importantly, *listen to yourself.* Do not be overly critical in the early states of thinking or writing. Think, again, "Well, parts of that idea are really muddy, but I might be able to play with

it a little and make it better." In fifteen years of trying to help people learn to write better, I am still astonished at how tough on themselves beginning writers are. Before an idea is even half out of their mouths, they say "No, that's dumb." The good writer is kind to himself or herself, and that kindness and courtesy includes simply listening to what the mind is trying to say.

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QRP Notes – The K2 versus the FT817

Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV

I have had my (Yaesu) FT817 for two years and a K2 (Elecraft) for four months. Both of these rigs have proven so popular in the QRP community that perhaps my comments based on actual operation might be of interest. The fact is, I like them both - for different reasons.

Comparing the K2 and the FT817 is somewhat like apples and oranges; the rigs aren't the same and were not intended to be. The K2 is really a $1,500 rig when you add in a noise blanker and SSB module and consider the labor content involved in its construction. The 817 can be bought for somewhere in the low $600 range. The engineering tradeoffs necessary to make the 817 cover DC to light in all modes mean that some performance compromises occur. The K2, in comparison, is HF ham band only, SSB/CW rig so higher performance is easier to get.

The K2 has a superb receiver - by far one of the best. There are several excellent technical articles on the Elecraft web site (http://www.elecraft.com/) discussing and comparing this rig's receiver with others. These articles do not exaggerate; I have never heard anything like this receiver's ability to hear in heavy QRM. However after comparing it side by side with the 817 and switching the antenna back and forth, I am convinced that the real world difference is often not that apparent. In most cases the average receiver will do just fine, as one of the tech articles says.

- One does not often encounter the need for super performance. It happens sometimes in contests or DXpedition pileups, but these are edge of the envelope situations. I did not run into such problems often with the 817, and when I did, I just went after someone else and came back later to the first frequency when it quieted down.
- When you do encounter that "edge of the envelope" situation, the extra margin from a fine receiver can be can be mighty nice. During the All Asian Contest in June 2003, I was using the FT817 on 20 CW, and I noticed how a strong signal was chopping up one that was somewhat weaker, even with the AGC off. I switched over to the K2, and could easily read both, separating them with my ear. The filter finished the job. (I did not buy the 817 filters) The impact of superb dynamic range was obvious.
- The K2's noise floor is only slightly better than the 817's; the sensitivities are equivalent. I had a difficult time telling any difference between the two as I switched the antenna back and forth listening to the weakest signals. Band noise really limits effective sensitivity, and only on the quietest bands with a dipole (which is less noisy than the vertical) was there a hint of a difference. Others claim to have noted real differences between the K2 and other rigs, but QSB makes sensitivity differences hard to observe. I suspect any differences heard may either be marginal or more apparent than real.
- What I really like about the K2 is its ergonomics. It is more suited to be the chief station rig. Those big numbers on the display and easy to operate knobs make a big difference in operating convenience. The 817's display is the size of a handheld's, and that makes it a bit "cramped" for a station rig.

For me, the FT817's principal strength is that its size makes it the most easily portable rig I have ever used. It is 1/4 the "cube" of the K2 and fits easily into an "over the shoulder" bag. I have now taken it on four extended trips, worked DX, and never wished for anything better. As one would expect given the "compromise" antenna arrangements on a trip, the receiver is entirely adequate to do the job and I have encountered no problems due to its poorer strong signal handling capabilities. Furthermore the 817 has Six, Two and 70 cm all modes, and I do work 6 on the road. This rig is just plain fun!

What is the bottom line? For the 817, the "proof of the pudding is in the eating" - **179 countries worked, 178 confirmed, most with a vertical. DXCC in just under four months** (bold added by editor). It might have been a bit easier with the K2, but I doubt that I missed any as a result of not using that rig. Since finishing the K2 in March, I have worked 28 countries, two of them new, and all continents, and this was despite rotten band conditions. Both of these rigs can do the job; both are going to stay in my shack

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No Code – Rumors and Reality

As of 25 June 2003

Re: They've done away with all morse code testing.

This is completely false!!

Let me explain: The current WARC conference has apparently set in motion a process to eliminate the international requirement for Morse code proficiency, which has been a international requirement. This has been the policy of the ITU (International Telecommunications Union), of which the United States is a member. The requirement stated (in summary) that for amateur radio operators to be granted access to frequencies below 30 MHz, they had to demonstrate proficiency in sending by hand and receiving by ear the International Morse Code. No code speed was specified, but most administrations settled on 5 words per minute as the minimum requirement.

The current conference is considering removing this requirement. This action was expected, and is not a surprise. While it looks like, from all reports, that the Morse code requirement will indeed be dropped, we have to wait a couple more weeks (until the conference has actually ended, and all votes have been tallied) to be absolutely certain.

Then, for the Morse requirement to be lifted for US hams, the FCC will have to go through the process of changing the rules to accommodate this, if in fact they decide to do so. There is certain to be a lengthy debate among presently licensed operators and newcomers over this issue. The overwhelming likelihood is that after all the comments have been read, there will still be a requirement to demonstrate code proficiency for at least some of the classes of amateur licenses.

Of course, this does not prevent the FCC from granting code free technician licensees access to sub-30 MHz frequencies, but even that will happen only after a relatively lengthy process involving either a NPRM (notice of proposed rule making) or NOI (notice of intent to change a rule), again with the inevitable delays while comments are solicited, read, and evaluated. Remember, to effect this change, the Amateur Radio rules themselves, commonly known as "Part 97", must be modified. This is a time consuming process.

Short answer - be very surprised if anything happens to change the present US system before July 2005 (about 2 years) – although the FCC can act faster, they are sure to be careful on this one.

- Jim, KL7CC
Chairman, Anchorage ARC VEC, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE
International Amateur Radio Union
3 July 2003
<extracted>

Morse Code

The old regulation that Morse was a requirement for the operators of amateur stations below 30 MHz was found in a provision that read as follows:

Any person seeking a license to operate the apparatus of an amateur station shall prove that he is able to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear texts in Morse code signals. The administrations concerned may, however, waive this requirement in the case of stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 30 MHz.

That was replaced with a provision giving each administration the right to decide whether or not Morse is a required qualification as follows:

25.5 Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall demonstrate the ability to send and receive texts in Morse code signals.

The alternative of simply deleting the old provision was rejected because a number of administrations thought that the matter was so important that a positive decision not to require Morse as a qualification was appropriate. The effect is actually the same: Morse code is no longer an internationally required qualification for an amateur license, though an administration may still require it.

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The August program for the AARC meeting will present the story of an ASDF (ALASKA STATE DEFENSE FORCE) exercise that became a real response. This exercise involved a number of HAMs that are members of the ASDF and used Amateur radio techniques including a crossband repeater. It occurred on Field Day 2003 near Cantwell. Craig, KL4E and Dan, KL7DR will co-present the story and tell us a little about the ASDF organization.

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Plan to attend **the HAMFEST banquet on September 13** 7pm at the Royal Fork South and the **2003 ARRL STATE CONVENTION on Sunday, September 14**. Note that Fairbanks HAMFEST will happen on Saturday September 13 this year.

During the Anchorage HAMFEST, we plan to have several technical and tutorial sessions of interest. Ed Hare, W1RFI, from the ARRL is the featured speaker.

Depending on the number of programs for the Anchorage event, we may have some presented on Saturday, so that there will be time on Sunday to "swap and shop 'till you drop". Please standby for more details!

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting

July 15, 2003 (unapproved)

The AARC Board met Tuesday, July 15, 2003 at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building, 540 West International Airport Road. The meeting was called to order by President Randy Vallee, KL7Z, at 7:03 PM. The following officers were in attendance: President Randy Vallee, Vice President Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Secretary Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Treasurer Steve Jensen, KL0VZ and Activities Manager John Lynn, KL7CY. Also in attendance were Directors Richard Block, KL7RLB, Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Sue Hilton, NL7AV, David Stevens, KL7EB, Edie Lynn, KL7EL, Pat Wilke, WL7JA, Craig Bledsoe, KL4E and Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG. VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC was also present.

Minutes from the June 17 Board meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Reports

Treasurer's Report
Steve Jensen reported that this month's written report was on file. Deposits so far this year from Boniface Bingo have totaled about $80,000. Checks to be issued in the near future include parts for the Mt. Susitna repeater, the VEC conference and insurance. An IRS notice of roughly $1,300 taxes and penalties due from 2001 has been referred to legal counsel.

Gaming Committee Report
John Lynn reported that gaming has been good even in the usually slow summer months. Our lease rate is likely to increase when the current lease expires due to new building management. The Bingo Board is considering terminating the lease with Lightning Bingo, a sub-lessor.

VHF Committee Report
There was no formal VHF Committee report. Lil Marvin reported battery problems with the 94 repeater. The batteries have been replaced, but power related problems may remain to be dealt with.

John Lynn reported that a survey of the Pt. McKenzie tower suggested that the tower was overloaded and we may be required to remove our antenna.

Jim Wiley reported that components for the Mt. Susitna repeater are on the way. Due to manufacturer's shortages the standby repeater installation may be delayed. John Lynn mentioned that he would soon get a report on snow conditions on Susitna.

Jim Larsen reported the Moosehorn Amateur Radio Club quite happy with the Susitna repeater.

VEC Report
Jim Wiley reported that the remote testing web site is still experiencing some problems. He hopes it will be operational before the VEC conference, but will be prepared to make an off-line presentation if necessary.

ARES Report
Richard Block reported that there will be an ARES meeting at 9:30 AM, Saturday, July 19 at the Carr-Gottstein Building, APU campus.

HAMfest
A location for HAMfest is still being sought. Craig Bledsoe volunteered to seek a venue in Eagle River.

A HAMfest Committee was appointed, consisting of Randy Vallee, Jim Wiley, John Lynn and Craig Bledsoe.

Jim Larsen moved that only amateur radio and electronics related tables be allowed at the ARRL Convention flea market and that entry fees and table fees be waived. Tables for categories outside these areas may only be allowed subject to HAMfest Committee approval. The motion passed with four dissenting votes.

Old Business
Mayor's Marathon
John Lynn reported that the event went well despite a fast race.

Field Day
Randy Vallee reported that the event was successful and went on to thank Edie Lynn for her efforts in meal preparation. John Lynn reported that the Alaska Sled Dog Racing Association did not charge us for Field Day facilities and moved to contribute $1,000 to the Association. Jim Larsen objected that this would violate grant guidelines and suggested that the Association submit a proposal to the Grant Committee.

New Business
Jimmy Tvrdy moved to reimburse Heather Hasper, KL7SP, for her costs in replacing the Club camera, stolen from her car. The motion passed.

Jim Larsen moved that the Board authorize an expenditure of up to $1,500 for a server to house the kl7aa.org web site. The motion passed.

Steve Jensen moved to fund seven additional sets of ARRL reference books for Alaska libraries at $200 per set. The motion passed.

Craig Bledsoe reported briefly on plans for the Dog Jog, scheduled for July 26.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Secretary.

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AARC Web Address:

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

http://www.KL7AA.org/

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Understanding the FCC's Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) *Notice of Inquiry*

I encourage each of you to read up on the BPL technology and the threat it poses to all of amateur radio.

<http://www2.arrl.org/news/features/2003/06/19/2/?nc=1>

The last few days I have spent time reading the BPL information on ARRL and associated links. I listened to the recordings of what BPL does to HF receive signals. Quite frankly, it was frightening.

If you have not gone to the BPL resource pages and read the technical data at least go listen to the effects. Once you do you will cease to be laid back about this issue. As it stands now, my take is that ham radio will cease as we know it if BPL is implemented. QRP, one of my key interests, will be over. Your only hope is to live on solar power in the middle of nowhere and talk to another station in the same condition. Nobody else will be able to hear you.

I was so impressed I made recordings and took them to the Alaska QRP Club. The recordings got everyone's attention in a big way.

Visit http://www.arrl.org/ and spend more than 1 or 2 minutes figuring out how to help on this one. It is very bad.

73, Jim
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Jim Larsen, AL7FS
Anchorage, Alaska
http://www.qsl.net/al7fs

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N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

August 2003

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Summer FOX Hunt - Sundays through August 10 2200-2330Z
Info: http://www.cqc.org
Truffle Hunt 30 min before Fox hunt.
http://fpqrp.com/pighunt2.html

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Adventure Radio Spartan Sprint (CW) *** QRP CONTEST! ***
Aug 5 - 0100z to 0300z (Monday Evenings US/Can local time) Rules: http://www.arsqrp.com/

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North American QSO Party (SSB) ... <100W. (/QRP noted on entry) Aug 16 - 1800z to Aug 17 - 0600z
Rules: http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php

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Hawaii QSO Party (CW/SSB/Digital) ... QRP Category
Aug 23 - 0700z to Aug 24 - 2200z
Rules: http://www.karc.us/hi_qso_party.html

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TOEC WW Grid Contest (CW) ... <100W category
Aug 23 - 1200z to Aug 24 - 1200z
Rules: http://www.qsl.net/toec/contest.htm

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BUBBA Summer QRP Sprint *** QRP CONTEST! ***
Aug 23 - 1800z to 2200z
Rules: http://www.extremezone.com/~nk7m/

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Colorado QRP Club - Summer QSO Party (SSB/CW) *** QRP CONTEST! ***
Aug 24 - 1800z to 2359z
Rules: http://www.cqc.org/contests/

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72 de
Ken Newman - N2CQ
N2CQ@ARRL.NET
<some contests deleted by editor>

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Not Yet Net

Frequency: 146.64, - split
Time: 2000 hrs (8:00 p m)
Cause: To meet other amateur radio operators
Who: anyone with a license (preferably young hams)
Subject: any, and everything

When I first obtained my amateur radio operations license, to tell you the truth, I was not all that exhilarated. The only reason, and a pretty lame one at that, I even wanted my radio license was, for the simple, ignorant fact that my father would not let me get a cellular telephone, so, I got the next best thing, or so I thought. Now, now, before you discontinue reading this at least hear me out. See, I "thought" that a cell phone was better than a radio, but I was, without a doubt, wrong! Through amateur radio I have been exposed to new opportunities, and more importantly, new friendships, that I am sure will last ages. That is why, with the help of my rather delighted father (KL1HO "HO"), **I have decided to start the "Not Yet Net", for the younger crowd.** Even though this is a net for kids all check ins are welcomed. This is just one attempt at letting kids know that amateur radio is better than any cell phone, and I should know I am a teenage girl, and that there are other kids out there with a license. I feel that even if this net turns out to be a complete failure and I only have, in four months, one check in that is one more friend that I didn't have before the net. So, in conclusion I am pleased to say that I will be ready to write down your call on August 6th at 8:00 P.M on the 64 machine, hope to hear you there! 73's!

Your fellow ham,

KL1HZ
Melissa Sanders

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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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VHF/UHF Committee Report

Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX

VHF/UHF

Since I've been out of town on service calls, Rick Marvin has been filling in. Rick KL7YF traveled to the ANC Node/Digi site at Rabbit Creek, there he found a very low battery, a circuit breaker in the cabinet had tripped, and the radio and TNC were running on battery only. This is the second time that particular breaker has tripped for no apparent reason. Breaker has been replaced, battery serviced and ANC (145.01) is back in service.

Rick also traveled to the 146.94 site where the 146.94 repeater was off the air. Actually I had turned it off when it stopped responding to commands. Once again a breaker had tripped, in this case it probably had a reason, it's a 15a breaker and two regulated AC supplies (146.94 and 444.7) were both on the same breaker. Turn on surge probably is in the order of 20 amps. Rick split the load between two AC circuits and replaced the backup battery for 94 which had reached 4 volts and was no longer supplying any power. Rick and I have been discussing putting low voltage cut-off circuits on all our remote sites, to prevent battery damage if the battery falls below 10.5 volts. 146.94 has been returned to service.

Just a reminder OSHA now has the lead in RF safety and RF exposure control, and their serious about protecting the 'unsuspecting' public. (read this as neighbors etc), make absolutely sure your RF generators (transmitters) and antenna systems meet or exceed the FCC standards or you might be surprised when the doorbell rings and someone in a suit tells you to cease and desist your operating until you can bring your station into compliance. There are NO GRANDFATHER grants, and NO exceptions for Amateur service, everyone must comply, or reduce power until they comply, or turn off their equipment.

Mobile and handhelds are excluded for the most part, because they are Push to Transmit, however packet is NOT exempt, because the station may digipeat a packet at any time, unless you have that feature turned off.
I've been wearing a RF recording alarm device for the past month, it's truly amazing those things that produce enough RF to trip the monitor, things like copy machines, fax machines, some computer monitors, security devices that detect door openings, or things walking out of area's that they are not supposed to. A quick exposure won't do you any harm, however if your job is to stand in one spot all day and your being 'blasted' by the RF in the device, this indeed may cause problems.

73 and have a great summer
KL7IKX Doug

Field Day in Soldotna, Alaska
As seen briefly by AL7FS

Field Day was a bright and sunny day, just one of the many we have had in this unusual summer. I was in Soldotna for the day to help a friend with some painting and decided to stop by and see what the Moosehorn Amateur Radio Club was doing for Field day. Their setup was at a school high on the hill out of town south on the highway. As I pulled into the huge parking lot I could see the tower and beam antenna gleaming in the sun way off to the left of the communications center.

As shown in the photo, VE6NH, Ed's 40 foot motorhome provided one leg of the triangle and an old Borough Emergency Communications Vehicle made up another. I was told that the ham club was trying to decide if they wanted to take up the city on the offer to buy the van and generators for $1.00. There were lots of things to think about before jumping on that deal.

The third leg of the triangle was made up of a row of musical chairs for the hams to sit upon and discuss the woes of the world and the ham community. Everyone was having a good time and the conversations came easily. I felt very welcomed by this group and was offered a chair and a diet coke.

There was VE testing in progress when I arrived and the whole of the mobile home filled with ham hopefuls. There were so many that Sean Bittle, KL1BK, had to sit outside on a small folding table to take his general test. I have not heard if he passed but I sure hope so.

The hams on the Kenai seem to be doing a good job of interesting young people in the ham radio hobby. This is a photo taken at the HF Field Day operating position (Kenwood TS-450S) of KL7XJ, Dale Hershberger and 12 year old KL1ME, Caleb Martin. Caleb was testing for General during Field Day and tells me he has already started studying for his Extra Class license.

It turns out that one of the hams in Soldotna has been strongly encouraging the kids towards ham radio and in the Van at field day we find (left to right) Dale, KL7XJ, Everett Martin, KL1??, Sean Bittle , KL1BK, Steven Martin, KL1?? and David Wolf, KL1??. All of them except Dale were taking tests that day.

I couldn't stay nearly as long as I wanted but my time was well spent. Moosehorn ARC had a 1st rate setup for Field Day. Well done. de AL7FS

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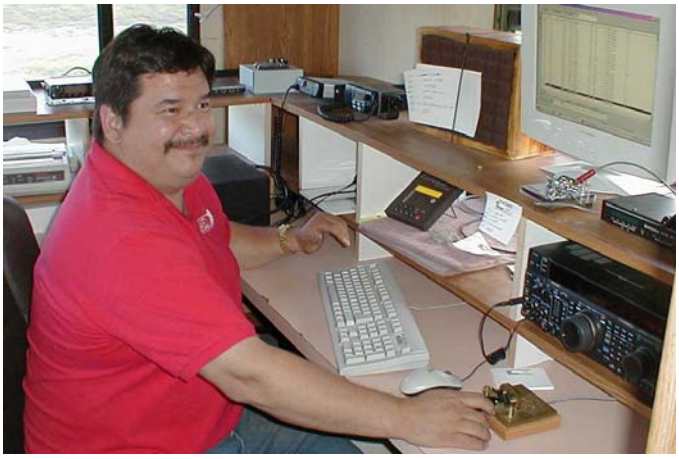
Field Day at AARC Anchorage Site
As seen briefly by AL7FS

After the fun of the Soldotna Field Day, I drove back to Anchorage as I wanted to participate in the AARC Field Day. I arrived that evening at the Tozier dog track and found two main operating groups. The SSB station was being operated out of the small building on the property. One of the AARC tower trailers was parked along side the building and the diesel generator was chugging away.

Inside I found lots of food and a few operators. The SSB station was well manned for the effort each time I stopped by. In the photo below we see Steve Jensen, KL0VZ, and club secretary, TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, and Steve's wife, Sue Jenson. They were working like a finely tune machine listening, calling and logging like pros. One amazing thing occurred. I spotted John Lynn, KL7CY, general class hopeful, operating HF SSB and doing a very good job.

I snapped a few photos around the site and thought this one of the generator and tower was fairly interesting if you have never seen it before. You can see the generator, housed in a cover fabricated by KL7CC, Jim Wiley (Thanks, Jim), a fuel tank, 40 foot tower and the distribution panel, also built up by KL7CC.

Over in the AARC CCV (Command and Control Vehicle) I found Jim Wiley, KL7CC, Randy Vallee, KL7Z and club president (shown below), and John Hendricks, AL7OK. They were operating the CW portion of the AARC Field Day effort. The club computers in the CCV were doing a nice job on logging.



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Field Day in the Valley
MARA President: Len Betts, KL7LB
From MARA NEWS July 2003

Field Day 2003. I think that it turned out rather well, considering the lousy propagation for Sunday and the competition posed by the marvelous weather. The points are still being tallied. On Saturday, at one point, I remember seeing at least 15 folks milling about. We had three antenna systems up in the air; with a 3el tri-bander, a 2m/70cm vertical (with American Flag), and an inverted-V for 40-75/80-160. The contacts may have been few, but the food and comradeship was great!

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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.

LINKS

Super QRP Links
http://www.amqrp.org/misc/links.html

ARES Alaska
http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/

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ALASKA SEC

From the desk of the SEC

This past weekend we had a station set up on the Golden Days Parade route. Most of the folks who stopped by didn't know what amateur radio is and even less about what we do.

It seems that most agencies and government officials depend on the myriad of communications that are available to them, satellite, trunking, and all the other "modern" types of technology that is available for their communications needs.

We know from hard experience that in the crunch those systems often fail. Unfortunately, we are looked on as being old fashioned and behind the times in our technology. It is something to think about. If this is true, we will have a very hard time hanging on to the frequencies that we now enjoy. If

we are not useful to the agencies that we serve, how do we justify the frequencies that we now have?

It is important that we as amateurs get the word out to our communities and agencies of what we can do, how we can help. It is also important for our amateurs to be well trained in the work we do, that we are as professional as "commercial" communicators. It is one thing to have a license, it is another altogether to be trained in the skills needed to operate under pressure in any emergency to meet the needs of the agencies that we serve.

The amateurs who have completed sections of the ARRL Emergency Communications Course are: Level III Frank Henrikson KL0SW, DEC Kenai and Nick Meecher N3WWE EC of Juneau. Congratulations to both. I encourage all of you to invest in the time to take these courses. It will broaden your vistas of amateur radio emergency communications.

73
--
Linda

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

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AARC member, KL7MD, serves in Uzbekistan

7/15/03

Hi Jim,
Greetings from Firebase Romeo, Camp Stronghold Freedom in Karshi Khanabad, Uzbekistan. For those of you who thought I would never get deployed here I am. The weather is great. Blue skies, warm breezies and the sun is always shining. The average temperature during the day is over 100 degrees. The temperatures on the flight line can reach 140 degrees. Inside the planes it's even hotter.

The living conditions are top notch. A canvas tent that can hold 8 to 16 people at a time. The food is even better. They actually serve steak, crab legs, shrimp and lobster every week and you thought the military just ate MRE's. We actually have MWR facilities that offer movies, satellite TV, long distance phone service, a gym and a running track. It goes right past the land mines, unexploded ordinance and radioactive waste dumps. When you see a sign that says stay on track, you had better do it because they mean it.

I couldn't bring a portable HF rig due to security restrictions. I am trying to find out who in the Army brought a HF rig with them so that I might be able to do DX with it. Most of the communications is satellite, UHF and some commerical VHF. The FRS radio is popular with the Army for communications.

Currently I am working with the Special Ops group out of Hubbert Field, Florida. We are on a 30 minute alert 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I am working with a great bunch of personnel. We have the C-130 Spectre gunships (fire support), the C-130 Talons (Insertion and Extraction) and the HC-130's (Rescue). The normal duty day is a 12 hour shift 7 days a week. Most of us are working up to 16 hours a day due to operations tempo.

I can't discuss mission specifics as they are considered classified but I can tell you that we had been in country less than a week when we were called upon for our first rescue. I had a front row seat in the Intel shack and got to watch the action first hand. It was awesome to watch so many different organizations, squadrons and companies work together as a team. We had A-10's, F-15's, CH-47's, Blackhawks, Payhawks, Spectre's, Talon's and Rescue all in the sky at the same time. All of it was coordinated by a AWAC's cruising over head. Long story short, we saved the good guys from the bad guys. Once we got the good guys our of harms way the Spectre's went in and took care of business.

I realize that this article has very little to do with communications but I thought you might like to know about the men and women who are far from home and their loved ones busting their behinds not only for their country but for one total foreign to them. So next time you see the American Flag waving in the breeze say a prayer for their safe return. I know I do every time I have the chance.

Michael O'Keefe, KL7MD

7/16/03

Hi Jim,
So far the hours aren't that bad. I have only had to pull two 36 hour shifts since I have been here. It's a cake walk from what I was used to when I was in the Army as a tactical operations center NCOIC in communications. They even have real beds to sleep in if you can find the time.

Best Wishes, Mike

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M.A.R.A. continues outreach to Wasilla High School and other local schools

From MARA NEWS July 2003

Mike, KL1LD at Wasilla High School will have a fully functional ham station to work with in the up coming school year. M.A.R.A. members put in many hours erecting the antenna array on top the school's west wing during the month of MAY. This was all part of the A.R.R.L'S " Big Project ". The club has provided several show and tell demos for local schools this past year, the most recent was at Big Lake Elementary. We hope Mike's class will stimulate interest in the hobby to other area schools and perhaps start a state wide trend.

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THE QRP LAMENT

Dedicated to QRP Bob, KD6VIO, who struggled diligently to work his hundred countries.

I'm a little peanut whistle
And my antenna's not so hot.
I can't compete with power
But I try an awful lot.

Refrain: QRP, QRP. Won't you
Listen, please, for me?

The big guys work the DX,
And leave the crumbs for me.
But I'm always in there calling,
Working for DXCC.

Refrain.

I never work the rare ones,
And pile-ups leave me out,
But I call the other countries
That are always all about.

Refrain.

It only takes a minute
To listen to my plea,
And I'll be forever grateful
If you'll stand by just for me.

Refrain.

I'm getting old and weary,
And the prop is mighty low.
I'd like to make my hundred,
Before I have to go.

Refrain.

But somewhere up in heaven
There's a place, I know, for me
Where the DX always says,
"Let's hear the QRP!"

QRP, QRP. Thanks for
Listening just for me.

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M.A.R.A. returns a favor

From MARA NEWS July 2003

Richard, KL7DY has some freebie rack bays at his place, he wants to get rid of. He also has been working on the A.A.R.C. antenna trailer. It needed working tail lights and some bracing to keep the floor boards from warping. They have loaned the unit to us on several occasions and Richard thought the repairs would be an appropriate thank you. (Thanks, MARA and Richard.)

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 22, No. 27
July 11, 2003
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"BPL IS A PANDORA'S BOX OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS," ARRL TELLS FCC

Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. In response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (NOI) published May 23, the League this week filed a 120-page response--including studies. The NOI, which asked how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals, attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.

"ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gored with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once (1) cause widespread interference, and (2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception.

The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels for such systems, however.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."

Studies appended to the League's comments **suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 34 dB to 65 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels** in the worst-case

situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated.

Electric utility companies would operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL pointed out that some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams. "It is a very substantial problem now for the Amateur Service, without the addition of BPL to the mix," the League said.

The ARRL concluded by urging the FCC to ensure that BPL "is not permitted to operate in or near any Amateur Radio allocations" and that any future changes in ham allocations would "trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities" to avoid amateur frequencies.
ARRL's comments and additional information are available on the ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>.

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund campaign to support activities to educate government officials on the potential threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>

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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.

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
Summary of Financial Affairs

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History of 73

From the 1969 ARRL "The Radio Amateur's Operating Manual"

The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind - it indicated that the end, or signature, was coming up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used.

The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication 'The National Telegraph Review and Operators' Guide,' first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you!" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals then used have the same definition now that they had then, but within a short time, the use of 73 began to change.

In the National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here, 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code." A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to

indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments," which was in keeping with the florid language of that era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's 'The Telegraph Instructor' shows it merely as "compliments". The 'Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy' defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you"; but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments". Theodore A. Edison's 'Telegraphy Self-Taught' shows a return to "accept my compliments". By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments".

"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used - a "friendly word between operators".

-Louise Ramsey Moreau W3WRE/WB6BBO

ARES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE (extract)

<http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/training/ARES_Emergency_communications_guide.htm>

Use this guide to assist you when participating in emergency communications drills or actual emergencies

Prepared by the Alaska ARES District 7 Training Committee

Printed and distributed via a grant from the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Part 1 – Basic Checklist

The following list of items should either be already in your vehicle, or ready to load on a moment's notice.

1. Warm jacket, sturdy shoes, rain gear, bug repellent
2. Note pads, pens and pencils, clip board, ID badge
3. List of net frequencies
4. Traffic handling instructions, message forms
5. Maps of local area, special maps as needed for drills or other events
6. "Who's Who" list of contact names, phone numbers, and locations for officials and others
who may be important to the success of your mission
7. Full tank of fuel for your vehicle

Winter and Cold weather add-ons (in Alaska, you should have these at all times)

8. Blankets, Winter clothing, gloves, snow boots, hat
9. Tow chain or strap, jack, jack pad (for snow), shovel (in case you get stuck)
10. Flashlight (2), spare bulbs and batteries
11. Basic vehicle tool kit, including battery jumper cables, lug wrench,
12. Spare fuses (at least 3 for each size used)
13. First aid kit, portable fire extinguisher, safety flares, hazard warning reflective markers

Part 2 – Life Support

Remember that emergencies usually happen at inopportune times. The weather in Alaska is always a concern, and you must be in good physical condition if you are going to provide useful communications support during emergency situations.

Clothing: Rain gear, spare clothing, and don't forget extra socks, underclothing, and shoes. Wet clothing will make you less effective, and could even jeopardize your survival. Bring mittens and gloves, winter hat, extra jacket (parka in winter). If you might be someplace for an extended period, you may wish to bring a sleeping bag. Mosquito repellent mesh is mandatory in summer for most bush locations. Dry towels are useful for many things.

Food: "C" rations (Also known as MRE's), concentrated food bars, cold sandwiches, fruit, "trail mix", candy bars, coffee (as needed for the event at hand). Plan at least 1 gallon of water per day per person. Water purification tablets. Canteen or water bottle. Basic "mess kit". Fuel canisters (Sterno) for cooking if desired. Paper towels. Can opener. Eating utensils.

Medical: Comprehensive basic first aid kit, plus bug repellent, sun screen, aspirin tablets, antacid tablets, vitamin pills, soap. Any prescription medications you might require.

Shelter: Rain repellent plastic over-wear and/or a small tent. 2 Plastic coated tarpaulins. 100' of ¼" polypropylene rope. Also, material to build a fire, matches and/or cigarette lighter, knife, folding shovel, toilet paper. Optional items: Lantern, axe, saw, "Leatherman" combination tool, compass, spool of nylon cord**.**

Part 3 – Suggested Emergency Equipment List

Radio: HF transportable set (can be your regular base station radio) and/or a VHF/UHF mobile and/or hand-held set. Include microphone, headset, key and/or keyer, speaker/mic, as needed. Headsets are absolutely required for VHF/UHF hand-held radios when aboard buses or other emergency vehicles, or in high noise areas – recommended for ALL uses.

Antennas: Portable or mobile antennas suitable for the radio in use. For VHF/UHF, include an antenna suitable for outdoor use or external mounting on a vehicle (eg: Magnetic or clamp-on mount). Do not depend on "rubber duck" antennas. For HF, wire dipoles, end fed ¼ wave wires and similar antennas serve well. At least 2 or 3 25' lengths of RG-58 type coax cable w/connectors, plus "barrel" fittings, UHF/BNC adapters. HF antenna coupler if you have one. Heavy string or nylon cord to hold up HF antennas. Duct tape and cord to assist in attaching VHF/UHF antennas to vehicles. Extra wire for HF antenna ground radials or counterpoise. External antennas are absolutely required for VHF/UHF mobile use!

Power: HF radios can usually operate directly from 12V vehicle batteries. 2 or 3 spare alkaline and/or ni-cad packs (fully charged, of course) for hand held radios. Charger for hand held sets. Power cables for radios, AC extension cord, large clips to hook up to automobile batteries. DC power supply for HF set. Bring some "clip leads" for unexpected situations. Adapter to power/charge radios from vehicle cigar lighter socket.

Operating accessories: 2 notebooks, several pens/pencils, flashlight w/extra batteries & bulbs, extra fuses for every radio and charger. Tools: standard and Phillips screwdrivers (2 sizes), wire cutters, "Crescent" wrench, hex key set, pliers, tape measure, soldering tool and solder, VOM, electrical tape. Any special tools you may need that are specific to your equipment.

Part 4 – Operating Hints

HF Antennas: Keep portable antennas in the clear as much as possible. If given the choice between "high" and "clear" – choose clear. Horizontal antennas perform well on 80/75 and 40 meters for "local" service (within 500 miles). Try to get them at least 10' high – more if you can. For 20 meters and above, use ¼ wave verticals, vertical or sloping dipoles. If you can keep your antenna in the clear, additional height always helps. Include a ground rod or stake for use with end fed or random wire antennas (not needed with dipole type antennas).

VHF/UHF Antennas: External antennas are always preferable. A simple dipole or "J" antenna hung in a tree or from a fence will always outperform an indoor antenna. "Rubber duck" antennas are essentially useless inside a metal vehicle. Use a magnet or gutter clip mount instead. Even standing your HT on the vehicle roof will improve copy. If you are in a "bad spot", try moving a few feet and try again. If this helps, stay in the better location until your message is passed. Hold your HT so the antenna is vertical and away from your body.

HF Operations: Use headphones for better listening. Be ready to relay distant stations if needed. In power emergencies, a 100W rig at 25W saves batteries and is only 1 "S" unit weaker. Reducing CW speed improves copy. Know the standard phonetic alphabet.

VHF/UHF Operations: If copy is good, use reduced power to save batteries. Use phonetics only when asked. Be ready to respond promptly! Answer within 2 seconds if possible. DO NOT YELL! If signals are weak, speaking more softly than normal often improves copy. When using repeaters, check the "reverse" frequency to see if a weak signal is better on "direct". Relay such signals to net control when appropriate. Use simplex channels for localized operations or auxiliary nets where possible, save the repeaters for wider area coverage**.**

Part 5 – Basic operating procedures for drills and actual emergencies

If there is a net control, that station will be in charge of routing all communications. Pay attention to what net control says, be ready to act on requests quickly, and refrain from transmitting unless called or you have new traffic to contribute. Do not leave the net without informing net control! If net control requests that you switch to a different channel to pass traffic, return to net as soon as that traffic is passed and notify net control that you have returned. Do not contact another station directly without instructions from net control.

If there is no net control, and you are basically familiar with how to run a net, please take charge and become net control. If you are net control and you need to take a break, be sure someone else is available to take over before leaving.

Listen to the operation of the net before jumping in. Try to determine who is net control, what the overall situation is and who, if any, are the "key players" in the event at hand. Be sure you have something to contribute before breaking in. If the net control wishes to know who is available but not presently involved in the actual activity, he or she will ask for "check ins" - this is the time to make your presence known.

Remember! We are here to assist the various public officials (police, fire, disaster managers, or whoever else is in overall charge) - we are NOT here to take action independently. This means you should use common sense and your experience to expedite traffic – but you must not second guess the person in charge and start dispatching people, equipment, and materials, or otherwise performing tasks that are not communications in nature – unless of course that is also your official job for that situation. How you get the message passed is to a large extent up to you and your individual initiative. The person coordinating the event doesn't care how you get your part of the job done, as long as it gets done promptly and smoothly. Amateur radio is here to serve others, not to become the "star" of the show. Our job is best done when public officials realize they can rely on us to "get it done" while they worry about other more important things. **(see website for the rest of the Guide)**

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc
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Field Day takes on a whole new meaning.