

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting on September 5

Broadband over Power Line Video + Dan O'barr, KL7DR, and the unexpected emergency

Officers

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Vice President Jim Larsen, AL7FS
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 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

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, 97.4 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 Lily's on Tudor Road just East of Tony Romas. A great bunch of folk's attend this one.

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.

(VE Northway Mall at 3PM September 2003 only)

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



Announcing - ANCHORAGE HAMFEST and ARRL Convention 2003

**FREE ADMISSION!!
FREE TABLES!!!**

Electronics swap-fest: radios, computers, printers, auction items, parts, books, antiques, antennas, software, surplus goodies, new and used ham sets, free stuff, QSL Bureau, and more!

When & Where: September 13 and 14, Northway Mall – Space G2 Saturday-Doors Open to the Public at 9:00 AM, Close 6:00 PM and on Sunday 11:00AM to 5:00PM

Prizes: Grand Prize **ICOM IC-718** HF Transceiver – 100 watt. Other prizes: **Alinco DR-605TQ** Dual-band VHF/UHF mobile transceiver, **Alinco DJ-596T (2 each)** 2M/70CM Handheld 5W with 12V battery **Garmin ETREX GPS-basic model (2 each)**, **Garmin GPS** receiver, **Mini-mag mount mobile dual band antenna (2 each)**.

(tickets \$1.00 each, must be present to win – list of prizes may change depending on availability)

Convention Special!! ARRL HQ technical representative, Ed Hare, W1RFI will speak on Sunday on Broadband over Power Lines

VE License Testing 3:00 PM Saturday Replaces normal Hope Cottage exams

Hamfest Banquet Dinner: Saturday, Sept 13, 7:00-9:00 PM, at the Royal Fork Restaurant (south) - Old Seward Hwy about ¾ mile S. of Dimond Blvd. Approximately \$11.00 each – all you can eat, includes drinks and dessert.

Tables: \$0.00 individual, \$0.00 commercial & no added commission charges. To reserve tables, call Randy Vallee at 230-5759 or via email to KL7Z@gci.net Tables may be requested at door, but it is preferred they be reserved by 09/12.

FREE ADMISSION!!



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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The September 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. Dan O'barr, KL7DR (and maybe Craig, KL4E) and will co-present the story and tell us a little about the ASDF organization.

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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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Remembering John Bierman, KL7GNP, Silent Key



John served 27 years as the manager for Alaska QSL Bureau.

KL7IPV, Frank Drake, Jr:

As I age I see more and more hams are passing from the scene. Each time I recognize another one's passing, I remember them by the name and callsign. Names from Alaska like Tim, Al, Del and George that have gone on bring flashes of memories. Most times it is hard to recall what they looked like, but sometimes I do. In some cases I fondly remember the hams in the company of another like a couple that belongs together. Couples like Al & Debbie, Wilse & Betty, John & Dottie. That is how I last saw them and how I still remember them. I see more and more of my past friends listed in the QST column of silent keys. Most I remember only in general with no specifics. Yesterday, the 27th of July, I got an e-mail of another passing. Unlike most others, it immediately brought to mind many things. I saw him immediately as if time had not passed us by. I remember the times I went to his home and was always greeted by that warm smile that welcomed me not just TO his home but INTO his home. As he shook my hand and put his left hand on my shoulder ushering me into his home, that let me know he was sincerely offering me the warmth of the home. As he led me to the kitchen in the rear of the home, his voice said volumes about this easy going manner and how he felt about those around him. His wife, Dottie by his side; let you know that the home was truly one of love and everyone was welcomed in the same way. He was the QSL manager for a long time and I saw how he managed the files so every ham would get the cards sent to them. John enjoyed being a ham and helping others be hams as well. He

was at flea markets, swap fests and club meetings and always ready to help another ham. He was taller than me and weighed less and I remember his sweater hanging lightly on him as he walked. He was steady and not quick. I moved from Alaska in July of 1983 and after all these years I was surprised at how the notice of his passing brought all those memories back as no other has. I didn't know John well and the little time I got to spend with him and Dottie were always pleasant and far too short. It is the memories such as this that causes me to retain my callsign after all these years. Although I have left, my heart still returns to the times that were so enjoyable and the people, like John, that made them that way. After 20 years I can say that I will miss John. His smile, his warmth and his grace. I can imagine hearing God as John went home, "Welcome John, I have been waiting. I have some things that need a warm heart and steady hand to organize and you are that one person who can do it. Welcome home." Farewell John, and God speed.

73

Frank

KL7IPV

Susan Woods, NL7NN

When I think of John Bierman, I think of a kind, gentle and caring man who always had a twinkle in his eye. He was always thinking about "how to build a better mouse trap". From this man who could read morse code in his head at 55 wpm- I learned, and passed the CW test at 5 wpm. We met at his house three days a week for about 15 weeks.

Thanks to KL7GNP - I have been Amateur Radio Operator for more than 15 years.

Thanks for the memories John
NL7NN Susan Woods

KL7R, Mike Caughran

John Bierman was my Elmer. That probably says a lot by itself. He was a friend of my family since before the 1964 earthquake. He welded a 20 foot high swing in our front yard in Turnagain that my brother and I used when we were kids. In the winter we hung Christmas lights from it in the shape of a tree. My first rig was a Heathkit HW 101 that he built. He had done such a high quality job of building the rig that it took 15 years for an unsoldered connection in the power supply to show up. I remember a story he told of practicing sending cw into a light bulb dummy load while waiting for his novice license. He told me that someone in the States answered him on his light bulb so he quickly stopped transmitting. I went to college in the states for a year and took along my Atlas 210. One night for no reason at all and on no schedule at all I put out a long call in the 40 meter novice band for KL7GNP who I hadn't talked to for years and, believe it or not, he came back to me! Tell me there is no magic in ham radio...

My love of CW comes from him.

I can see him now lighting his pipe.

Our family always called him Johnny.

Mike KL7R Juneau

Bruce W McCormick, KL7BM

Here's How I Met John KL7GNP

I met John on the very first ALASKA S.O.M.E. Run. Special Olympic Mileage Event) A relay type run by 12 Alaska State Troopers from the Yukon River bridge north of Livengood, to Valdez, a distance of 500 miles (I believe 1979) to raise money for the Alaska Special Olympics. John KL7GNP and his wife Dot were going along to be the Ham Radio Long Range Communicators to get information Back to Anchorage from the RUN.

Dot was always baking cookies and always had the "coffee" on in the 5th wheeler John was towing. When they would stop to make a progress report, the runners and support staff would stop and give John information to pass on to Anchorage, then drift back to see Dot for her cookies and coffee. There were a couple of stories about a big pot of stew Dot had cooking one day, some said it was Caribou, others say moose, but John said it was a combination of Porcupine and Squirrel from down the road a piece. (Dot would never say which).

The runner's motor homes had come up with descriptive CB handles like the PIG Pen etc..(they had CB radios for short range communications) After a couple of days the team gave John and Dot their own CB handle of the FIELD KITCHEN For the next 10 or 11 years that the S.O.M.E. run was held, one of the first questions most of the runners (troopers) would ask is the Field Kitchen going along. To this day some troopers I still keep in contact with ask about the Field Kitchen.

John was always kidding me about getting my amateur license and when they created the no-code tech, he convinced me to at least go get a book and read it a couple of times and go take the test. Well the rest is history. I took the test and passed in October of 94. I ordered an Alinco DJ 580 portable the next day and had it all programmed and ready for the license to arrive in the mail. It took 34 days, but I was now WL7YR. I called and talked to Dot on the phone and asked her not to tell John it was me but to have him turn on his radio, as a friend of his needed help to check out a new radio. We talked for a couple of minutes before it dawned on him who it was and for the first time in almost 15 years he was speechless. It took him a couple of minutes to get over the shock of me being a new ham.

Bruce McCormick KL7BM (formerly WL7YR)

Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV

I think the following tells how honorable John Bierman was. I often get sase QSLs from Japan with a green stamp enclosed, which I use to QSL in response. Since John collected stamps, I would save the envelopes for him. One day I got a call from John saying he had found a dollar bill that was left in one of the envelopes; he wanted to return the dollar to me. When I told him that was not necessary, he insisted. It wasn't his. So I urged him to give it to the charity of his choice. It was only with much persuasion that I could even get him to agree

to that; he felt that the choice of recipient was mine to make, not his! What a man!

73

Lynn

Frank Pratt, KL7RX

We went with the Biermans to Dawson, YT and on to Inuvik, NWT. They had a 5-wheel trailer and we had a pull trailer. We chatted back and forth on 146.52 along the whole route and managed to scare up a few visiting hams from all over. Can't remember the year, but guess that it was in the '80s. I could tell a long story about that trip.

In 1991 we met them while driving opposite directions on the highway. Here's an extract from my notes:

"7 July 1991, Sunday (Day 32) Up at 8 AM. Breakfast was oatmeal, donuts and breakfast pastries. Stopped at Boutillier Summit at about 2 PM. Photographed a few wildflowers; then while Verna was looking for more flowers, I went back to truck for telephoto lens as I was seeing a lot of Arctic Hares. Once I had the lens, of course, I saw no more hares. About the time we got back to truck, a fifth-wheeler slowed down as it approached. "That's John, isn't it?," Verna said. And, sure enough, it was John (KL7GNP) and Dot Bierman from Anchorage who had gone to Inuvik with us a few years ago. They were on their way to Whitehorse to meet relatives and take them to Inuvik, Dawson City, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. We talked with them for about an hour. It was sure great to see them, again."

73, Frank

Harvey Rookus, NL7DK

I am sure that I first met John Bierman shortly after becoming a Ham about 1984. We were working the Iditarod together at the Northway Mall. I then worked with him and Dorothy on several of the State Trooper "SOME Runs, which were a real learning experience. Over the years I visited with John many times and learned much about him. John was a Staff Sergeant in the 8th Air Force, 487th Bombardment Group (Heavy), 838th Squadron during WW II. He was a Flight Engineer/Top Turret Gunner on B-17 bombers stationed at Station 137, Lavenham England. He had many stories to tell about his experiences. One day I took him to visit a B-17 here in Anchorage and while there he started telling war stories to about 6/8 Air Guard pilots. He must have kept them listening for better than an hour. They were getting the straight scoop, from one who had been there and done that. John was willing to help anyone with their ham problems and building of anything where he could give assistance. John, with his wife Dorothy put in many, many years running the Alaska QSL Bureau for which they both will be long remembered. I will miss the many fine visits and story telling and listening that I have done with John over the years."

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Understanding the FCC's Broadband Over Power Line (BPL)

Ed Hare, W1RFI, of ARRL will speak on BPL on Sunday afternoon at the ARRL Convention on September 14.

From: "Stephen J. Schrack"
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2003 10:15 PM
Subject: [EPARA] FW: : BPL in Emmaus and My Meeting with Ed Hare.

Please forward to all concerned Amateurs...Read carefully about this very real threat to Amateur Radio... **We stand to lose our HF spectrum completely!!!**

Steve...N3MX

BPL in Emmaus and My Meeting with Ed Hare. This is an excellent report from Joel Gilly, N3GXY, member of Frankford Radio Club and Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club. Joel granted me permission to circulate it. The BPL could ruin our high frequency activities forever! Please read the related ARRL bulletins and the following report. 73, Bill Goodman, K3ANS>>

From: joel gilly
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2003 11:41 AM
Subject: BPL in Emmaus, PA and My Meeting with Ed Hare.

Gentlemen,

As I had mentioned previously, Ed Hare W1RFI and ARRL Lab Manager, was stopping over in the Lehigh Valley, PA on Wednesday as part of a three state sweep to monitor and collect data about BPL. I had the pleasure of meeting and spending time with Mr. Hare on Wednesday morning and had the opportunity to witness the effects BPL has on the Amateur HF bands.

On Tuesday night, my cell phone rang and when I answered, it was Mr. Hare. He was in the Valley, in Dorneyville, and wanted to touch base with me before our meeting the following morning. I was in West Chester at the time visiting my son, but Mr. Hare had mentioned that he had already swung through Emmaus that evening to make a preliminary assessment of the area.

On Wednesday morning, I met Mr. Hare at the Comfort Suites in Dorneyville. After the introductions, during which he presented me a copy of the "ARRL RFI Book", we discussed a rough agenda, then loaded into his well-used Subaru wagon replete with measuring equipment and a Buddi-pole portable compact dipole strapped to the roof rack, and headed off towards Emmaus. The area in Emmaus that is being used by

PPL for the BPL test is in the area of Pine St. just behind Emmaus High School and the East Penn School District Administrative building. We drove around to find a spot where we could setup to do some measurements. Mr. Hare had selected a spot the previous evening that he thought might be a good area to listen to and measure BPL's radio signature. We parked outside a residence and he began setting up his equipment.

Mr. Hare is using a very simple set-up in order to make an estimate of the field strength of signals that he is interested in. Strapped to the back seat of the Subaru was a wooden palette that contained a deep cycle battery, an inverter, a step RF attenuator, an ICOM PCR-1000 receiver, and his laptop computer running custom data acquisition and processing software that Mr. Hare authored. As mentioned before, he used a Buddi-Pole compact loaded dipole mounted in a tripod strapped to the roof rack as the antenna. The measurement process involves using the sound card in the laptop PC as an audio voltmeter. It is first desirable to calibrate the system by first measuring the noise generated by the soundcard and the receiver without the antenna attached. The antenna is attached, and the attenuator is adjusted until the desired signal is audible just above the noise floor. The software is then used to sample the audio and that is processed to determine the RMS value based on the 9 kHz bandwidth that the FCC specifies for emissions from Part 15 devices in the HF band. A calculation is then performed against this value taking into account the parameters of the receiver system (radio, feed line, and antenna) to determine the dBuV/M fields strength of the signal. It is a simple and elegant system that Mr. Hare feels will produce the consistent and high quality data that will be needed to address the Amateur Radio communities about BPL to the FCC.

The real eye-opening part of the day was to listen to BPL in action on the HF bands. Mr. Hare disconnected the PCR-1000 and replaced it with a Kenwood TS-440 and we listened to several amateur bands. The type of BPL used in the Emmaus area (there are several "flavors" which Mr. Hare showed later) creates an impulse type noise on the bands. It sounds very much like a Geiger counter. The noise generated is very broad banded and can be heard continuously up-and-down the bands. It seemed to be strongest on 21 MHz and faded below 5 MHz and a little above 24 MHz, but this may have been due to our receive antenna not being optimized for those frequencies. BPL created a consistent S5 to S7 noise level on the bands. We listened for a while to 14.060 Mhz to hear what it would sound like on a popular frequency. Some faint CW stations in the background could be heard, but the opinion was that they would be "un-copyable" under the circumstances. We then got back in the car and began driving around the area listening to the radio and the noise. As we got farther away from the test area, the noise faded dramatically. A few blocks from our initial location, the noise level had dropped dramatically to S1 to S2, the typical "quiet band" conditions.

We then drove to an area that had BPL, but had its electrical service delivered through underground feeds. In this case, we pulled up outside a residence that was owned by an engineer Mr. Hare had contacted about BPL and who had an Amateur

Radio operator living near him. In this case, the noise generated was somewhat reduced, but still around the S5 level outside the residence. It was clear from this example, that if you were a ham living next door to this person, your operating conditions would be greatly compromised.

Later, we drove around again to attempt to find a "hot spot". In the areas that had BPL, it was interesting to note the changing profile of the noise as we roved around the area. Every time we passed a utility pole, the noise level peaked dramatically. We arrived at one area that exhibited a significant increase over neighboring areas. This area happened to be a pole that contained a BPL injection point. The noise present at this location was unprecedented. On the Kenwood, I noted a consistent S9 to S9+10 noise level. I tuned up to around 14.200 and found a 5 call area station in QSO with CY9A. The five was copyable, but CY9A was much weaker, and the noise would have rendered a QSO with the station unmanageable. Mr. Hare then disconnected the TS-440 and made some field strength measurements. His measurements revealed field strengths well in excess of FCC limits.

We then packed up and stopped for lunch. During lunch, we discussed the ARRL ARIA project and BPL. Mr. Hare explained that while the aim of the ARIA project is much broader than BPL, it will be instrumental in gathering evidence to support the ARRL's position on BPL. He also touched on some ancillary issue regarding BPL. One of the interesting points regarded the limits on conducted signals versus radiated signals from BPL. He explained that some BPL systems are looking to use very high power levels and that these levels could exceed the design limits of other devices plugged into electrical outlets. Another point was that the FCC mandated field strength levels were specified under certain conditions. The vagaries of the various BPL schemes and implementations can provide "wobble room" for BPL implementors to pass the FCC requirements while still creating systems that will adversely affect amateur communications. As Mr. Hare pointed out, an overhead electrical line is just a large radiator of an arbitrary size. The radiation pattern developed by such a line could take the main lobe outside of the test measurement area, but still present a significant problem for amateur radio signals. Therefore, an integral part of the project is to gain "real world" experience about the affects of BPL on amateur communications. Still another question is how BPL will affect other users of the HF radio spectrum. Right now, the Amateur Radio community is the only organized response to BPL. Mr. Hare hopes that when the data he and others are gathering is made public, other organizations will come on-board and voice their concerns about BPL.

After lunch, we went out to the parking lot of the hotel and talked some more. Mr. Hare showed me a video tape he had made of his visit to Briar Cliff Manor, NY (near White Plains), another BPL test site. In that video, he is shown driving around with the TS-440 tuned to the 20m amateur frequencies. As he drives around the area, he tunes around the band. It can be heard clearly that on frequency after frequency, block after block, the band is filled with extremely

loud "birdies". It almost made the Emmaus experience seem bearable. The frightening thing about what I saw was that the situation will only get worse. The interference that I heard in Emmaus is directly related to the amount of internet activity. As more and more users come on-line, the crackling of the "Geiger counter" will get more and more persistent. We saw BPL in the day at low usage levels. I can only imagine what it might be like at peak usage hours.

All-in-all, it was one of the most enlightening experiences I have ever had. I am extremely thankful to M. Hare for inviting me along. I hope that in the near future, I can organize my material for the purposes of making a presentation to the DLARC and possibly the LARC.

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Joel M. Gilly
AKrion, LLC.
(610) 530-3213

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News from Uzbekistan

Date: Wed, 20 Aug 2003 00:32:29 +0500
From: Micheal Okeefe , KL7MD

Hi Jim,

I got your email so I thought I would respond before I hopped on the freedom bird going home. That's right...I am out of here on the 22nd of August and homeward bound. If all goes according to plan I'll be home before the September meeting. There is nothing new or terribly exciting to report in the way of interesting news. We have accomplished five more saves since the last time I emailed you. Mostly Afganistan men, women and children who have been shot, knifed or who have been unfortunate enough to step on a land mine. We also managed to save some special forces personnel that got caught in a flash flood up in the mountains and ended up getting washed down stream.

One thing of particular interest to anyone who knows someone who is stationed over here. I recently was involved in assisting with a patient transport of a critically ill young airman. She was suffering from severe seizures of an unknown origin. It was amazing how the medical personnel in the Army and Air Force pulled together to find, treat, stabilize and transport her to Germany. They pulled out all the stops for this young lady who would have died had it not been for the outstanding efforts of the men and women who literally snatched a C17 Cargo Transport from its intended mission and rerouted it so that the young lady could get advanced medical attention. Had it not been for their efforts she would have died. So rest assured that our men and women in the armed forces are getting the very best medical attention that can be made available.

Well that's all for now. Catch you at the meeting.

Michael O'Keefe, MSgt
210th ERQS, Uzbekistan

NCVEC Committee Studying New Entry-Level License Class

Credit: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/07/3/?nc=1>

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 7, 2003--The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has formed a committee to develop an FCC rule making proposal for a new entry-level Amateur Service license. The move came during the NCVEC's annual meeting July 25 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where attendees heard presentations on the possibilities for such a new ticket. At the same session, the NCVEC also approved plans to draft and submit a rule making petition to eliminate the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) and to give Novice/Tech Plus HF privileges to all current Technician licensees. NCVEC Chair John Creel, WB3GXW, of the Laurel VEC presided over the gathering, which included representatives of 12 of the nation's 14 VECs.

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Chair Scotty Neustadter, W4WW, and Rules Committee Chair Fred Maia, W5YI, offered separate proposals for an entry-level license. Neustadter said while the current entry-level license, the Technician class, provides full VHF and UHF privileges, it does not offer a simple entry path. He recommended a 50-W maximum power output level, Novice/Tech HF subbands plus 12 and 17-meter privileges and a 20-question written exam.

Maia's proposal suggested upgrading all current Tech and Tech Plus licensees to General and allowing their use of all bands. Beginner licensees should be granted call signs from the NA-NZ#xxx call sign block, he said. Both Maia and Neustadter suggest ways to streamline the number of license classes. Maia offered up the possibility of asking the FCC to eliminate the Morse testing requirement immediately, easing code exam format restrictions and giving serious thought to dropping CW-only subbands as well. Neustadter recommended no changes in CW/phone allocations, at least for now.

Maia, Neustadter, **Jim Wiley, KL7CC**, and John Johnston, W3BE, will serve on the entry-level license study committee. The panel is to report back to the NCVEC within a few weeks.

The NCVEC representatives' approval to petition the FCC seeking the deletion of the Element 1 Morse code examination requirement for HF access was in reaction to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) decision to leave such requirements up to individual administrations. Because the ARRL Board of Directors is seeking input on the Morse code requirement and other WRC-03-related matters, the ARRL-VEC abstained from voting on the issue.

In remarks at the meeting, FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth complimented the VECs for their efforts. He noted that complaints concerning the administration of amateur exams were at their lowest point in the five years he's been handling amateur enforcement. He also said VECs should not underestimate the FCC's concerns regarding examination integrity.

Responding to a question, the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, told the group that he did not believe the Administrative Procedures Act would permit the FCC to drop the Morse code testing requirement on its own motion. He predicted a lively debate during any proposal-and-comment period.

Members of the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch staff at the FCC's Gettysburg office demonstrated a beta version of new [Universal Licensing System](#) on-line filing software expected to go live in September. Among other features, the new, user-friendly software will incorporate on-screen links to context-relevant "common questions" and ease the process of applying for a vanity call sign. It also will provide compatibility with screen-reading software employed by sight-impaired users.

The NCVEC unanimously approved an extension of an experiment to use videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. The NCVEC had voted last year to back a one-year trial run to be conducted by the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. Jim Wiley, KL7CC, of the Anchorage VEC told his colleagues that, after unexpected delays, his VEC expects to be testing within three months. FCC Part 97 rules--97.509(c)--call for three volunteer examiners to be "present and observing" the examinees. Wiley said three VEs will be at both the exam site and the VE site during the initial tests in case anything goes awry.

The NCVEC elected Tom Fuszard, KF9PU, of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club VEC as chair for 2003-2004. **Wiley will serve as vice chair.**

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

September 2003

~~~~~  
Michigan QRP Labor Day Sprint (CW) \*\*\* QRP CONTEST!  
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Sep 01 - 2300z to Sep 02 - 0300z

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

~~~~~  
Adventure Radio Spartan Sprint (CW) *** QRP CONTEST!

Sep 02 - 0100z to 0300z (Monday Evening in US/Canada)

Rules: <http://www.arsqrp.com/>

~~~~~  
NA Sprint (CW)... QRP Category

Sep 07 - 0000z to 0400z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php>

~~~~~  
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Sep 13 - 1300z to 1900z

Rules: <http://www.htc.ch/>

Second Class Operator Club Marathon (CW) *** QRP Contest ***

Sep 13 - 1800z to 2400z

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

NA Sprint (SSB)... QRP Category

Sep 14 - 0000z to 0400z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprinrules.php>

QRP Afield (All) *** QRP Contest ***

Sep 20 - 1500z to Sep 21 - 0300z (Enter your best 6 hours)

Rules: <http://www.qsl.net/wq1rp/>

Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint (CW/PSK31) ***QRP

CONTEST***

Sep 22 - 0000z to 0400z (Sunday evening in US/Canada)

Rules: <http://www.njqrp.org/data/qrp-homebrewers-sprint.html>

72 de

Ken Newman - N2CQ

N2CQ@ARRL.NET

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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

"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 ... 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. 8/21-The radios are in hand and the systems being constructed.

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Ham Gear for Sale

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

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

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

Contact: Simon NL7VR at 561-0340

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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.

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ALASKA SEC

I am really concerned about the state of amateur radio emergency communications readiness in Alaska. Very few amateurs are taking the training offered by ARRL - at no cost because of the Homeland Security Grant. Very few amateurs are participating in local training sessions.

Things have changed since 911. City, Borough, and State emergency managers are not going to work with a bunch of rag tag amateurs running around with a radio. If you think you can just show up in the event of an emergency - think again - it won't happen.

We have a big responsibility to provide emergency communications for our state and communities, part of the reason we have the privilege to use so much bandwidth by the FCC. If we choose to use the privilege for our own

enjoyment, how long do you think we will be able to keep all the bands? The FCC and the commercial entities keep chipping away. We are sitting on some very expensive real estate.

Most of our communities are depending on commercial communications. It has been shown over and over that they generally are not reliable in an emergency. During the blackout in the Eastern US, the cell phone system got so bogged down that it was not usable. Every emergency that I have worked, even if the power was available, suffered failures of the commercial systems.

If we are not trained and prepared to operate in the event of an emergency we are of no use to our communities. It is time to step up to the plate and use your amateur radio privileges to help your communities and state.

--
Linda <><

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

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QRP NOTES : Sometimes You Get the Bear, Sometimes the Bear Gets You By Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV

With QRP you don't often "slam dunk" a QSO. As a result, each QSO - especially DX - is just a bit more exciting than the easier contacts made with 100 watts or more. Some are solid, others are more like:

CQ CQ CQ DE HI8RV
DE KL7IKV
KL??
KL7IKV KL7IKV
KL?? AGN?
KL7IKV KL7IKV
AGN AGN?
KL7IKV KL7IKV KL7IKV
RR KL7IKV 319 TU BK

Well, I am in the log and got an honest report - and I have learned to value those as my QRP activities continue.


But then, sometimes you get the DX on the first call. On August 20th local, the bands were almost dead, with only a few anemic signals. But there was ZK1KAT with a real 599 signal on 30 meters - and I got him on the first call. Then 20 minutes later I worked his partner ZK1ZOO on 20 meters, again a "slam dunk". He was working a few Europeans here and there, but I could only hear whispers of their signals from time to time.

I learned very quickly not to assume that it would be easy to work the guys with S9++ signals. But does that mean you should bypass the very weak ones? No way! Don't hesitate to


try, especially if you don't hear a lot of other signals. It might be quiet at the other end, too. An example was RW1AI/ANT at Vostok Station, Antarctica. I worked him easily three times, and he was barely above the noise for two of those QSOs! That station is at the magnetic South Pole, 10,500 miles distant, and I suspect one QSO was long path.

No, you don't get them all, or you don't break the pileup on that Dxpedition until three days out. But what a "charge" when you make one! To me, the ones you miss make the catches all the more fun, and any frustrations just melt away. You will never beat the big guns, but you can play a credible game.

Vostok base, 78 28'S, 106 48'E, ANTARCTICA
WAZ29, ITU70, WABA UA-10, IOTA AN-016



RW1AI/ant



Operator: Mike Fokin, P.O.Box 2, St.Petersburg, 195009 RUSSIA
Member of: DIG#4259, KDR#14, AGB#99, UCWC#248, Veteran#60

Polar expedition, ex call: RIAND, RIANDP, 4K1E, 4K1A, 4K1B, 4K1D, 4K1F, 4K1G, 4K1AFM, 4K1AFM, UK0QJ, UZ0BVL, UN1AAG, ZS1ESC and others.

RV1CC print <http://www.qsl.net/rv1cc> - rv1cc@qsl.net

To radio: **KL7IKV**

| Date | UTC | Band | Mode | RST |
|-------------|-------|--------|------|-----|
| 28-Feb-2002 | 03:26 | 18 MHz | CW | 339 |
| 27-Feb-2002 | 06:27 | 18 MHz | CW | 559 |
| 09-Mar-2002 | 04:26 | 21 MHz | CW | 539 |

TNX QSL Good Luck !

73! de RW1AI *Mike*

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, August 19, 2003 (Unapproved)

The AARC Board met Tuesday, August 19, 2003 at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building, 540 West International Airport Road. The meeting was called to order by President Randy Vallee, KL7Z, at 7:08 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, Judi Ramage, WL7DX and Pat Wilke, WL7JA. VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC was also present.

A moment of silence was observed for KL7AM, SK.

Reports

Treasurer

Steve Jensen provided a written report. Generally, the state of Club finances is healthy and moving in accordance with the annual budget. The Club received a notice from the IRS regarding taxes owed from December 2000. Our accountant, Lisa Rogers, is acting on our behalf in the matter. Other financial matters of note include the payment of a liability insurance premium and payment for Mt. Susitna repeater project equipment.

Gaming Committee

John Lynn reported that Lightning Bingo has ceased operation and that the Bingo Board is considering an operation similar to Lightning Bingo or leasing the space to a non-competing business. Additional permits would be required to run more bingo sessions and Bingo Board members may suggest permit holders to whom the additional sessions may be offered. He went on to mention that this year's \$11,200 fine is to be paid in September or October.

HAMfest

Randy Vallee reported that preparations were progressing and provided an agenda for the event.

ARES

Richard Block reported that the ARES organization is doing well. The August training session included a presentation on broadband data over power lines. Susan Woods will make a presentation to the JMPEG. An ARES Staff meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 24. Richard is also meeting with Clyde Raimer to formulate a new plan for amateur radio participation in the Iditarod.

VEC

Jim Wiley reported on the national VEC conference, the petition to drop Morse code testing and new license class. The remote testing web site is operational and the VEC hopes to give actual exams by the end of September.

VHF Committee

There was no formal committee report. Lil Marvin mentioned that antenna work had been completed at Site Summit and the repeater is working well. Jim Larsen reported that there is no packet connection to the lower 48 states. John Lynn suggested monitoring 146.52MHz for possible unauthorized transmissions.

Jim Wiley reported that the repeaters and related equipment for the Mt. Susitna project had arrived with the exception of one repeater, which remains on back order. We need to confirm the UHF frequency with Procom, assemble the power supply system and build coax switching equipment. John Lynn mentioned that we might need to purchase transportation for an overnight drop off to install the equipment.

Membership Committee

There was no formal Membership Committee report.

Old Business

Steve Jensen has documentation for the Club camera replacement and will issue a check. A bid for a kl7aa.org web

server in the amount of \$1534 has been received; others will be solicited. Steve Jensen is preparing recommendations for AARL library donations.

New Business

Richard Block proposed that the Treasurer be directed to determine and report at the September Board meeting whether, and if so, what amount of Gaming Account funds should be transferred to the Operating Income Fund, as well as what documentation, including legal opinion, would be advisable to obtain in support of such a transfer. The motion passed. The Secretary is directed to email the Treasurer with the text of the resolution.

Hamfest details were discussed. Judy Ramage will assist with the assignment of HAM tables, Sue Hilton will assist with advertising. John Lynn will provide a projection screen for the presentation room and update the AARC brochure, passing it along to Jim Larsen for publication. There are to be VE testing sessions both Saturday and Sunday. Jim Wiley will speak about the new license class proposal on Saturday.

Jim Larsen suggested that postal cards advertising the event be mailed to area licensees. Since this expense may be more than budgeted for advertising it may be necessary to move budgeted funds from facility rent to advertising.

The banquet is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 7 PM at the Royal Fork south. Randy Vallee will secure reservations.

John Lynn requested an update to the authorization to spend up to \$1500 for transportation to install Mt. Susitna repeater equipment. Jim Wiley asked if expenditure authorizations expire. The Secretary was directed to review the minutes for action items, expenditure authorizations, etc., and report to the President.

Richard Block moved to authorize up to \$1500 for transportation to install Mt. Susitna repeater equipment. The motion passed with Lil Marvin opposing.

Jim Larsen reported that Wednesday, August 20 would be the last day to file comments with the FCC on broadband data transmission over power lines.

Jim Wiley requested the amount authorized by the Board for a VE computer. The Secretary will determine the amount previously authorized and advise him.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Secretary.



Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc
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**2003 ARRL Convention
and
Flea Market
September 13 and 14**

Northway Mall - Space G2

**FREE ADMISSION!!
FREE TABLES!!!**

Electronics swap-fest: radios, computers, printers, auction items, parts, books, antiques, antennas, software, surplus goodies, new and used ham sets, free stuff, QSL Bureau, and more!

When & Where: September 13 and 14, Northway Mall - Space G2 Saturday-Doors Open to the Public at 9:00 AM, Close 6:00 PM and on Sunday 11:00AM to 5:00PM

Questions to Randy Vallee, KL7Z at 230-5759 or via email to KL7Z@gci.net