

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting on November 7th Election of Officers – Please attend

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-President John Lynn, KL7CY

Three Year Board Members

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

One Year Board Members

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

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

Homepage: <http://www.KL7AA.org/>
Email Reflector: KL7AA@QTH.NET
Webmaster: allg_ak@yahoo.com
President: KL7Z@gci.net
Membership: frederickson@iname.com
Newsletter: JimLarsen2002@alaska.net

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting
Email: JimLarsen2002@alaska.net
Mail: 3445 Spinnaker Drive, Anchorage 99516

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
 AK time, every day on 145.35 MHz @ 7 wpm

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Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:
 Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily
 Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily
 Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily
 Alaska Pacific Net 14.292 MHz 8:00 AM M-F
ACWN (Alaska CW Net) 3534, 7042 Daily @ 0700 –
 1000, and 1900 - 2400 Alaska Time - AL7N or KL5T
 monitoring.

Net Purpose: Formal NTS traffic via CW.
 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
 Grandson of SSB Net 144.20 USB Mondays 8:00 PM local
 Big City Simplex Net 146.520, 446.0, & 52.525 FM
 With Packet 145.01 Tuesdays 8:00 PM local
 ARES net 147.27/87 103.5Hz - 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.qsl.net/al7fs>
AARC <http://www.KL7AA.org/>
SCRC <http://www.KL7G.org>
EARS <http://www.qsl.net/kl7air>
MARA
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:
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 folks 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.

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: ARES General meeting 9:30AM to 12:00 PM. Call Phil Mannie (kl0qw@alaska.net) at 762-9590 for additional information. Also check for ARES Info at: <http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/>

The last Friday each month: MARA meeting at 7PM Fire Station 61, located two blocks up Lucille Drive, from the Parks hwy. Talk-in help for the meeting can be acquired on either the 146.640 or 146.850 repeaters. Further details can be found by contacting Len Betts, KL7LB, lelbak@yahoo.com.

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 -
Phone number: 345-2181

**Notes from the editor
(aka The pain of a 28.8 dialup)**

Greetings from Iowa. I find myself still on a trip to the Lower 48; extended so I can visit relatives. The trip started out with a Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center and when the trip is all done it will now encompass four states, four sister-in-laws, four nieces, a sister, a Mother (K0JGL) and a brother (KB0PDV). I was due home on the 28th and all was to be well with my newsletter efforts. What follows is the saga of doing a newsletter while on the road.

When I decided I would extend my trip by 9 days, I knew that I would have to figure out how to put the newsletter together using relatively old computers, old versions of MS Word, and worst of all, extremely slow dial-up connections. The technique I use to gather information for the newsletters consists of saving all emails through the month in a special folder. Of course, all of these were at home in Alaska. Fortunately, my wife, Nancy (KL7NY) and my son, Andy (NL7QI) are at the house. They could handle some of the workload for me as well as forward the emails to me.

Over the course of the last two days, I have spent over an hour on the phone with Nancy having her read email titles to me and then forward the emails to me for use here in Iowa. Approximately 70-80 emails had to be forwarded to me. Even today, I realize I forgot to check the C: drive folder where I also keep info. When Nancy is awake a bit later this morning, I will have to call and have her check out that location for more info.

The Pain part of this comes from the fact that my sister has a free Juno account. Her dial up never comes up at faster than 28.8 Kbps and Juno drowns one in popup advertising. I was lucky that she has MS Word but it is Word 97 on a 6 year old PC. I do not know yet how that might affect the end product but I am hoping it will be ok. I once counted the number of programs that I often use to compile the news and found that I use 7-8 different programs in the course of a newsletter. This month, I get to do it with one here (MS Word97) and one at home (Adobe Acrobat) which Nancy will have to do for me. This should be a challenge.

So now it is 10:30AM CST on Thursday and I am going to try to finish this newsletter by tomorrow morning or better yet by tonight. I would like to have the newsletter to the post office by close of business Friday. Wish me luck.

I will make comment later in the election biography section that I hope I have all the submitted bios for use this month. If I missed any, please forgive me. It was not intentional.

I will be back in town the night of the 6th so I hope to see you all at the meeting the next day.

73, Jim Larsen, AL7FS
Newsletter editor

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N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR
November 2003

40 METER FOXHUNT – Wednesday 0200z to 0400z (Tue eve USA) Info: <http://www.cqc.org>

Truffle Hunt – 30 min before Fox Hunt
Info: http://fpgrp.com/pig_hunt.html

ARRL Sweepstakes (CW) ... QRP Category
Nov 1, 2100z to Nov 3, 0300z
Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests>

High Speed Club Contest (CW) ... QRP Category
Nov 2, 0900z to 1100z and 1500z to 1700z
Rules:
<http://www.morsecode.dutch.nl/hsccl.html>

Adventure Radio Society – Spartan Sprint (CW) *** QRP Contest***
Nov 4, 0200z to 0400z (Monday Evening US/Can Time)
Rules: <http://www.arsgrp.com/>

ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone) ... QRP Category
Nov 15, 2100z to Nov 17, 0300z
Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests>

CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category!
Nov 29, 0000z to Nov 30, 2400z
Rules: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

Please forward the contest info you sponsor to
N2CQ@ARRL.NET and we will post it and give it more
publicity.
Ken Newman – N2CQ
N2CQ@ARRL.NET

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Not Yet Net

Frequency: 146.64, - split
Time: 2000 hrs (8:00 p m) Wednesday
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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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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Beginnings

I received an email from George, KL1JJ, suggesting a new series for the newsletter. I asked him if he would agree to be the columnist for this series on how people got started in ham radio. He said yes. Here, in his own words, is the premise for his ideas.

de AL7FS

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"Hey Jim;

I have spoken to some of the older hams in the club about how they got started and, after writing my own little bio for the board position, I had an idea. How about a series of interviews with folks about how they started in amateur radio? Might be kinda interesting. I found most of the discussions I had with folks interesting at any rate.

Below is such an article about myself. Maybe in future pieces the format could be more of a Q. and A. format. Whatever. Perhaps the series could be called "Beginnings". The important thing would be to familiarize folks with each other, to inspire new hams, and maybe get some entertainment out it along the way.

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Beginnings

George Wilkinson, KL1JJ

This last Hamfest marked the first anniversary for my ham experience, sort of. This last year has been spent steeped in amateur radio, trying to absorb - everything. NOT being God I failed the 'everything' part but it has been fun trying. For sure, the Amateur Radio Service is bigger than I ever thought.

I've asked some of the 'elder' hams how they got into this avocation, or vocation, depending. Their answers were varied and interesting. They all seemed to have different beginning points and thereby different paths. No, this isn't a theological discussion.

All my life I had friends in amateur radio but I took a pass. No use for it. A few years ago the Blood Bank hired me to drive the new bloodmobile. I was told that someone planned radios for the center and the bloodmobile but, hey, one problem - no one at the center was a ham. A problem, but to me unreal.

Two people made it real. One was Harvey. Harvey changed light bulbs in the center as a volunteer. We talked and ended up on the subject of the radios and, oh yeah, he was a member of the AARC. He bugged me from then on. Even gave me his copy of 'Now You're Talking'.

The other was Don, owner of Raven Electric. He talked about wiring the generators for external use by EMS, other disaster applications and, oh yeah, he was a member of the AARC. We discussed putting radios on board, and he'd goad me by holding up his end of the conversation in Morse.

Between the two of them I began to think that maybe I should get my amateur license. I learned enough to see an application to something I was doing. Not as a hobby, a necessity. I took time off from a blood drive and drove to the Hamfest for the test. Passed.

A couple months later the Blood Bank and I parted. Now what? I had no desire to talk to Sweden, take part in contests, or any of the other functions I was unfamiliar with. Over time I learned about disaster services, search and rescue, public service events, and ARES. Cool."

George Wilkinson, KL1JJ
Intelligence is useful if you have it.

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Amateur Radio in the 21st Century

From: Jim Larsen <jimlarsen2002@alaska.net>

There is a comprehensive overview available of the thoughts behind the NCVET plan for Amateur Radio in the 21st Century (also printed in AARC news Oct03). There are some good points within and each of you may find the article interesting, maybe even opinion changing.

Check it out at:
<http://www.qsl.net/al7fs/>
It is the second item in the Table of Contents.

73, Jim
Jim Larsen, AL7FS

<Preview of 1st paragraph>

Amateur Radio in the 21st Century

Prepared by Jim Wiley KL7CC, with assistance from other members of the committee working on changes to the US Amateur rules in response to changes in the international regulations that occurred at the World Radio Conference, 2003. It is intended as a way to help fellow Amateur Radio operators understand some of the thought processes that led us to where we are today. It is not a statement of the way things will end up, but rather it is simply a plan, subject to change and improvement. It is, in a word, someplace to start. Should any of these ideas actually reach the stage where a formal petition for rule-making is filed before the FCC, we encourage you to file comments either in support or in opposition, as you see fit.

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Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting

(Unapproved)
October 21, 2003

The AARC Board met Tuesday, October 21, 2003 at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building, 540 West International Airport Road. The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Steve Jensen, KL0VZ, at 7:03 PM. The following officers were in attendance: Secretary Philip Mannie, KL0QW and Treasurer Steve Jensen, KL0VZ. Also in attendance were Directors Lil Marvin, NL7DL, David Stevens, KL7EB, Edie Lynn, KL7EL, Judi Ramage, WL7DX, Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG and Pat Wilke, WL7JA. Also present were VEC Chairman Jim Wiley, KL7CC and visitors Heather Hasper, KL7SP, Mike O'Keefe, KL7MD, Kathy O'Keefe, KL7KO, George Wilkinson, KL1JJ and Susan Woods, NL7NN.

A quorum being present, the minutes from the September Board meeting were accepted as amended.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Steve Jensen presented a written report and mentioned that in the opinion of Club legal counsel we may add additional funds to the Operating Fund, the new Club web server had been purchased, the Club logo coat project was complete and acknowledged Pat Wilke's tool contribution.

Gaming

There was no formal report. The Club's \$11,000 donation will be made this month in accordance with the terms of our gaming settlement with the state.

ARES

Philip Mannie reported briefly on the October 18 JOTA event.

VEC

Jim Wiley reported on complications with remote testing software. He was presented with a \$4,000 invoice from the software developer for software maintenance. We will need to ask Richard Block for details on the exact terms of our software development agreement with APU.

VHF

There was no formal report. John Lynn installed the new antenna for the Mt. Susitna repeater and it appears to be working well.

Membership

There was no formal Membership Committee report.

Old Business

The new KL7AA web server is working. The plan is to move AARC related web material to it. Heather Hasper requested that Club committee data such as contact information be posted there.

ARRL Library Books have been shipped.

New By-Laws have been submitted to counsel and returned with revisions. Action will be deferred until the November Board meeting. With Board approval they could be presented to the membership for a vote in January.

Most parts for the remaining ARES Kits have arrived. When repeater projects are complete we will need to start assembling the remaining kits, probably in about three weeks. Jim Wiley reported that the kits should be stored plugged in to power and suggested the CCV storage area.

Jim Wiley reported that all hardware for the second repeater in the Susitna project has arrived. Since AC power at the site has been dependable, no battery backup will be required. Backup battery power will be needed at the Grubstake site.

Steve Jensen reported that the \$2,600 Police Auxiliary grant check has been written.

New Business

Planning for the Annual Meeting was addressed. The Secretary was instructed to produce separate ballots for Club Officers, Three-Year Directors and One-Year Directors. Kyle Sandel, AL7J was added to the list of nominees for a One-Year Directorship.

Steve Jensen presented a 2004 budget proposal for the Board's consideration. After discussion the proposed budget was accepted as amended.

The Board directed Philip Mannie to complete maintenance and repair to the AARC tower trailer. Trailercraft will perform the needed maintenance and repair beginning this week.

Steve Jensen presented a brief report on Director's and Officer's insurance for the Board.

A proposal to acquire an OEM copy of Microsoft Windows 2000 at a cost of \$175 for the new version of the Club's GIS software was approved.

Heather Hasper presented a written proposal for a CCV Coordinator position. The motion was tabled until the November Board meeting.

George Wilkinson presented a proposal to reserve State Fair space and acquire a tent for Club displays. Edie Lynn's motion to expend the \$50 necessary to reserve space and to develop a plan for a Fair display was approved.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Secretary.

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Silent Keys

Sent Tuesday, October 21, 2003 6:06 pm
[KL7AA] **Marjorie Page, KL7GLU**, Passed away today

Just a note to let you all know that Margie Page, KL7GLU, passed away this afternoon about 1:45pm. She was 79. Services are pending. She was an adventuresome lady who had a heart of gold. Her support of the PARKA was staunch. She will be greatly missed.

33, Susan

Date: Wed, 01 Oct 2003 20:51:17 -0800
[KL7AA] Peter Bailey WL7BW SK
from John E Lynn Jr

Peter Bailey, 60

Anchorage resident Peter George Bailey, 60, died Sept. 26, 2003, at Providence Alaska Medical Center of a heart attack.

Mr. Bailey was born June 30, 1943, in Dayton, Ohio. He earned a bachelor's degree from Westmont College and a bachelor's degree in music from University of the Pacific. He came to Alaska in August 1972, residing in Kodiak until 1991.

Mr. Bailey was a career piano tuner and computer systems administrator. He retired from Tesoro in July 2002. He received an award from Habitat for Humanity and was a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Bailey's interests included ham radio. He also was a musician and founded the Kodiak Balalaika Players.

His family wrote: "Peter loved to teach. He loved to learn. He had a passionate love for music. He expressed that love through the exploration and mastery of many instruments. He inspired the love of music in others. He was a very special person and will be missed."

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New antennas for Mount Susitna Repeater

A new VHF antenna was installed at Mt. Susitna. It is on top of KYES's tower and some distance from the building. There should be no potential for ice damage in this position. The coverage has been demonstrated to extend almost to Gun Sight Mountain on the Glenn Highway and almost Ninilchik on the Sterling Highway. The extra bandpass 2 meter filter was removed, but we have observed some intermod hits and recommend that filters be included in the final configuration, in addition to the duplexers. Jim KL7CC is working to get the new system assembled. Procomm is planning a big trip during the week of October 27 which looks like a good opportunity to install the finished system and additional antennas.

John Lynn, KL7CY

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Update on RM-10787 Stats:

This is the NCVEC petition to end Morse code testing

As of 6:00 PM EDT Monday, September 29, 2003. This date was announced as the last day that comments could be filed on this petition.

Total comments filed: 609
In favor of petition: 339 56%
Against petition: 259 43%
Unresponsive: 11 1% (see note 1)

Ratio in favor of petition: 1.31 to 1 (unresponsives not included)

In an ordinary election, these numbers would be enough to carry the day in favor of the petition.

Notes:

- (1) Comment was unresponsive, indecipherable, or otherwise unrecordable
- (2) Numbers rounded to nearest percentage point.
- (3) Information gathered from FCC database of comments filed
- (4) Not checked for duplicate entries

Several instances of duplicate entries were noticed in the course of examining these comments. I have not attempted to do a thorough cross-check and eliminate these dupes. It is also possible that some of these "dupes" were extensions of an original comment, either additional material supporting the initial position, or a cancellation of an earlier submission, in that perhaps a person changed their mind in the intervening weeks. I did not read each comment in detail, but just scanned them briefly to get a sense of the writer's "vote", so to speak. This could usually be ascertained within the first few sentences. Also, there were several comments that offered a mixed message, to wit: drop code for Tech and/or General, but keep it for Extra. There were even some comments that wanted things put back the way they were before the 2000 restructuring, i.e. 5/13/20 WPM tests.

In some cases, whether or not a comment was in favor of or against the petition could be open to individual interpretation. I have tried as best I could, I hope without bias, to assign these comments into the proper "slot", but the "official" tallying of these by the FCC may result in different numbers from what I have reported here.

There were a very few instances of comments from individuals living in other countries, having licenses (call signs) not issued by the FCC. I do not know whether or not these should be included in the totals or not, I have left them in.

Now we wait to see what happens next.

73
Jim Wiley, KL7CC
Vice Chairman, NCVEC

Handi-talkies for Satellites
Notes from Dan O'barr, KL7DR

After watching Dan's demo at the last ham club meeting, I sent him an email and asked about what works for satellite. What HTs does he recommend. (Dan may expand this email into a full article at a later date and AARC will be happy to run that full article later. Thanks, Dan.) AL7FS

From: Dan O'Barr <KL7DR@AMSAT.org>

I've tested probably 25 to 30 HTs on the satellites. Some I've tested have included 3 or 4 of the same make and model. What I found out is, that the UHF sensitivity in the 435 MHz range varies widely, sometimes in two, brand-new, identical, right out of the box HTs. This is especially true of Yaesu's.

One such is the Yaesu VX-7. I bought a VX-7 from HRO at the AARC Hamfest last year. I couldn't hear UO-14 on it, and UO-14's transmitter is about 12 times more powerful than SO-50's. (The bird we were operating the other night.) So I sent it back and demanded a new one. They sent me a new one, with me paying shipping both ways, and it worked much better, but not near as good as my old Icom IC-W31A. I sold that one.

Here's the scoop. I like to operate the birds full duplex. There is only one current production HT that I've tested that did well, and that's the Kenwood THD-7A (G). Of the previous generations, I've got the best performance out of the Icom IC-W31A, Kenwood TH-78, and the Yaesu FT-51. I've even seen a lemon or two in this bunch and they are not very rugged.

If you don't mind operating semi-duplex, I've had pretty good luck with the Kenwood TH-G71A, Yaesu FT-50R and VX-5. In the all band group, I've tested 3 Yaesu FT-817s and a couple of Icom IC-706MKIIGs with fair results. Also, most newer UHF only, HTs do surprisingly well as downlink only receivers. I hope this helps.

I recently purchased a Kenwood TS-2000X to use on AO-40. It is highly touted as a "Great full-duplex satellite base station." It is also the only, current production, HF Ham rig that, when modified, is compliant with NTIA standards for military and CAP use, without having to add some high-stability oscillators. So the other day I was going to try it on SO-50. Guess what? Right there on 436.8, SO-50's downlink frequency, and documented on page 103 of the manual, is a big ole nasty, full scale "birdie". Bummer!

Take care & 73,

Dan O'Barr, KL7DR
AMSAT 24622, BP51ho
Wasilla, AK 99687
KL7DR@AMSAT.org

<http://gahleos.obarr.net> <" target=lhttp://gahleos.obarr.net/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gahleos/>

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From the Desk of the SEC

We have just completed the first survey of stations checking into Alaska nets who have emergency power backup and what systems they are using. I appreciate everyone who participated in this project. It was a preliminary SET [simulated emergency test]. Next year we will attempt to have a section wide SET with a common senerio and all the ARES groups in the state participating.

I would like to announce that Anchorage now has a new DEC! Dick Block, who has been serving as your DEC has resigned due to scheduling problems and will take the post of EC. The new DEC is Phil Mannie KL0QW. I would hope that all of the ARES members will support and work closely with Phil.

I would also like to announce the resignation of Larry Ledlow N1TX who has been serving as EC of Fairbanks. He has done a good job of organizing the ARES group in Fairbanks but has changes coming in his life that will prevent him from carrying out his duties. I am still working on a new EC for Fairbanks.

If you haven't yet taken the ARRL Emergency Communications Course, I encourage you to do it while you can take it under the Homeland Security Grant which covers the costs of the course. It will become mandatory training after the first of the year for all ARES members in Alaska.

I encourage each one of you to hone your emergency communications skills, it is not a matter of IF but WHEN they will be needed.

73 Linda AD4BL

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Alaska ARES Training Links and Information

To Alaska ARES participants and other interested parties:

In an October 27, 2003 email, Linda Mullen, AD4BL, Alaska Section Emergency Coordinator outlined basic training requirements for Alaska ARES members. I'm sending this message along to provide details to assist ARES members in getting signed up.

ARRL Emergency Communications I

This course is offered online and is described at:

<http://www.remote.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec001>

Registration for this course (EC-001) generally opens on the first Monday of each month at 12:01 AM Eastern Time, and closes at midnight on the following Sunday. I recommend that

you register early as the courses fill up rapidly. ARRL members who reside in the U.S. should select a reimbursable CNCS- or UTC-subsidized class. **The \$45 fee will be reimbursed upon successful completion of the class.** Links to class registration are available from this page.

FEMA Basic Incident Command System

Also offered as an on-line, independent study course. See:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is195.asp>

for a course description and to get the course material. You can register and download course material at any time; there is no cost. You'll need to follow the links on that page to download the course material and will need software to read Portable Document Format (PDF) files installed on your computer. One source of free PDF reading software is:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

the PDF decoding software is available for most common computer operating systems (Apple Macintosh, Windows, LINUX/UNIX) and should be easy to install... it is likely that you already have this software installed, so give it a try. If you encounter insurmountable difficulties, you can email me (kl0qw@alaska.net) and I'll try to help.

Good luck.

73,
Phil Mannie
KL0QW

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Update on new backup power system for the packet Node stack on Site Summit.

This summer the agency responsible for the building in which the Node stack 145.01, and 440.050, and of course the 147.30 repeater is located upgraded the backup emergency generator system. The building went from a 1970ish non functional generator to a 17Kw constant 19Kw peak new Generator system. The new system driven by a three cylinder Perkins diesel set takes a maximum of one (1) minute to start, stabilize and take over the load of not only the building that the 90/30 and packet Node system is located in but the building also supplies prime and emergency power to the State of Alaska communications site on the same mountain top. When prime power returns the generator will continue to run for 5 minutes, determine the correct phase and the zero crossing point of the power, then switch taking no more than 3 seconds back to the prime power, the generator then runs for another 2 minutes for cooldown and then shuts down. Fuel contained in a new double walled tank will provide enough fuel so that we can power the site for nearly two months of constant run, we of course hope that power won't be out for an entire two month period, and considering the other high priority users on the mountain, that don't have generator power that's unlikely to ever happen. The Packet Node stack, along with the standby 90/30 generator share a backup battery set rated for 3 days of

constant use, the main 90/30 repeater has it's own battery bank, also rated for 3 days of constant use, so even if for some reason the generator doesn't start, the Packet and the repeater systems will remain on the air.

The packet Node stack has two node controllers, one operates on 145.0100 MHz NL7C-2, the other that is back to back connected at a cross connect speed of 19.2Kb is the 440.0500 Node NL7C-4. The NL7C-2 talk mode is used by the ARES group Thursday evenings at 2100 local for their ARES Packet Net. Any packet station wishing to join the net is encouraged to do so, the way to do this is:

First connect to the Node in this case the command would be something like:

CMD:(C)onnect NL7C-2 (EAGLE)

(note that the 'C' command can be used in place of the full ('CONNECT' word, and a user may use the callsign of the (Node NL7C-2, or the Alias of the Node 'EAGLE'.

Once your TNC shows that your connected to EAGLE, then type '/TALK' to join in the on going chat/discussions. Each station can type and see what all other stations in the 'talk mode' are typing. Each new line will be preceded by the callsign of the station originating the line.

When your done with using the "talk" mode, please use a '/EX' on a new line to exit the 'talk' mode, and then a 'B' or 'Bye' to disconnect your TNC from the Node.

New backup batteries were installed for the 146.94, 224.94, and 444.70 repeaters this summer also. Again there is a diesel generator set designed to provide power to the 94 site should prime power fail, but the backup batteries will keep the systems on the air for at least 2 days if the generator fails. We have had some problems with the phone lines used for the radio telephone interface (phone patch), these lines run above ground up the side of the mountain to the site, unless these lines are buried this problem will continue. And this is not likely to happen anytime soon, so we may expect the unexpected outage during high wind storms, or heavy snowfall. Both the 146.94 and the 444.70 repeaters have phone patch's attached so either is available. The three repeaters share a common vertical antenna using a diplexer to split the signal for each system. We do have in place and cable laid spare antenna's for each repeater should something happen to the main antenna.

Doug Dickinson - KL7IKX

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Thoughts on Frequency usage Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX, OOC

I know there are those among us that feel that coordinating a frequency for their particular use is not something they need to be concerned about. I've heard just about every excuse you can think of.

1. I'm an ' ' class license, I can operate anywhere I want.

2. No one picked ' ' to be the coordinator, I'm not going to do it, you can't make me.
3. It's too much trouble. (takes about 5 minutes and can be done on the net, by phone, by fax, or by snail mail).
4. I 'we' have used this frequency for years, everyone should know it's 'our' frequency so we should be grandfathered. (no one owns any frequency in amateur service, however there are agreed upon sub-bands and frequencies set aside for particular purpose's).
5. I'm not a member of the ARRL and I don't intend to follow any of their 'rules'.

The above being noted, there are certain frequencies that are set aside for certain functions. For example there is a sub-band set aside for satellite operations, and anyone into satellite operations can tell you how much trouble stations on the ground operating on the input or output frequencies of the satellites can cause.

There are certain frequencies set aside by common agreement for packet operations, 145.010, 145.050, 145.070 as examples as well as 144.390 for APRS, just as there are set aside common agreed upon frequencies for simplex operations in each of the VHF bands, such as 146.5200 for the 144-147.99 portion of the VHF band, and 446.00 for the 420-449.99 portion of the band.

Why am I harping on this again you ask? Well... As I was on Site Summit a couple of weeks ago, and working on the Node stack, I happened to have a radio tuned to 145.050 and what should I hear but a couple of voice users, using it for chitchat, and complaining about all the stations making all that weird noise, and they were going to start jamming those stations that were apparently jamming their operations. (Personally I hope I'm the one they call to complain to!). I did attempt to explain to these particular 'gentlemen', that the frequency was a agreed upon set aside for digital communications, and they were in fact jamming authorized users, the response was (1, and 5). Ok so they have at least been notified, and apparently went somewhere else to sulk. But I'll bet they will be back, so if your finding it hard to communicate on what used to be a gentleman's agreement for a set aside for digital communications just remember, there are those out there who now have radio's who have a number of excuse's to use those radio's anywhere they feel their license allows them to transmit. Who knows maybe next time they will pick the input or worse the output of one of the popular repeaters to setup their operations on. And they will be within the letter of the law, they can indeed operate anywhere their license authorizes them to be, and NO, NO ONE OWNS any amateur frequency.

BUT if we don't all follow the agreed upon sub-bands, and respect others for their particular passion related to our hobby, then the FCC will step in, and I can almost guarantee you won't like the outcome. Some of you don't like the ARRL and refuse to have anything to do with that group, that's fine, however I bet your still following their recommended set-asides for a particular portion of a band, so why not coordinate your repeater activities, so that someone else doesn't setup shop on 'your frequency' and start doing things you wish

they'd do somewhere else, anywhere else but on 'your' frequency. So it takes a couple of minutes of your time, and you have to deal with a group you don't like, isn't that better than loosing control of the frequency that you hold so dear?

KL7IKX - ARRL OOC

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A note on the passing of KL7GLU

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Margie Page (KL7GLU), Margi was an old friend from where I worked, and a valued member of the U.S. Air Force MARS program in its heyday in this state. Margie along with Bob (KL7HIU/SK) worked in 'my' MARS group for years doing what ever was required, they were both willing to take on any challenge.

Margie was in Retirement from the Bureau of Land Management shortly after I came to work (nearly thirty years ago) for that group, but we met in the hall, and exchanged greetings. Saw each other across the compound every so often before she moved on to just being a home maker.

We saw each other at social functions, Christmas Parties, both for the club and for the agency, we looked up each other up at the flea markets to discuss life in general, and amateur radio in particular, she was the 'GLUe' that held a lot of things together.

It was only a couple of months ago that I last saw Margie and that was at a P.A.R.K.A. meeting. Still spry, still with a sparkle in her eye, and a story to tell.

I'll miss you Margie, I know your in a better life now, and have rejoined your beloved husband, but you've left a large empty spot behind.

73 and 88's.

(editor note: I lost the sender's name. sri)

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QRP NOTES: Signal Reports Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV

I value a real signal report. Particularly as I work QRP, I want some clue about my signal level - even if S meters and operator's opinions vary. I have a ton of cards from QRP contacts with 599 or 59 reports. BALONEY! All that means is "I heard you and copied your call." What do you learn from that?

True, most 599s are from dxpeditions and contests. The dxpeditions do it because it takes a bit more time to evaluate a signal, and that means they work fewer stations. The contesters do it for the same reason, plus their reports must agree with the other station's log or the QSO won't count. Fair enough, I play the same game, but it leaves something to be desired.

But what about other QSOs? No excuses there - even for me, and I often get lazy and do the same thing. But, somehow, something has been lost in these "contest" reports.

Here are some confirmed reports from more distant stations that may mean something:

- RW1AI Vostok Base Antarctica 339, 539, and 559 (3 QSOs).
- VK9YL Lord Howe Island 339, 569 (2 QSOs.)
- UA3-155-488 Smolensk, Russia 5/5. (SWL).
- EU7SA Belarus 5/4
- 9U5D Burundi 5/5

Every one of these reports contains real information, even if the other station was estimating; they give me a real picture of propagation and how my setup is performing. A 339 report when conditions are crummy is a real prize; 599 is no help at all. How would you ever know if that 5/9 *was* real?

Something was really lost when all this 59 stuff took over!

Lynn

The Great Alaska Ptarmigan (GAP) Hunt

Announcing the Great Alaska Ptarmigan (GAP) Hunt on Nov 17 0000z-0200z which is Sunday afternoon or early evening. I am trying stay away from CW sweepstakes and Thanksgiving. 0000z is at the end of the SSB sweeps.

The plan calls for up to a dozen Alaska Ptarmigan for you to hunt. We will spread them out in the bushes all the way from 14.027 to 14.063 plus or minus qrm.

Here is a primer to get you up to speed on GAP.

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www.state.ak.us/adfg/notebook/bird/ptarmiga.htm

The Great Alaska Ptarmigan (GAP)

Ptarmigan, close relatives of forest and prairie grouse, live in alpine and arctic tundras throughout the northern hemisphere.

The birds are quite sociable in winter (get on the air more) and usually feed and roost in the snow close together. (In the snow...that fits)

Ptarmigan are notorious for their here-today, gone-tomorrow populations, pulsing between superabundance and virtual absence in just a few years. The causes of the rapid population changes remain a mystery. Many people think that ptarmigan numbers fluctuate rhythmically, with peaks once every 9 or 10 years. (Sounds like Alaska propagation)

In early spring, male ptarmigan become intolerant of other males and establish territories that they defend vigorously with aerial chases and a variety of gargling, croaking, and screaming noises. (Noises which we make after another month of lousy propagation)

Hunting: Ptarmigan hunting is fun. You never know what to expect from one trip to the next. (Yup, that is Alaska QRP) On opening day you tramp through colorful thickets of willow and dwarf birch, your dog nosing coveys of brown birds out of the brush while you mop your brow and wish you hadn't put on a sweater. Late in September, after facing a strong, cold wind for several fruitless hours (two hours to be exact), you top out on a rocky ridge and suddenly find yourself surrounded by several hundred stretch-necked, pinto-patterned ptarmigan (It could happen). You hang up your shotgun for five months, only to be tolled into the hills again by the bright blue days of March. Warmly clad in parka and mukluks, you snowshoe across narrow alpine valleys following meandering trails of

three-pronged ptarmigan tracks across the brilliant snow (We tend to come and go).

Ptarmigan hunting can be a serious business (but of course), especially if you live in Alaska's vast hinterland and caribou have been scarce. Then is the time to go after ptarmigan in earnest, using all the tricks at your command (Don't all QRPers use all their tricks?). Snares are very effective when used by those who know the birds well (But of course experience helps). A favorite method is to build a thin fence of close-set willow branches, leaving small openings where the snares are set. Another technique takes advantage of the fact that ptarmigan drag their feet in soft snow (listening for late callers in the pileup). A series of snare loops are tied into a long line, and the loops are placed flat on the ground around a favorite thicket of willows. Birds step into the loops, drag their feet forward--and are caught.

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So now you have more than you ever wanted to know.

We will be using Spartan Sprint format with RST, S/P/C, and power out. The call of the Great Alaska Ptarmigan will be "CQ GAP". We have emails from GAPs in Juneau, Kodiak Island, Soldotna, Eagle River, I think Fairbanks, and many in the Anchorage area. We hope to have as many as a dozen Ptarmigan hiding in the bushes and spread out throughout the geography. (If you have CW skills of 5 wpm or greater, you can be a Great Alaska Ptarmigan. Contact Jim Larsen at 345-3190 or at jimlarsen2002@alaska.net)

There will be prizes (for out of state entries) and maybe even certificates for all entries (with SASE). I will post this information again with more detail when I get back to Anchorage after the 7th of November.

73, Jim
--
Jim Larsen, AL7FS
AK QRP #003
Anchorage, Alaska
<http://www.qsl.net/al7fs>

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Tools, tools and more tools

It was said that we cannot work on the CCV because there were no tools.

It was determined by the AARC Board that the club should buy tools so that we could work on the CCV.

It was agreed by the AARC membership that the Board should get the tools so that we could work on the CCV.

So we got the tools.

In fact we have a lot of tools.

KL7RLB went shopping at Sears and acquired a two level tool cabinet and filled it with the Craftsman special 205 piece deal plus other stuff including hand power tools.

Then we learned that Pat Wilkie, WL7JA, had made a most generous gift of hand tools, which, by weight, is more inclusive than the new set of tools. So we bought another two level cabinet and filled that with Wilkie's gift.

All the tools have been sorted and neatly stored in the tool cabinets.

We have the tools--now lets work on the CCV.

Note of clarification---despite the plethora of tools, we still may need something not in the tool crib. Soldering, crimping and testing tools may still need to be acquired and we have no tools for baking cookies.

But Thanks to Pat. He gave us a lot of very good stuff plus a few HIWWTD's. (hmmmmm, I wonder what this does.)

Dick Block--KL7RLB

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**AARC Election Information
Biographies and such**

Due to my being out of town, I hope I have not missed any of the bios that were sent to me. If the bio is missing, please do not assume that I did not receive one. editor

List of nominees

- President Jim Larsen
- Vice-President Randy Vallee
- Secretary Philip Mannie
- Treasurer Steve Jensen
- Activity Manager Craig Bledsoe

3-year Director Jim Wiley, Pat Wilke

- 1-year Director1 Judi Ramage,
- 1-year Director2 Kyle Sandel
- 1-year Director3 Kathleen O'Keefe
- 1-year Director4 Jim Wiley, Pat Wilke
- 1-year Director5 Mike O'Keefe, Jim Tvrdy
- 1-year Director6 Sue Hilton, George Wilkenson

Nominees were asked if they would like to submit an optional biography. Those on hand are listed below. AL7FS

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Phil Mannie, KL0QW

I am a twenty year resident of Anchorage, since 1983, and have held an amateur radio license since 1998. I am very proud to hold an Amateur Extra license, granted in 2001. I was appointed ARES District 7 Emergency Coordinator in October, 2003.

While my academic training is in music and special collection library science, I've been involved with computers, audio, video and telecommunications since 1968. I am currently employed by KTUU, Channel 2, as a local area computer network and telecommunications administrator.

It has been my privilege to serve the Club as Secretary this past year. Because this job has a bit of a learning curve to it, I thought it appropriate to seek a second term in expectation that experience might add some value to my candidacy.

I believe that the Club has accomplished some valuable goals this year, for us as Club members, for our community and for Amateur Radio. While I hope that you have found my work satisfactory and will affirm that with your vote, the more important issue is your participation in the Club's work in general. Please vote, even if you choose not to vote for me, and please actively participate in Club projects and activities.

Judi Ramage WL7DX

31 year resident of Alaska and currently reside in peters creek employed at enstar natural gas for 22 years and currently am a gas control dispatcher working at the ops center on international airport rd

single with one daughter, son-in-law and 12 grandchildren....serious about the granny business

ham license for 12 years and not as active on the radio as i would like to be

worked as a ham for fur rondy, junior iditarod, and iditarod

have a horse, a dog, and 2 cats

past board president of southcentral counseling, member of chugach state park citizens advisory board, treasurer of chugach range riders and currently serving a 1-year term on the aarc board

really enjoyed working on this year's hamfest and have learned a lot about aarc and it's many activities

George Wilkenson KL1JJ

"I was an Air Force dependent so I lived all over the country, finally attending West Anchorage High and University of Alaska. My children were born in Anchorage and educated both by home and public schooling. I worked for mom-and-pops and major internationals, had a couple of my own businesses doing equipment repair, consulting, and software development, and headed a 501(c)3, all here in Alaska.

I was first attracted to amateur radio disaster response while working at the Blood Bank of Alaska; an ancillary interest is SAR. My ticket is only a year old but I love taking part in events and take my HT and antennas when hiking the mountains or traveling the west coast conus. I am an ARES member working on the Emergency Communicators courses.

I want to help provide a sound organizational environment for the AARC, and promote enthusiasm for the art and science of amateur radio service."

Jimmie J. Tvrdy, KL7CDG

I moved to Anchorage in 1956 worked as a Philco TechRep Field Engineer at Elmendorf AFB for two years. Spent eight very interesting years with NSA as a Trouble-Shooter for Alaska. Joined Civil Service in 1966 and worked as a Precision Measurement Technician at Elmendorf for a few years before transferring to the FAA where I helped establish a calibration laboratory for test equipment. I then accepted a position in Frequency Management where I evaluated and assigned air ground frequencies to FAA facilities in Alaska. One of my main jobs was establishing and maintaining the Frequency Van which was used in locating interference to these facilities.

I've been a licensed Amateur since 1950. I originally joined the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club in 1956 and over the years held all offices within the organization.

The present path taken by the AARC is one that was envisioned way back in the club's infancy and is now becoming a reality. As a director I would follow this trend of providing emergency communications, advancing the skills and expanding the training of operators and technicians .

Jim Wiley, KL7CC

Jim Wiley, KL7CC, (ARRL life member, AARC life member #161) running for 3 year board member. I have lived in Anchorage for more than 30 years, in Alaska for nearly 40. I was first licensed as WV6DRO (California, 1959), as a Novice. I went through all the steps, and received my Extra ticket in the mid 70's. My interests include working with beginners, experimenting with antennas and circuits, public service communications, and antique radio.

I have been active as a Volunteer Examiner (VE) for more than 10 years, and presently serve as Chairman of the AARC VEC. As such, I have attended 3 meetings of the NCVEC (National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators), where I have represented the interests of Alaskan hams. I have been able to present the issue of VEC testing (or lack thereof) in remote areas of Alaska, and have succeeded in gaining the support of both the NCVEC and the FCC in finding a way to relieve this problem. I was recently named as vice-chairman of the NCVEC, and have been chosen as one of the 4 persons charged with preparing petitions to be filed

with the FCC (see October AARC newsletter for my article on these issues).

I am interested in the continuing success of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, and I am pleased to have been a small part of what I see as nothing less than the complete rebirth of the AARC as a vital, growing, and enthusiastic group of local hams. I have attended virtually every general and board of directors meeting for the last 4 or 5 years, where I have learned a great deal about how our club operates. I am on the committee that is charged with rewriting our bylaws and other documents, the goal being to clarify our non-profit status and eliminate the inconsistencies in the present structure. I have also been pleased to guide or assist with some of our more visible projects (the mobile Communications and Command Vehicle (CCV), the ARES emergency response kits, and the Mt. Susitna repeater project. All of these are ongoing projects, in various stages of completion, but basically operable.

I have been able to work in close cooperation with the present board, and will be able to do so with the new board as well. I look forward to the club's future with enthusiasm, and see our best years as yet to come.

Mike O'Keefe, KL7MD

For over 20 years I was encouraged by members of the Anchorage Amateur radio community to pursue and obtain my Amateur radio license.

Two days after 9-11-01 I received my Technician license and a year after that I received my General license. I have worked as a volunteer Fire Fighter, Emergency Medical Technician and as Reserve Police Officer.

I have an extensive background in Emergency Services through my involvement with ARES, the American Red Cross, the Civil Air Patrol, the Anchorage Police Department and the Office of Homeland Securities Alaskan Disaster Medical Assistance Team.

I was born and raised right here in Anchorage and remember the damage and destruction the 1964 earthquake caused. I can still recall the importance of the amateur radio operators and the roll they played in restoring communications when there was little or no communications.

I graduated from the University of Alaska with a Associates in Electronics and joined the Army National Guard as an electronics technician. I lived in the Mat Valley and became a member of the Butte Fire Department as a volunteer Fire Fighter. Shortly after that I received my EMT certificate and joined the Palmer Ambulance service.

I left the military to homestead in the Alaskan bush in the early 80's. While homesteading I established a air/boat medivac program to assist people who lived in the Susitna river basin. I came back to Anchorage after homesteading and took a job as the Director of Logistics for the FAA's Logistic

Complex. During this time I also joined the Anchorage Police Department as a Reserve Police Officer.

During Dessert Shield/Storm I rejoined the military by becoming a member of the Alaska Air National Guard. My current position with them is as the 176th Wing Equipment Manger. I am responsible for managing over 37 million dollars of equipment, 106 accounts and interfacing with well over 100 people in the accomplishment of my job.

As a Reserve Police Officer I worked as a liaison with the Community Patrols and helped to establish one of the first Community Emergency Response Teams in Anchorage. During this time I also worked as the Reserve liaison with the Anchorage Police Departments Auxiliary Search Team. I am currently a FEMA instructor for the CERT program and I hold the position with the Alaskan Civil Air Patrol as the Director of Logistics.

As a past and present member with all of these volunteer organizations I am very familiar with the intertwined responsibilities within the Incident Command System (ICS)during emergency situations and the value of amateur radio communications within these organizations.

If elected to the Board of Directors, I would hope to be able to facilitate the needs of the AARC while developing and maintaining a strong relationship with the members of community and organizations who rely on Amateur Radio operators in times of need. Thank you for your considerations for this position.

Patrick Wilke, WL7JA.

I have been a Ham for over 10 Years, Last December I passed my 5 WPM and Passed my General Lic, and currently studying for my Extra. I am an Wireless/Messaging Engineer for ACS Wireless and have been with them for 9 Years.

I originally became interested in Amateur Radio in High School, while in High School I helped build an FM Radio Station. Ever since I have been interested in Amateur Radio and helping young people attain there interests in amateur radio. In 83/84 Assisted in Building KYMG, and in 1989 was lead Engineer in Building KYES-TV5. After that I meet several Hams. NL7HQ, NL7NN, NL7VR, and Actually Simon Carraway was instrumentally in helping me get my Lic. I finally received my Lic. (Technician) in 3-3-93 after waiting 12 Weeks. Then got involved in Fox Hunting, Packet Radio, (Jnos - Linux), ARES events, Field Day.

I donate at least 2 Cases of Look who's Talking, every year to people that show an interest in Ham radio. Other Projects, include IRLP started by KB8JXX, APRS Packet, AARC Motor Home Project. I am a Life Member of SCRC, Working on Life in AARC/ARRL. I have been a 1 Year Board member for 2 years, I have dedicated my time to helping the AARC

and ARES grow, and recently donated over \$8000 in tools to the Club. As a 3 three board member I promise to help our children and young adults become active in Amateur Radio.

Randy Vallee – KL7Z

- 1) I was born in territory of Alaska, before the turn of century
 - 2) I grew up In south Anchorage when it was known as the bush, Huffman Road
 - 3) 25 years w/Alaska Village Electric Co-op, 15 traveling across western Alaska as a Field Maintenance Instructor , 9 in management as Assistant Manager of Operations & Maintenance , 1 in warehouse
 - 4) I passed my Novice License in 1993, and continued to work on my upgrades until 1999 when I passed my Amateur Extra license.
 - 5) I am active in VE testing , contesting, ARES, AARC and SCRC
 - 6) The most important thing , I want to be Vice resident of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
- Things to look forward to
- 1) a continuing build up of AARC Emergency Communications Vehicle
 - 2) a continued support of educational efforts for Amateurs
 - 3) a continued positive approach to Amateur radio activities
 - 4) a continued support of ARES activities
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Jim Larsen – AL7FS

I was originally WA0LPK in 1965, now an Extra Class operator and a member of AARC, ARES, ARRL and SCRC. I have participated in HF(CW and SSB), packet, satellite , 6 meter, UHF, VHF, ATV, EME (2 meter WAS #36), DX, and QRP. QRP has lasted the longest and the strongest - 1970 to the present . I am the founder of the local Alaska QRP Club.

I have over 28 years experience in management and supervision in the areas of project management, operations and maintenance , engineering and quality assurance. My education is a B.S. (Engineering) from Iowa State University, an MBA from the University of Utah and Post Graduate Studies at APU. I am a registered Professional Engineer (PE) in Quality Engineering . I retired Lt Col from the US Air Force Reserve.

I feel deeply that this club has much to offer in the way of communications education and public service. We are in the amazing position to be able to do something towards that end with the finances available to us. We have only to go forward with vision for the future and take firm, positive action in the present to define and grow our place in the community. All club members can help define and share in the vision and I will work to include as many people as possible in the process.

Steve Jensen – KL0VZ

As a candidate for Treasurer of the AARC, I bring skills that will be helpful in the fulfillment in the job. I have functioned as Treasurer of one other non-profit, of the AARC this past year and earned a BS in Business Administration from Oregon State.

With my employment responsibilities I have worked with budgets and computers, both skills that will help in this role. I am willing to do the work associated with this job, and can promise an honest effort to accurately track and administer the organization's assets.

Craig Bledsoe, KL4E

It has been my privilege to serve the Amateur Radio community in a number of ways over the past forty years. I have held every radio club office from program chairman to secretary to president , volunteered for numerous public service events, participated in several real -world Amateur Radio emergency responses, and frequently reach out to the general public with demonstrations of how Amateur Radio can benefit the world.

I am a Life Member of AMSAT, QCWA, and the ARRL. I am also a certified Volunteer Examiner for both the AARC and the ARRL. I am easy to reach : You can work me from HF through UHF, on the ground or aeronautical mobile or even by satellite.

My philosophy is that Amateur Radio is an internationally recognized Public Service - NOT a hobby - and that we all should support ARES and similar emergency response agencies to the best of our abilities. Nothing else matters at the world conferences where we repeatedly have to defend our frequencies against a host of well-funded commercial interests, and nothing else is as important as the wise usage of our equipment and abilities to help humanity in times of need.

Please participate on November 7 AARC Election

You are all encouraged to take the time to vote. Participate in choosing who will be the officers and board members for the next year.

73,

Randy Vallee, KL7Z
President

Jim Larsen, AL7FS
Vice President



Antennas Some Rules of Thumb for Beginners

by [James R. Duffey KK6MC/5](#)

Every now and then somebody asks the list for antenna suggestions. Quite often these people asking are beginners who are afraid of making the wrong choice. In order to help QRPers choose antennas wisely I have compiled a few "rules of thumb". As with any rules of thumb, these are general and there are some exceptions to them. A few may be somewhat controversial and I am sure alternate views will be given by those with opposite views. However I intend these guidelines to point one in the right direction rather than providing a detailed map of what to do.

1. **Any antenna is better than no antenna.** Rather than agonizing over an antenna choice, just put one up and operate. After operating with it for a while you will become aware of your operating habits and the shortcomings of the antenna you have erected. That will give you some hints as to which direction you should go with another antenna. You can lose 1/2 of your power in poor antenna system efficiency and only be down an S unit or so. I hear lots of S9 QRP stations. They would still make fine QSOs at S8. I am not advocating antenna inefficiency, but you can live with it. It is better than no antenna at all.
2. **Higher antennas generally out perform lower antennas.** A vertical on the roof of a one story house is probably a better choice than one on the ground in the backyard. A dipole whose end is tied to a 5 or 10 ft mast on top of the house will out perform one whose end is merely fastened to the eave.
3. **Most people will be happier with a low dipole than with a vertical.** Verticals require a bit more attention to work effectively and beginners can become frustrated in dealing with ground issues.
4. **It pretty much doesn't matter what kind of copper wire you use in an antenna.** Thick or thin, insulated or bare, stranded or solid, they will all perform fairly well. Any effects due to these characteristics will be "second order". The old formula for cutting a half wave dipole, $468/\text{frequency (in MHz)}$, may be a bit different for various combinations, but this formula is only an approximation anyway.
5. **Whatever antenna you chose, if it is fed with coaxial cable you should use a choke balun.** This will prevent the feedline from becoming part of the antenna which can cause all sorts of problems. There are many designs to

- choose from. My favorite is an air core balun wound from coax. These are described in the ARRL Handbook and in the ARRL Antenna Book. You don't have either?
6. Then, **Purchase a Handbook or ARRL Antenna Book and study it.** Antennas don't change much, so even an old copy of the Antenna Book will be very useful. These show up at Ham Fests occasionally. You can also special order ARRL publications from good bookstores.
 7. **Outdoor antennas perform better than indoor ones.** If all you can erect is an indoor antenna, fine, but try to see if there is a way to get up an antenna outside. A thin wire supported an inch or more away from the building will be much better than one inside. If you can dangle a wire out a second story window, feed against a counterpoise, that will be a pretty good antenna.
 8. **Don't scrimp on feedline.** Good, low-loss feedline does not cost much more than the antenna it is feeding.
 9. **Most single band antennas can be made into multiband antennas by feeding them with a balanced feeder like window line and using a tuner.** This applies to loops as well as dipoles. For an inexpensive low loss tuner see Cecil's method of changing the feed line length to achieve a match:

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/8476/>

10. **If you have antenna restrictions consider a temporary antenna.** The SD-20 Blackwidow Crappie Pole can be erected with a wire of choice to make a vertical in a matter of seconds. With a few radials or a chain link fence as a ground, this can give a good account of itself. If somebody complains about it take it down and next time erect it where they can't see it.
11. **Consider your operating practices in choosing an antenna.** If you can only operate in the evening, then even a high 10 M antenna will not provide you with much operating time. The band will usually be dead after sunset. On the other hand, a 40 M dipole will provide you with a number of contacts late into most evenings. It can also be used on 15 M for those occasions when you can operate during the day.
12. **Avoid the temptation to "have it all".** Multiband antennas are often attractive to new comers. So are electrically "small" antennas. They are by necessity compromises, and usually don't work as well as single band antennas. I suggest erecting a single band dipole and using it for a while. As you get used to operating or have desires to try out other bands you can erect another antenna, or feed the one you have (if it is a dipole) with ladder line for multiband use. You can build and feed a lot of single band dipoles for the price of an R-7000!!
13. **Homemade antennas are better than commercial ones.** Ask anyone on the list who has built one!!

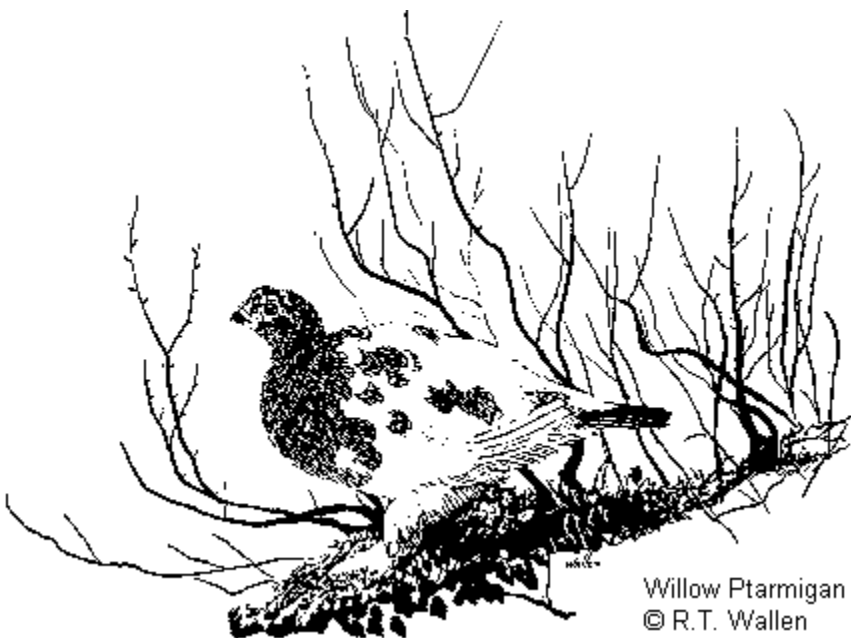
I hope that someone finds this useful. See you on the air. –
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Article taken from the Norcal QRP Club Website.
<http://www.norcalqrp.com/>

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club News

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc
Post Office Box 101987
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1987

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