

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting is Christmas Dinner December 12 at 7:00PM, 2nd Friday at Royal Fork South On Old Seward, just south of Dimond Blvd. There will be a Chinese Gift Exchange.

No Meeting on December 5

Beginnings

From time to time we need to stop and remember why we do what we do - whatever it may be. Like, "Why did we get into this business?" "Why did we move here?" "Why did I marry this person?" Sometimes it helps. A business should review its business plan semi-annually. A club should review its mission statement - oh, yea. Well, as the saying goes, "The past is prelude." Maybe. But certainly beginnings are foundational. Some of us got into amateur radio for classical reasons, such as business or military. Some of us were lucky enough to get into radio for romantic reasons, that is, just for the love of it. Phil (KL7QW) Mannie's motives lie right up on top.

George, KL1JJ

Beginnings – Phil Mannie, KL0QW

Radio has always been magic for me. I can recall many hours as a child spent listening to what ever I could tune in on a succession of then antique floor model receivers my father would acquire. These radios, which he got for nothing, or next to it, were junk in the eyes of most folks, including my mother, but I was fascinated by the very idea of hearing the BBC, or later at night with the volume very low, Radio Moscow's English language programming; I was not quite certain that this was even legal, but assumed that my mother, at least, would not approve.

My first real exposure to amateur radio was in 1988. I'd gotten hold of a Heath catalog and noticed the Heath/Zenith Amateur Radio Novice License course. It was one of the few things in the catalog I could afford and just stirred something in me. After a month or so of study, I passed the practice test included with the course, and in March, 1989 sought out the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club; as I

recall, the meetings were then, as today, on the first Friday of the month. Since I did not have an auto at the time, the trip from the East side to Spenard Recreation Center was a long one and I had to leave before the meeting's conclusion to make the last bus that would bring me anywhere near home, so I never did find out how and where to take the exam. Shortly thereafter my SW receiver was stolen in a burglary; I could not afford to replace it at the time and more or less put the entire matter on hold.

It remained on hold for the next ten years. Because the topic continued to appeal to me, I'd take out the Heath material from time to time and review it, but it never went anywhere until I discovered AA9PW's FCC exam practice site on the world wide web in the autumn of 1998. I took a Technician exam on AA9PW's site for the hell of it and surprised myself by passing; so I took it again, and again, using AA9PW's facilities to study questions I'd missed. By October 1998, I was passing the practice exams regularly, so I did a bit of research and bought an Alinco DJ-S11, a 350mW 2m transceiver that I could afford and began listening.

The weekly ARES net came in loud and clear on my little radio, and they were kind enough to mention when and where VEC testing took place. Over the last two weeks of November 1998 I took AA9PW's practice exams daily. It seemed like time to give it a go, so on Tuesday, December 1, 1998, I turned up at the Carr-Gottstein Building with my driver's license, calculator and two pencils. I left an hour later with a certificate of successful completion for the Technician exam and the advice to watch the FCC web site for my call sign. I started programming the little Alinco and made my first contact (with Margie Page, KL7GLU) December 3, 1998, about an hour after first seeing my call listed in the FCC database. Phil Mannie, KL0QW

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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The First Great Alaska Ptarmigan Hunt
Jim Larsen, AL7FS

On November 17, 2003 a new Alaska QRP record was set. Eleven Alaska QRP operators were on the air at the same time with the expressed goal of working as many stations as possible no matter how poor the propagation might be. How did this all come about and what happened? This is a report on the first Great Alaska Ptarmigan (GAP) Hunt.

In early August 2003, I began to think in terms of running a one time (at least to start) Alaska Fox Hunt on 20 meters. The plan was to enlist Alaska-based Alaska QRP Club members to operate a given 2 hour period with from one up to five or more Foxes spread from .050 to .065. We would use the same format as the Spartan Sprint of RST, S/P/C, power out. I had some ideas for awards for the top couple of contestants. At some point it was suggested that it might be better for Alaska to use something other than Fox Hunt. Suggestions were received such as Polar Bear Hunt, Kodiak Bear Hunt, Alaska Fox, Grizzly Hunt, and so on. Eventually this question was presented at the Alaska QRP Club monthly meeting and after a short discussion we all agreed to call ourselves Ptarmigan... Great Alaska Ptarmigan (GAP) to be exact. Thus the GAP operators of Alaska were born.

A date was selected for the GAP Hunt and the call went out for Ptarmigan. I had been hoping to get at least six GAP for this hunt and in very short order I had 14 QRP operators lined up and ready to go. This meant one Ptarmigan every 3 KHz from 14.026 to 14.064. We literally were going to be hidden in amongst the brush known as all the other CW operators on the band.

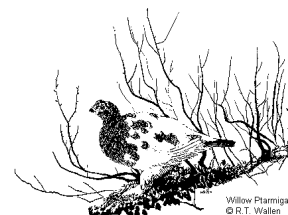


AL7FS, Jim Larsen, practicing for a future Ptarmigan Hunt.

The Great Alaska Ptarmigan who actually operated were as follows:

KL7R	Mike	Juneau
AL7FS	Jim	Anchorage
KL7IKV	Lynn	Anchorage
KL7CC	Jim	Anchorage
KL7GN	Gordon	Anchorage
WL7CDC	Doug	Anchorage
KL7PB	Rich	Sterling
KLØWN	John	Kodiak
AL7N	Ed	Fairbanks
KY7J	Ken	Emmonak - on the Bearing Sea
AL1G	Corliss	Anchorage

Sunday afternoon of the Ptarmigan Hunt arrived and it was time to get on the air. The excitement of the hunt must have addled my brain as I spent the first 2-3 minutes transmitting into the coax on the back of my Elecraft K2. I had forgotten to switch the beam from the Kenwood over to the K2. Having fixed that problem, I began calling CQ GAP. I could tell right away this was going to be a tough two hours and unfortunately not enough attention had been paid to the 27 day sun cycle. We ended up with a high A and K index that day and with aurora. (SFI:121 A:31 K:4 Au:9)





WL7CDC, Doug Stowers, 2nd place Ptarmigan

In spite of the propagation, 113 QSOs were made during the two hours by the eleven Great Alaska Ptarmigan. There were 13 states/provinces contacted including CA, WA, NM, AK, TX, AZ, OR, ID, HI, OK, GA, LA and BC. The high honors for the Ptarmigan went to KL7CC, Jim Wiley, who made 18 QSOs. WL7CDC, Doug Stowers had 15 QSOs. AL1G had 13 while AL7FS, KL7GN, KL7PB and KL0WN all had 12 QSOs.



KL7GN, Gordon Nightingale – Great Alaska Ptarmigan

The Ptarmigan Hunters that could hear us did well. KG6WP, K7TQ, W6AZ and N1SB all worked 8 to 10 GAP stations. That is amazing given the band conditions.

Here are a few comments from some of the Ptarmigan.

AL1G Corliss Kimmel

I was heavy into the Sweepstakes contest on 15m, not paying attention to the time. Frank came over and said..uh, when are you supposed to be starting the Ptarmigan thing? I looked the time and it was after 3pm....eeeeeeek!!!

So I quickly made the switch to 14035...started to transmit but the paddles weren't working. Hmm...took me a couple seconds to realize the mode was still set to SSB :-)

I didn't get any answers at first, so I decided to hunt down the other Ptarmigans. I would go get one, and then go back to CQing. None of the out-of-state stations I worked was tough copy, all were weak but very readable. There was a phantom K0 station that would fade in, send the call 3 or 4 times and then fade out every time I acknowledged the call. There was one station calling who obviously was not part of the GAP hunt, as he gave me only a signal report. I asked for the state, he sent that. But after I asked for his power level, he had gone. I logged him anyway as it was a valid Q.

I couldn't hear all of the Ptarmigans, but worked all the ones I heard. I really wanted to work Kodiak, as I lived there for 8 years and wanted to have a Q with my old home town. Maybe next time!

After the GAP was done, I went back to the maelstrom of the last hour of Sweepstakes.

I enjoyed being part of the Ptarmigan Hunt and would certainly do it again.

Thanks!

Corliss - AL1G

KL0WN John Pfeifer

My biggest challenge was getting back on the air before the GAP Hunt began. My fancy, automatic antenna tuner blew up a few days earlier and I was without a tuner for my one-and-only antenna, a 44-foot doublet hanging 50-feet up between a couple of spruce trees.

I found a used Johnson Matchbox for a reasonable price on Ebay and--fortunately--had the winning bid. It arrived in the mail Friday, just a couple of days before the Hunt. I spent most of Sunday morning hooking it up, but--when time came to try it out--I couldn't get a good match on 20-meters. I think my open-wire feeder just happens to be an unlucky length for that band and is presenting an unmatchable impedance.

As a last resort, I dug out my trusty Emtech ZM-2--which can tune up the proverbial wet noodle--and voila, it brought the SWR down to 1.1-to-1. All this happened at 2330z--just 30 minutes before the Hunt ...whew.

I originally hoped to use my Elecraft K1 for the Hunt, but with all the time I spent futzing around with my antenna, I didn't have a chance to replace the crystal that had failed on the 20m filter board. Fortunately, I was able to reduce power on my Ten-Ten Omni V.9 to 4.5 watts, as measured on my OHR WM-2 wattmeter. Actually, the Omni proved to be an excellent QRP rig. The extra receive sensitivity really helped pull out those weak signals.

The last time I did anything vaguely like the GAP Hunt was last summer's Flight of the Bumble Bees. Propagation was even worse then, and I only had one contact. So, being a Bee didn't do much to prepare me for being a Ptarmigan. I was very worried that propagation would be *too good* and I'd find myself on the receiving end of a pile-up. Fortunately, things got off to a slow start, and I had a chance to get used to the routine.

The first station to call was KH6HE in Hawaii. After that, several stations in the Pacific Northwest and California pounced. Although propagation was--as expected--quite poor, there were a couple of brief openings. W4FOA, way down in Georgia, blasted through with a 559 signal about two-thirds of the way through. Right before Ptarmigan season closed, at 0152z, there was another brief burp in the ionosphere and two more southern stations came into view: KL7V/5 in Oklahoma and KQ5U in Texas.

Even on the downward slope of the solar cycle, 5 watts into a dipole can still provide some

excitement. All it takes is a little patience on both the transmitting and receiving end. I hope the Great Alaskan Ptarmigan hunt becomes a regular QRP event. It's a great way to encourage more contacts between Alaskan QRPers and the "Lower-49" states.

John Pfeifer - KL0WN
Kodiak, Alaska



KL7CC, Jim Wiley, 1st place Ptarmigan

The first Great Alaska Ptarmigan Hunt is history. We all had a good time and want to do this again. Our plan calls for watching the A index for the quietest time and trying to guess what dates will be best allowing for the 27 day cycles of the sun. The Ptarmigan of Alaska hope you will all try to listen for us when next we have another Great Alaska Ptarmigan Hunt.

Jim Larsen, AL7FS



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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 NCVEC 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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Tapes for Free

I have the following tape sets available on a first come first served basis. These are intended for hams learning the code. Call Jim Larsen at 345-3190 or via email at JimLarsen2002@alaska.net. You will need to stop by and pick up the tapes at my home in Anchorage.

- 73 Magazine Novice Theory tapes - Tape 1-4 - 1980s
- Code Master tape set - CM-1 tape 1 of 2 and CM-1 1/2 Tape 1 and 2
- Code Master tape set - CM 1 1/2 tape 1 and 2
- Code Master tape set - CM 1 1/2 tape 1 and 2
- Ameco Code Course - Lessons 1-10 up through about 7 wpm plus key
- 73 Magazine Code course 5+ tape and 13+ tape set
- Bash Final Exam Course - 1982 original tape - CW exam
- Bash Final Exam Course - 1982 copy of original tape
- Bash Final Exam Course - 1982 copy of original tape

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Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting

(Unapproved)
November 18, 2003

The AARC Board met Tuesday, November 18, 2003 at Hope Community Resources Administrative Building, 540 West International Airport Road. In attendance were President Randy Vallee, KL7Z, Vice President Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Secretary Philip Mannie, KL0QW and Treasurer Steve Jensen, KL0VZ. Also in attendance were Directors Lil Marvin, NL7DL, Sue Hilton, NL7AV, Judi Ramage, WL7DX, Jim Tvrdy, KL7CDG and Pat Wilke, WL7JA. Directors-elect Kyle Sandel, AL7J, Jim Wiley, KL7CC, and George Wilkinson, KL1JJ, along with visitors Dave Popkin, KL1KN, and Heather Hasper, KL7SP, were also present.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Randy Vallee at 7:04 PM. Minutes from the October 21, 2003 Board meeting were approved as amended.

Reports

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Steve Jensen presented a written report and comments. He mentioned that revenue from member dues indicate a decline in Club membership. Notable expenses for the month include a bill from Durrell for 501C3 and bylaws review, software for newsletter production and the CCV, transportation to Mt. Susitna for repeater repair and additional material for the Mt. Susitna repeater. The Club donation of \$11,000 to the Alaska Children's Trust has been mailed and a deposit of \$50 on a location at the Alaska State Fair submitted.

Steve also submitted a written report by Club accountant Lisa Rogers detailing the results of her evaluation of Club business procedures and controls. Her recommendations included obtaining A Legal Handbook for Nonprofit Corporation Volunteers, by James D. DeWitt. A motion to obtain copies for Board members passed. Other recommendations included changes to the filing system, acquiring directors' and officers' insurance, re-evaluating other Club insurance needs, producing detailed bank reconciliation reports, changes regarding accounting for revenue from classes the Club sponsors, and requiring counter signatures to authorize checks in excess of a certain amount. Steve has established a policy that checks in excess of \$1,000 receive a counter signature.

Steve went on to report that over \$138,000 in gaming revenue from 2002 needs to be allocated. A motion to authorize the Treasurer to move up to \$70,000 from the gaming account into the operations account was approved.

Jim Wiley commented that the Club needs a better way to receive invoices from vendors. Steve suggested that invoices be directed to his home address, but notes that this is a temporary solution.

Gaming

Steve Jensen reported that checks for \$34,000 in gaming revenue and \$10,000 in non-gaming revenue have been received. Steve and the Club accountant are determining the tax status of the non-gaming revenue.

ARES

Philip Mannie reported briefly on November ARES activities. These included the November Sweepstakes as well as a Red Cross communications test and participation in the Anchorage Catastrophic Earthquake Command Post Exercise.

VEC

Jim Wiley, VEC Board Chair, reported on remote testing software. The software developer has proposed to accelerate development by contracting directly with the VEC, essentially acting as a private contractor outside the scope of the original cooperation with APU. The \$4,000 proposed agreement is based upon a rate of \$100/hr. for the programmer. This price should represent 2/3 to 3/4 of the final cost of development. The consensus of the Board was to request that Jim Wiley investigate details of such an agreement, including software ownership rights and contractual requirements to ensure the software meets VEC needs, and report his findings to the Board in December. Jim Trvdy suggested that a software development line item be added to the VEC budget.

VHF

There was no formal report. Lil Marvin stated that PARKA procedures require that requests to use the KL7ION repeater be submitted in writing prior to the proposed use.

Membership

There was no formal Membership Committee report. Jim Larsen reported on a proposal to use Pay-Pal for payment of membership dues. The cost is 2.9% plus \$0.30 per membership. A motion to approve the proposal passed with Steve Jensen dissenting.

GAP Hunt

Jim Larsen reported that the first Great Alaska Ptarmigan Hunt featured 11 operational GAPs and produced almost 120 QSOs. Another GAP Hunt is planned for next year.

Grant Committee

Jim Larsen reported that a grant request in the amount of \$1,021 from the Anchorage Epilepsy Association met all committee requirements. A motion to approve the grant passed. The Alaska State Defense Force request is still pending.

Old Business

Jim Larsen presented a written summary of the February 2003 project brainstorming session.

Jim Wiley reported that the Mt. Susitna repeater is ready for deployment and that construction of the remaining ARES kit could commence as soon as the repeater project is complete.

Heather Hasper volunteered to act as Portable Equipment Coordinator. The Board requested that she review the budget and report at the December Board meeting. President-elect, Jim Larsen, suggested the Board must strongly support this position.

Jim Larsen reported that the revised By-Laws are still under review by the attorney. He expects to have them ready for the Board before the December Board meeting.

The Secretary was instructed to email Jim Feaster's Club equipment disposal proposal to the Board for review.

New Business

Upcoming events were reviewed. The newsletter editor requested that event information be passed along to him for publication.

The AARC/SCRC Christmas party is scheduled for 6:30 PM, Friday, December 12, 2003 at the Royal Fork South.

The CQ Worldwide Phone contest is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend.

Jim Larsen proposed that the Board study a Club mission statement.

Steve Jensen proposed that the Board study a long-term spending plan and entertain proposals for membership promotion and retention.

Jim Wiley reported that the NVEC would offer new petitions with the FCC that should result in an increase in the number of amateur licensees.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Philip Mannie, KL0QW, Secretary.

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Anchorage Catastrophic Earthquake Command Post Exercise

To round out four days of ARES activity this month, MARA and ARES Districts 5 and 7 participated in the Anchorage Catastrophic Earthquake Command Post Exercise November 18. The scenario for this exercise was a massive (7+) earthquake under Anchorage and saw amateur radio providing communications support to emergency response agencies at five valley locations as well as the Anchorage Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Amateur radio was operational within minutes of the 0755 'seismic event', with a simplex tactical voice net, a resource net and a VHF packet net to connect the exercise venues. Anchorage emergency officials expressed their satisfaction at the speed with which digital communication was established between the Mat-Su and Anchorage EOCs.

The exercise and subsequent conversation with Tracy Matthews, Director of the Anchorage Office of Emergency Management, made it very clear to me that several points will need to be addressed in emergency plans and training for District 7:

*Emergency managers want and need digital communication, especially between operations centers. It will be up to us to make certain that our digital infrastructure is sufficiently advanced, capable and robust, and our operators adequately trained to provide this service.

*Emergency managers will be looking to ARES and amateur radio to provide regional as well as long distance emergency communication. Specifically, this means a new ARES focus on HF and especially digital HF communication, with additional emphasis on NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave, a proven HF technique for short and medium distance (0-650km) communication) techniques.

*ARES operators will require training and regular practice in these techniques.

*ARES volunteers should be provided with every practical assistance and encouragement to obtain at least a General class amateur license.

*ARES volunteers typically possess certain valuable communications skills acquired through our own training and the practice of our hobby. We can leverage the value of these skills by being prepared to undergo additional training to qualify us to assist in the operation of non-amateur communication assets. The idea here is that the skills required to conduct an orderly and productive amateur VHF net, for example, are pretty much identical to those required to conduct a net 10 MHz higher in the government VHF band. There are many ways we can make ourselves useful in an emergency and not all of them fall within the traditional bounds of amateur radio.

Thanks to everyone participating in the exercise.

Phillip Mannie, KLOQW
Alaska ARES District 7 (Anchorage) Emergency Coordinator

ARES Training Reminder

ARES volunteers and others interested in emergency communication are reminded that Linda Mullen, AD4BL, Alaska Section Emergency Coordinator, has outlined basic training requirements for Alaska ARES participants. This training is either free of charge or reimbursable, and our goal for Anchorage District 7 is to have all participants enrolled by year's end.

The courses required are:

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.

Phillip Mannie, KLOQW
ARES Alaska District 7 (Anchorage) Emergency Coordinator

Boy Scout Jamboree Photos – October 2003

Pack 104 visits the AARC Communications Vehicle and are introduced to Amateur Radio.





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Chinese Gift Exchange Rules

1. **Everyone attending must bring a gift if they want to participate in the gift exchange. If you are the only person in your party, bring (1) gift. If there are two or more people in your party, then bring a gift for each person that wants to participate. Gifts need not be expensive, new, or gender oriented. Please do not bring a "boat" anchor.**
2. The gift must be wrapped to conceal its identity. All gifts will be placed together on a table. Do not attach a card.
3. One ticket with a number printed on it will be given to each person bringing a gift. You will exchange a gift for a numbered ticket. No gift no ticket! Only one ticket to a person. You may bring an extra gift and donate it to the cause. (see rule 11).
4. At the beginning of the event, a number is drawn and the person holding the ticket with that number exchanges his or her ticket for any one of the unopened gifts, which he/she must open and show to everyone. This person now will have the option of exchanging this first gift (or any other gift that they may receive as part of an exchange) with any other gift at the conclusion of the event (see rules 10 and 12). **Only the person holding the first ticket drawn shall have this privilege.**
5. **Another number is then drawn and that person exchanges his or her ticket for an unopened gift. This person now has the option of either opening the gift or exchanging it with the first person's gift. You may not hold an unopened gift.** Gifts must be either opened or traded. If you are "stuck: with a gift because of the 3-round limit, you must open it.
6. The process continues, with each subsequent person either opening a gift or exchanging an unopened package for a previously opened gift. See also rule 10.
7. If an unopened gift is exchanged for a previously opened gift, the person receiving the unopened gift has the option of either opening the gift or exchanging it with another person's opened gift. See also rule 8.
8. **An unopened gift may be exchanged only three times per round, then that gift must be opened, and another number must be drawn for the next person.** This "round" limit may be shortened depending on the number of persons participating in the gift exchange and the nearness of the hour to relinquish the room. **Important rule clarification: The limit on exchanges per round means only that a gift may be traded a maximum number of times during any one**

round. This does not mean that the gift is “safe” after that round is ended. The gift becomes vulnerable to trading immediately when the next round starts! No gift is “safe” until the event is completely over.

9. Gifts may not be traded directly back and forth in immediate succession. A person “losing” an opened gift to someone in exchange for an unopened gift may not immediately reclaim the gift from the “taker” in exchange for the unopened gift. At least one additional exchange involving a third person must intervene before a person can reclaim a gift.

10. Only unopened gifts may be exchanged for opened gifts. **Gifts that have been opened may not be exchanged for other gifts, opened or not. The sole exception being that the first person to draw a ticket may exchange his or her gift for any other gift one time only at the conclusion of the event.** The first person chosen will also have the option of exchanging his or her gift as the final exchange of the event. Any gifts purchased at auction must be exchanged (or not) before the final “first person” exchange takes place. (see also rule 13)

11. If there happens to be an extra gift or gifts left over, they will be auctioned off, with the money going to the club treasury. This money may also be used to defray any additional costs related to the event. **Gifts purchased at auction may be traded for other opened gifts in the normal manner.**

12. When all gifts have been opened, and the first person to be chosen has either exchanged or not exchanged whatever gift they hold, the event is over.

13. When the event is over, the rules (above) are no longer are in effect. If you and another person wish to exchange gifts after the main event is over, this is perfectly OK.

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PIC Elmer 160

An online course for learning how to program the PIC16F84 microcontroller

<http://www.amqrp.org/elmer160/index.html>

This is the web site for the Elmer 160 PIC course. On this page you will find an overview of the course, as well as information about the PIC-EL project board and links to the course material. **What is Elmer 160?**

Elmer 160 is an online introductory course for the PIC microcontroller from Microchip. In this course we will start off with very basic principles, and take you to the point of designing your own PIC applications. While we will focus on the PIC 16F84, the principles are applicable to the entire range of microcontrollers from Microchip.

Although the session is aimed at amateur radio homebrewers, it could be of interest to anyone who is interested in learning how these microcontrollers work.

We will start with very basic principles, then proceed through writing some simple programs and testing them on a simulator. We will then graduate to programming a PIC chip with our program and testing it in a real circuit.

The course incorporates a project board, called the PIC-EL board. This board will provide the platform for our tests, but could also become any of a number of different tools when the course is complete.

The course will be centered around the PIC 16F84, a very popular PIC among hobbyists. Toward the end of the course, we will discuss some of the many other varieties of PIC parts. All the PIC microcontrollers share the same basic instruction set and the same programming techniques, so students should be able to choose a microcontroller right for their project.

Why?

Over the past few years a large number of amateur radio projects have appeared using the PIC microcontroller from Microchip. This micro has the advantage of a FLASH program memory on some models, which allows the part to be reprogrammed many times, and a simple architecture. In addition, the chip needs only minimal support circuitry. This combination makes it easy to apply, and thus a good candidate for many applications.

Still, many homebrewers have been reluctant to dive in. In spite of the simplicity of application and the relative simplicity of programmers, the whole concept of having a "computer" in the radio has been alien to many homebrewers. This, along with the barrier of needing to buy or build a programmer has provided a good excuse for many amateurs to avoid incorporating the microcontroller into their projects.

However, the PIC can greatly reduce circuit complexity, especially when the builder wants some sort of display beyond a few lights. The learning curve of using a PIC has led many builders to avoid projects which could be very satisfying.

Recently there have been a number of successful "Elmer" projects on QRP-L to help folks get past their fear of doing certain types of projects. It seems like the time has come for a series to help folks apply microcontrollers to their projects.

Course Conduct

The Elmer 160 course will consist primarily of a series of PDF documents which will be posted on the AmQRP web site. Each document will cover a particular topic. Except for an occasional lesson to introduce some basic concepts, most of the lessons will introduce a topic and then run some experiments to demonstrate that topic. The initial experiments will use the Microchip **MPLAB SIM** simulator. Later experiments will be performed on actual hardware.

The hardware experiments will assume the PIC-EL board. Although a reasonably equipped experimenter is likely to have the necessary parts on hand, the PIC-EL board provides a convenient and inexpensive platform for the experiments.

Students will undoubtedly have questions as the course progresses. These questions will be fielded and answered on QRP-L. From time to time, the QRP-L discussions will be summarized and posted on the AmQRP web site. Those who are not members of QRP-L may join, or read the archives, at <http://qrp.lehigh.edu/lists/qrp-l/>.

Officers

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Secretary Phil Mannie, KLØQW
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One Year Board Members

Pat Wilke, WL7JA
 Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG
 Judi Ramage, WL7DX
 Kyle Sandel, AL7J
 George Wilkinson, KL1JJ
 Mike O'Keefe, KL7MD

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/~k17fg>
ARES <http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska>
KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>
Fairbanks AARC: <http://www.k17kc.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. **NO general meeting in Dec.**

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 -
frederickson@iname.com

Phone number: 345-2181