

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting February 4th

February Program

Tsunami Warning Center

by: Jesse L. Jones, KL1RK

The February General Membership Meeting will be hosting Bruce from the **Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer**. Bruce will give a PowerPoint presentation on the operations of the Center and discuss the recent Tsunami event in Asia. He has informed me that he is interested in ham radio, so take some time and make him feel welcome in our group. Maybe we'll get a new ham as well as a great presentation!

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FIVE MONTHS TO FIELD DAY

Field Day is just around the corner! Well, not exactly, but its not too soon to start thinking about the premier emergency communications training exercise for amateur radio operators. Field Day is always the last full weekend in June and this year Field Day begins Saturday, June 25th at 1000 hrs (local) and finishes Sunday, June 26th at 1300 hrs (local).

The Board of Directors of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club has asked Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) District 7 to coordinate this event. ARES is looking for "Station Captains" for each of the following "bonus point" categories. These categories all have a solid basis in emergency communications preparation:

Emergency Power: 100 points for putting the CW / Digital station on-the-air using generator power, plus two points for each QSO.

Emergency Power: 100 points for putting the SSB station on-the-air using generator power, plus one point for each QSO.

Media Publicity: 100 bonus points may be earned for attempting to obtain publicity from the local media.

Public Location: 100 bonus points for physically locating the Field Day operation in a public place (shopping center, community park, school campus, etc). The intent is for amateur radio to be on display to the public.

Public Information Table: 100 bonus points for a Public Information Table at the Field Day site. The purpose is to make appropriate handouts and information available to the visiting public at the site.

Message Origination to Section Manager: 100 bonus points for origination of a National Traffic System (NTS) style formal message to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site.

Message Handling: 10 points for each formal NTS style message originated, relayed or received and delivered during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (ten messages). Properly serviced copies of each message must be included with the Field Day report.

Satellite QSO: 100 bonus points for successfully completing at least one QSO via an amateur radio satellite during the Field Day period.

Alternative Power: 100 bonus points for Field Day groups making a minimum of five QSOs without using power from commercial mains or a petroleum driven generator. This means an "alternate" energy source of power, such as solar, wind, methane or water, and includes batteries charged by natural means (not dry cells).

W1AW Bulletin: 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW during its operating schedule.

Non-Traditional Mode Demonstration No 1: 100 points for each demonstration (up to three) for setting up a demonstration of a non-traditional mode of amateur radio communications. This includes modes such as APRS, ATV, and SSTV.

Non-Traditional Mode Demonstration No 2: 100 points for each demonstration (up to three).

Non-Traditional Mode Demonstration No 3: 100 points for each demonstration (up to three).

Site Visitation by an elected governmental official: A 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day site is visited by an elected government official as the result of an invitation issued by your group.

Site Visitation by a representative of an agency: A 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day site is visited by a representative of an agency served by ARES in your local community (Red Cross, Salvation Army, local Emergency Management, law enforcement, etc) as the result of an invitation issued by your group.

GOTA maximum achieved. A 100-point bonus may be claimed by a group whose Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station completes a minimum of 100 QSOs.

So there are the 1,600 bonus points! This year's Field Day co-chairman are:

Keith Clark – KL7MM: aksunlite@aol.com
HM: 243-0706
WK: 277-3545

TJ Sheffield – KL7TS: kl7ts@arrl.net
HM: 248-3864
WK: 265-2409

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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.

News from the Alaska Section EC

Greetings to everyone as we begin a brand new year! Here in Fairbanks we are having a real winter for a change and that is bringing new challenges for everyone.

I remain your SEC, the rumors of my resignation were exaggerated. We start the new year with a new STM [Section Traffic Manager] in Ed Trump AL7N who is doing a wonderful job keeping track of all the net reports and developing the traffic circuits into and out of Alaska. All the net reports need to go to him.

Anchorage is in need of an EC and a DEC. Phil Mannie has resigned as the DEC for Anchorage. I am looking for courageous folks who would like to apply for either position. You need to be a member of ARRL and the DEC needs to have at least a General license. You must also meet or be in the process of completing the Section training requirements. If you are interested please email me at: ad4bl@arrl.net.

Here in Fairbanks, we are preparing to do the communications for the Jr Yukon Quest and the Yukon Quest International. I use the races as training exercises for those interested in emergency communications. Far more interesting than a made up exercise or drill. Anything can and does happen during the race and the operators need to be fast on their feet. The Yukon Quest race is more rugged and difficult than the Iditarod and more apt to have things happen during the race.

I encourage you to sign up to help during the Iditarod in March. I have a special interest in that my neighbor is running the race this year. When the directors of the race call on you for help, please respond whole heartedly!

I wish everyone a great month.

Linda Mullen, AD4BL
Section Emergency Coordinator
Alaska
ad4bl@arrl.net

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KL7AA Mail Reflector

If you like to stay in touch on KL7AA news and other posts of local interest.

Step #1: First point your browser to (click the link below):
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/kl7aa>

Step #2: On the web page you will see a section titled "Subscribing to KL7AA". Enter your e-mail address in the "Your email address" entry box.

Step #3: Pick a password for your account and enter it in the box marked "Pick a password" and then enter the same password in the box marked "Reenter password to confirm". This password will be used to change your settings on the list such as digest mode, etc.

Step #4: If you would like the e-mails in daily digest form click yes on the line marked "Would you like to receive list mail batched in a daily digest?"

Step #5: Click on the "Subscribe" button below the information that you just entered.

Hope this helps and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on the KL7AA mail reflector.

Jim Larsen, AL7FS

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Alaska CW Net (ACWN)

Alaska CW Net (ACWN) still maintains a daily traffic watch on 3540 7042 and 14050 Khz....from Fairbanks. ACWN is a registered ARRL Section Net in Alaska.



Starting at about 0100Z every evening, AL7N in Fairbanks **maintains traffic watch** simultaneously and as continuously as possible on all three frequencies, until the following morning about 1600Z. Also guards 2 meters 144.100 Mhz (CW mode) in Fairbanks area.

Weekends, monitor continuously whenever in the house where can hear the speakers, day and night.

Saturday schedules with K6KPH on 14050 at or after 1800Z, whenever we can get thru depending on 20 meter band condx and contest QRM. K6KPH is relay to lower 48 NTS; closes down about 0100Z.

ACWN encourages other operators around the state

of Alaska to participate and will gladly exchange WX and signal reports if nothing else...just to keep the pipe open. Will handle legal 3rd party written traffic to anywhere, even to e-mail addresses if specified. Working CW speed is regulated to suit the operator receiving...

If other nets have traffic they can't move, send 'em down to ACWN! "Listeners" on the ACWN watch frequencies probably won't hear anything unless they call with traffic or just call for a signal check/report which will be gladly supplied to anyone if we can hear 'em at all.

Ed Trump, AL7N ACWN Net Manager

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SIMPLEX SHINES ON ARES NET NIGHT

(What to do with the ARES Repeater is Dead)

TJ Sheffield, KL7TS

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) District 7 hosts a VHF Net every Thursday night at 8:00PM local time.

The net convenes on the WL7CVG repeater, a wide-area coverage machine located on Mt. Susitna. The repeater is accessed on 147.270 MHz, with a plus (+) shift and a 103.5 tone.

Each week the ARES net has an emergency preparedness "theme" and stations are encouraged to check in using the appropriate theme:

- 1st Thursday: HT / Portable – check in with your HT or portable
- 2nd Thursday: Red Cross – activate a Red Cross shelter or facility
- 3rd Thursday: Mobile Madness – check in from the mobile
- 4th Thursday: Emergency Power – check in using alternative power
- 5th Thursday: Happens once every three months, "special event" night

On Thursday, 20 Jan 2005 the repeater was down due to generator problems up on the mountain. Using our standard emergency communications protocol, the net was brought up using simplex on the repeater's output frequency.

In a real emergency, if the repeater is down, plan on meeting on the output frequency (i.e. on 147.270 as shown on your radio dial) and then "remove" the shift (i.e. the "+" or "-") using menu choices or the front panel controls.

We went through roll call and then opened it up for general check-ins. George, KL7GS, was able to relay in some eight stations from the Mat-Su Valley from his location on Hatcher Pass.

Steve, KL7FZ could hear stations on the Kenai Peninsula and relayed in several of those "DX" stations. Luke, KL1RY could also hear the Kenai from his location in the Dimond area. Jerry, WL7HE, was able to check in while mobile.

In all, a "record" number of 41 stations checked into the net, all using simplex!



A Good Reminder, Are You Prepared?

From The American Red Cross

The recent disaster in Southeast Asia should remind every amateur operator to re-asses their emergency preparedness, emergency supplies and resources. While this disaster is being defined as one of the largest in modern time, it has happened several times before throughout the world.

Of the ten strongest earthquakes ever recorded on the world, three have occurred in Alaska: The great earthquake of 1964 was 2nd strongest with magnitude 9.2; the central Aleutians earthquake of 1957 was 3rd with magnitude 9.1; and the western Aleutians earthquake of 1965 was 6th with magnitude 9.0. Nine of the largest earthquakes in North America have been in Alaska, with three of them having a magnitude recorded greater than 9.0. While the 1964 earthquake because it was centered in a larger populated area receives the most notoriety, the 1957 quake caused the largest Tsunami in the Aleutian Islands and Japan. The USGS estimates a magnitude 9.0 or greater earthquake occurs somewhere in the world on average at least twice a year.

Recent geologic data show that the previous great earthquake (larger than magnitude 8) in the Anchorage area was about 800 years ago. The average recurrence interval for the largest earthquakes in this region is 600 to 800 years, but damaging earthquakes in the 7-8 range can occur more frequently. Current estimates place a 7.5 or greater at 4 miles deep somewhere in Cook Inlet or a 9.0 or greater at 40 miles deep somewhere in the Chugach range in the next 40 years. (DNR; USGS)

When disaster strikes, people begin the realization that they are vulnerable. With that realization outpouring of support for emergency organizations generally comes forth. One of those organizations for the last 100 years that comes into the limelight is the Red Cross. Several hams have inquired about volunteering with the American Red Cross since this disaster occurred. I wanted to take a moment to explain some history and some of the relief and planning efforts that the Red Cross movement provides everyday of the year.

American Red Cross has many volunteers who respond to several disasters domestically. They help with responding to local fires or other disasters in their neighborhood and chapters also register volunteers for large disasters such as the recent hurricanes. The American Red Cross is a nonprofit, non-government agency that provides emergency relief for victims of disasters. The American Red Cross is not part of the US Government. It is an independent, non-religious organization founded on the seven International principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, universality, independence, unity and volunteer service.

The American Red Cross has had a long-standing history of providing Emergency Services, Blood Services and Public Health Awareness in Alaska. The national American Red Cross was originally organized in 1881 to provide battlefield relief to wounded soldiers as defined by the International Red Cross at the first Geneva Convention of 1864. The organization would go on to serve American during times of peace as well as war providing emergency services and disaster relief during and after major natural disasters. Twelve years later, with the onset of World War One in 1917, chapters began expanding their coverage areas all across the country. Alaska having a very large military population and due to the size and geographic restrictions 11 chapters were formed to cover all regions of the state of Alaska.

At the start of WWI, the US government recognized the volunteer efforts and resources of the American Red Cross and chartered the national society to provide emergency planning and emergency disaster relief and support, during times of national crisis as defined by the National Disaster Response Plan. All financial relief is through donation and reimbursement for services provided after the relief effort is completed.

Now the American Red Cross of Alaska is one chapter serving the entire state of Alaska with 5 regional offices. The Alaska Chapter www.alaska.redcross.org has the largest land coverage area of all the chapters in the United States and is the third largest chapter in coverage area in the world. While nationally the Red Cross-provides Blood services across the country, in Alaska, the Blood Bank of Alaska is the coordinating agency for Blood services.

A Red Cross Disaster Welfare Inquiry communications class is being planned through the local ARES group. KL7ARC is the American Red Cross of Alaska Amateur Radio Club is always looking for volunteers to help maintain operate and provide communication support throughout the state of Alaska. On the second Thursday of the month, the Anchorage ARES net is the Red Cross net where net control is run from the KL7ARC station in Anchorage. HAMS are encouraged to go to locations where RED Cross shelters or support locations have historically occurred to test the radio equipment that may be on location and to get a better idea of the coverage area of the repeaters currently available. With the recent grant from the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, several communication projects are currently underway. We have also received a matching grant from ARCTICOM for mobile radios, antennas and installations. Thanks to both agencies for the continuing support.

Feel free to contact John Ramsey, KD6YKS, the Emergency Services Director for the American Red Cross of Alaska for more information about how to volunteer with the local chapter. Disaster Action Teams (DAT) provide support for after hour disaster operations such as family fires. This includes assisting the family of the disaster with emergency shelter, clothes, and food as well as supporting the local emergency responders including the fire department with the disaster response effort.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the American Red Cross of Alaska there are many opportunities to bring whatever skills you have to offer to an agency that provides local, national and international disaster relief 365 days a year.

ASIA Tsunami Updates:

ICRC is the International Committee of the Red Cross and is part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) in Geneva, Switzerland. This federation is founder of the Geneva Conventions and is recognized around the world for disaster relief efforts. This is the entity that is leading the current relief efforts in Southeast Asia.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are available in almost every country in the world. Whenever traveling abroad, always take the phone numbers and emergency contact information for the Red Cross or Red Crescent Society for the county you will be visiting. This information is available at: <http://www.icrc.org/eng> so that should a disaster occur or something happen, you and your family will have the information to contact the local Red Cross and get a message to your friends and family. For this disaster, the International Committee of the Red Cross has established a Web site where individuals can search for their relatives and loved ones by name. The Web site is www.familylinks.icrc.org

Inquiries concerning U.S. citizens should be referred to the U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Citizens Services at 1-888-407-4747. These numbers are frequently busy during the first few days following a disaster.

Currently, the American Red Cross is responding to the disaster and is prepared to support the affected national societies through contributions made in support of American Red Cross international disaster response activities, as well as through communications activities, and the provision of tracing guidance to Chapters. Some of those national societies include:

The Indian Red Cross Society <http://www.indianredcross.org/>
The Indonesian Red Cross Society
<http://www.palangmerah.org/>
The Seychelles Red Cross Society
The Thai Red Cross Society
[\(http://www.redcross.or.th/home/\)](http://www.redcross.or.th/home/)
Sri Lanka Red Cross Society,
http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/sri_lanka



<http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/training/index.html>
(visit this site for the following information)

Training and Information

Emergency Communication Plans

- [Alaska Section Emergency Communication Plan](#)
- [Juneau District Emergency Communications Plan](#)
- [Kodiak District Emergency Communications Plan](#)

On-Line Manuals and Guides

- [Alaska ARES Emergency Communications Guide](#)
- [ARRL Public Service Communications Manual](#)
- [Net Control Training Manual](#)
- [Net Participation and Associated Emergency Operations](#)
- [Top Ten Radio Commands](#)
- [Simplex Operation for Emergency Response](#)
- [Working With Public Safety Officials](#)
- [NTS How-To](#)
- [NTS Format Generator](#)

On-Line Training

- [FEMA Emergency Management Institute](#)
- [Virginia ARES/RACES Training Course](#)
- [ARES "Basic" Training, ARRL source material, Level I](#)
- [NCS and Liaison, ARRL source material, Level II](#)
- [ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course](#)

Letter to the Editor

But what about Anderson PowerPoles?

I got my January newsletter today and was reading through it. I read the article about the ARES Ready bag and found something that confuses me. In all the other places I have been, the standard power supply connector has been the PowerPole connector. In the newsletter it says, "wire to a universal Molex Assembly Plug, Radio Shack 274-222". Is that compatible with the PowerPole series of plugs. If not, what happens when someone there with a Radio Shack plug needs to connect to others who have adopted the ARRL standard PowerPole connector?

The PowerPole connector has ease of use and is rated for different amp requirements with the usual one being the 30 amp connector. All my radios, batteries, chargers and other connectors used to connect to 12VDC has a PowerPole connector. Is it time to coordinate that with other users? Have I missed something along the way that changed to another standard? Just a note to ask what happened to our standard?
-- KL7IPV

Response: I guess the article was successful. From the newsletter, "These following pages are designed to be used...to make a difference in an emergency. They are going to be mostly a series of checklists to tickle your mind to think." It appears you were thinking.

Anderson Powerpoles are my choice also. The list obviously is out of date and based on the old ARRL standard. These devices were covered in the August 2004 AARC Newsletter. Check <http://www.KL7AA.org/> for back issues. -AL7FS



ARES Contact Information

District Emergency Coordinator:
Position Vacant

Additional information on ARES can be found at the following URL:

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

Emergency Response Communicators (ERC) Net

The ERC Net is designed to help hams get on the air more often, stay familiar with their equipment, and get to know their fellow hams in the area so that they can work together better in an emergency. Check it out.
Sunday, 7:30PM on 147.27 Repeater (103.5 tone)
Sunday, 8:30PM on 3.880 MHz HF SSB

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

February 2005

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40 METER FOXHUNT - Each Friday, 0200z to 0359z (Thurs 9 PM to 11 PM EST)

Info: <http://www.cqc.org/fox/index.htm>

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Truffle Hunt - 30 min before Fox Hunt

Info: <http://fpqrp.com>

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FBYO Winter QRP Field Day (CW/SSB) ... QRP Contest!

Feb 5, 1600z to 2400z

Rules: <http://www.azqrp.org/azqrp/FYBO2005.htm>

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QRP ARCI Fireside Sprint (SSB) ...QRP Contest!

Feb 6, 2000z to 2400z

Rules: <http://2hams.net/ARCI/index.htm>

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

Feb 8, 0200z to 0400z (First Monday 9 PM EST)

Rules: <http://www.arsqrp.com/>  
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FISTS Winter Sprint (CW of course) ...QRP Category

Feb 12, 1700z to 2100z

Rules: <http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>
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Colorado QRP Club Winter QSO Party (CW/SSB) ... QRP Contest!

Feb 19, 2200z to Feb 20, 0359z

Rules: <http://www.cqc.org>  
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Run For The Bacon (CW) *** QRP Contest ***

Feb 21, 0100z to 0300z

Rules: <http://fpqrp.com>
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Ken Newman - N2CQ N2CQ@ARRL.NET

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## Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting Minutes

(unapproved)

The AARC Board met Tuesday, January 18, 2005, in the conference room of Hope Community Resources, Inc., 540 W. International Airport Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1110, at 1900 AKST.

Jim Larsen (AL7FS) opened the board meeting.

Quorum established.

Members present (not on board):

Gordon Nightingale (KL7GN)

Doug Stowers (WL7CDC)

Judi Ramage (WL7DX) moved to approve the November board meeting minutes. Second: Frank Pratt (KL7RX). Vote: unanimous; Passed.

Judi Ramage (WL7DX) moved to approve the December board minutes. Second: Heather Hasper (KL7SP). Vote: unanimous; Passed.

Jim Wiley (KL7CC) comment: he is the trustee on WL7CVG but not owner. AARC is the owner. Jim wants sense from board on the following question: Who should amateurs ask to use repeater? TJ Sheffield (KL7TS) suggested the AARC should establish policy regarding Jim's query.

[1923] Treasurer's Report: Heather Hasper (KL7SP) submitted a written report. (She added comments verbally which I did not record.)

Discussion: gaming income. Cash basis.

Heather requested club business email go to (missed), but personal notes can go to her personal email address.

Steve Jensen (KL0VZ), past treasurer, discussed flaws in past treasurer's reports regarding gaming income and expenditure. Report changes are not made lightly.

Heather reported Lisa Rogers, CPA, had made various

recommendations, one of which was a recommendation for the AARC to establish an investment committee.

[(missed time)] Judi Ramage (WL7DX) moved to accept the treasurer's report. Second: Carl London (N5XLI). Vote: unanimous;

Passed.

[1934] ARES: TJ Sheffield (KL7TS)

Noted that Phil Mannie (KL0QW), has resigned his position as the Alaska District 7 Emergency Coordinator. TJ asked for a volunteer to take Phil's place.

The Eagle River Classic was cancelled for lack of snow.

No other events until Fur Rondy in February, 2005.

[1936] VEC: Jim Wiley KL7CC: no change. The programmer seems to be in stasis. In response to a query from the floor, Jim discussed the time frame for a change to the FCC rules concerning a new entry level license for the Amateur Radio Service. The likely date for announcement of new entry level license (Notice of Rule Making with comment period, etc.) So late 2006 or 2007 for change in license. Includes all proposals for restructuring, no-code, etc.

[1939] Gaming: Steve Jensen (KL0VZ) informed the board that Charles Dunnigan, Counsel to AARC, was working on the response to the recent query from Alaska State Gaming Board. New reporting rules requires the report to include a copy of the check register. Three transactions were queried:

Embroidery for coats

Club food

Problem accounting error: fund future expenses, namely the future operating fund for the CCV.

Also accounting issues with Bingo Hall, of which AARC is quarter partner.

Steve mentioned he renewed license for gaming permit.

Steve noted restaurant income is regular income.

[1948] Old Business

501©(3) Ann Brunner Probably will get foundation. Current 501©(7)

[1950 Warehouse] Steve Jensen (KL0VZ) regarding door: need part from vendor. Last month electric and lighting completed. Batteries installed. CCV ready for next event.

Jim Larsen mentioned, with appreciation, the dedicated corps who have been maintaining the CCV.

[1953] Tower for CCV Storage Location: TJ Sheffield (KL7TS) Rohn equivalent tower.

Jim Wiley (KL7CC) asked whether \$3000 was enough or was it only for the purchase and erection of the tower but not antenna and rotor. Recommends getting a (real) Rohn 45 from Frigid North - Antenna has not yet been determined. Query: Do we need a tower?

Use of KL7AA for hf this month? None known for this month.

[2012] Membership issues: quorum at the general meeting is 28 for 2005.

Jim Larsen (AL7FS) suggests change in policy to determine quorum. That is, instead of awarding newly licensed hams membership for a year, simply provide new hams a year's subscription to the club newsletter. 10 per cent of voting members [2021] Jim Wiley (KL7CC) so moved. Second: Steve Jensen (KL0VZ). Vote: unanimous, Passed.

Comment: Need new EC and Board Member.

[2022] Fur Rondy: TJ Sheffield (KL7TS): Phil Mannie (KL0QW) used to handle the Car Race (needs to be replaced), Susan Woods coordinates (missed).

[2025] Iditarod: TJ Sheffield (KL7TS) pointed out it is an individual participation event and not an ARES function.

[2027] Conex: Jim Larsen (AL7FS) Project to clean out this weekend. Subject to coordination. Probably most to dumpster, nothing setup right now.

[2029] New board member package: Judi Ramage (WL7DX) proposed that the numerous important documents pertaining to the AARC be gathered together into a loose leaf notebook.

[2033] Steve Jensen (KL0VZ) moves that ARES to run field day this year (subject brought up by TJ Sheffield (KL7TS)). Authorize ARES to organize field day and request the organizing committee to submit a budget. Second: Judi Ramage (WL7DX). Vote: unanimous, Passed.

[2038] Discussion: door prize and raffle is to encourage people to come to the meeting. Judi Ramage (WL7DX) suggested that there be no ticket sales (raffle) so that only one ticket be given to members only (door prize). TJ Sheffield (KL7TS) mentioned the items generally targeted at emergency preparedness. Don't need big draw for vote. Helps keep people to end at meeting. Steve Jensen (KL0VZ) pointed out the accounting for this activity is not well defined, but off books, sort of self sustaining. Jesse Jones (KL7RK) thinks \$25 per month is adequate.

[2053] Steve Jensen (KL0VZ): presented the Corporate Resolution for Corporate Account with Smith Barney; so moved, Second: Frank Pratt (KL7FE). Vote: unanimous, Passed (copy of document attached to official minutes).

[2102] New License Class: Jim Wiley (KL7CC) noted the class bought materials \$760.00. Problem: BoD has not approved funding. TJ Sheffield (KL7TS) said Craig Bledsoe already had some stuff. Students have option to purchase either or both books, "Now Your Are Talking" and workbook at about \$20.00 per book with instructor's discount. Heather Hasper (KL7SP): approved concept of this class back in November. Steve Gehring (NL7W): questions about procedure but is our mission is training Steve Jensen (KL0VZ) moved that the board approve funding of the class not to exceed \$740.

[2116] Committees: Jim Larsen (AL7FS) committees serve at the will of president. The following committees were identified:

Executive Committee: officers are the members  
Membership Committee: currently Fred Erickson (KL7FE) and Judi Ramage (WL7DX).

Technical Committee:

Capital Project Committee:

Investment Committee: (newly suggested committee)

Jim Larsen (AL7FS) stated the Executive Committee will meet to iron out.

[2119] Judi Ramage (WL7DX) moved to adjourn

Jesse Jones (KL1RK) asked the board about giving a gift to guest speakers, for example, an Ulu (only one left). What should we continue to do. Discussion: Suggestion: subscription to newsletter. Motion not needed.

[2123] Query: How is the video project coming? Jesse Jones (KL1RK) moving slowly. Will be getting more pictures.

[2123] Heather seconded motion to adjourn.

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Become an active member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Train with ARES. Earn your ARES membership badge for use during emergencies. Join ARES.

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### News from the North Slope

Submitted by Dan O'Barr, KL7DR

QST Kuparuk Ham Club,

I thought it was about time send an update on some of our mid-winter happenings. Our own Scott Crafton (KL7EZ) built an IRLP node for his Dad, Bill Crafton (WL7BHJ), as a very unique Christmas present. You can see the status of that IRLP node by looking at

<http://status.irlp.net/IRLPbycountry.php?country=2> and scrolling down until you see node #4084 in Murfreesboro, TN.

This way, Scott and his Dad can easily chat between Alaska and Tennessee using simple, low-power, handheld radios that are sporting nothing more than a little "rubber-duck" antenna. The simplicity of IRLP is amazing, and even though Kuparuk is currently the farthest North node in the world, it is often just like being next door.

Getting other family members involved in ham radio is a terrific way to share an interest that is all about communicating with each other. Don't tell anyone, but ham radio can make it seem almost fun to be so remote here in Arctic! My 13 year-old daughter Kayla, who we are homeschooling, just got issued her own ham license this morning, so she is now KL1TX, which, IMO, is a nice call to get. She gets an "A" grade for her technology credit for that! As a bonus, she has been encouraging my Dad to get his ham

ticket as well. There is huge excess capacity on the reflectors, so if she does convince her Grandpa to get his ticket, we would be a three generation ham family that could talk via handheld radios from different parts of the globe almost as easily as if we were in the same room.

On the technology front, we are fortunate to have Mike Romanello (KL7BK) here at Kuparuk now. Mike is an expert at APRS, which is a fascinating, entertaining, and practical technology that I am encouraging him to demonstrate and possibly help us to install here on the North Slope. To get an idea of APRS, you could look up Mike's digipeater on top of Mt. Gordon Lion (AKA Site Summit, the old Nike missile base NE of Anchorage with the wintertime "star" on it) by going to this web site:

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=KL7BK-15> ,

or you could see his truck, which is parked in Wasilla, at this web site:

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=KL7BK-7> .

Properly implementing the APRS here in the oil field is something of a major geek challenge, because to do it in style will require some decent mapping data to get integrated into the APRS software. Mike has the necessary experience to get us started, but we would have to implement an actual solution on our own. The links above are using some free mapping data. There is commercial data that is a lot better, but actually has to be purchased. Maybe we already have data for the area around our field. I just don't know about that myself.

I am told that APRS was originally designed at the Naval academy in Annapolis, and gives you instant messaging between portable, mobile, and base radios in the system world-wide, while also providing exact position data, relative distance, velocity, and so forth. It is quite capable when implemented.

If anyone has further interest, questions, or is an uber-geek who can help, Mike can be contacted via e-mail at [kl7bk@mtaonline.net](mailto:kl7bk@mtaonline.net) or in the evenings in his room at x3776.

73,  
Dave/al2i

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### Interested in Satellites?

Check this out.

If you have any interest in Satellite work, Dan O'Barr, KL7DR, has put together a very nice site filled with useful links. I recommend you check it out at:

<http://gahleos.obarr.net/>

Dan's own [KL7DR's New LEO Primer](#) is there and it provides information on getting started in the Low Earth Orbit satellites. Many of you have seen Dan or Craig Bledsoe, KL4E, demonstrate their hand held antenna with HT at a club meeting or a field event. With their simple systems, they talk successfully through the satellites. Fun stuff. Check it out.

AL7FS

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## AARC Donations are well received (Last 4 months)



Hope Community Resources - \$6000



Alaska Mountain Rescue Group \$9000



American Red Cross – Amateur Radio Club - \$7800





Alaska Pacific University - \$10,000

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## The Vertical End-Fed Halfwave vs an Inverted V By Bruce Draper, AA5B

Special to The ARS Sojourner There was a lot of discussion on QRP-L a while back about the relative merits of a traditional dipole and an end-fed half wave. The end-fed wire is especially attractive for backpackers who would rather carry a small tuner than a roll of coax. But does the end-fed wire work as well as a traditional dipole? There were plenty of reports like "I worked W1ABC in Vermont" or "I got a 589 in Utah" or "It really seems to get out" or "It tuned up really well," but I didn't see any one-on-one comparisons. So, with the Flight of the Bumblebees looming on my calendar, I decided to run some experiments myself. In these tests, I compared antenna configurations that I thought I and other QRPers might use in the field. Basically, I looked at ground-mounted end-fed vertical half-wave wires versus inverted Vs at different heights.

In Experiment No. 1, I compared a 40-meter inverted V to an end-fed "vertical" half-wave. The inverted V was fed with about 70 feet of RG8x to the apex at 52 feet with the ends at about 30 feet.

That's pretty typical of what I can put up while hiking. The end-fed wire antenna was 66 feet long, attached directly to a tuner at nearly ground level, and the top was at 50 feet.

The wire was pulled away from the tower in the middle, so it wasn't vertical . . . again, I think this is typical of what I might do on the trail (I don't often find trees higher than 50 feet around here, so I use inverted Ls or bent verticals).

The tuner was connected to the radio through a very short piece of RG8x. Consistent with the recent discussion on QRP-L, I added a couple of 33-foot radials at the tuner, but I found that they had very little effect on the SWR or the tuning. The tuner was able to get the SWR down to about 1.2.

Using an antenna switch so I could make very quick changes, I made comparisons with dozens of stations in Europe, Asia, South America, and all over North America, daytime and nighttime, receiving and transmitting.

The antennas were always very close in performance, but the end-fed wire was never better than the inverted V.

Instead, the V was often about 3 dB (half an S unit) better - never more than a full S-unit (and even that was rare). So I'd say that an end-fed half-wave vertical is roughly comparable to an inverted V with the apex at the same height as the top of the vertical.

Experiment No. 2 was on 20 meters, and allowed me to compare an end-fed half wave wire "vertical" to an inverted V that was much higher than the vertical.

The end-fed wire was 33 feet long, attached to the tower at about 25 feet and pulled away in the middle to make a crooked vertical (as before, it was fed directly by a tuner at ground level which was connected to the radio by a short piece of coax, and two quarter-wave counterpoises were laid on the ground).

The inverted V apex was at 52 feet, with the ends about 40 feet above ground. So, unlike in the 40-meter tests, the V was on average a lot higher than the end-fed wire.

This time, the high inverted V was always better than the half-wave end-fed bent vertical, by an average of nearly two S units. Sometimes the difference was as much as 3 or 4!

Taking this one step further, Experiment No. 3 compared the same 20 meter vertical half-wave to a dipole at about 20 feet.

The result, as expected: The vertical half-wave outperformed the low dipole by about an S unit everywhere except sometimes for the close-in stuff (stations within 1,000 miles or so).

### IN SUMMARY

The best: High dipole (higher than the top of an end-fed half-wave wire).

About equal: End-fed half wave vertical and a dipole at the same maximum height.

The worst: Low dipole.

My final conclusion: If you can get a dipole or inverted V up in the air at least as high as the top of an end-fed half-wave wire you're thinking of using, and you don't mind carrying the extra coax, do it. The dipole will be better . . . sometimes by a lot.

\*\*\*\*

Bruce Draper, AA5B, is a prolific writer, QRP operator and outdoorsman who is a frequent contributor to The ARS Sojourner. A former editor of the ARRL's National Contest Journal, Bruce lives in Albuquerque, NM. (Used with Permission from August 2001 ARS Sojourner)



## Data You Can Use:

### Officers

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### **AARC web page & Email contact addresses:**

**Homepage:** <http://www.KL7AA.org/>  
**Webmaster:** AL1G\_ak (at) yahoo.com  
**President:** JimLarsen2002 (at) alaska.net  
**Vice President:** damage (at) gci.net  
**Membership:** Frederickson (at) iname.com  
**Newsletter:** JimLarsen2002 (at) alaska.net

### **News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:**

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

### **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

ERC VHF Net 147.27/87 103.5Hz - Sunday 7:30 PM local

ERC HF Net 3.880 MHz - Sunday 8:30PM local

**Any AARC sponsored repeater, with or without an auto-patch, will always be open to all licensed amateur radio operators in the area who are authorized to operate on those frequencies.**

### **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

### **VE Testing in the Valley**

Valley VE testing sessions will be held at the Wasilla Red Cross at 7 pm on the fourth Saturday of each month unless it is a major holiday weekend. The address is 262 E Nelson St in Wasilla. Nelson Street is the extension of Bogard to the west from Main Street/Wasilla Fishhook, and the Red Cross is on the south side of Nelson about halfway from Main to Lucille. (eff. 9.25.04)

## Internet Links, the favorites from our readers:

**QRP and Hombrew Links** <http://www.AL7FS.us>

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

**SCRC** <http://www.KL7G.org>

**EARS** <http://www.qsl.net/kl7air>

**MARA** <http://www.kl7jfu.com/>

**Moose Horn ARC** <http://www.alaksa.net/~kl7fg>

**ARES** <http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska>

**KL7J** <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

**Fairbanks AARC:** <http://www.kl7kc.com/>

**Yukon Amateur Radio Association:**

<http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html>

**HAARP Project:**

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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto: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.

### THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

**1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each month: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM** at Denny's on DeBarr & Bragaw. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** at Hope Cottage 540 W. International. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 Or pay membership renewals?

**Fred Erickson KL7FE**  
**12531 Alpine Dr**  
**Anchorage, AK 99516-3121**  
**frederickson (at) iname.com**  
**Phone number: 345-2181**

Annual Dues are \$12 (prorated as appropriate)  
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Memberships now expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please check your expiration date above and renew via Fred Erickson, Membership Chairman. This is your last newsletter if you have not renewed.

New rate is only \$12/year (details inside on last page)

