Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting February 2nd, 7:00 PM

February Program

♦ Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs

Matt Hambree, President

Come learn about how these uniquely trained animals assist in state-wide search and rescue (SAR) operations using teams of highly trained search dogs and searcher-handlers.

Stealth Antenna's and Covenants

Or Modern Living with the Antenna Police

By Ron Keech, KL1PL/ALM7BC

Anchorage, Alaska

If your one of those Hams who owns 20 acres of open farmland and have a 200 foot tower you should read this anyway. You can assist one of your friends in a covenant situation.

Don't just scoff at his/her misfortune at living with restrictions. I have had otherwise intelligent Hams tell me they would move out or some other wiseacre remark. Does that help? Do you really think that is acting like an Elmer? If so you and I are in different hobbies on different planes of existence. Yes that is off topic, but needed to be said anyway.

The overall end result of the restrictions is fewer and fewer Hams can be fully utilized in an emergency. You do the math, as more and more areas get restricted there will be fewer stations to provide assistance when it is needed. These same restrictions cause the number of licensed Hams to shrink and that in turn affects our recruitment efforts. The general public is fast approaching the point of forgetting we even exist.

This trend is across the board, fewer fully functional stations and operators to support ARES, MARS, and a wealth of other organizations that are called on every time there is a disaster.

Lets not forget that as the average age of an Amateur is rising and the old crew is going Silent Key. You will have fewer contacts since the new Hams cannot get on the air.

Yes, you have been hearing this for some time. I repeat it because too few take it seriously until it is too late. Write your congressional representatives and be heard, save our hobby from the cosmetic police who still think Ham Antennas reduce property values. We have far and away enough problems with our own operators acting like children on the air, or taking advantage of fellow hams (and their Widows!). Lets not let CCR's further degrade the hobby. Argue CW or No CW all day if you like, when the operators are gone it really won't matter will it? Back on topic again, sorry I get sidetracked by what amounts to QRM within the ranks.

As we all await congressional action on H.R. 1478, concerning restrictions (CCRs) on Amateur antennas by Private Organizations (Homeowners Assn, etc…). Let me pass along information on how I am working around the antenna restrictions.

A little background is in order, I moved into the house in a restricted area before I became a Ham. After 7 years of living in my town home I became licensed as a Ham. So those restrictions didn't even enter my mind until I was faced with the how do I get on the air question and was told "No you can't!" That needless to say was discouraging!

That should address why a Ham would live in such a place, not being independently wealthy I have not just up and moved. Add to that fewer and fewer areas are without some form of antenna restriction these days. If the neighborhood was built in the last 20 years there is usually restrictions written into the deed.

How did I get around the restrictions? I own and control my attic for one thing, allowing an odd assortment of antennas for VHF and up. HF is accomplished with a very stealthy G5RV hidden on the roof shingles.

I convinced the local Home Owners Assn. of the need to put up a Discone antenna for a scanner, which of course happens to tune up nicely on 2 meters and up. Like TV antennas they are hard pressed to say no to a receiving antenna under the existing law. Score one for the good guys!

Back to those attic bound antennas; the pictures show what I did to get on the air in spite of those restrictions. Similar applications can be achieved for you with a little imagination. I have 10 coax runs into the attic, hooked up to beams, verticals and even a loop on 6 meters. The roofing material is non-conductive and I do not have things like HVAC ducting to deal with. Each stealth application is somewhat unique it will be a bit of trial and error. I have even used a slinky HF dipole in my attic in a Z formation to get on the air.

Look close and you can see a 7 el yagi (fixed), 3 el yagi (background center), 6m dipole (top right), the 1.25m ground plane is hiding, a 4 el yagi (rotor) and part of the 6m loop (top).

Do they RF affect each other, of course to some degree. Do they work in spite of that, yes! Do they work as well as they would outside? No. Hence the term compromise antenna comes to mind. No, your most likely not going to run a kilowatt on stealth setups due to the RFI issues etc.. But do you really need that much power? No, people are talking QRP everyday. Besides 50 watts can work as well as a hundred on HF if conditions are working in your favor. Be creative!

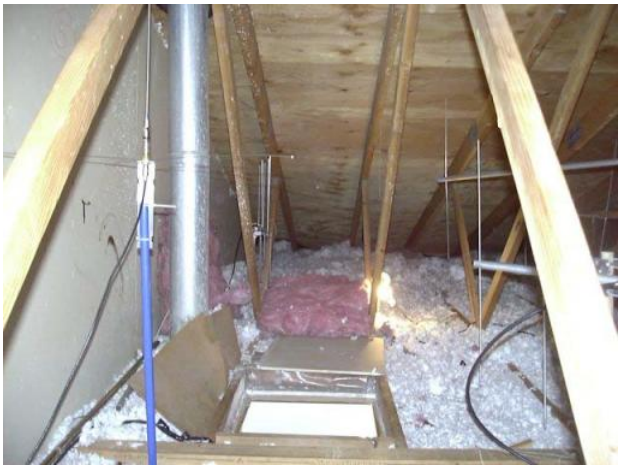
Meaning in a house with restrictions I am up on 80m thru 33cm! Have worked HF as far away as California (MARS operations) and this is at the dead end of the sun cycle. Externally you will find that Discone and if you know where to look the G5RV.

In the Attic I have the following:

- 6m Loop, 6m Inverted Vee Dipole
- 2m 3 element Yagi, 2m 4 element Yagi (on a rotor) and a 2m 7 element Yagi
- 2m Hustler CoLinear 5/8 over ¼ wave mobile set onto a ground plane base
- 2m/70cm Log Periodic and a 2m/70cm Ground Plane
- 1.25m 5/8 Ground plane
- 33cm 12 element Yagi and a 70cm 5 element Yagi (both mounted on a common rotor)

Here is the 5 el 70cm yagi and the 12 el 33cm yagi (right center) as well as a vhf/uhf vertical (background).

Power is no more than 100 watts on 6m and HF, and a high of about 125 watts on 2m. So while not QRO am still able to talk to most area stations.



Here is the vhf/uhf discone and on the left is the co-linear 2m hustler. Why so many 2m yagi's? Packet and APRS as well as voice.

Look at the pictures and think about the space you have to work with. You may find a way to incorporate an antenna somewhere you had not considered before. Look around on the web; there are hundreds of examples of how to get on the air in spite of restrictions.

I have to mention that most covenants/restrictions address things like Flagpoles and other assorted assemblies free standing in the yard. So there goes a clever vertical antenna idea. Now even if you do not have an attic to use you can still get on the air by using things like the antenna on a vehicle (direct connection or cross-banding if you have the gear). Or a balcony antenna and many have had success with small indoor antennas for VHF/UHF operations.

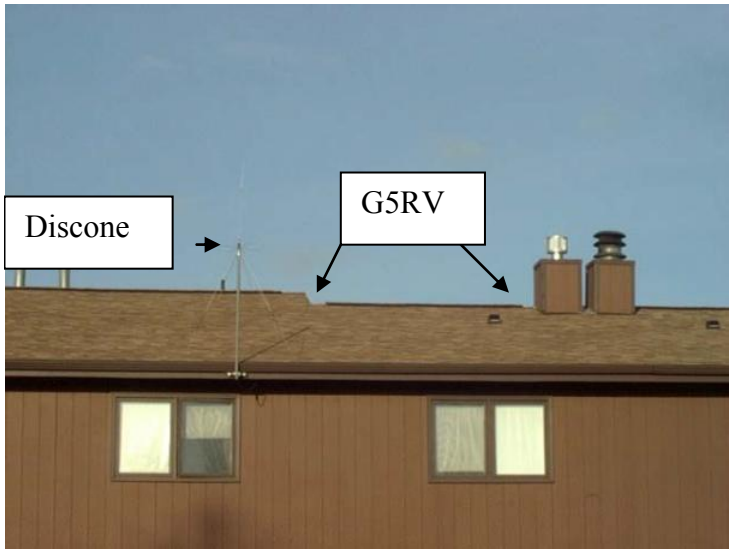
I have read where some Hams are using 20-40 meter folded dipoles inside to work HF stealth, mostly QRP but on the air anyway.

Another angle on the uhf Yagi's and the dual band vertical.

So stop waiting, get on the air! Remember too that letters and email to your Congressmen and Senators will be noticed if enough of us do it.

Oh yeah these are from the back of the house, from the front nothing shows.
Finally, I would like to thank every Ham who was or is faced with these headaches and in spite of them got on the air! Thanks to the Elmer's and supportive fellow Hams for being there to help with "how do I?" or "will this work?"

Remember, be part of the solution or just be quiet!❐



From outside…Dipole, what dipole? Look really close at the black lines. They are the sides of the G5RV.

Oh and coax everywhere!

Editor's note:
For more information on antenna restriction and zoning in your area check out the following links:
In Anchorage:
http://www.muni.org/planning/prj_Title21.cfm

In Wasilla:
http://www.cityofwasilla.com/planning/default.asp

In Greater Mat-Su borough:
http://www.matsugov.us/CodeCompliance/index.cfm

House Bill: HR 1478, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003 was referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet on 4/10/2003. Status: No Actions to date.

KL7AA Club Business

Board Meeting Minutes

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BOARD MEETING
December 19, 2006
540 WEST INTERNATIONAL ROAD
(Unapproved at time of printing)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Jim Larsen Due to lack of attendance of officers and Board Members no quorum was established. The meeting was dismissed at 730PM.

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ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BOARD MEETING
January 16, 2007
540 WEST INTERNATIONAL ROAD
(Unapproved at time of printing)

The meeting was brought to order by President Kathleen O'Keefe at 7:04 pm.

The quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

President Kathleen O'Keefe KL7KO, Vice-President Jim Larsen AL7FS, Treasurer Heather Hasper KL7SP, Secretary Diane Olson KL1MY, Richard Block KL7RLB, Michael O'Keefe KL7MD, Frank Pratt KL7RX, Paul Spatzek WL7BF, Richard Kotsch WL7CPX, Jim Wiley KL7CC and John Orella KL7LL (was excused but came in late)

EXCUSED

Susan Woods Nl7NN, Judi Ramage WL7DX, TJ Sheffield KL7TS and Ed Moses KL1KL

UNEXCUSED

Activities Chairman Pat Wilke WL7JA

GUESTS

Robert Engberg KL5E, Bruce McCormick KL7BM, Dale Hummel KL2BO and Bill Fults KL1UK

Added to Agenda: Potential loss of Board Members and Equipment for Sale

REPORTS

Minutes of October Meeting and notes from November and December meetings,

Michael O'keefe made the motion "Accept October as written and November 21st and December 19th notes as corrected" Heather Hasper seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

VISITORS FORUM

Bob Engberg presented information on the Eagle River phone patch. After some discussion **Michael made the motion "To discuss this further later on in the meeting under New Business" Jim Wiley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

REPORTS

Treasurer Heather Hasper presented the Treasurer's Report. After some discussion **Paul Spatzek made the motion "To accept the Treasurer's Report" Michael seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

VE – Jim Wiley: Art Morton will help Jim in preparation and changes to the exams. Hopefully they will go to the Printers on Monday. The February testing should stay on schedule.

Membership/quorum for 2007 and 2007 elections are 15 people for meetings and 145 people on voting list.

OLD BUSINESS

National Weather Service MOU is being championed by Michael. He and Jim Larsen will get together and finish hammering it out and get the equipment tagged.

Jim Larsen will champion the MOU Municipality of Anchorage – EOC.

Fur Rondy Board – **Richard Block made the motion "Allocation of funds to be rescinded and item removed from the Agenda" Heather seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Kotzebue Repeater was discussed. **Richard Block made the motion "To remove this item from the Agenda" Frank Pratt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Heather and Jim Wiley discussed the 2007 Hamfest set for September 15th and 16th. Different speakers were discussed and whether we should pay for Speakers partner expenses. **Michael made the motion "To allow Jim Wiley permission to pursue 2 guest speakers and partners for the fall 2007 Hamfest" Richard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

BOARD MEETING: January 16, 2007 cont.

Capital Projects Overview – Jim Larsen. The list is being whittled down. All items received so far are being stored in the CCV Storage.

Michael spoke on the Packet Project. Jim Larsen spoke on the need for used laptops to be used. Jim Wiley said he had some foam already cut out for packet stations.

Inventory of equipment has already been discussed previously.

Break 8:16 pm

Meeting reconvened at 8:30 pm

Tower Project CCV Storage facility was discussed. **Mike made the motion "Strike the pole from the agenda and rescind the funding of $4,500.00 Motion withdrawn**
After much discussion **Heather made the motion "That we table this item until next month" No second, motion failed.**

Club Station Antenna tower change. **Jim Larsen made the motion "That the club station antenna be a tower not a pole. Richard Kotsch seconded. Motion passed unanimously with one member abstaining.**

NEW BUSINESS

Program for February membership meeting will be the Alaska Search Dogs (ASARD). Richard Block will do the program in May with APD search dogs.

No approvals needed for KL7AA in the next month.

Grants – Grant Committee shall consist of Chairman Vice-President, President and Treasurer.

Real Estate Purchase committee was formed with Richard Block, Craig Bledsoe KL4E and Mark Kelleher KL7TQ. We would like to purchase property for a permanent AARC clubhouse and storage. Richard will report back next month.

Repeater Alyeska-Girdwood will be championed by Michael O'Keefe, and assisted by Paul Spatzek. Repeater needs to be picked up and stored at CCV storage until it needs to be used.

D-STAR was presented by Jim Wiley. He will look into this new digital technology and report back whether this is something the Club needs to purchase.

Eagle River Phone Patch with Bob Engberg requesting $648.00 for 2 years of phone service. The Board decided this was not something we should do. Discussion ensued about other ways of filling in this area. Operating monies? Should we fund? KL7AA repeater? **Jim Larsen made the motion "To table this discussion until next month" Richard Kotsch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Equipment – Jim Wiley has a HF Antenna System for sale for $2,500.00 and a satellite system for $500.00 and Pre-amps for $200.00 to be sold to the first person with money. The Board decided not to pursue equipment.

Potential losses of Board Members need to be discussed. Jim Wiley has already taken Nick Casler's position. Judi Ramage is physically unable to fulfill her duties at this time. **John Orella made the motion "That the Board make a recommendation to the Membership of an interim appointment due to Judi Ramages' Health interest" Richard Kotsch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** The Board came up with 3 possible candidates. Dale Hummel KL2BO, Pieter Van Weel and Pierre Loncle.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,
Diane Olson, KL1MY
Secretary

VE Report

The ARRL has learned that the FCC's *Report and Order* (*R&O*) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, is scheduled to appear in the *Federal Register* Wednesday, January 24. Assuming that occurs, the new Part 97 rules deleting any Morse code examination requirement for Amateur Radio license applicants would go into effect Friday, February 23, 2007. The League cautions that this date is *tentative*, pending official confirmation and publication.

HAM RADIO CLASSES

Anyone interested in getting their license may contact *instructor@kl7aa.net* for assistance and a tutor. Anyone interested in performing one-on-one tutoring may also contact us. If you are a General or Extra willing to volunteer your teaching abilities to ELMER other operators, please feel free to contact us to coordinate your schedule.

EXTRA Course

We would like to offer an extra class, however we are in need of instructors and mentors for this course. If you would be interested in teaching this class, facilities, materials and classroom support is available. We have several operators who would like to upgrade and just need some good classroom instruction to be successful. Please contact KL7KO, at instructor@kl7aa.net if you are interested in volunteering for this opportunity.

Connector of the Month

With all the new Yaesu handhelds becoming the HT of choice in the latest amateur radio fad, we thought we would look at the SMA connector. This is the connector that Yaesu has chosen as their default connector with all their new VX series handheld radios.

The SMA is an acronym for SubMiniature version A and was developed in the 1960's. It uses a threaded interface. 50 Ω SMA connectors are semi-precision, subminiature units that provide excellent electrical performance from DC to 18 GHz. These high-performance connectors are compact in size and mechanically have outstanding durability. The SMA connector is frequently used in mass numbers in particle accelerators. The connector is used in conjunction with Heliax cable as a connector for X and Y in Particle beam diagnostics, after Quadrupole magnets. The AC feedback signal, X and Y are fed through four SMA connectors from the beam position monitor to the beam monitor instrumentation.

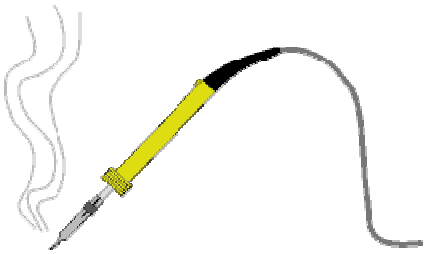
For phase array radar, test equipment, ILS landing systems and other instrumentation using phase matching techniques, these SMA connectors for semi-rigid coaxial cables and the SMA Plug-to-Jack adapter offer a precise and simple means of phase adjustment for microwave devices. Built in accordance with MIL-C-39012 and CECC 22110/111, SMA connectors can be mated with all connectors that meet these spec mating diameters regardless of manufacturer.

SMA is available both in Standard and Reverse Polarity. Reverse polarity is a keying system accomplished with a reverse interface, and ensures that reverse polarity interface connectors do not mate with standard interface connectors. This is accomplished by inserting female contacts into plugs and male contacts into jacks. Other manufacturers may use reverse threading to accomplish reverse polarity keying.

SMA connectors have broadband performance DC to 18 GHz with low reflection stainless steel construction and ¼ - 36 threaded coupling offers high performance in a compact design. Low cost Commercial Grade (Brass SMA) are available in nickel or gold plating which provides approximately 30% cost reduction with 250 mating cycles.

Phase Adjustable SMA connectors provide ease of mechanical screw adjustments, compared to the delays and expense of laborious cable-trimming.

Reverse polarity SMA



Reverse polarity SMA (RP-SMA or RSMA) is proprietary variation of the SMA connector. Used widely by WiFi device manufacturers such as Linksys, Netgear, and D-Link, it is designed to be incompatible with standard SMA connectors to comply with U.S. FCC regulations which seek to prevent consumers from attaching non-standard aerials to wireless devices.

The male RP-SMA connector has the same external housing as a standard male SMA connector; however, the internal prong is replaced by a receptacle. The female RP-SMA connector has the same housing as a standard female SMA connector however the prong found on a male SMA connector is on the female RP-SMA connector.

Do you have a connector that you would like to con-tribute? Email us the connector name and we can include it in the newsletter.

Contact Us

Editor's Corner

Thank you,
Kathleen O'Keefe, KL7KO
editor@kl7aa.net

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News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:
Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting Email: editor@kl7aa.net
Mail: 2003 W. 46th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99517-3176

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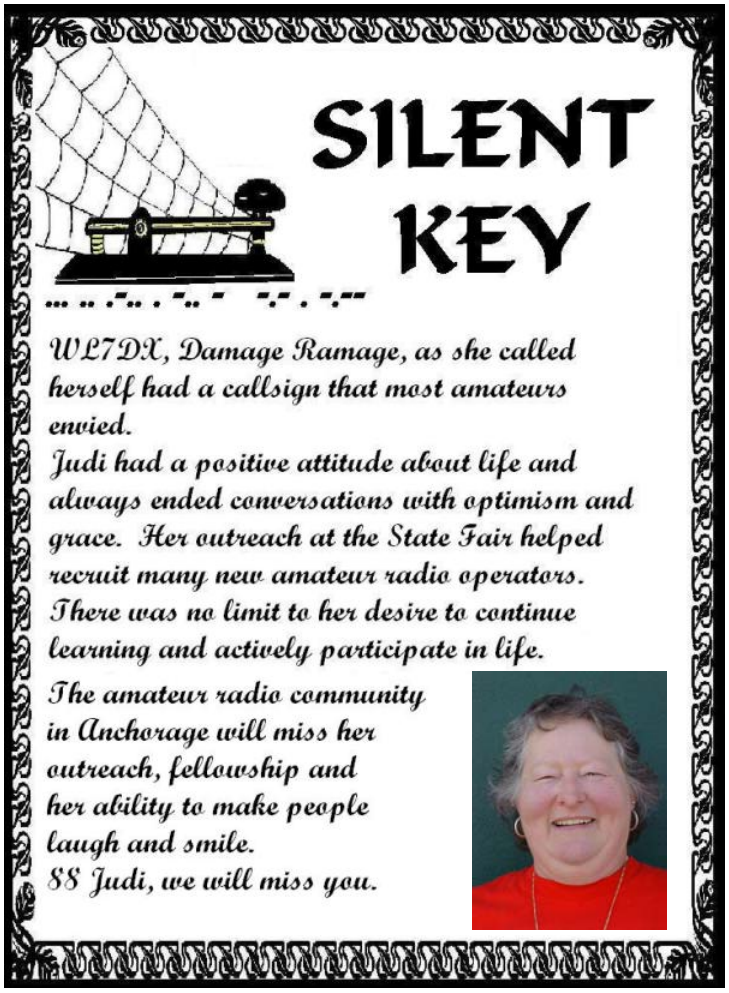
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by mail, computer disk or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed above. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor **no later than the 10 days prior** to the meeting or it may not be included.



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:
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.

Silent Key

Judith Ramage, WL7DX.

Peters Creek resident Judith Faye Ramage, 62, died of heart failure Jan. 17, 2007, at Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage.
Ms. Ramage was born Jan. 10, 1945, in Greenwood, Miss. Judi came to Alaska in 1972. "She sought out the adventure and dream of living in the Last Frontier, which in those days as a single mom was just unheard of," her family said.
She worked with several other ham radio operators at Enstar Natural Gas as a gas control dispatcher for the past 24 years. Judi was a life time member and current board member of Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. She had served as our Vice President for the last four years. Ms. Ramage was a member of the Alaska Pipe Trades UA Local 367 for 24 years. She was a member and current treasurer of the Chugiak Range Riders, a past board member and 1986 board president of the Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, and a member of the Gassy Girls -- a Red Hat Society chapter.
Her family wrote: "Judi will always be remembered for her brilliant personality, her generosity, her lively sense of humor, her willingness to help those in need, her love of animals and her love of family -- both natural and adopted. about almost everything: politics, the environment, natural resource development, history, science and other cultures.
There was no limit to her desire to continue learning and actively participate in life. The amateur radio community in Anchorage will miss her outreach, fellowship and her ability to make people laugh and smile. 88 Judi, we will miss you.

Frequency Coordination
What is it and how it affects all ham operators

Frequency Coordination is a method to minimize interference among these stations while maximizing use of the limited radio spectrum available to the Amateur Radio Service by planning what specific frequency or frequencies a given station will operate on in a specific area. Frequency coordinators provide these planning services by maintaining records of existing systems and by either approving or recommending frequencies for use by new stations.

Frequency coordination is also necessary, or at least is in the best interests of all repeater stations, due to the following FCC rule:

> 97.205(c).Where the transmissions of a repeater cause harmful interference to another repeater, the two station licensees are equally and fully responsible for resolving the interference unless the operation of one station is recommended by a frequency coordinator and the operation of the other station is not. In that case, the licensee of the non-coordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference.

This is a generalization of what frequency coordination is, but it should be quite sufficient for our purposes. Many areas have different methods of employing frequency coordination, and it would be very difficult to cover all of them. If you wish to know more about how frequency coordination is handled in your area, please contact your local Frequency Coordinator.

The frequencies used for coordinated stations (commonly called a 'bandplan' or 'frequency utilization plan' or something similar) vary somewhat in different parts of the country. To find out what the 'bandplan' is in your area, please contact your local Frequency Coordinator. It is a good idea to know the bandplan in your area even if you do not use coordinated systems

To understand why frequency coordination is necessary, you must first understand the limitations of certain types of stations. Changing frequency for most modern home stations is as easy as turning a dial or hitting a few buttons. The operator is in close proximity to the transceiver and can easily compensate for interference from another station on a nearby frequency (or a distant station on the same frequency) within seconds.

Virtually all repeater stations will require one or more frequency specific components such as duplexers, filters, isolators, circulators, multi-couplers, combiners, or other pieces of equipment. In addition, most repeaters use transmitters, receivers and in some cases even antennas that cannot change operating frequency easily if at all. Control receivers and link transmitters also must use fixed frequencies for a variety of additional reasons. Control receivers must be on a known frequency in order to be accessible by control operators at a moments notice. Links must relay signals to other stations instantly. It is virtually impossible for a receiver to 'search the band' looking for the frequency the link transmitter 'on the other end' happens to be operating on at any given point in time. Similarly, it would be exceedingly difficult should an operator have to search the band for a repeater located in a specific area every time (s)he wanted to call another operator. The repeater input and output frequencies must be known in advance. Not all systems can share the same frequency due to mutual interference, so each must operate on its own unique frequency or set of frequencies. The users of a particular system will then know where to 'find' it when needed.

In 1982, Congress provided the Commission with the statutory authority to use frequency coordinators to assist in developing and managing the Private Land Mobile Radio (PLMR) spectrum. Frequency coordinators, in this case, are private organizations that have been certified by the Commission to recommend the most appropriate frequencies for applicants in the designated Part 90 radio services. This frequency coordination process is intended to make more efficient use of the PLMR spectrum for the benefit of all members of the public. In general, applications for new frequency assignments, changes to existing facilities or operation at temporary locations must include a showing of frequency coordination (See CFR 47, Section 90.175).

There are different frequency coordinators authorized for the different categories of the spectrum. The **National Frequency Coordinator's Council (NFCC)** is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation, the membership of which is composed of delegates from recognized frequency coordinators in the United States. The purpose for which the corporation is organized is to establish recognition of Amateur Radio frequency coordination by the Federal Communications Commission, the American Radio Relay League, and all Amateur Radio licensees.

Frequency Coordination cont.

With the signing of the National Frequency Coordination Council's Articles of Incorporation during the week of 24 June 1996, Amateur Radio's frequency coordinating community took its first steps toward achieving national recognition. This effort was greatly enhanced by the creation of a limited-access frequency coordinator's email remailer/reflector in May 1995.. This goal is to be fulfilled by the Corporation by the following activities:

(1) To facilitate the exchange of information and general cooperation between members, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL), and any other legislative or regulatory arm of the Federal government pertaining to the Amateur Radio Service, and specifically the coordinated use of repeaters and other relay devices and systems, and amateur stations using shared bands utilized by fixed-station repeater and relay devices and systems. Such information would include such things as lists of frequency coordinators; proposed and current policies, procedures and regulations pertaining to coordinator certification, decertification, and succession of coordinators; proposed and current federal policies affecting Amateur Radio systems operations; pending and current FCC submissions and determinations, including Petitions for Rule Making, Notices of Proposed Rule Making, and Report and Order releases affecting Amateur Radio repeater and relay systems and the cooperative coordination of the same for interference avoidance

(2) To operate as, or to facilitate, a Single-Point-Of-Contact (SPOC) between the FCC and the Amateur Radio frequency coordinating community.

(3) To promote responsible coordination of the use of Amateur Radio operations in FCC-authorized HF, VHF, UHF, and SHF frequency sub-bands and promulgate proper policies for cooperation and interference avoidance among and between users.

(4) To facilitate arbitration of disputes involving Amateur Radio frequency coordination. This will be accomplished by encouraging local resolution of disputes as well as appointment of arbitrators to conduct binding arbitration in accordance with the American Board of Arbitration procedures; the costs of such to be borne by the parties to the arbitration.

(5) The corporation will define a frequency coordinator in such a way as to address issues of succession, recognition, certification and geographic exclusivity within the bands coordinated, so as to have a recognized coordinator within each geographic area responsible for usage of the allocated spectrum. This may include separate coordinators for the various emission types authorized within the area. The corporation will establish standards for performing the coordination task. It will, using those standards, certify and decertify coordinators to assure continuity and capability in the performance of the duties of the coordinators.

Anything that requires Frequency Coordination must be electronically submitted by the Coordinator. Frequency Coordination is required for a new filings. Major Modifications and Amendments that change or add frequencies, emissions, ERP, Output Power, Antenna Height, Ground Elevation, change location of Base, Fixed, Mobile or Control stations or number of Mobile units and any change to station class. (Hydro frequencies listed in CFR 47 Section 90.265(a). Go through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for coordination. Even the military and Department of Defense have frequency and spectrum coordinators. The AFC provides data base management, spectrum engineering and the operational controls necessary for maintaining flight safety and overall spectrum compatibility in an area of intensive and diverse spectrum usage with support from office staff spectrum surveillance and control activities. ❒

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Alaska has three Frequency Coordinators depending upon where stations are located.

(South-Central)
Mel Bowns, KL7GG *CERTIFIED*
23708 The Clearing
Eagle River, AK 99577
E-mail: kl7gg@gci.net

(North/West/Interior)
Jerry Curry, KL7EDK *CERTIFIED*
940 Vide Way
Fairbanks, AK 99712
E-mail: jercurry@att.net

(Panhandle)
Jerry Prindle, KL7HFI *CERTIFIED*
PO Box 210123
Auke Bay, AK 99821
E-mail: kl7hfi@arrl.net

AMATEUR RADIO

How it All Began

Amateur Communications for the Fur Rondy Dog Sled Races

by

Jim Tvrdy, KL7CDG

At the time of my arrival to Anchorage in 1956, there were only two TV stations in town, Channel 2 and 11. Both transmitted in black and white and each vied for the videoing of the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous Dog Sled Races which were held in February each year. Normally channel 2 prevailed and they broadcasted the event both on radio and television. Due to lack of equipment and accessibility, only a small portion of the race course could be broadcasted or televised.

I had observed several Fur Rondy Dog Sled Races by standing near the trail, freezing my tail off with the temperature something below 0 degrees, waiting for a team to appear. Then after getting too cold, drive home and watch the remainder of the race on television. As with any race or event, one wonders about the positions of the rest of the participants. Who passed who, where is my favorite musher, who is leading on the back trail and happenings along the course?

As I recall, it all began in 1962, I was watching an advertisement on television about the upcoming Fur Rendezvous which is held each February. It occurred to me that the ham community could do the Racing Association and the public a great service by providing race and trail information plus having emergency communications along the 25 mile race course.

At that time, I was President of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Kenny Keostler, KL7BZO was Vice-president, Edith Koestler, KL7CZU was Secretary, and "Sarge" Robinson, KL7CQS was Activities Manager. At the Board meeting in January, I brought up the idea of the club providing team positions around the trail for the Fur Rendezvous dog races. I stated that we needed to make plans to construct such a board for the 1963 Fur Rendezvous dog sled race for we needed time to purchase the plywood, sheet metal, located the magnets, make up the numbers, glue the numbers on the magnets, paint the board and draw the Anchorage streets plus the dog sled trail on it. Sarge jumped up and said, "That's a dam good idea and we can do it this year, I'll get the material and paint the board, you guys find out where the trail goes and let me know so I can paint the trail on the map".

Sarge was a large 5 foot 10 inch 250 pound burly sort of an individual and if he said he could do something, he would do it. Sarge worked for the Elmendorf AFB school system and he was able to work on the board during his spare time.

The board was made up of two 1/2 inch 4 by 8 foot sheets of plywood hinged together at the center. Two sheets of 4 by 6 foot sheet metal was then nailed to the plywood, a one by two inch boarder was nailed around the perimeter which completed the board. Numbers were stenciled on 4 inch square pieces of cardboard and glued to magnets. Things went smooth and the project was completed a week before race time, just as Sarge under guaranteed.

Using the Gonset Communicators that the State had furnished to some of the hams for emergency communications and a few personal Heath-kit Two-ers, check points were established up and down the trail. Starting with check point one at 4th and Cordova, two at 15th and Cordova, three at Seward Highway, four at Lake Otis Parkway, five at Goose Lake, six at Boniface, seven at Muldoon, eight was at Cambell Air Strip, nine at Tudor Road crossing near Bragaw and then back tracking from Goose Lake finishing at the starting line on 4th avenue. Since we did not have the advantage of repeaters, all check points had to communicate directly to Sarge. This required the moving of the vehicle back or forth shifting the antenna position in order to be heard by Sarge down town.

The underpasses were not built under Seward highway and Ingra streets at that time. All trail crossings were up and over each road. The road crossings were a problem area which required spotters up or down the trail to look for teams and then holler to the trail guards to stop the traffic, get people off the trail and establish a clear crossing. Policemen were spread thin and at times the hams had to assist the trail guards in stopping vehicle traffic, keeping crowd off the trail, watch for stray dogs, dogs on leash and any other distraction that would interfere with race.

Because of the time element, none of the race officials were contacted for coordination, Sarge had to set up the board on the sidewalk in front of what is now the Log Cabin tourist center. Of course this was behind the staging area and away from the starting point and the crowd.

The board was fastened on top of a couple sawhorses and braced with some two by fours. The yellow Gonset Communicator was placed on a folding chair along side the board. Sarge had convinced an official that he was some how connected with the race and he was allowed to park his station wagon close enough to the board to supply power for the Gonset. The ground plane antenna was fastened at the top of the board.

Sarge wore something like military fat boy pants, fur mukluks that had fur tassels that bounced around has he walked, fur parka and fur hat. Over the hat he wore a pair of old GI headphones. He looked like a large teddy bear walking around moving numbers on the board. People walking by had no idea what this man was doing. First they would hear him holler something in the mike then he would move a numbered magnet on the board, then another OK or roger. People would stop and look for a while, then walk off shaking their head.

How it All Began cont.

By the third day, some of the team handlers and mushers had become familiar with our operation and some of them watched the race unfold as Sarge shuffled the numbers by each check point.

At the next regular meeting of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, many improvements were discussed. The main theme was educating the race officials of our value in providing on the spot musher information. This meant getting the board next to the timing booth and also in a location were it could be watched by the down town crowd.

Ted Cadman, KL7CCI, who worked for Rogers & Babler, volunteered the use of a thirty foot trailer which would hold the timing booth at one end and the board at the other. This trailer had a large sheet metal shield that stood about 4 foot high and wrapped around the front part of the trailer. The terms for the use of this trailer were, we could use it as long as it was advertised as being donated by Rogers & Babler. It eventually became recognized as part of the Fur Rondy Dog Racing Associations equipment.

Educating the officials and the mushers would now have to be accomplished. Dick Tozier, the Race Marshal and Orvile Lake, the Mushers Association's co-announcer to KENI Radio and Television Ty Clark, were contacted and a brief outline was given them of our proposal. Dick and Orvile were thrilled at the concept of improving race data to the officials and they agreed that we should explain our proposition to the rest of the dog racing members.

That fall, Sarge, Kenny and I gave a briefing at the musher's first meeting on the club's proposal. All were enthused and excited over our proposal, for the first time, the race officials would know where all the teams were at a glance. Preliminary plans were made, contact persons set up, and telephone numbers were exchanged. The three of us left the meeting with a sense of accomplishment and looking forward to the Fur Rondy Dog Races.

The next project was expanding the board to three sheets of plywood thus making it 12 feet long and 8 feet high. A bigger down town and trail map was painted on it, larger numbers were glued to the magnets, additional check points were established which covering the entire race circuit. Soon all was in readiness for the 1963 Fur Rondy Dog Sled Races.

Over the years I can remember only one incident which nearly ended up as a tragedy. This occurred when one of the check points (don't remember who) noticed that Art Clark, WB6BSD, who was at the Tudor Road check point, was beginning to slur his words whenever he called in a musher. A call was made to the closest ham to go over and see what was the matter with Art. Art was operating out of a modified enclosed delivery truck or van which he called his "Hippie Van". As with all the rest of the mobile operators, Art had the engine running to keep warm and keep the battery charged. He was not aware of a leaky exhaust system and he was slowly becoming overcome with fumes. An ambulance was summoned and Art was taken to Providence hospital for over night observance. He suffered no ill effects, but this alerted all of the check points operating out of vehicles to make sure a window was kept open when running the engine and also to be alert to the voice of all of the other check points.

Two or three years later, we encountered, what turned out to be, a continuing feud with Ty Clark the announcer for channel Two. Channel Two only had three check points, the farthest being Tudor Road whereas we had about nineteen check points which covered the whole trail. Ty became very upset for he thought that we were commercializing. He called our operation illegal and turned us into the FCC. But it was all in vain for Harold DeVoe, KL7MF was the FCC chief engineer in charge, and he was one of the check points.

This public service by the hams in Alaska is still continuing today. It has expanded to cover the Iditarod, (Anchorage to Nome 1000 mile race), Yukon Quest, (Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada to Fairbanks 1000 mile race) and many other shorter dog sled and automobile races held in the state.

Technology has advanced the use of more reliable communications equipment used today for these races. This ranges from the Gonset AM Communicators to FM handheld transceivers (operating through repeaters) to packet or data transmissions (using computer controlled equipment) and now, through the use of satellites.

Some of the original participants of this first challenging project thirty years ago were: KL7CAH/BJD, KL7AUV/BLL, KL7JB/YG, KL7APV, KL7ALA, KL7DZH, KL7CCI, KL7BDG, KL7BVY, KL7BTP, KL7CUK, KL7DQT, KL7BIM, KL7ITI and many others that have not come to mind. This group kicked off on a scheme to provide communications for a local event which has now spread throughout the whole state. The efforts of the hams back then should be commended for establishing a much needed public service which is still continuing today. Bless them where they may be. ❐

Mission statement:
Dedicated to amateur radio as it pertains to disaster services. The history of amateur radio operators' involvement in sending life-saving information in and out of disaster areas [and] providing help during and after earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. "HAM's have been there to assist local, state, and federal agencies and relief organizations such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army." When All Else Fails, Amateur Radio.

Public Service

It is that time of year again when we need volunteers for Sled Dog Races. The snow has fallen and the radios are charged for the 2007 events. Listed below are events that local radio clubs and event coordinators will be looking for communication volunteers to support these upcoming public service events. Your participation is appreciated.

AMATEUR RADIO

CQ CQ CQ

by: *Jesse L. Jones, KL1RK*

Ladies and Gentlemen (or Hams), it's that time of year again! Actually, it's a little past that time of year but who's counting? The Iditarod is looking for volunteers to serve as Anchorage Comms and Trail Comms. Most positions require only a Tech. Class license so all of you new KL2- calls can sign up too! Don't be shy, training is provided for all volunteers. This is an opportunity to see Alaska like only few get to see it. If interested, please contact me at KL1RK(at)yahoo.com and let me know when your available, contact information and any preference as far as where you would like to work. Also, don't forget to fill out the Volunteer Application online at www.iditarod.com. Thanks and we hope to see 'ya on the trail!

Fur Rondy Sled Dog Race
February 24 - 26
(We have confirmed that this is planned weather permitting)
Contact: johnlynn@gci.net

Junior Iditarod
Contact KL7DY Richard Plack 745-5222
kl7dy@arrl.net

IDITAROD XXXV START: March 3, 2007
Contact: AL1W, Gordon Hartlieb al1w@arrl.net

Iditarod Restart March 4, 2007
Contact KL1IL Ray A. Hollenbeck 373-6771
fuzz@mtaonline.net

ARES District 7 Contact Information
Heather Hasper, KL7SP
KL7SP (at) AARL.NET
907-275-7474

February 2007

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
PO BOX 101987
Anchorage, AK 99510-1987
www.KL7AA.net

ANCHORAGE ARES
DISTRICT 7 & 5
KL7AA & KL7JFU

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SCRC: *South Central Radio Club & QRP club meetings held at the Denny's at Bragaw and DeBarr.* **Parka**, *meets at Peggy's restaurant, 11AM* **Contact**: *Lil Marvin NL7DL, 277-6741* *EARS: R1 North,* **Contact:** *Ron Keesch: KL1PL@arrl.net*				1	2 ***AARC Meeting 7PM***	3
4	5	6 *MARA Board Meeting 7PM*	7	8	9 ***SCRC Meeting 7PM***	10 *PARKA meeting 11 AM* *EARS: 3PM*
11	12	13	14	15	16 ***QRP Meeting 7PM***	17
18	19	20 *AARC Board Meeting 7PM*	21	22	23 ***MARA Meeting 7PM***	24
25	26	27	28			

ARES NET: Thursday Nights 8:00 PM 147.27+ PL: 103.5 or 443.30+ PL 103.5

Schedule of Events:

ARES NETS:
1st Thursday: HT / Portable
2nd Thursday: Mobile Madness
3rd Thursday: RED CROSS
4th Thursday: Emergency

2/11 Nome Sign 40 (MARA)
Contact: Ray Hollenbeck, KL1IL: fuzz@mtaonline.net

2/23, 2/24 & 2/25 Fur Rondy Sled Dog Race
Contact: John Lynn: johynlynn@gci.net

2/24 - 2/26 JR. Iditarod (MARA)
Contact: Ray Hollenbeck, KL1IL: fuzz@mtaonline.net

To add to the Calendar please contact: John Lynn at Johnlynn@gci.net

Data You Can Use:

2007 Board of Directors

President: Kathleen O'Keefe, KL7KO president@kl7aa.net
Vice Pres: Jim Larsen, AL7FS vicepresident@kl7aa.net
Secretary: Diane Olson, KL1MY secretary@kl7aa.net
Treasurer: Heather Hasper, KL7SP treasurer@kl7aa.net
Activities Chairman: Pat Wilke, WL7JA activities@kl7aa.net
Trustee: Keith Clark, KL7MM trustee@kl7aa.net
Membership Chairman:
Fred Erickson, KL7FE membership@kl7aa.net
News Letter Editor: Kathleen R. O'Keefe, KL7KO

Three Year Board Members

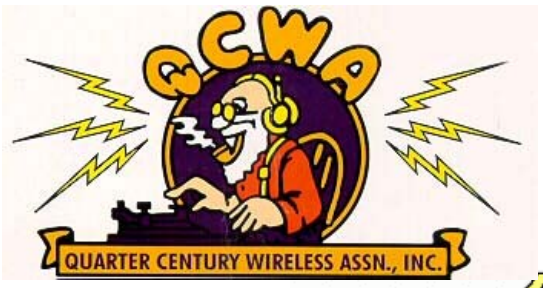
Frank Pratt, KL7RX kl7rx at arrl.net (3rd year)
Paul Spatzek, WL7BF Paul.Spatzek at acsalaska.net (2nd Year)
Michael OKeefe, KL7MD mok at gci.net (1st Year)

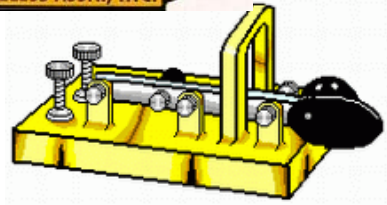
One Year Board Members

Richard Kotsch - WL7CPX, richardkotsch at yahoo.com
TJ Sheffield - KL7TS, kl7ts at arrl.net
Edward Moses - KL1KL, kl1kl at ak.net
Jim Wiley – KL7CC jwiley at alaska.net
Judi Ramage: WL7DX, damage at gci.net
John Orella: KL7LL, kl7ll at arrl.net
Susan Woods: NL7NN, nl7nn at arrl.net
Richard Block: KL7RLB, kl7rlb at clearwire.net

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:
Homepage: **http://www.KL7AA.net/**
Webmaster: webmaster@kl7aa.net
Membership: membership@kl7aa.net
Newsletter: editor@kl7aa.net

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:
Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting
Email: editor@kl7aa.net





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-a/o Dec 31 2006

KL7AA: Flattop Mountain 2,200 ft
146.94/34 MHz, 80 watts, auto-patch, 141.3 Hz PL
224.94/223.34, 25 watts, no patch, no PL
444.70/449.70, 25 watts, auto-patch, 103.5 PL

WL7CVG: Mount Susitna 4,396 ft
VHF: WL7CVG/R1 147.270/147.870 PL 103.5, no auto-patch
UHF: WL7CVG/R3 443.300/448.300 PL 103.5, no auto-patch

WL7CVF: Grubstake: Hatcher Pass 4,536 ft
VHF: WL7CVF/R1 147.330 / 147.930 PL 103.5 Hz (no patch)
UHF: WL7CVF/R3 443.900 / 448.900 PL 103.5 Hz (no patch)

KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC & QCWA
146.97/.37 MHz, 30 watts, auto-patch, 103.5 Hz PL

KL7M Anchorage Hillside
147.21 / 147.81 MHz, on IRLP, 97.4 Hz PL

KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon, PARKA 3,940 ft
147.30 / 147.90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

KL7AIR Elmendorf AFB, EARS: 146.67/146.07, 107.2 Hz PL

KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA: 146.85/146.25, auto-patch, no PL

Palmer IRLP: 146.64/.04, simplex patch, no PL

Mile 58.3 Parks Highway IRLP: 147.09/.69 MHz, 97.4 Hz PL

KL3K, Girdwood - IRLP
146.76 / 146.16 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 97.4 Hz PL

South Anchorage IRLP—**KL7AX**: 146.79/ 146.19 MHz, 100 Hz PL

WL7CWE Anchorage IRLP
2 Meter: 146.82/146.22MHz PL 103.5
6 Meter: 51.65 output / 51.15 input, PL 103.5Hz
70 cm: 444.85/449.850 MHz PL: 103.5 Hz (Node 3400)

South Central Area Simplex Frequencies
146.52 MHz Calling and Emergency frequency
147.57 MHz National DX Calling / Coordinating frequency
146.49 MHz Anchorage area simplex chat
146.43 MHz Mat-Su Valley simplex chat

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
Statewide ARES Net: 147.27/87 103.5Hz Sunday 7:30 PM local

Internet Links, the favorites from our readers:
AARC http://www.KL7AA.net/
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
Practice Exams : http://www.AA9PW.com
Fairbanks AARC: http://www.kl7kc.com/
Yukon Amateur Radio Association:
http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html
Links for Homebrewers & QRPers
http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/
http://www.amqrp.org/misc/links.html
QRP and Homebrew Links http://www.AL7FS.us
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 editor@kl7aa.net**

Regular HAM Gatherings:

Tuesday Lunch, 11:30 AM: Denny's on Denali behind Sears. Several old timers show for this and have lots of stories to share.

Thursdays Brunch, 9:30 AM: Brunch NW corner of Debarr and Bragaw at Birch Tree Dining. 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 American Diner, at the SE corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

Who Do I Contact to Join AARC

Fred Erickson KL7FE
12531 Alpine Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516-3121
E-mail: membership (at) kl7aa.net
Phone number: 345-2181
Annual Dues are $12 (prorated as appropriate)
Additional Member in same household is $6.
Full Time Student is no charge.
Ask about Life Memberships

MONTHLY 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 147.27+ repeater.

1st Tuesday each month (except for holidays):
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. Contact: Jim Wiley, KL7CC 338-0662.

2nd Friday each month: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM at Denny's on Denali Street. Talk in on 147.27+.

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

2nd Saturday each month (except for holidays):
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. Contact: Jim Wiley, KL7CC 338-0662.

2nd Saturday of each month: EARS general meeting at 3:00 PM. Meetings are held at R1 North, next scheduled meeting is Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 1500. Contact info - PO Box 7069, Elmendorf AFB 99506 or email Ron Keech, KL1PL for information. (Home) 349-2442
Email: kl7air@qth.net or ronkeech@kl1pl.us

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 meeting 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. Bring projects to share with the group. Hungry QRPers start showing up about 6PM. Info contact Jim Larsen, AL7FS, JimLarsen2002 at alaska.net or 345-3190.

3rd Saturday each month: ARES General meeting 9:30AM to 12:00 PM. Call TJ Sheffield – KL7TS: kl7ts at arrl.net HM: 248-3864 for additional information. Also check for ARES Info at: http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska/

4th Saturday of each month:Valley VE Testing at 7PM. 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. Wasilla Red Cross is in the Westside Mall, next to Speedy Glass…it's just a click up from AIH hardware.

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 at yahoo.com.

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc
Post Office Box 101987
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1987
www.kl7aa.net

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