

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting April 6th, 7:00 PM



APRIL PROGRAM

John Phelps, *KL4YFD* will be presenting "*An Introduction to HSMM and HSMM net*". This will be a presentation about 'High Speed Multimedia' using commercial 802.11 and D-Star equipment as well as a software projects for HSMM.

The Last Mile

written by Lake "Ed" Trump AL7N March 3, 2003
Ed Trump is the Alaska ARES Section Traffic Manager

Handling third party written message traffic is a well-established activity in the Amateur Radio Service, and has been around about as long as the hobby itself has. It is one of the reasons we exist. Amateurs are always helping out when commercial communications fail, sometimes we are the only service that can. The rules and conventions for this activity are well spelled out in a number of available publications. Most of the time we handle messages just for practice.

In the doing of that, here are some things to think about.....

If you check into any of the statewide nets, you might sometime get called upon to handle a third party written message. Do you know how to do it properly? Message handling work takes a certain amount of commitment on the part of all amateur operators who engage in it. If it is to be done at all it is important that it is done correctly.

For now, we'll talk about message delivery..."The Last Mile".

Consider the following scenario:

You are checked into one of the statewide evening nets, and old Joe down at Two Harbors comes on with a piece of formal traffic for your town. Net control asks you if you can handle it. Be kind of silly to decline, wouldn't it? So you take it on, and NCS sends you and old Joe off frequency to handle the traffic.

You tune to the assigned frequency, and give old Joe a call. You get to call Joe, because you will be the one receiving the message. Joe comes on, and his signal has gone down a little, but you can still hear him pretty well. You tell him to go ahead with the message.

You copy the message down...the band is not the best tonight, but you think you get everything OK, even though you had to ask for a couple of repeats along the way.

Now think about it (#1).....Are you sure you have the entire message exactly correct? Don't say "Roger" or send the signal "QSL" on CW unless you are ABSOLUTELY SURE you have the message OK ("OLL KORREKT"). If there is ANY doubt about ANY part of it, fix it RIGHT NOW, before you let old Joe get away. Otherwise, there will always be a nagging doubt.

Now that you have this message copied out, what are you going to do with it?

Now think about it (#2)....How are you going to deliver it to the addressee? How you handle this step in the process probably has more impact on the public's perception of the Amateur Radio Service than anything else you can do. More about that in a minute.

Look at the message content.... (Message precedence notwithstanding). Is it of a routine nature, or does it look like it might be something someone would want to know about right away? Is there a local telephone number on the message? This is a judgment call. If the message is of a routine nature, and the hour is late, say after 830 or 9 PM or so, probably the best thing will be to wait until the following day, and then try to phone it. If the message looks like it might be of an urgent nature, a phone call late in the evening might be OK. You just don't want to get someone out of bed in the middle of the night and scare hell out of them over nothing. So think about it before you make that call.

Lets suppose you elect to deliver the message by telephone the following day, but the number comes up no good. What to do? You might look in the local directory, and see if there is a newer listing by name, and try that. If still no-go, your only recourse is to attempt delivery by mail.

The message should have a mail address on it. If it does not, could you hand-carry it to the addressee someplace? If there is no way to physically send or give the message to the addressee, all you can do is file it "undelivered" and originate a return message (now you get to send one!) to the originating station, and say so. Give a good reason for non-delivery, what ever it is. Bad address/no phone/moved- no forwarding address/deceased, etc.



NEVER throw a message away unless the sender cancels the message or otherwise instructs you to do so. Might be a good idea to keep a copy on file for a year or so anyway...just in case.

Think about it (#3)...Lets say you end up having to mail the message (or maybe you delivered it on the phone and the addressee wants a hard copy...always a good idea to offer one). Type it or write it neatly on a radiogram blank or a plain half sheet of paper in PROPER MESSAGE FORM. Put it in a neatly addressed envelope with your return address on it, and mail it. You buy the stamp. Nothing makes a better impression on a message recipient than a neatly typed radiogram on an official-looking blank. Especially these days when radiograms or telegrams are a VERY rare event for the average person. By the same token, a sloppily copied and poorly delivered or non-delivered message will leave a negative impression as well. People do talk, you know.

Consider this.... If Aunt Minnie sends Nephew John a radiogram from some county fair someplace, she sort of expects it to get there. If Aunt Minnie and Nephew John have a phone conversation sometime after the fair, Aunt Minnie might ask Nephew John if he ever got the radio message she sent. If Nephew John remembers getting a neatly typed message in a timely manner, he will probably say "Sure Did", because the event left a good impression on him..."This is kinda neat!". The esteem of the Amateur Radio Service goes up a few points for both these people, as well as anybody else they tell about it, because the message delivery was handled in a professional manner.

Yeah, I know... "Fair Messages" are considered "junk traffic" but look at the impact this can have. Suppose Aunt Minnie asks Nephew John if he got her message, and John says "Huh? What Message?" because he never got anything. Now the Amateur Radio Service takes a BIG hit in the eyes of these people. Aunt Minnie probably will say..."The heck with ever doing THAT again...They're Amateurs, all right...Phooey!"

You could apply this scenario to any message activity, not necessarily traffic from County Fairs... Might be traffic from a Disaster Shelter someplace, where people are trying to find out the status of relatives and loved ones. The positive or negative impact on the public would be even greater in this instance.

So think about it (#4). ANY message involving a third

party could have considerable positive or negative impact on how the Amateur Radio Service is perceived by those who send and receive that message, depending on how YOU handle it. It will have even more of an impact on messages of a more important nature, such as welfare inquiries and the like.

So you have to come up with a 37 cent stamp and an envelope to mail a message...So What? That's pretty cheap "good" PR, is it not? A short paid toll call to deliver an urgent message would likely be very well received in almost any circumstance. It buys a lot of good PR with the folks who get the message. They are usually grateful you went to the trouble. And the cost is small. Even if the message preamble bears the handling extra code "HXG", (way too many do these days, by the way), you might want to consider a nice delivery anyway, for the above stated reasons.

What it boils down to, is simply this....

If you are going to engage in handling message traffic, resolve to learn to do it right, and then commit your efforts to always doing it so. Especially when dealing with "The Last Mile". A little practice now and then will help too. The Amateur Service will be the better for it, and so will you.



The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE RADIOGRAM <small>VIA AMATEUR RADIO</small> </div> </div>								
NUMBER A	PRECEDENCE B	HX C	STATION OF ORIGIN D	CHECK E	PLACE OF ORIGIN F	TIME FILED G	DATE H	
TO I: ADDRESS TELEPHONE NUMBER J: TEXT _____ _____ _____ _____ _____					THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____ NAME _____ STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____			
REC'D		FROM K	DATE	TIME	SENT TO		DATE	TIME
THIS MESSAGE WAS HANDLED FREE OF CHARGE BY A LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR, WHOSE ADDRESS IS SHOWN IN THE BOX AT RIGHT ABOVE. AS SUCH MESSAGES ARE HANDLED SOLELY FOR THE PLEASURE OF OPERATING, NO COMPENSATION CAN BE ACCEPTED BY A "HAM" OPERATOR. A RETURN MESSAGE MAY BE FILED WITH THE "HAM" DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE TO YOU. FURTHER INFORMATION ON AMATEUR RADIO MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, 225 MAIN STREET, NEWINGTON, CT 06111					THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC. IS THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIETY OF LICENSED RADIO AMATEURS AND THE PUBLISHER OF QST MAGAZINE. ONE OF ITS FUNCTIONS IS PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATION AMONG AMATEUR OPERATORS. TO THAT END, THE LEAGUE HAS ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM FOR DAILY NATIONWIDE MESSAGE HANDLING.			



ARRL RADIOGRAMS

The handling of radiogram traffic was the basis for the formation of ARRL, and a sizable segment of amateurs still makes this its principal Amateur Radio operating activity. Amateur radiogram service does not compete with other services, since there are no charges and can be no guarantee. Provided FCC and international regulations are complied with, messages may be accepted from anyone for sending by Amateur Radio.

What constitutes "legal" messages, or any other kind of third party communication, has been a matter of considerable discussion and various interpretations throughout the years. The pertinent regulations sections are 97.3b, which defines an amateur operator as being a person "without pecuniary interest"; 97.112, which forbids any remuneration or other kind of compensation for use of an amateur station; and 97.114, which details certain prohibitions on third-party traffic.

Generally speaking, unimportant, personal, non-business messages may be exchanged between different countries only after a special agreement has been reached between the countries. A list of countries which have signed such agreements with Canada and with the U.S. appears frequently in QST. In addition, most countries do not object to actual emergency radiograms being handled in the amateur bands if government or commercial facilities are not available at the time.

Individual amateurs handle radiograms in a number of different ways. Some are "free lancers" who handle their traffic on individual schedules without recourse to regular nets. Most traffic operators, however, participate in nets of various kinds. The largest organized system of nets is the ARRL National Traffic System. Others include networks organized by individuals for traffic-handling purposes in which individual amateurs participate out of preference.

ORIGINATING RADIOGRAMS

Any amateur can originate a radiogram on behalf of another individual, whether such individual be a licensed amateur or not. It is the responsibility of the originating amateur, however, to see that under most circumstances it is improper for a re-laying or delivering station to make changes.

Each radiogram originated and handled should contain the following component parts in the order given:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| A Number | D Station of Origin | G Time Filed* | J Text |
| B Precedence | E Check | H Date | K Signature |
| C Handling Instructions | F Place of Origin | I Address | |

*Optional with originator

- A) Every radiogram transmitted should bear a number. Keep a sheet with a consecutive list of numbers (beginning at 1) at your operating position. When a radiogram is filed at your station for transmission, complete all parts of the preamble except the number, leaving this blank. When you send the radiogram, assign a number to it from the number sheet, crossing out numbers on the sheet as they are used and making a notation, after the number, of the station to whom the radiogram was sent and the date. Such a system is convenient for quick reference purposes. Most traffic handlers start with number 1 at the beginning of each year.
- B) Every radiogram has a precedence in amateur procedure. This will normally be "Routine" (R). It is a separate part of the preamble and is transmitted as such, not as part of the number. Other precedences are "Emergency" (never abbreviated), "Priority" (P), and "Welfare" (W).
- C) Handling Instructions (HX) are available prosigns for use when or if desired by the originator or the originating station, whenever special instructions are required in the handling of the radiogram.
- D) The "station of origin" is the call of the station from which the radiogram was first sent by Amateur Radio and is included so that handling stations will be able to communicate with the originator if something interferes with the prompt handling or delivery of the message.
- E) The "check" is the number of words and numerals in the text of the radiogram. Handling stations should agree on the check before the message is considered handled. Full information on checking radiograms is given later.
- F) The "place of origin" is the name of the place (city or town) from which the radiogram was started, not necessarily the location of the station of origin. The preamble of a radiogram filed at League headquarters in Newington Conn., might read as follows: NR 457 R W1INF 21 NEWINGTON CONN 2057Z JUNE 11.
If a message is sent to your station by mail or otherwise not filed in person, the preamble should show the place the radiogram originally came from. If the radiogram came to League Headquarters by mail from Wiscasset, Maine, the preamble would read: NR 457 R W1INF 21 WISCASSET MAINE 2057Z JUNE 11. Any radiogram received at an amateur station by any means other than Amateur Radio is an origination when put on an amateur circuit by that station.
- G) The time filed is the time at which the radiogram is received at the station from which it is to be sent. Standard practice is to use UTC. This part of the preamble is optional with the originating station.
- H) The month and the day of the month that the radiogram was filed at the originating station. The year is not included. If the filing time is UTC, be sure the date agrees.
- I) The address is the name, street and number, city and state of the party to whom the radiogram is being sent. The

telephone number should be part of the address. A complete address should always be given to ensure delivery. When accepting a radiogram for origination this point should be stressed. In transmitting the message by CW, the signal AA is used to separate parts of the address and the address is followed by BT or "break" before the text is started. In street addresses where the words east, west, north, south are part of the address, spell out the words in full. Suffixes "th," "nd," "st," etc., are not recommended. Example: "19 W 19th St" should be "19 West 19 St." It is not good practice for the relaying station to change address format, but the originating station should observe the above practices to insure clarity in retransmission.

- J) The text consists of words in the body of the radiogram. No abbreviations should be substituted for the words in the text of the radiogram. The text follows the address and is set off from the signature by another BT.
- K) The signature is usually the name of the person originating the message. The signature follows the BT or "break" at the end of the text. The abbreviation "sig" is not transmitted.

After the signature, say "end" or transmit AR. If more to follow, say "more." On CW, use the prosign B. If no more, say "no more." On CW use the prosign "N."

COUNTING WORDS IN RADIOGRAMS

The amateur radiogram "check" is the count of the number of words in the text only. It is essentially an "as sent" count. While it is assumed that the rules of grammar and spelling will be followed, the check count is determined principally by the spacing used by the transmitting operator in sending the text. Since the first operator to transmit the radiogram is the operator of the originating station who enters the check in the preamble, this check should carry through to destination. The relaying operator has no authority to change the check unless it is definitely determined that the check as he received it is incorrect, then he should confirm with the transmitting operator before making the change. When such a change is made, the original check should remain in the preamble. Example: an original check of 10 corrected to 9 would be sent "10/9" on CW.

The check is a means for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of your copy. It also indicates to the receiving operator how many words the radiogram he is about to copy will contain. Inclusion of "check" in a message preamble is not optional.

Numbers, ciphers, mixed groups and punctuation each count as one in the check, regardless of length. It is recommended amateur practice not to use punctuation, fractions or other unorthodox or seldom-used code symbols in messages as such, but rather to spell these out when used in the text of a message to avoid complications in checking. The letter X or "X-ray" is used in place of a period or semicolon and is counted in the check.

Special note: The ARRL-recommended procedure for counting the telephone number in the text of a radiogram is to separate the telephone number into groups, with the area code (if any) counting as one word, the three-digit exchange one word, and the last four digits one word. For example, 203 666 1541 counts as three words in the text of a message; 666 1541 counts as two words. Separating the phone number into separate groups also minimizes garbling.

The principle of counting words as sent can be illustrated by a few examples, as follows:

New York City.....3 words
527B.....1 word
NYC.....1 word
H O Townsend.....3 words
Fifty six.....2 words
W1YL/4.....1 word

A few rules have to be observed in sending words so this principle of "counting as sent" will not be abused:

- 1) Make your spacing methodical and accurate on both phone and CW.
- 2) Follow the dictionary wherever possible.
- 3) Do not waste time in traffic nets arguing about "how to count." The purpose of the "check" in amateur work is to confirm the number of words or groups in the text. QTB is a useful signal in confirming check. Once you are sure that you have copied it correctly, QSL (on CW) or "roger" (on phone) the radiogram and get on with the next one, correcting the check when you relay the radiogram.

In copying traffic, whether by pencil or typewriter it is quite easy, with a little practice, to count the words in the text as you copy. When using pencil, copy five words to a line. At the end of the radiogram, you can readily figure the number of words by the number of lines (plus how many words over) you copied. By typewriter, it is more convenient to copy ten words to a line, and this can easily be done by copying five words, hitting the space bar twice (instead of once), copying five more words, then line spacing to begin a new ten-word line. At the end of the Radiogram a glance at the number of lines will show you how many words you copied. You can then query the sending operator if your figure does not agree with his.

When traffic is heavy and time is precious, it is not considered advisable practice to query a check unless you have reason to believe that a mistake was made, either in sending or copying.

ARL Check

Messages containing ARRL numbered radiogram texts (see form FSD-3) have the same form as any other radiogram, except that the symbol ARL (NOT ARRL) is used before the check. This symbol indicates that a spelled out number in the

text of the radiogram refers to a complete text bearing that number on the ARL list.

In delivering a message with an ARL text, one of course delivers the complete text. It is therefore very necessary that the symbol ARL be included with the check to avoid the possibility of delivery of a meaningless number to the addressee.

Use of ARL text is a special tool for special occasions. When used, it should be used properly to avoid delays and confusion.

ARRL RECOMMENDED PRECEDENCES

Please observe the following ARRL provisions for PRECEDENCES in connection with written message traffic. These provisions are designed to increase the efficiency of our service both in normal times and in emergency.

Precedences

EMERGENCY

Any message having life and death urgency to any person or group of persons, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio in the absence of regular commercial facilities. This includes official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials or instructions vital to relief of stricken populace in emergency areas. During normal times, it will be very rare. On CW/RTTY, this designation will always be spelled out. When in doubt, do not use it.

PRIORITY

Use abbreviation P on CW/RTTY. This classification is for a) important messages having a specific time limit b) official messages not covered in the emergency category c) press dispatches and emergency-related traffic not of the utmost urgency d) notice of death or injury in a disaster area, personal or official.

WELFARE

This classification, abbreviated as W on CW/RTTY, refers to either an inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in the disaster area or an advisory from the disaster area that indicates all is well. Welfare traffic is handled only after all emergency and priority traffic is cleared. The Red Cross equivalent to an incoming Welfare message is DWI (Disaster Welfare Inquiry).

ROUTINE

Most traffic in normal times will bear this designation. In disaster situations, traffic labeled Routine (R on CW/RTTY) should be handled last, or not at all when circuits are busy with higher precedence traffic.

Note -- the precedence always follows the message number. For example, a message number may be 207 R on CW and "Two Zero Seven Routine" on phone.

American Radio Relay League
225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111

KL7AA Club Business

Board Meeting Minutes

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2007

540 WEST INTERNATIONAL ROAD

Anchorage, AK

(APPROVED at Printing)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Vice-President Jim Larsen.

A quorum was established: (2 Officers, 7 Board members needed)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice President Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Treasurer, Heather Hasper, KL7SP, Frank Pratt, KL7RX, Paul Spatzek, WL7BF, Michael O'Keefe, KL7MD; TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, Richard Kotsch, WL7CPX, Jim Wiley, KL7CC, Ed Moses, KL1KL, Piet van Weel, KL2CR; Susan Woods, NL7NN, John Orella, KL7LL

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Trustee, Keith Clark, KL7MM.

EXCUSED

UNEXCUSED

Pat Wilke, WL7JA Activities Manager, Richard Block, KL7RLB

GUESTS

Bruce McCormick, KL7BM, Richard Tweet, KL2AZ

Previous meeting minutes were not available. Jim Larsen will send them for vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A discussion was presented describing our gaming income history and gaming income total for 2006. The treasurer laptop has been purchased and we have updated our version of Quickbooks to QB Pro 2007. A three version user copy has been obtained so that backup files and other members can update. Some of our bills have been paid in advance.

VE REPORT

General Class of 30 people was held in January. A special VE testing session was held for this course. Four failed. We have had high attendance due to the changes in the No-code requirement. New exams have been sent to the printer and are in the process of being made. The Anchorage VE has had several request for exams in special ses-

sion. We are acquiring new examiners due to the number of upgrades. The list of examiners will be updated once KL7CC relocation is completed,

OLD BUSINESS

NWS MOU:

No action has been taken.

HAMFEST 2007: September 15 & 16th, 2007

Several national vendors have indicated that they need at least a year in advance to plan attendance at a hamfest. The vendors are contacted by organizations across the country and last year they were approached by KL7AA however due to the lack of follow up, by the club, they did not plan on attending any Alaska events in 2007. Due to budget restrictions many of these companies must plan a year ahead of time to afford a trip to Alaska.

HAMFEST 2008:

It was recommended that the Board consider a date for the 2008 Hamfest now in order to approach the vendors and secure their attendance for next year. It is also recommended that we not pursue having our national FCC speakers until 2008. The FCC speakers will attract more national vendors. Also vendors have indicated that a way to attract national vendors is also to have an event in another month besides September so that vendors and attendees can have an opportunity to see Alaska and do other tourists activities. A date was then discussed for potential weekends. Mike O'Keefe, KL7MD made a motion that we have the 2008 HAMFEST the approximate weekend June 20 – June 23, 2008. Paul Spatzek, WL7BF seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Heather Hasper, KL7SP will pursue notifying national vendors and working with Gordon West to promote our 2008 event.

Packet Stations / APRS Kits / Digipeaters / 2 Voice Repeater Kits

Piet van Weel, KL2CR has offered to assist the creation of packet kits. Jim Larsen, AL7FS has also offered to assist.

INVENTORY of Club Equipment: Tabled

Tower Project / CCV Antenna

Mike O'Keefe reported that he did talk to the owner of the building and he indicated he has no problem with us installing a tower at the CCV Garage. This project has been place on hold till summer.



Real Estate Purchase

Richard Block, KL7RLB took the lead to find a location and pursued an option with another agency to see if a joint venture was a possibility. The organization was choosing not to act therefore the AARC has removed itself from that option.

Jim Larsen, AL7FS met with Jerry Dehirst with REMAX and he is advising Jim and Richard to see the bank to discuss our financial status and what we can afford. The most expensive method would be to purchase open undeveloped land. Open land is very expensive in Anchorage at this time. There are several warehouses that would be better financial options then purchasing open land. We will be working with the banker to see what we can afford and determine what our financial limits are. We are also looking at what options are available for long term lease opportunities.

Break from 8:00PM to 8:10 PM

NEW BUSINESS

No Approvals needed for KL7AA during the next month

General Meeting

There will be a presentation by the Lego Robotics team for the March 2007 meeting. TJ would also like to have a 20 minute presentation about Field Day during each meeting to promote and encourage Field Day participating.

Grants

Fairbanks, Arctic Amateur Radio Club, KL7KC has submitted a grant request for \$10,687 to build six portable emergency kits. The Grant committee has reviewed the grant request and recommends Board approval. Jim Wiley, KL7CC made a motion to approve the grant request as recommended. Mike O'Keefe, KL7MD 2nd the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. This item will need to be presented for approval by the general membership at the March meeting due to the amount requested. A handout for the membership should be available for the general meetings.

EARS, Elmendorf Amateur Radio Society has submitted a grant request for \$1800.00 for the purchase of an amplifier for their amateur station. The grant committee has reviewed the grant request and recommends Board approval. Discussions included the possibility of the AARC surplus amplifier being given to the EARS club, but the EARS location does not have 220 power. Jim Wiley, KL7CC made a motion to approve the grant request, Paul Spatzek, WL7BF 2nd the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. A check will be presented to the organization.

Chugiak Repeater: KL5E; In 2006, the Board approved a grant for the WL7QI repeater to cover the costs of Autopatch due to the costs. At the time, it was presented that this area did not have autopatch coverage or other repeater coverage for emergency 911 communications. It was also

reported that there was no cell phone coverage in this area.

In January 2007, the repeater operator, KL5E approached the board about covering the ongoing costs of the autopatch. Per a request by the board, Piet, KL2CR who lives in this vicinity traveled to this area and reports that he was able to hit the Mt. Susitna repeater 147.27+, the Mt. Gordon Lyon repeater, 147.30+ as well as the MARA repeater 146.85+ which does have autopatch and 911 ability. The ball field and this residential area are being continually developed. Piet, KL2CR reported his findings. This repeater is represented by a person/individual, not an amateur radio club as required by the amateur radio club grant policy. The board declines support for this financial request at this time. Mike O'Keefe made a motion to VETO giving any financial resources to support the KL5E repeater. Richard Kotsch, WL7CPX 2nd the motion. Motion passes unanimously. The club declines providing the financial resources for this repeater.

STATE FAIR

We need to find a new champion to lead volunteers and coordinate our State Fair activities. Our past chairpersons have previous commitments and the other co-chairperson has passed away (WL7DX). We need to have someone to recruit volunteers, help co-ordinate set up and tear down of facilities

AMBASSADOR Program

Jim Larsen, AL7FS presented an idea of an ambassador program to encourage stations visiting Alaska to contact local amateur operators during their travel to Alaska. The board would offer a patch for a certain number of contacts. The criteria would be set by an 'ambassador committee' to determine the policy. Jim would like to have someone in place to chair this idea by the next board meeting.

ELMER CARD / Contact cards

AL7FS, Jim Larsen would like to create a contact lists to be able to hand out to new hams and new members. 1000 cards from Great Originals would cost about \$120. It was also recommended that the cards be printed on Tyvec© material. Jim Wiley made a motion to allow Jim Larsen to pursue the card project for up to \$150. Paul Spatzek, WL7BF seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

PATCHES:

Jim Larsen would like to see the club pursue patches to honor our events and to members who volunteer for annual events. Iditarod, Fur Rondy, and others would have annual patches that could be added. It was suggested that we could have a contests for each patch type. No money is needed at this time. This will be presented in future meetings.

Grant Policy Update

The grant committee has suggested some minor changes in the policy statement and would like to request board approval. The first recommendation is that the grant committee be three members of the board rather than specific officers. An application may be received at any time but no later than September 30. This is the only way to ensure that applications have the necessary review time by the board and general membership. Paul Spatzek, WL7BF makes a motion to approve the grant policy changes. Richard Kotsch, WL7CPX seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Sale of Excess Inventory Policy

What is the legal ramification of selling off property that was acquired with 'gaming' revenue? If we sell surplus equipment at costs and not for profit, then we are able to sell our assets. A draft policy was presented. The first two sections of the draft document are to be eliminated. After much discussion, the policy is to be reviewed by legal counselor.

Increased Space at CCV Garage

Jim Wiley, KL7CC will be vacating his space at the CCV garage facility. His space currently parallels the area rented by the AARC. Jim Huebner, the owner has inquired about whether AARC is interested in renting the area. The costs would be \$700/month additional rent increase or \$8400/year. Our lease agreement date would not change and would still expire in 2009. The club had in the past expressed an interest in renting this space. This would not limit our ability to acquire property or still afford a large down payment for land acquisition. The security alarm system would cost about \$350 to extend the alarm system into this area. Jim Larsen would like permission to talk to the Bank before seeking board approval. He will obtain Board approval before bringing the topic to the general membership at general meeting.

Mike O'Keefe, KL7MD made a motion to approve the rental of the excess space for \$700 / month contingent upon Jim Larsen, AL7FS speaking with the Bank.

Resignations/Reassignments

Kathleen O'Keefe has submitted a resignation due to medical reasons. Diane Olson, Secretary, has submitted a letter of resignation as well. Patrick Wilke, WL7JA has not attended any club meetings, or Board meetings since starting his term as Activities Manager in January. He has indicated that he has prior commitments and would be unable to attend. Susan Woods, NL7NN made a motion to remove Pat Wilke, WL7JA from the position of Activities Manager due to unexcused absences in accordance to the By-Laws. Heather Hasper, KL7SP 2nd the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

Activities Manager: Richard Kotsch, WL7CPX is willing to resign from the board to volunteer to be the new Activities Manager. The Board recommends Richard, WL7CPX be recommended to the general membership for approval as the Activities Manager to fulfill the duration of Pat Wilke's

term.

President position: It was suggested that if Jim Larsen, AL7FS would be willing to be the president then Jim Wiley, KL7CC would be willing to be considered for a Vice President. It was expressed that the Vice President position should be a training position as should all the positions. This was met with opposition due to the length of time that Jim has been the leader of the organization. The president position takes specific skills and takes someone who is willing to handle delicate situations. There were no other current leaders recommended at this time.

Secretary. Richard Tweet, KL2AZ was asked if he would be willing to accept the secretary position. He indicated he would be willing to accept as long as there was a mentor period and training available. It was recommended that Richard Tweet, KL2AZ be recommended to the general membership for the position of Secretary. The board unanimously supported the recommendation.

Possible Board Members: With Richard Kotsch taking the position of Activities Manager, a new board member will be needed. Recommendations include, KL2CO, Sean Jensen, KL2BO, Dale Hummel, or others. It was suggested to invite him to the next board meeting and be approached about being willing to be a board member. Piet was asked to approach Sean and see if he is willing to serve on the board.

Heather Hasper, made a motion to adjourn. This was 2nd by Richard Kotsch, WL7CPX. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 2/20/07 by:

Heather Hasper, Treasurer
(due to secretary absence).

General Meeting Minutes

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Membership Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2007

Alaska Pacific University

Unapproved at the Time of Printing

Call to Order

The March membership meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Kathleen O'Keefe (KL7KO).

Introduction of members and guests.

The Landcruiser ACC group is interested in the upcoming Technician class for their members.

Announcements

The Iditarod is still in need of volunteers. Nikoli checkpoint is in need of an additional volunteer for next week. Iditarod Headquarters is at the Millennium Hotel, room 4004.

Michael O'Keefe (KL7MD) announced that ARES monthly meetings will begin on March 17th and will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month beginning at 9:30am in the APU Carr Gottstein building. The March meeting will include the National Weather Service's National Weather Spotting School. Members in attendance will receive a certificate upon completion of the day's course.

David Stevens (KL7EB), ARRL Alaska Section Manager, presented AARC Trustee Keith Clark (KL7MM) with a 50 year certificate of affiliation.

Presentation

Boretide Robotics Education Association "Nano Gnats" were the March Guests This group is the Alaska Lego Robotics Championship Team. Coach Gordon Scott and the Nano Gnats gave a very interesting presentation on their involvement in Lego Robotics, the worldwide competition upcoming in Atlanta and previous team placement (4th) in this competition. The group performed a skit based on Nano technology and answered questions about this engineering and science youth education program.

Club Business

T.J Sheffield (KL7TS) gave a presentation on Field Day 2007. This event will be held on the 4th full weekend in June and volunteers are requested. The tentative location is Romig Junior High School. Point values were explained and totals from previous years were shown. TJ and Keith Clark are co-chairs of Field Day 2007. TJ can be reached at KL7TS@hotmail.com or KL7TS@aarl.net.

Richard Kotsch (WL7CPX) announced guest speakers for the following membership meetings as follows; April – Dr. Tom Olson, State of Alaska climatologist will speak on Global Warming; May – Mead Treadwell will speak on the International Polar Research Project ; June – Gordon Scott will speak on the World War II aircraft recovery project in Greenland.

President Kathleen O'Keefe (KL7KO) announced that a special election was required to fill the vacancies for the position of Secretary, Activities Chairman and Board Member. The AARC Board of Directors recommended the following: Secretary-Richard Tweet (KL2AZ), Activities Chairman-Richard Kotsch (WL7CPX), Board Member-Diane Olson (KL1MY). Motion made, Fielder Dowding (KL7FHX) and seconded, Bruce McCormick

(KL7BM) to accept the Boards recommendations as a slate and to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

President Kathleen O'Keefe (KL7KO) informed the membership on the possibility of the AARC being able to take over the lease space being vacated by Jim Wiley at the 5923 Rowan St. AARC garage location. This would amount to a \$700/mo increase in lease costs. Discussion noted that the property is zoned commercial, the club currently occupies 1400 sq ft. and this would increase available space by 700 sq. ft., space would easily accommodate a radio room, the landlord has approved a tower/pole installation, the building is alarmed and with the addition of another door would provide additional protection for club assets, AARC owns the carport sections nest to the building currently providing overhead protection., additional lease expense would not affect the AARC's ability to purchase a new club building and the AARC currently could put down \$200-300K and finance \$700K, current lease expires in May of 2009, additional space would provide restroom availability. Occupancy becomes available March 16th. Motion made, Bruce McCormick (KL7BM) and seconded, Susan Woods (NL7NN) to incorporate the space being vacated by Jim Wiley into the existing lease held by the AARC for an additional \$700/mo and for the duration of the existing lease held by the AARC. The motion carried unanimously.

President Kathleen O'Keefe (KL7KO) informed the membership of a Grant Application from the Arctic Amateur Radio Club in Fairbanks for the amount of \$10,687.00. This grant would assist this group with building 6 full emergency response kits including radios and antennas. The Arctic club is providing \$7,517.00 towards this project. This group received a grant from AARC in 2005 for building 6 portable packet units. The AARC Board of Directors recommends approval. Motion made, Jim Larsen (AL7FS) and seconded, Michael O'Keefe (KL7MD) the grant request for \$10,687.00 by the Arctic Amateur Radio Club be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

A question was raised from the floor as to the possibility of an Extra Class training session. President Kathleen O'Keefe (KL7KO) noted that she would need a list of interested parties and available instructors prior to scheduling a class.



Door Prize Drawing

Door prizes were won by the following: KL7SP, KL7TS, KL1UK, KL2BO (absent, no prize given), KL7FHX, KL7RU, KL7FE, KL7LL, KL1DJ, and WL7BUN.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm by motion and re-sounding second/approval from the floor.

Respectively submitted,
Richard Tweet (KL2AZ)
Secretary, AARC

Board Meeting Minutes

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BOARD MEETING
March 20, 2007
540 WEST INTERNATIONAL ROAD
Anchorage, AK
(Unapproved at Printing)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Kathleen O'Keefe.

A quorum was established: (2 Officers, 7 Board members needed)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

President Kathleen O'Keefe KL7KO, Vice President Jim Larsen AL7FS, Treasurer Heather Hasper KL7SP, Secretary Richard Tweet KL2AZ, Activities Director Richard Kotsch WL7CPX, Paul Spatzek WL7BF, TJ Sheffield KL7TS, Jim Wiley KL7CC, Piet van Weel KL2CR, Diane Olson KL1MY

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Trustee Keith Clark KL7MM

EXCUSED

Frank Pratt KL7RX, Michael O'Keefe KL7MD, Susan Woods NL7NN, John Orella KL7LL, Richard Block KL7RLB

UNEXCUSED

Edward Moses KL1KL

GUESTS

Bill Fults KL1UK, Mike Romanello KL7BK, Tom Rutigliano NL7TZ

SECRETARY REPORT

Previous Board meeting minutes for January were presented. Motion made Richard Kotsch WL7CPX, seconded Diane Olson KL1MY to accept the January minutes as printed. Previous Board meeting minutes for February were presented. Motion made Heather Hasper KL7SP, seconded Diane Olson KL1MY to accept the minutes as printed. Motions carried unanimously. March membership meeting minutes were presented and will be presented to the membership at the April meeting for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report was presented with a noted revision to 2006 gaming income to reflect \$186,000.00 for the year. January gaming income received was \$10,661.00. The annual report is in the process of being done, it was due March 15th, but Boniface Bingo was late getting their K1 reports and taxes done. Our accountants were granted an extension and are in the process of completing our report which should be complete by the next Board meeting. The EARS grant (\$1800.00) approved by the membership has been delivered. The Arctic Amateur Radio Club grant (\$10,687.00) has not been delivered. As this is their 3rd grant in the past 5 years, AARC is requesting they have a club representative come receive the check. Jim Larsen thanked Heather Hasper for her work provided for the Board and as well the quality of the work provided. Richard Kotsch requested the Board, as a group, recognize Heather's work and quality of same as noted by Jim Larsen.

VE REPORT

Jim Wiley reported that we have approximately 12 new General Class operators with Anchorage testing, similar numbers exist in Fairbanks and Wasilla. No problems with testing have been noted. A special exam session will be held Friday, March 23 for an individual who had participated in the remote testing process to obtain his Technician license and is wishing to test for his General license. Piet van Weel thanked Jim for the work the VE is doing and the quick license turn-arounds that have occurred due to this effort.

OLD BUSINESS

NWS MOU:

Michael O'Keefe is out of town and unable to report. Heather Hasper reported on the ARES/NWS Weather Spotter class that was held on March 17th at the APU campus. Sam Albanese from the National Weather Service provided the training. NWS has 4 licensed ham operators and monitor the weekday morning net and are interested in getting better feedback as to current weather with morning net participation. A couple NWS employees have signed up for the April Technician class. Jim Larsen asked if there would be further Weather Spotter training and it was noted that online training is available at <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/spotform/training/public/public.htm>. This training information will also be presented in the newsletter.

MOU Municipality of Anchorage – EOC:

Michael O'Keefe is out of town and unable to report. Jim Larsen has been busy with a previous commitment and travel and is unable to report as well.

Flea Market 2007 September 15-16th, 2007

Heather Hasper reported that national vendors are being sought. This event could end up being 1 day in length and will probably not have a banquet although it was noted we were able to honor silent keys at previous banquets.

HAMFEST 2008:

Guests Mike Romanello KL7BK and Tom Rutigliano NL7TZ updated the Board on their plans for attending the AES Superfest in Wisconsin from March 28th to April 1st to promote the AARC 2008 Hamfest. All AES vendors in their catalog are required to attend the AES event, which creates a great opportunity to meet with vendors to request their attendance at our event. They are going to be taking the AARC banner with them to the event and will display it while promoting Anchorage to the vendors in attendance. Mike and Tom are working with the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) to coordinate the merchandise and material to distribute 200 packages during the event. Gordon West is supportive and will also be promoting our Hamfest 2008 during Dayton 2007. Mike and Tom will be handing out questionnaires to the vendors and manufacturers to find a date that is agreeable to most and noted that Icom and HRO Portland have expressed interest in attending our 2007 event. ACVB has recommended September as rates will drop from the peak summer rate and there will still be tourist events to participate in. Heather Hasper noted that some marketing work such as a secure page on the KL7AA.net website to provide links for prospective vendors for regional information. The Board has currently selected the weekend of June 23rd for Hamfest. There may be a possibility for Carlisle Trucking or Lynden Transport to provide shipping for the event as support for the AARC as shipping costs are the biggest obstacle for vendors attending events in Alaska. Motion made, Diane Olson KL1MY, seconded Piet van Weel KL2CR, to authorize up to \$300 for the printing of AARC Hamfest 2008 flyers. Motion passed unanimously.

Packet Stations / APRS Kits / Digipeaters / 2 Voice Repeater Kits

Paul Spatzek is moving ahead slowly with this project and is in need of phone numbers to contact volunteers. Paul will be at the CCV garage Thursday, March 22nd to work on this. Richard Kotsch indicated he would be there to assist. Piet van Weel has not had time to focus on the Digipeater portion due to family illnesses this past month. Jim Larsen requested and received confirmation that this work is all part of the ARES kit, Packet/APRS/Digipeater work.

INVENTORY of Club Equipment:

Jim Larsen has been busy with a previous commitment and travel and has been unable to proceed with the inventory.

Tower Project / CCV Antenna

Jim Larsen has been busy with a previous commitment and travel and is unable to report any more than an 80lb stepper antenna package was received by the Trustee, Keith Clark and delivered to the CCV garage.

Real Estate Purchase

Jim Larsen suggested the title of this agenda item may be more correct to reflect Club Facility. Jim has spoken with the Vice President of Commercial Loans with the First National Bank of Anchorage (FNBA). This individual has reviewed our Treasurer's reports and indicated that this organization is in the best financial shape of any organization of our type he has worked with in his career. This individual indicated FNBA would be willing to loan up to \$1,000,000.00 towards this purchase. Jim indicated he needs to formalize the information gathered to date.

Capital Projects Overview

Jim Larsen reported that he has not been doing much purchasing as projects are backing up and is purchasing as needs arise. Jim indicated he is struggling with the Technical Committee to get information on what to order.

D-STAR

Jim Wiley reported no change. Jim Larsen commented the 697 repeater site has been offered for another D-Star repeater in Anchorage to link with the other D-Star repeater further north.

AMBASSADOR Program Status Report

Jim Larsen reported the he has not proceeded any further due to a prior commitment and travel this past month.

CCV Garage: Space increase update report

Jim Larsen reported that he has been waiting for Richard Block to return to town. Jim has an 8 page commercial lease to review and in discussion with the landlord indicates there should not be much change to the document required.

Excess Inventory Policy (Legal review)

Jim Larsen has been busy with a previous commitment and travel this past month and is unable to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Program for April Meeting

There will be a presentation by KL4YFD on the topic of High Speed Multi Media at the April 2007 meeting. Richard Kotsch announced guest speakers for the following membership meetings as follows; May – Dr. Tom Olson, State of Alaska climatologist will speak on Global Warming; June – Mead Treadwell will speak on the International Polar Research Project ; July – Gordon Scott will speak on the World War II aircraft recovery project in Greenland. Richard Kotsch requested formal AARC stationary to process invitations to be hand delivered to these speakers.

Approvals, KL7AA in the next month

None required. Keith Clark reported the he would be setting up the KL7AA call sign with Logbook of the World. This is totally electronic and the AARC has plenty of cards available. Heather Hasper requested that the KL7AA information on QRZ.com be updated as the information listed is incorrect. Kathleen O'Keefe will check with John Wolfe AA0NN for login information via email.

Grants

Fairbanks, Arctic Amateur Radio Club, KL7KC will have a club officer come to Anchorage to receive the \$10,687 approved by the membership at the March membership meeting. Keith Clark requested that it be timed in conjunction with a membership meeting to allow for a presentation to the membership.

State Fair

We need to find a new champion to lead volunteers and coordinate our State Fair activities. We need to have someone to recruit volunteers, help co-ordinate set up and tear down of facilities. Jim Larsen will provide all information required to coordinate this effort.

APU new information

Jim Larsen provided draft copies of 2 contracts to be renegotiated with Alaska Pacific University (APU). There is nothing to be voted on tonight, just were provided for information. Time issues need to be resolved, ARES contract needs to reflect AARC, APU auditors require an annual contract, Insurance expiration in July necessitates a contract renewal, and normal classroom rental fees are waived with the AARC insurance certificate. Heather Hasper noted that she currently supplies Boniface Bingo, Anchorage School District and Alaska Pacific University with insurance

certificates of liability and that the ASD certificate would include the Romig Junior High Field Day. Jim Larsen noted that there are no options available to change membership meeting nights and we only have available the first Friday of the month available.

Silent Key Plaque for Ham shack

Heather Hasper proposed that the AARC install a wall plaque to honor silent keys with their name and call sign. 100 space plaques with wood/brass are priced on average \$500.00. Discussion as to how far back in time we could go. Jim Wiley suggested that QCWA could allow us to obtain some past AARC silent key information. Motion made, Jim Larsen AL7FS, seconded Diane Olson KL1MY, to authorize up to \$500.00 to purchase a silent key plaque to be placed in the AARC ham shack. Motion carried unanimously. Further discussion suggested the KL7AA/AARC logo be included in the design.

Treasurer printer

Kathleen O'Keefe introduced for discussion the need for the Treasure to have a new printer, Discussion included the need for the Treasurer to be able to print at other that her place of employment, cost per page estimate for both color and B & W pages per specific models and return on investment comparison, ongoing supplies cost. All were in agreement that nothing less than a Laser printer would be acceptable. Ongoing research will be done prior to a recommendation for purchase to the Board.

General Discussion

Heather Hasper requested an article from TJ Sheffield and Keith Clark regarding Field Day for the newsletter no later than March 25th and an article explaining the concept of the Ambassador Program from Jim Larsen.

Motion made Diane Olson KL1MY, seconded Heather Hasper KL7SP, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:58PM.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 3/20/07 by:
Richard Tweet, Secretary

NOTE:

Kathleen O'Keefe, retracted her resignation notice between board meetings and prior to the general membership meeting. She was asked by the board to continue her term as President for the duration of her term No vacancy or vote was needed.

BEGINNINGS

The origins of traffic (message) handling are almost as old as amateur radio itself. Indeed, when ham radio as we know it was in it's infancy, most households in the United States were without any of the communications devices that we take for granted today.

Even as late as the 1950's some homes were without telephones and communications relied upon friendly neighbors who would relay information to another community member who was without a telephone. Almost every town had at least one radio nut who had built his crude transmitter from common parts and a few copies of *Popular Electronics*. Amateurs in those days felt compelled to be public servants due to their unique talents and almost always were willing to deliver messages to and from other members of the community.

At that time, radios were only good for a few hundred miles of reliable communications due to frequency and equipment so messages were normally relayed between many stations before reaching their final destination. Thus the origin of the American Radio Relay League, in case you were wondering how they came about that name. At first there were many unconnected radio operator networks and messages might take quite a few turns to get from points A to B so it became obvious that a universal system of message relaying and format would be beneficial to the public. The evolution of the National Traffic System as we know it today is actually developed in the past 50 years. There were competing groups that met and finally decided upon a plan that would move message traffic efficiently across the country.

PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

Network operations are broken down into five basic types of operation as follows:

LOCAL NETS operate in small areas such as communities or parts of a county or metropolitan area. Today, they are typically VHF 2 meter FM operations meeting at regular times, daily or weekly and they exist primarily for local delivery or pick up of message traffic. They often operate on a more informal basis and provide time for training as well as chat. Local nets have a liaison assigned to the next step up in the message chain who will bring in or take out messages to the section level.

SECTION NETS operate either in partial state areas or have full state coverage and have many stations reporting in on a regular basis to pick up and deliver messages for their own communities and local nets. These

nets normally operate in the HF range (often both SSB and CW) and are a bit more disciplined than the local nets. They too have stations assigned to bring traffic in and out of the net up to the next level of operation.

REGION NETS cover larger areas often a call area. A net will consist of a net manager, net control station, representatives from each section and one or more liaison station to handle in and out going messages. The net activities are normally highly structured (although there is some deviation to this rule) and can restrict check ins for the sake of brevity.

AREA NETS are at the top level of the NTS covering a lot of territory. For example, For instance, the Alaska Pacific Net **meets on 14.292 MHz in the 20 meter ham band, Monday-Friday at 0830 Alaska time** and consists of Alaska, Washington, Arizona, California and Oregon. The Net consists of representatives of region 7, 6, (Canadian Provinces). Again there is a net manager, assigned net control stations and instead of liaison stations there are assigned TCC (Transcontinental Corps) stations that handle the movement of inter-area traffic on pre-arrange schedules. TCC stations do not exist as a net but as stated above, these stations meet on pre-assigned schedules for the purpose of transferring traffic from one area to another. The normal mode of their operation is CW HF only and TCC members are seasoned veterans of the NTS.

FORMAT - Another important part of message handling is proper message format. These formats need not be used but the crucial information blocks must be filled in whether on a scratch pad or on a fancy form.

IN SUMMARY, traffic handling is just one of many facets of Amateur Radio and you may or may not want to be involved with it. On the other hand, it is something you may be called upon to do someday and you should at least learn how to do it properly. Side benefits earned from participation in traffic nets include camaraderie, fraternity and improved operating skills be they in any mode. You owe it to yourselves to at lease check in to a net from time to time and see what is going on and how it works. Be careful. you may find you like it!

73,

Jim Cottrell KB3DEN
SEPPTN Net Manager

Connector of the Month

MCX connectors are coaxial RF connectors developed in the 1980s. They have the same inner contact and insulator dimensions as the SMB connector but are 30% smaller. MCX is standardized in European CECC 22220. These connectors are sometimes referred to as MC Card connectors, maybe because it is one of the few coax connectors small enough to fit on a PC card (PCMCIA/CardBus) in laptops. It appears the MMCX stands for Micro-Mate C. These connectors are *designed to permit at least 500 interconnect cycles*. MMCX female connector is common on quite a few 802.11b PCMCIA cards. Note carefully how the center post is hollow so that it can accept the pin from a male MMCX connector.

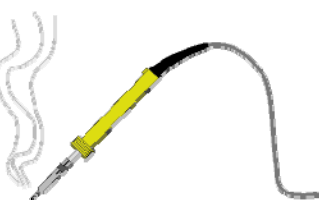
A number of micro-miniature RF connectors have been developed by a variety of manufacturers to meet the growing demand for cost effective, high quality smaller connectors. These are finding high levels of use, for example in the cellular phone industry, where size, cost and performance are all important. In fact the MCX is about 30% smaller in both size and weight than an SMB connector to which it has many similarities.

One connector that falls into this category is the MCX (MicroCoaX) coax connector. This was developed in the 1980s by Huber and Suhner of which MCX is a trade name. The MCX connector has many similarities with the construction of the SMB connector using a quick snap-on interface, and utilizing an inner contact and an overlapping dielectric insulator structure usually have a 50 Ω impedance. They offer broadband capability from DC to 6 GHz.

The MCX connector is normally specified for operation up to 6 GHz, and it finds applications in a variety of arenas including equipment for cellular telecommunications, data telemetry, Global positioning (GPS) and other applications where size and weight are important and frequencies are generally below 5 GHz

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

[Contact Us](#)



Electrical

Impedance	50 Ohms
Frequency Range	DC ~ 6 GHz
Voltage Rating	335 Volts Peak
Dielectric Withstanding Voltage	1000 Volts RMS
Insertion Loss	.20 dB Max.

Mechanical

Mating	Snap-On Coupling
Mating Torque	4.5 pounds (20N) Max. Engagement 2.3 pounds (10N) Min. Disengagement
Cable Attachment	Hex Braid Crimp
Center Conductor Cable Attachment	Solder
Cable Retention	3 lbs. Pull



HAM RADIO CLASS

Anyone interested in getting their license may contact instructor@kl7aa.net for assistance and a tutor. We will be offering a four week Technician no-code course from April 16 through May 9, 2007. The course will be Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM until 9:00 PM. The course will be taught at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Anchorage Alaska.

WHAT:	TECHNICIAN AMATEUR RADIO Course
WHERE:	235 E. 8th Avenue Anchorage, AK 99503
WHEN:	M & W (8 sessions / 4 Weeks) 6:30 PM till 9:00 PM
COSTS:	\$10 / student (Book Fee)
CONTACT:	H. Hasper, 275-7474
EMAIL:	Instructor@kl7aa.net

What is solder?

Solder is an alloy (mixture) of tin and lead, typically 60% tin and 40% lead. It melts at a temperature of about 200°C. Coating a surface with solder is called 'tinning' because of the tin content of solder. Lead is poisonous and you should always wash your hands after using solder.

Solder for electronics use contains tiny cores of flux, like the wires inside a mains flex. The flux is corrosive, like an acid, and it cleans the metal surfaces as the solder melts. This is why you must melt the solder actually on the joint, not on the iron tip.



Without flux most joints would fail because metals quickly oxidize and the solder itself will not flow properly onto a dirty, oxidized, metal surface. The best size of solder for electronics is 22swg (swg = standard wire gauge).

How to Solder

First a few safety precautions:

- Never touch the **element or tip of the soldering iron**. They are very hot (about 400°C) and will give you a nasty burn.
- **Take great care to avoid touching the mains flex with the tip of the iron.** The iron should have a heat-proof flex for extra protection. An ordinary plastic flex will melt immediately if touched by a hot iron and there is a serious risk of burns and electric shock.
- **Always return the soldering iron to its stand when not in use.** Never put it down on your workbench, even for a moment!
- **Work in a well-ventilated area.** The smoke formed as you melt solder is mostly from the flux and quite irritating. Avoid breathing it by keeping your head to the side of, not above, your work.

Wash your hands after using solder. Solder contains lead which is a poisonous metal.

Preparing the soldering iron:

- Place the **soldering iron in its stand and plug in**. The iron will take a few minutes to reach its operating temperature of about 400°C.
- **Dampen the sponge in the stand.** The best way to do this is to lift it out the stand and hold it under a cold tap for a moment, then squeeze to remove excess water.

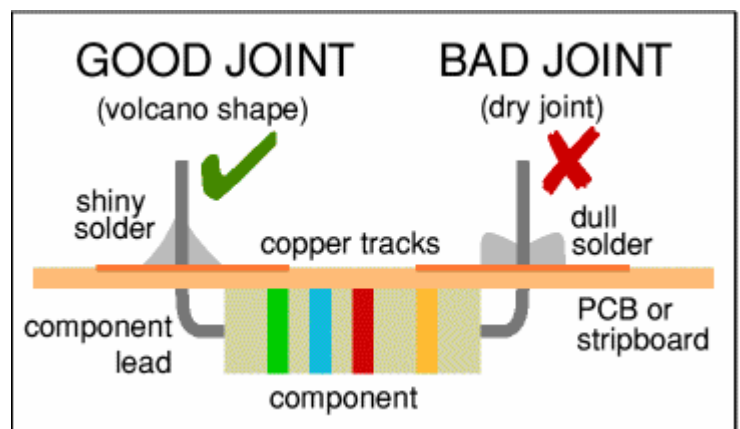
It should be damp, not dripping wet.

- **Wait a few minutes for the soldering iron to warm up.** You can check if it is ready by trying to melt a little solder on the tip.
- **Wipe the tip of the iron on the damp sponge.** This will clean the tip.
- **Melt a little solder on the tip of the iron.** This is called 'tinning' and it will help the heat to flow from the iron's tip to the joint. It only needs to be done when you plug in the iron, and occasionally while soldering if you need to wipe the tip clean on the sponge.



You are now ready to start soldering:

- **Hold the soldering iron like a pen, near the base of the handle.** Imagine you are going to write your name! Remember to never touch the hot element or tip.
- **Touch the soldering iron onto the joint to be made.** Make sure it touches both the component lead and the track. Hold the tip there for a few seconds and...
- **Feed a little solder onto the joint.** It should flow smoothly onto the lead and track to form a volcano shape as shown in the diagram. Apply the solder to the joint, not the iron.
- **Remove the solder, then the iron, while keeping the joint still.** Allow the joint a few seconds to cool before you move the circuit board.
- **Inspect the joint closely.** It should look shiny and have a 'volcano' shape. If not, you will need to re-heat it and feed in a little more solder. This time ensure that **both** the lead and track are heated fully before applying solder.



ARES - Section 7, District 7 (Anchorage, ALASKA)



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.

D-STAR stands for Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio. The purpose of D-STAR is to allow amateur (ham) radio operators to speak further and clearer using digital voice while sending data from 1200 BPS on up at the same time. The D-STAR system covers communications on HF, VHF, and UHF radio bands while defining interfaces for both radios, repeaters, Internet interconnections, and PC interfaces. D-STAR is the result of research by the Japan Amateur Radio League to investigate digital technologies for amateur radio.

D-STAR transfers both voice and data via digital encoding over the 2 m (VHF), 70 cm (UHF), and 23 cm (1.2 GHz) amateur radio bands. Voice is encoded as a 2400 bps data stream using AMBE encoding, 1200 bps FEC. Data streams are sent at 4800 bit/s over the 2 m and 70 cm bands and at 128k bps over the 23 cm band. Radios providing data service use a RS-232 or USB connection for low speed data (960 bps) and Ethernet for high speed connections to allow easy interfacing with computer equipment.

KL7BK has a 2 meter digital voice D-STAR repeater up and running in Wasilla. The 440 and 1296 repeaters and 1296 gateway are coming pending the RF hardware installation. Preliminary coverage of Anchorage is pretty good. The repeater antenna is only up 15' and the power output is only 10W. Mike will be installing a tall tower this summer to improve coverage. From its location at 11 mile KGB road, the repeater is covering the Glen Highway from Wasilla to downtown ANC and into SE ANC. I can work it marginally in downtown Palmer.

In case that you are in the area, the radio settings for your D-STAR rig are as follows to access the repeater:

Output - 147.000

Input - 147.600

MYCALL - (your call sign)

URCALL - CQCQCQ or / (Call any user on the repeater)

RPT1 - WL7CWI C (for 2 meter port)

Mike will be installing a gateway to allow connectivity between his zone and other D-STAR zones.

Drop a line to me if you need help setting up your rig. Thanks to KL7BK for getting the repeater on the air at his own expense.

There is also a full D-STAR system in Ketchikan and rumors of one in Delta Junction. Can anyone confirm the existence of one in Delta and get its frequencies and call sign? The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club is considering getting its own D-STAR repeater too.

Pierre
AL7OC



Public Service Events

We will be looking for volunteers for these events coming up in **MAY 2007**:

WALK for HOPE:

May 5, 2007

Contact: John Lynn, KL7CY; johnlynn@gci.net



Gold Nugget Triathlon,

May 20, 2007

Contact: Heather Hasper, KL7SP;
kl7sp@arrl.net



Call for AARC Historical Documents

Heather Hasper, KL7SP, has taken on the activity of collecting and organizing our Club historical documents. She is looking for AARC documents that you no longer want to maintain in your house. These might include newsletters, membership rosters, flyers, photos, or any other item of historical interest.

Please contact Heather at [KL7SP \(at\) arrl.net](mailto:KL7SP(at)arrl.net) or by phone at 907-275-7474

ARES District 7 Contact Information

Michael O'Keefe, KL7MD

[DEC7 at alaskaares.org](http://DEC7.at.alaskaares.org)














April 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
1	2	3	4	5 	6  AARC Meeting 7PM	7
8	9	10	11	12 	13  SCRC Meeting 7PM	14  PARKA meeting 11 AM EARS: 3PM
15	16 HAM RADIO CLASS	17 AARC Board Meeting 7PM	18 MARA Board Meeting 7PM HAM RADIO CLASS	19  American Red Cross of Alaska <small>ALASKA DISTRICT OFFICE</small>	20 QRP Meeting 7PM	21  ARES Training 930 - 1200 PM
22	23 HAM RADIO CLASS	24	25 HAM RADIO CLASS	26 	27  MARA Meeting 7PM	28
29	30 HAM RADIO CLASS	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: KL7YK@arrl.net				

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 Power

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

HAM RADIO CLASS

American Red of Alaska

235 E. 8th Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99503

Monday & Wednesday 6:30PM - 9:00 PM

APRIL 16 - MAY 9, 2007



Data You Can Use:



2007 Board of Directors

President: Kathleen O'Keefe, KL7KO [president at kl7aa.net](mailto:president@kl7aa.net)

Vice Pres: Jim Larsen, AL7FS [vicepresident at kl7aa.net](mailto:vicepresident@kl7aa.net)

Secretary: Richard Tweet, KL2AZ [secretary at kl7aa.net](mailto:secretary@kl7aa.net)

Treasurer: Heather Hasper, KL7SP [treasurer at kl7aa.net](mailto:treasurer@kl7aa.net)

Activities Chairman:

Richard Kotsch, WL7CPX [activities at kl7aa.net](mailto:activities@kl7aa.net)

Trustee: Keith Clark, KL7MM [trustee at kl7aa.net](mailto:trustee@kl7aa.net)

Membership Chairman:

Fred Erickson, KL7FE [membership at kl7aa.net](mailto:membership@kl7aa.net)

News Letter Editor:

Heather Hasper, KL7SP [editor at kl7aa.net](mailto:editor@kl7aa.net)

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

Diane Olson, KL1MY, oldwoman_69 at hotmail.com

TJ Sheffield - KL7TS, kl7ts at arrl.net

Edward Moses - KL1KL, kl1kl at ak.net

Jim Wiley - KL7CC jwiley at alaska.net

Piet van Weel - KL2CR pmvw at outwardfocus.net

John Orella: KL7LL, kl7ll at arrl.net

Susan Woods: NL7NN, NL7NN4606 at yahoo.com

Richard Block: KL7RLB, kl7rlb at clearwire.net

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

Homepage: <http://www.KL7AA.net/>

Webmaster: [webmaster at kl7aa.net](mailto:webmaster@kl7aa.net)

Membership: [membership at kl7aa.net](mailto:membership@kl7aa.net)

Newsletter: [editor at kl7aa.net](mailto:editor@kl7aa.net)

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting

Email: [editor at kl7aa.net](mailto: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 Feb 28, 2007

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)

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

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

KL5E Chugiak: 147.15/147.75, 123.0 Hz PL, auto-patch

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

KL7AX: South Anchorage IRLP - 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

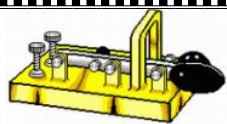
147.57 MHz National DX Calling / Coordinating frequency

146.49 MHz Anchorage area simplex chat

146.43 MHz Mat-Su Valley simplex chat

147.42 MHz Peninsula simplex chat

146.58 MHz Simplex IRLP - Wasilla Lake



HF

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

ACWN (Alaska CW Net) 3534, 7042 Daily @ 0700 -1000,

Net Purpose: Formal NTS traffic via CW.

Alaska Pacific Net: 14.292 MHz 8:00 AM M-F

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

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:

VHF

ARES Net: 147.27/87 103.5Hz - Thursdays at 8:00 PM local

PARKA Net 147.30/.90 Thursdays at 7:00 PM local

No Name Net: 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
and 1900 - 2400 Alaska Time - AL7N or KL5T monitoring.

Big City Simplex Net: 146.520, 446.0, & 52.525 FM

Grandson of SSB Net: 144.20 USB Mondays 8:00 PM local

Statewide LINK 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 Propagation

<http://www.harp.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](mailto:membership(at)kl7aa.net)

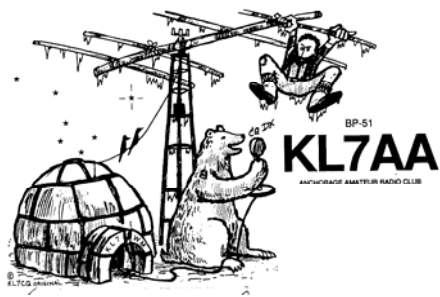
Phone number: 345-2181

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. Polar Amateur Radio Klub is the only YL club in Alaska. All amateurs welcome. Peggy's, across from Merrill Field. Talk in on 147.30+.

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. Contact info - PO Box 6079, Elmendorf AFB 99506 or email Ron Keech, KL7YK for information. EARS: 552-2664 (recording); Talk in on 146.67-. Email: kl7air@qth.net or kl7yk@arrl.net

3rd Tuesday each month: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM at Hope Cottage 540 W. International. All hams 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](mailto:JimLarsen2002@alaska.net) or 345-3190.

3rd Saturday each month: ARES General meeting 9:30AM to 12:00 PM. Call Michael O'Keefe, ANC DEC: dec@kl7aa.net HM: 243-4675 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](mailto:lelbak@yahoo.com).



Editor's Corner

If you have a topic that you would like to see in the newsletter please feel free to email us the article or idea and we will research the topic.

Thank you to those who submit ideas and topics,
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: PO BOX 101987, Anchorage, AK 99510

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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



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 Keys

Anchorage resident Shelby John O'Brien, 76, died March 12, 2007, at home. A celebration of life will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Evergreen Memorial Chapel. The Rev. Michael Burke will officiate. His ashes will be scattered on Mount McKinley at a later date.

He was born in Minneapolis on July 10, 1930, to Shelby and Maude O'Brien. He received a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from the University of Minnesota. He moved to Alaska in 1958 and worked as a pharmacist at Bert's Drug, Pay 'n' Save, Rite Aid, Carrs, Bernie's and Hewitts.

He enjoyed music, ham radio (KL7HFD), stamps, baseball, gardening, fishing, family and computers. His family wrote: "John was well-known and respected in our community as a pharmacist and the leader of his family. He was well-loved for his sense of humor, his kindness, and his intellect. John had a wide range of opinions on limitless subjects, all of which he shared willingly. He will be greatly missed. "He would say, 'Those who knew me, knew me well. Those who didn't, go to hell.' "

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Marie O'Brien of Anchorage; daughters and sons-in-law, Susie and Bryan Lee of Soldotna and Judy and Steve Waldron of Anchorage, daughter, Mary O'Brien of San Diego, Calif.; grandchildren, Sean and Josh Lee of Soldotna and Lyn and Zoe Waldron of Anchorage; sister, Ellen Blais of Minneapolis; brother, Eugene O'Brien of Minneapolis; and many nieces and nephews in Minnesota.

He was preceded in death by his son, Timothy John O'Brien. Donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

May you rest in peace, Dear Friend.

Frank Pratt, KL7RX

Cool First Contact Award

What better way to commemorate a ham's first QSO than with a First Contact Certificate? If you make a contact with a ham and he/she tells you that you are his or her first contact, then send them a certificate. Send a certificate for a first contact on HF. ARRL always has First Contact Certificates available to anyone requesting them.

See <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/award/certificate/>.



FIELD DAY 2007



1. Eligibility: Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

2. Object: To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

3. Date and Time Period: Field Day is **always the fourth full weekend of June**, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday

Although [Field Day 2007](#) is still more than three months away, many ham radio clubs and groups already have begun making plans for this year's event, Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24. Field Day has always been an ideal time for new hams to become more proficient operators and for prospective licensees to get "bitten by the Amateur Radio bug." That may be even more the case during Field Day 2007, as many radio amateurs gain new HF operating privileges because of the rule changes that went into effect February 23.

"This is an opportunity to get new or upgraded licensees on the air for some active mentoring and active learning," says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Field Day 2007 will be a chance to learn and grow, but above all, it will be a lot of fun -- and for many there is perhaps nothing more fun in ham radio than ARRL Field Day."

The numbers support that claim. Last June, more than 32,500 operators took part in ARRL Field Day -- some as individuals but many more as part of a club or group. The League saw some 2200 Field Day log submissions for the 2006 event, during which nearly 1.24 million completed contacts went into the log -- not a record but up a little from the previous year.

While no longer a licensing requirement, Morse code (CW) remains a very popular Field Day operating mode, perhaps because CW QSOs are worth twice as much as phone contacts. Last year some 56 percent of Field Day contacts took place on SSB, while nearly 42 percent

were on CW (the rest were digital contacts).

Henderson points out two small changes in the Field Day rules starting this year. First, participating stations may only complete one satellite contact for bonus points via a single-channel FM-mode spacecraft (Rule 7.3.7.1), and it must be an Earth-satellite-Earth contact. "This will allow more stations to access this very limited resource," he says.

Second, an individual Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station operators will earn 20 points for each 20 contacts, up to a maximum of 100 per GOTA operator. Henderson notes that no partial point credit is available, and GOTA operators may not "pool" contacts toward any 20-QSO GOTA station bonus.

"Amateur Radio stands at a juncture where we can embrace both the old and new," Henderson says. He notes, too, that the variety of available operating modes -- traditional and experimental -- contributes toward Field Day's status as the most popular annual operating event.

"Field Day is truly the time where we bring Amateur Radio to Main Street USA -- a great time for 'the Bug' to bite as many people as it can," Henderson says. "Use Field Day 2007 to open up Amateur Radio to the next generation of radio amateurs on *your* Main Street! It's up to us to make it happen."

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It's up to us to make it happen!



FIELD DAY 2007

WHEN: JUNE 23rd & 24th, 2007

WHERE: Romig Jr. High School
(in conjunction with Mayor's Marathon)

FIELD DAY 2007

What is so rare as a day in June?

How about an entire weekend filled with amateur radio activity?

The last full weekend in June provides an opportunity for us to showcase the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service.

At Field Day we'll have a chance to demonstrate these resources to the public, elected officials, served agencies and other amateur radio operators world-wide.

When and Where?

This year Field Day takes place in conjunction with the Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon.

Just like the last time these two events took place on the same weekend, we'll be setting up behind West High School (adjacent to Romig Junior High).

Set-up begins Friday evening, 22 June 2007, at approximately 1600 hrs.

The event officially kicks-off at 10:00AM Saturday with continuous operation for the next 24 hours.

Talk-in on Friday and Sunday (while we're driving) will be on the Grubstake repeater, 147.330, plus shift (+) and a 103.5 Hz tone.

After set-up we'll move to the KL7G portable repeater on 449.650, minus (-) with no tone, for the remainder of the weekend.

Although Kincaid Park is "electrically quiet" and

we've been there for the past several years, the Park is OUT this year because of road construction. The contractor is working mostly nightshifts and they don't want anybody moving around during construction.

Our Approach

What is the real purpose behind Field Day? For the past four years, Field Day Co-Chairmen Keith Clark, KL7MM and TJ Sheffield, KL7TS have taken a hard look at this question.

We believe that in addition to food, fun and camaraderie, there is a serious side to Field Day.

This event provides an opportunity to design and test enhancements to our communications systems, develop operator skills, continue relationships with served agencies and showcase our capabilities to elected officials and the general public.

Our national association for Amateur Radio, the ARRL, sponsors Field Day and encourages us along these lines.

Field Day is an operating event, not a contest, however we believe one method to bench-mark our progress (year-by-year) is to track our point score and compare them with other organizations within the State, the Northwest Division and even Nationally.

These "points" are one measure of how much our radio club is willing to deliver in terms of contacts, new technology and getting our story out in front of the public.

Each QSO (radio contact) counts for points and premiums are placed on solar, battery and low-power communications.

FIELD DAY 2007 cont.

This makes sense to us, because in a real emergency, extending our operating time by conserving batteries and fuel would be a critical factor in our success.

However, to be heard by Lower 48 stations we choose to run the full legal limit of 1,500 watts, powered by diesel generators.

Other clubs choose to run lower power levels (150 watts or less) and pick up the power multipliers.

CW (Morse code) and Digital QSO's are worth twice as much as SSB (voice) contacts because of their efficient use of bandwidth. These signals simply get through better. The ARRL encourages us to operate these modes by assigning higher point values to the contacts.

Bonus Points

Another way the ARRL encourages us to expand our capabilities and showcase our operating skill is by offering Bonus Points. Many Bonus Point categories have a solid basis in emergency communications preparedness.

What's the Point?

Going after Bonus Points can help improve or expand our communications capability, develop operator skills and showcase amateur radio's unique ability to provide a specialized communications service:

Young Operators

20 points per valid contact initiated by an operator 18 years or younger, for a maximum of 100 points.

The ARRL encourages youth participation and this category offers a method for youngsters to experience the "magic" of radio.

Emergency Power

100 points (each) for putting our SSB and CW stations on the air, using generator power.

This may sound like a "no-brainer" but we get credit for operating off the commercial grid.

W1AW Bulletin

100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (ARRL Headquarters) during its operating schedule.

In an emergency, we may need to gather information from a variety of sources, including the ARRL Headquarters station. The ARRL encourages us to correctly copy CW, SSB or Digital signals from an "official" source.

Satellite QSO

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

In Alaska, we're lucky to have (mostly) unfettered access to many of the low earth orbit (LEO) satellites. This capability could be utilized to support remote "backcountry" communications.

Alternative Power – KL7TS

100 bonus points for Field Day groups making a minimum of five QSO's without using power from commercial mains or petroleum driven generators.

This means an "alternate" energy source of power, such as solar, wind, methane or hydro, and includes batteries charged by natural means (not dry cells).

The ability to operate for an extended period without commercial power or fuel source is a worthy goal for any amateur radio operator.

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.

Here is an opportunity to show-and-tell the public and elected officials what unique communications services we can provide.

We'll demonstrate an Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) tracker on a bicycle mobile, transmitting course, speed and position information to a topographical (topo) map display.

FIELD DAY 2007 cont.

Non-Traditional Mode Demonstration No. 2

Here we will demonstrate fast-scan (real-time) television. Amateur television (ATV) is the most requested service by governmental and served agencies.

Non-Traditional Mode Demonstration No. 3

Radio direction finding (RDF) demonstrations will highlight our ability to triangulate on a radio signal.

Message Origination to Section Manager

100 bonus points for origination of a National Traffic System (NTS) style formal message (similar to the ones discussed earlier in this month's newsletter) to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site.

Traffic handling is a basic skill that every amateur radio operator should possess, but many operators have had no exposure to this time-honored system.

Even seasoned operators are no doubt rusty with these techniques. Up to now the radio club has **NEVER** earned bonus points in this category!

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.

Traffic handling (see above) is encouraged by the ARRL. Up to now the radio club has **NEVER** earned bonus points in this category!

Site Visit by an Elected Official – KL2CR

A 100-point bonus may be claimed if an elected government official visits your Field Day site as the result of an invitation issued by your group.

Close ties with elected officials will be invaluable in a communications emergency and may even help us with more mundane issues such as antenna tower regulations!

Site Visit by a Served 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, Sal-

vation Army, local Emergency Management, law enforcement, etc) as the result of an invitation issued by your group.

Here the ARRL is encouraging us to develop a close working relationship with served agencies to facilitate communications in a real emergency.

Media Publicity

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

The media can “make-or-break” public opinion with respect to amateur radio. In our community, a good relationship with the media may become very important as zoning and laws change over time.

Public Information Table - KL7SP

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.

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.

As you see, the Bonus Point categories could challenge any group to improve or expand their radio communications capabilities!

Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) Station

The ARRL encourages us to provide an opportunity for new (or generally inactive) operators to Get On The Air.

Each year the ARRL raises the ante for this aspect of Field Day and each year the club struggles.

We have yet to come up with a viable plan to give a GOTA station a fighting chance but we haven't given up on anything, so stand by for news!



RF Exposure Calculations

As part of our Field Day site preparation we've evaluated potential RF exposure levels, using the University of Texas on-line calculator (which utilizes the ARRL approach):

Conservative numbers in all cases

Assumes ground reflection effects

Assumes 100% operating time (unlikely even during the six minute "controlled exposure")

Assumes 8.00 dBi yagis

Assumes 4.12 dBi loops

Assumes 2.12 dBi verticals

Assumes 40 ft. to yagi or loop

Assumes 100 ft. to verticals

<u>Duty Factor</u>	<u>Freq</u>	<u>Controlled</u>	<u>Uncontrolled</u>
20% SSB	3.900	Yes	Yes
	7.300	Yes	Yes
	14.350	Yes	Yes
	21.450	Yes	Yes
	29.500	Yes	No

<u>Duty Factor</u>	<u>Freq</u>	<u>Controlled</u>	<u>Uncontrolled</u>
40% CW	3.500	Yes	Yes
	7.000	Yes	Yes
	14.000	Yes	Yes
	21.000	Yes	No
	28.000	Yes	No

Help Make Field Day a Success!

You may have noticed a call-sign or two associated with some of the Bonus Point categories. It means that operator has agreed to become a "Station Captain" for that activity. Those are the individuals who will make sure that aspect of Field Day happens!

As Station Captain you will learn a specific aspect of our emergency communications response capability and will soon be able to teach others.

Station Captains are fully supported by experienced personnel assigned to your team – we won't let you fail! Please consider volunteering for Field Day and becoming a Station Captain.

An Added Incentive (?)

Anyone volunteering for Station Captain will automatically become eligible for a complimentary "Victory Cigar". This tradition was established by Field Day Co-Chairman Keith Clark, KL7MM and upheld by Philip Mannie, KLØQW (SK).

While not mandatory, any Station Captain wishing to participate in this tradition is welcome. Other activities may be substituted upon approval of the Field Day Co-Chairmen. You must be present to win.

Field Day Co-Chairmen

Keith Clark, KL7MM

TJ Sheffield, KL7TS

FIELD DAY

2007

It's up to us to make it happen!



ALASKA 2007 HAMFEST

With Summer schedules full of amateur radio projects, fishing, flying and all the summer projects that come with living in ALASKA, we are including a list of the 2007 HAM Festival's that we have been able to confirm in ALASKA. This allows all of us to plan on great attendance for these events to support your local amateur radio clubs as well as for anyone wishing to buy or sell used equipment to contact the coordinating club for more information. If you do not see your event listed, please email editor@kl7aa.net to be added.

Matanuska Amateur Radio Association

WHEN: Saturday, MAY 5, 2007

WHERE: Palmer Rail Depot

For More Information:

www.kl7jfu.com



MATANUSKA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION WWW.KL7JFU.COM

HAMFEST & ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

5 MAY 2007. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 10AM / 5 PM.
HAM RADIO AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS GEAR,
COMPUTER STUFF, GADGETS & GIZMOS GALORE.

\$3 ADMITTANCE MAKES YOU ELIGIBLE TO WIN
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES. KIDS UNDER 12 GET IN
FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A PAYING ADULT.
HAM LICENSE TEST SESSION AFTER NOON TIME.
TABLE SPACE RENTALS AVAILABLE AT \$15 FOR
NON COMMERCIAL FOLKS AND \$20 COMMERCIAL
TABLES. THE TABLE RENTAL FEE INCLUDES THE
ADMISSION PRICE FOR ONE PERSON. MARA WILL
ALSO GIVE SPACE TO EACH COMMERCIAL TABLE
RENTED FOR ONE YEAR ON OUR CLUB WEB PAGE.
YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN DOOR PRIZES!



We are looking for some input from amateur radio operators throughout Alaska. In an effort to attract national vendors to our future HAMFEST, we are trying to assess the demand and attendance potential of all amateur operators and potential attendees.

If you could please take a moment to do this quick survey, your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Please send this to all the amateur operators so we can get feedback from all amateur radio groups in Alaska.

Thank you your time.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=587932621219>

36th ANNUAL

ANCHORAGE HAMFEST

WHEN:

Saturday, September 15th, 2007

WHERE:

Anchorage Senior Center (tentative)

EVENTS Include:

- SPEAKERS
- VE TESTING
- RAFFLE PRIZES

For More Details:

www.kl7aa.net/hamfest

Mark your Calendars.
Save The Date!

ANCHORAGE 2008 HAMFEST

June 20th - June 23, 2008

In an effort to attract National Vendors to Alaska, the Anchorage club has selected the dates for the 2008 HAMFEST. The feedback we have received from National Vendors and speakers is a request for more than one year in advance notice of the date of our event.

The Anchorage club has tentatively chosen the weekend of June 20th thru June 23rd, 2008.

We will be promoting this event at Dayton 2007 and 2008. If you are planning to attend your help would be appreciated.

This will allow our vendors, and attendees to enjoy the many benefits of visiting Alaska during the summer months. While this will not meet everyone's schedule due to all the amateur activities and outdoor activities for HAM's during the summer months, it will be the best way to accommodate the National guests we hope to attract. If you are interested in helping plan this event please contact: KL7BK, Mike Romanello, at KL7BK (at) arrl.net for more information.

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Membership Application / Renewal

Membership Chairman: Fred Erickson, KL7FE
Email: membership@kl7aa.net
Phone Number: 345-2181

All annual memberships expired
on December 31st.

Mail - In Membership Application

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ HOME _____

E-MAIL: _____

_____ WORK _____

_____ MOBILE _____

Are you a member of ARRL?

YES: _____ NO: _____

DUES:

Dues for the calendar year are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ♦ Individual Membership | \$12.00 (\$6.00 for each additional member at the same address) |
| ♦ Student | No Charge ¹ |
| ♦ Life Time Membership | \$250.00 ² |

I am enclosing payment for:

Subscription / Renewal for _____ year (s).

Total US Dollars Enclosed: \$_____.

Please mail your payment and completed application to:

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

c/o: Fred Erickson, KL7FE

12531 Alpine Drive

Anchorage, AK 99516-3121

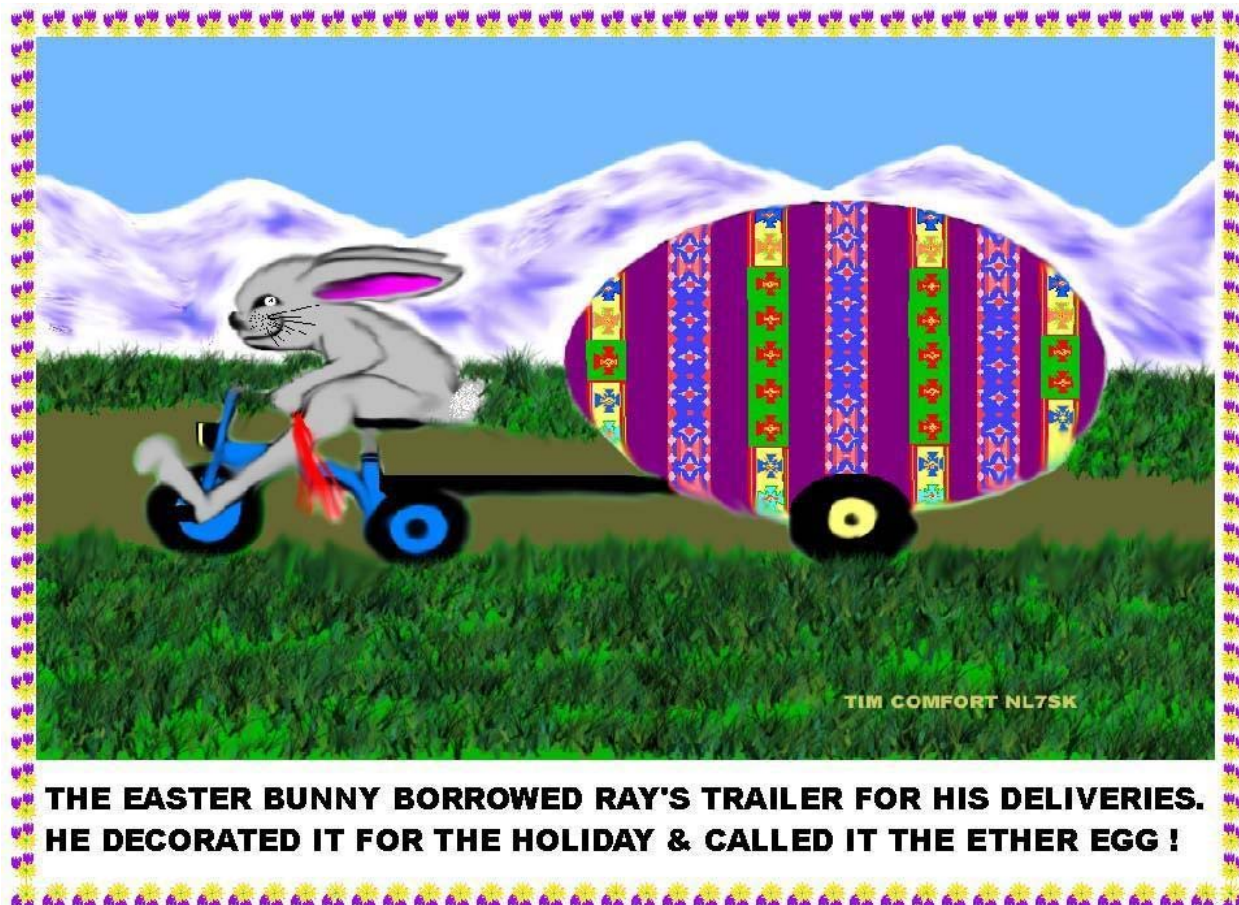
1. **STUDENT** is defined as any individual enrolled Full-Time at any educational institution, using the criteria of Full Time enrollment for that institution
2. If Over 65, please contact Membership Chairman for pro-rated rates.

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

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AMATEUR RADIO



**THE EASTER BUNNY BORROWED RAY'S TRAILER FOR HIS DELIVERIES.
HE DECORATED IT FOR THE HOLIDAY & CALLED IT THE ETHER EGG !**