

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Next Meeting March 7th, 2008, 7:00 PM



MARCH PROGRAM:

David Stevens (KL7EB) will be the Speaker at the March meeting. David will be discussing the ARRL and the benefits of ARRL membership. David will also update us on the ARRL efforts on amateur radio issues including BPL and WARC.

Ready or Not?

If disaster struck tomorrow,
would Anchorage be prepared?

By Sally Rothwell

I slam on the brakes and skid to a halt. A gaping hole blocks the road in front of me and a pickup truck is stuck with its front wheels hanging over the edge. A man steps out of the truck, pressing the palm of his hand against his forehead. Blood is running down his face.

"Are you OK?" I ask.

"No," he says. "I cut my head bad on my steering wheel."

He stares at the front of his truck and the yawning hole beneath it, while I grope for my cell phone to dial 911.

"I can't believe it," he says. "This has gotta be the biggest quake since '64."

Sirens are wailing and people are running out in the street. Some are bleeding badly and stumbling, in a daze. Others are crying and screaming for help, or madly dialing cell phones that aren't working. Glass litters the pavement.

"Watch out!" someone screams. A huge piece of concrete from the building above crashes onto the sidewalk, spewing a cloud of dust. The sound is deafening; the air smells like dirt. My eyes burn. People scatter, but don't know where to run. I try to remain calm as my training has taught me, but all I can think about is my husband Greg. Where is he? Is he safe?

This scene isn't real, but it could be.

A serious incident like a major earthquake would affect thousands of people in the Anchorage Bowl. As we go about our daily routines we rarely think about possible disasters that could hit our city. Perhaps be-

cause it's too depressing or the chances feel too remote, many people don't like to think about such things. But fortunately, there is a dedicated group of people who do think about it for us, who spend their days planning for emergencies and training volunteers. They work at the Municipality of Anchorage's Emergency Operations Center at 13th and E Street.

Emergency response planning became a part of my life six years ago when I joined the Incident Management Team at the large oil and gas company where I work. Our IMT is trained primarily to respond to something we hope never happens again: a large oil tanker spill in Prince William Sound. In such an event, our team would be responsible for managing portions of the environmental response. We'd work with regulatory agencies, help decide which shorelines to prioritize for protection, and coordinate the hazing and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife. It's a grim scenario, but there is a silver lining—all of the drills and training we undergo also prepare us for many other types of emergencies, and not just ones in Prince William Sound.

Since I'm always interested in learning how other entities plan for emergencies, I jumped at a recent offer to tour of Anchorage's EOC and interview their staff. How do they intend to protect us? Are they as prepared as they should be?

The EOC is housed in the old Anchorage Telephone Department switch center at the south end of downtown. The building was built in 1949 and was the place where Anchorage residents went in the 1950s and 1960s to pick up their one allotted rotary telephone per household. Over the years telephone switch equipment got smaller and the telephone company didn't need as much space any more so the municipality bought it for a dollar. It's a rectangular brick behemoth with no real landscaping to speak of, and only a few tiny windows.



The main floor of the building is almost entirely devoted to the Situation Room. This is a large open room with numerous computer stations and is where emergency responders would congregate during an incident to learn the latest status from the field and their instructions for the next phase of the response. Color-coded signs identify the various sections such as Operations, Planning, and Logistics to which trained emergency responders are assigned. Along one wall are several offices for the full time staff and downstairs are additional facilities: alternate fire and police dispatch centers that can act with or independently of the primary 911 dispatch center in case the 911 system is inoperable; a volunteer communications room that would be staffed by the United Way; and a room for amateur radio operators. They even have an FBI secure line, which they installed after September 11.



The EOC staff practice and plan for a mind-boggling array of events including avalanches, wildfires, pandemics, major plane crashes, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, volcanic ash, wind damage, plus incidents none of us can yet imagine. The facility boasts impressive high-end computers and communications equipment, and a full-time staff of five including Vince McCoy, the Emergency Program Manager. Vince joined the Coast Guard in 1968 in Kodiak. There he flew search-and-rescue missions for 10 years before he retired and joined the Kodiak Fire Department. Eventually Vince realized he didn't have any opportunities for advancement there.

"The only way up was to kill the chief, and he was a friend, so that wasn't an option," he said.

So he moved to Anchorage, got an internship with the city, and eventually joined the EOC.

Every real-life emergency is also a learning experience. And (hopefully) the EOC's response capabilities improve after every incident. In 2000 a series of avalanches rumbled across the Seward Highway near Girdwood, stranding vehicles for up to two days and cutting off power and communication lines to the community. The EOC used helicopters to bring food, water and blankets to stranded motorists left on the highway, and to carry out people with special needs. Through this incident it became apparent that Girdwood needed a backup power system; after all, with an average of over 600 inches of snow a year falling at the Alyeska ski resort, more avalanches would certainly hit the area in the future. Working with the

Alaska Railroad and Chugach Electric Company, the EOC came up with a plan to stage power cords, connectors, and other equipment in Girdwood that would allow DC power from the diesel locomotives to be transferred to emergency AC power for Girdwood. The system still depends upon the trains being able to get through, but it's a vast improvement from just a few years ago.

It's been four hours since the quake hit. I try calling Greg from my cell phone for what seems like the tenth time, but still no signal. The system is overloaded with people trying to call loved ones, friends, bosses, or 911. I'm sitting in my car with the engine running to keep warm because traffic is at a standstill. Remain calm...

It's been found over and over again that communication systems often fail or are incompatible during major disasters. The Katrina and Rita disasters on the Gulf of Mexico coast had major effects on emergency preparedness efforts across the country, including communications. Hurricane Katrina decimated one of my company's refineries, and the neighborhood where many of the workers lived was under water. A few hours after the brunt of the storm the refinery safety manager realized that one of her workers was unaccounted for. She attempted to call him but landline telephone service was out. She tried her cell phone but the voice service was overloaded and she couldn't get through. Finally she tried text messaging. She scored. The text messaging system is less burdened than voice systems. Using text messaging she was able to arrange a helicopter to fly to the area where she knew the employee and his family lived. The employee kept texting the pilot until he narrowed down his search and finally spotted the family perched on their roof. He plucked them away and took them to a shelter. Now the safety manager is spreading the word throughout the company and elsewhere that everyone should have the knowledge and ability to text message. As so often happens, a disaster in one part of the country helps other communities be better prepared.

It's now three days after the earthquake and communication systems are back on line. Most of the main roads in the city have been repaired enough to allow for a single lane of traffic to pass, but the railroad and highway north of Anchorage both suffered major damage and will be impassable for up to a week. The State Troopers are trying to fly in additional officers to stop the pervasive looting but many airport runways are shattered and unsafe to land on.

Most gas stations are closed, with signs reading “Out of gas.” Angry people are lining up at the few stations that are still open but rationing of gas limits buyers to one gallon per person. I pull into a station and wait in line. Ahead of me I hear a commotion.

“What do you mean only a gallon?” shouts an angry woman holding a screaming baby. “My baby is sick; I have to get him to the hospital.”

Just then a State Trooper patrol car pulls in to the station, and two more follow. The trooper in the first car gets out and says, “Sorry folks, but we are commandeering the remaining gasoline at this station for emergency vehicles.” He starts taping “Out of Gas” signs to the pumps. The woman with the sick baby faints.

If an earthquake or other disaster damages the railroad north of Anchorage, our fuel supply would be cut off. Our gasoline, diesel and jet fuel comes via railroad from the Flint Hills Resources’ Refinery in North Pole. The Port of Anchorage and the military bases have fuel supplies, but they wouldn’t last very long. The few airport runways long enough to handle large fuel tanker planes could be damaged by an earthquake and unsafe for landing. Some fuel could be trucked down the highway from the refinery but if the railroad is damaged the highway probably is too, and even after it’s repaired, the number of fuel trucks available probably couldn’t keep up with the city’s demand.

How would we get fuel? It would probably need to be rationed. If so, who would get it first and how much would they get? Who would handle the inevitable disputes that would come up when people think they deserve more fuel than they are allotted? These are the types of things Rob Fitch and others at the EOC brainstorm about every day.

Rob joined the EOC about two years ago as the Exercise and Special Projects Manager. He was in the Coast Guard for 23 years and was the navigator on a C-130 after a rescue helicopter went down in the North Atlantic Ocean, during the rescue that inspired Sebastian Junger’s book *The Perfect Storm*. He searched for days but never did find the helicopter crew that had been trying to rescue fishermen battered by the storm. Now his main duties are planning and running realistic drills to train local volunteers to respond to serious incidents in Anchorage.



Among those emergencies Rob now helps to plan for is a pandemic flu. In this scenario all emergency facilities would be overwhelmed—hospitals, morgues, ambulances. How do you prioritize medicine when there are more sick people than there are doses of medicine to go around? Where do you treat people when the hospitals are out of room? How do you manage liability issues when victims with allergic reactions to medications may suffer severe side effects or even die? And again, just as in the fuel scarcity scenario, how do you manage inevitable disputes? As Rob says, “There are a few weapons around this town.” No kidding. Also it is likely many of the police, doctors and nurses will be sick. Emergency response resources could be seriously strained.

It’s day nine after the earthquake. The railroad has been repaired and fuel is now available. The extra troopers are here and looting is under control. But water pipes were so severely damaged the water utility’s engineers are overwhelmed with locating breaks and repairing them. They say it will be weeks before water service is restored. Meanwhile the Air Force is flying in planeloads of bottled water and the EOC is setting up distribution centers as quickly as they can—but not in time to prevent a serious outbreak of dysentery. When the water lines broke the sewer lines broke too, and raw sewage infiltrated some local lakes and streams. Since those water bodies were the only readily available source of fresh water during the several days after the earthquake, many people drank from these contaminated sources. Numerous nurses and doctors were killed or injured in the earthquake and medical resources remain severely limited. The sound of ambulance sirens is constant in the background...

Editors Note:

“Our gasoline, diesel and jet fuel comes via railroad from the Flint Hills Resources’ Refinery in North Pole.”

The Flint Hills refinery at North Pole does not produce any road diesel. All road diesel must be the new ultra low sulfur diesel. Flint Hills was supposed to install the desulfurization facilities needed to produce this fuel as a part of the ten year contract with the state for royalty oil feedstock. The state in its usual fashion allowed them to weasel out of this provision of the contract. All road diesel in Alaska comes from one refinery in Kenai with no competition. When ultra low sulfur gasoline is required, it too will only come from one supplier in the state.



AARC BADGES

KL7AA BADGES are AVAILABLE!

When is the last time you saw a member of the AARC wearing an original badge? Well with some due diligence on the part of a few ham operators, Frank Pratt, KL7RX and myself, KL7SP; we have tracked down the original design and store where the badges were made.

The badge comes with your Name and Callsign engraved, the club logo on an arch 3 inch dome as well as the option of purchasing individual name plates for each position you have served for AARC. If you are interested in purchasing an AARC badge, the costs is \$20.00 per member for each badge and \$2.00 per customized name plate. Badges have the option of a pin or magnet attachment.

For more information about this project or to order your badge today in time for the convention and outdoor public activities, please contact Michael O'Keefe, KI7MD at 907-351-4038 or via email at: mok@gci.net.

When ordering, please indicate your name, Callsign and if you wish to have any additional name plates added.

Orders take approximately 10 days for printing and our made locally in Anchorage. Thanks to Frank Pratt, KL7RX for helping us track these down. Also thanks to KI7MD for picking up this project.



AMATEUR RADIO

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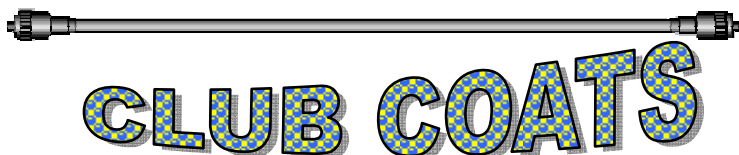
News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections: Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting Email: editor@kl7aa.net
Mail: PO BOX 101987, Anchorage, AK 99510-1987

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

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OPINIONS expressed in The Modulation Times are not necessarily those of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. **MEMBERS** and **non-members** are invited to submit articles of interest. AARC assumes no responsibility for contributed items or their return without a self addressed stamped envelope. Sources of the items must be provided and ALL material is subject to editing required to conform to space limitations.



With a removable liner, lots of pockets, and waterproof, the coat gives the radio club great publicity with a full back, club logo and a Name and Call-Sign Personalization on the left chest. For those of you interested in purchasing a coat, the costs are **\$50 per club member**. This is a great price for a coat than can be used during summer amateur activities or as a winter coat during Sled Dog races or November Sweepstakes. Must have a current club membership.

If you are interested in ordering a coat, a sign up sheet will be available at the club meeting or feel free to contact Craig Severson, KL2FN; chipman@clearwire.net



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KL7AA Club Business

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
February 1, 2008
Carr Gottstein Building – APU Campus
Anchorage, AK

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Kathleen O'Keefe (KL7KO). Members and guests introduced themselves.

Presentations

T.J. Sheffield (KL7TS) gave a presentation on communication training exercises and NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) antennas. T.J. noted the importance of operator training and the availability of the CCV Garage Ham Shack for training. T.J.'s training goals are for 3 operators to be able to set up the CCV remote operator's station in less than 3 hours and to have it available for operation on all bands available in the CCV. Typical training operation of the HF station is with an operator making contacts, an individual logging the contacts and a coach overseeing the operation. T.J. explained the performance of the NVIS loop antenna and equipment required for the setup of such an antenna. T.J. noted several past published articles detailing operational issues with antenna setups, equipment performance, and operational procedures. Anticipated projects to improve performance and setup of club equipment were explained as well as the explanation of AARC funding requests to the members,

Announcements

Kathleen O'Keefe noted the AARC is seeking volunteers for the position of Treasurer of the club. Kathleen noted the current Treasurer, who has resigned, is willing to train anyone interested in the position.

Kathleen O'Keefe noted the need for volunteers for the upcoming February 16th and 17th Goose Bay 120 and March 2nd Iditarod dog sled races

KL7AA name badges with the club logo are available once again. The template for these badges, which were first made years ago, has been located and is once again available for use in creating badges. Contact Michael O'Keefe (KL7MD) for more information.

Craig Severson (KL2FN) was introduced as the contact person for AARC club coat purchases.

Michael O'Keefe noted that Hamfest 2008 Grand Prize raffle tickets are available for purchase. Only 600 tickets will be sold, tickets are \$50.00 each, winner need NOT be present to win. Contact a Hamfest volunteer to purchase tickets.

Michael O'Keefe also noted the Simulated Emergency Test Exercise (SETE) will be held on February 16th. The exercise will run from 0930 to 1230 and will use the CCV, Packet stations, Portable stations, home and mobile stations, the Anchorage EOC, CCV garage Ham shack and participants from the Mat Su Valley, Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage. Contact MOK@gci.net to volunteer for this event.

Bob Douglass (KL3BD) announced the Nome Kennel Club's All Alaska Classic dog sled race (Nome – Candle – Nome) beginning March 26th. This will be a \$100,000 "winner take all" race. Details can be found at <http://www.allalaskasweepstakes.org>. IRLP coverage of the event is being planned at this time.

Door Prize Drawing

KL2CR, R2D2 (son of KL3BD and KL3KD), KL7TU, KL3KD, KL2AZ and KL7HM

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on February 1, 2008 by:
Richard Tweet, Secretary



WØS

Special Event Station

The 96th Anniversary of the Titanic Disaster FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Your club members have been invited to come operate with us in Branson, MO for the 96th Anniversary of the Titanic Disaster. Last year our press release hit 111 news wire services around the world in two days. This is an internationally recognized Special Event Station and here is a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate.

Icom is our official supplier of radio equipment. Last year we had two Icom 756 Pro III transceivers and two PW-1 amplifiers. If more HF stations are needed, Icom will supply us as many stations as needed. We have crank up towers with TA-33 beams, as well as, wire dipoles for the lower frequencies. There is room for all, hams and non-hams. We are in full view of the public between the Entrance and Exit outside the Museum. This is to honor the two brave wireless operators Jack Phillips and Harold Bride.

Please visit our website at www.wØs.org for more information and scheduling of operating times. All updates for this event will be on this website, so please visit often for new information. We would appreciate this announcement on your local nets and club website. If any questions, please feel free to contact me at waØsap@att.net.

Thank you from the "Titanic Four"

Dave "SAP" Beckler, WAØSAP, Al Gallo, WØERE, Rich Vogt, KB9YZE, and Rod Kittleman, KØADI

KL7AA Club Business

**ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BOARD MEETING
February 19, 2008
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, Treasurer Heather Hasper KL7SP, Secretary Richard Tweet KL2AZ, Activities Director Richard Kotsch WL7CPX, Paul Spatzek WL7BF, Tom Rutigliano NL7TZ, Diane Olson KL1MY, Michael O'Keefe KL7MD, Jim Wiley KL7CC, Craig Severson KL2FN, John Orella KL7LL, Susan Woods NL7NN.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Fred Erickson KL7FE

EXCUSED

Vice President Jim Larsen AL7FS, Mike Romanello KL7BK, Frank Pratt KL7RX

UNEXCUSED

Richard Block KL7RLB

REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Rutigliano requested to add MARA trailer update, T. J. Sheffield requested to add Title 21, a funding request and a request from Nordic Ski Association.

GUESTS

None

SECRETARY REPORT

Previous Board meeting minutes for January and General Membership meeting minutes for February were presented. Motion made Diane Olson KL1MY, seconded Michael O'Keefe KL7MD to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Club correspondence for the month was a card to Jim Larsen from the ACVB.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Heather Hasper presented the Treasurers report for month ending January. Heather reported that the Fourth Quarter report will be filed late due to the last arrival of the December check from Boniface Bingo. An extension has been requested by AARC's accountant due to Boniface Bingo's delay in getting the check to the AARC. The Annual Report is due in March and Heather will be working with the accountant to get this complete. No grants are before the Board and no major purchases have been made by the AARC this month. Heather provided a *Transaction Report by Account* detail for review. Heather reported that all AARC financial records have been moved to the CCV garage and are in locked storage, electronic financial records are located on the CCV garage desktop workstation and are password protected with the Treasurers logon. Heather reported that the outstanding amount due the AARC by the VE has been paid. Motion made Diane Olson, KL1MY, seconded John Orella KL7LL to accept the Treasurers report as given. The motion carried unanimously.

VE REPORT

There was no report as Jim Wiley was not in attendance.

TRUSTEE REPORT

There was no report as Keith Clark was not in attendance.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There was no report as Fred Erickson was not in attendance.

ARES TRAINING

Michael O'Keefe KL7MD reported that the next ARES training would be on message trafficking, message handling and proper radiogram usage. Discussion was held on the location for training and it was recommended to be held at Rowan Street (CCV garage) for March. Michael indicated that ARES training may cease if attendance continues to be as dismal as the turnout for the recent Simulated Emergency Test Exercise.

Are you a member of ARRL?



ARRL is the American Radio Relay League. This is the national organization that advocates on behalf of amateur radio operators to the FCC and the communications industry. **KL7AA** has been an ARRL affiliated club for more than 50 years. Consider becoming a member of ARRL today. www.arrl.org

OLD BUSINESS

Replacement Treasurer

Kathleen O'Keefe requested input for a planned mail out to the membership requesting referrals or volunteers for the open position of Treasurer. The process of Board selection and recommendation to the membership for membership approval at a General meeting was reviewed and discussed. A postcard mail out to solicit recommendations and or volunteers from the local membership will be developed and sent. Kathleen O'Keefe noted a member need not be a licensed amateur. Discussion was held regarding the outsourcing of the bookkeeping duties of the Treasurer.

Credit Card

Heather Hasper reported that a debit card has been obtained from First National Bank of Anchorage for the AARC's ability to purchase items utilizing the AARC's checking account. This will eliminate the need for a club credit card and can be used for the purchase of club assets whereby in the past, a club member's card was utilized to secure the purchase. The AARC also has the Capital One credit card that has been in the club's possession since 1990. These are reflected in the balance sheet and detailed report.

CCV Access

Richard Tweet noted that he has sent Bruce McCormick the latest AARC membership list to assist with the issuing of keys to the AARC CCV Ham Shack. Kathleen O'Keefe has also done the same.

Capital Projects

T.J. Sheffield KL7TS reported on the AARC funded projects that still show as incomplete. T.J. requested assistance in the documentation and completion of projects. Several are complete with the exception of functional checkout, training and/or documentation received. Kathleen O'Keefe noted that she would like to see 50% of the open projects closed prior to the Board approving any other projects. Discussion of the *repeater upgrade project* and the timeline to complete was held. T.J. provided detail of the *intercom project* which would allow operators to inter-communicate while running a station and displayed a prototype developed by Tom Raboin, KL0GC, of Northern Light Avionics.

Title 21 report

T.J. reported on the status of the Title 21 rewrite by the Municipality. To date, language in chapters 5 and 14, favorable to the Amateur Radio community remains in the rewrite. Municipal building permitting remains a different problem. Public comment periods are in question as this has been turned over to the Municipal Assembly Review Committee. T. J. noted that Rik Marvin continues to attend the Thursday morning Assembly Committee meetings.

Silent Key Plaque

There was no report as Susan Woods was not in attendance.

Real Estate

Keith Clark was not in attendance to report on this and Kathleen O'Keefe reported that there was nothing new to report.

ARRL Book and Patch Orders

Kathleen O'Keefe noted that a volunteer is needed to champion the ordering of ARRL books and patches to be sold at club meetings and to make arrangements for these materials to be sold at other club sponsored events.

New Business

Program for March Membership Meeting

Richard Kotsch reported that David Stevens (KL7EB) would be the Speaker at the March meeting on the topic of ARRL. John Lynn (KL7CY) will be the April Speaker on the topic of Packet. T.J. Sheffield will present on NVIS antennas and the upcoming Field Day at the May meeting.

Approvals, KL7AA in the next month

Iditarod Dog Sled Race

MARA Grant Update

Tom Rutigliano (NL7TZ) reported that 90-95% of the equipment/material has been purchased and installed in the MARA Communications Trailer. Tom reported that for the tower trailer project, the tower and generator have been ordered. The tower delivery is expected to be in 8-10 weeks.

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KL7AA Club Business

Funding Request

T.J. Sheffield presented a funding request, deferred from November 2007, for improvements and additions to AARC assets for equipment/hardware to improve our current equipment. The request was submitted with a section for a Loop, Tower sections and Tuner for \$7880.00 and a section for a Tilt Plate, Tools and backup Verticals for \$3650.00. Shipping costs and a contingency factor was included to bring the total request to \$15,000.00. Discussion related to the request included January membership presentation, AARC currently borrowing equipment for events and station exercises, Nov 2006 projects presentation, limitation of CCV mounted tuners for events, training opportunities for volunteers, condition of CCV Garage station equipment, suggested mobile projects, review of SGC mobile components, goal of setup ease at events. Motion made Richard Kotsch (WL7CPX), to set aside \$15,000.00 for these items as presented, friendly amendment added by Heather Hasper, and approved by the maker of the motion, that the money approved be spent on this equipment by the end of 2008. Motion seconded by Tom Rutigliano (NL7TZ). The motion passed with 2 nays.

Nordic Ski Association Assistance

T.J. Sheffield brought forth an idea submitted by John Lynn (KL7CY) to help the Nordic Ski Association with their request for assistance in local broadcasting at events. The idea of a low power FM transmitter was presented. Discussion included FCC compliance, possible use for/by the AARC, ownership by AARC and loaning to events. Board consensus was for the Technical Committee to provide information regarding the suggested transmitter to the Nordic Ski Association for their purchase and use.

Other Business

ARRL State Convention/2008 Hamfest

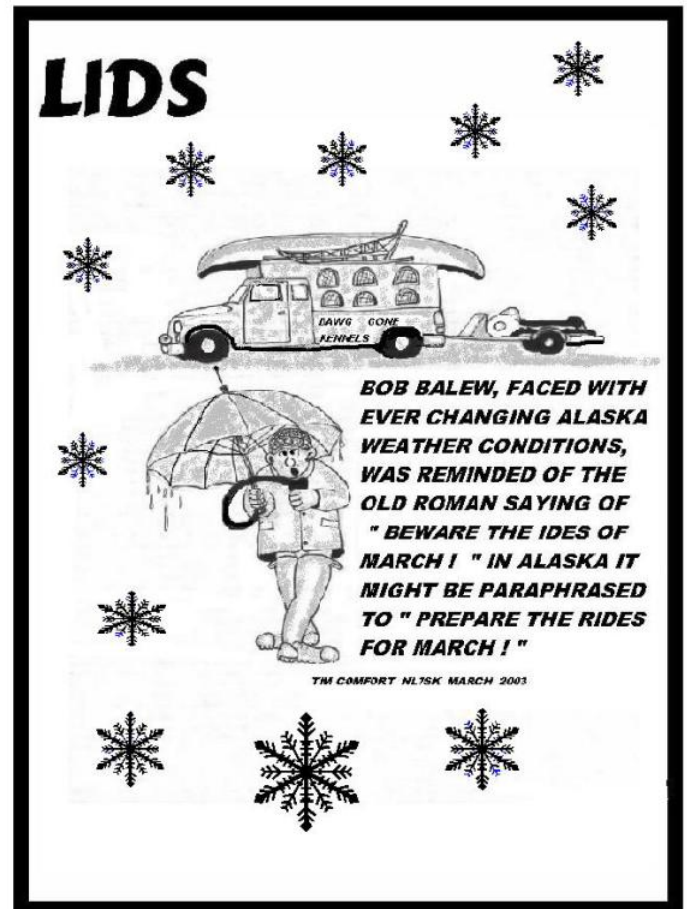
Heather Hasper requested to present on this topic. Heather reported that to date 19 national vendors have committed to event as well as the ARRL President and Bill Cross from the FCC. Raffle tickets are available and have been approved by the State Gaming Department. Committee planning meetings are going great. The Permit has been obtained for the Friday Night Welcoming Barbeque. Large tents have been donated and Carlisle has donated their large portable Barbeque grill for the event. Shipping for vendors is being coordinated and donated by Carlisle also.

Remote Testing

Heather Hasper requested to discuss this topic. Heather questioned the status of this project as \$11,000.00 has been spent on it to date, the project doesn't have a project manager, and the project has been ongoing 6 years. Discussion noted that with this project, the AARC VE's would oversee testing locally for a remote testing session, the AARC VEC program falls under the KL7AA umbrella. An update as to the status of this project will be requested from Jim Wiley. This topic was tabled until the March Board meeting.

Motion made Diane Olson, KL1MY, seconded Richard Kotsch WL7CPX that the meeting be adjourned. With no opposition, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 2/19/08 by:
Richard Tweet, Secretary



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.

How do you support your community through the use of amateur radio?

By: Michael D. O'Keefe, KL7MD

(ARES District Emergency Coordinator, LEPD 7)

I was disappointed by the small number of participants in the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercise that was conducted on Saturday, the 16th of February at 0930 to 1230. But

I attributed the poor turn out to the extreme cold weather that we had been experiencing.

Then the weather warmed up for the Anchorage Fur Rondy sled dog race and I assumed that the Anchorage amateur radio community would jump at the chance to see the sled dog race up close and personal while being able to practice using their equipment to pass message traffic. I was even more dismayed when I heard from John Lynn (KL7CY) that he had informed the race officials that the amateur radio community could not do their race communications due to a lack of volunteerism by our amateur radio community.

I really started to get concerned when I heard from Gordon Hartlieb (AL1W) that he could not find enough amateur radio volunteers to work the Iditarod start from the Anchorage amateur radio community and that the Iditarod didn't seem interested in using amateur radio operators as their communicators for the start of the Iditarod.

We know that requests for the use of amateur radio communications have increased over the years. All you have to do is read the paper or watch the news and you will find amateur radio operators providing emergency



communications to different disasters. And with several Technician, General and Extra class amateur radio classes being conducted over the last couple of years we know that the number of amateur radio operators has also increased.

So why is it that we can't find enough amateur radio operators to work these sled dog races or attend ARES training exercises? Have our lives become so complicated with all our other activities that we no longer have time for amateur radio volunteer activities? What if we had a natural or man made disaster and no one came because they were just too busy to have the time to participate. I have to ask this question of everyone who reads this article "How do you support your community as an amateur radio operator?"

As the Anchorage District Emergency Coordinator for ARES I have had meetings with the Anchorage Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC). A question that has come up on multiple occasions is "Can the amateur radio community be counted on to provide emergency communications to such agencies as the American Red Cross, the Anchorage School District, the Salvation Army and numerous congregate care facilities throughout the Municipality of Anchorage?"



In the past I have always said that the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) is the largest amateur radio organization in Alaska. We advertise that we have over 340 members who are trained communicators ready to assist in time of need. With that many volunteers to choose from the amateur radio community can surely meet the needs that would be placed on us.

Now I am not so sure. Can we really be counted on in an emergency if we can't even do a couple of simple sled dog races? Remember in today's society people and organizations are judged by their performance. If we don't get out there and show people what we can do, how can we expect them to count on us in times of emergency?

Are you Prepared?

To put it on a personal level who would you trust the safety of your child to a person who you hardly knew, whose level of experience was totally unknown and whose professional demeanor left doubt as to their capabilities or expertise or would you trust someone whom you had observed who was a professional in attitude, appearance and ability?

The Municipality of Anchorage Emergency Operation Center and the State Emergency Coordination Center have both said the same thing. When the balloon goes up and the call goes out they want trained communications professionals. That means you have an ARES ID badge, have taken the ARRL Level I through III courses and have taken the FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) course 100, 200, 700 and 800. It means you participate in ARES exercises and you are familiar with your equipment. In short you are a trained emergency response amateur radio communications officer.

Chances are if you just show up and you haven't worked with these agencies and haven't shown them your proficiency and haven't accomplished their requirements you won't be allowed to participate at their level. They will politely show you the door so to speak. So you have to ask yourselves the question, "Do I want to be the best at what I do?" If so then the courses are out there for the taking. Just go to the ARRL website and you can find the Level I through Level III courses. They can be taken online and will give you an excellent understanding of the Incident Command System. The FEMA courses are also on line and are easily accessed through their website.

But the most important thing you can do is get involved as an amateur radio operator with your community. Let the community see what you can do. As a group you are an awesome force to be dealt with. Your capabilities are second to none and your ability to communicate when no one else can is truly remarkable. As individuals you come from diverse backgrounds and professions. As individuals you will put these different skill sets together and become a team of highly trained professional communicators.

But like all true professional teams you must practice as a team so that everyone knows what the other team members will do and what the capabilities of the team are. Your training will provide you with the professionalism that you need to accomplish whatever is

required of you. Just remember that the word EMERGENCY is part of the ARES logo. You are no different than a firefighter, paramedic or police officer. You are the trained professionals who are called upon to help those who are in need of assistance.

So next time you grab that microphone ask yourself the question:

"Am I doing everything I can possibly do to support my community through the use of amateur radio?"



The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program, was approved by the ARRL Board in January 2000. Volunteers from all over the country assisted in pulling together information for the course. Because the topic of emergency communications is so diversified and so much information is available, the material is broken into three levels: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced Emergency Communications (Levels I, II and III).

Each on-line course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities, and quizzes. Courses are interactive and include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor and other students.

Check out: <http://www.arrl.org/cep/> for more information.



ARES District 7 Contact Informa
Michael O'Keefe, KL7MD
[DEC7 at kl7aa.net](http://www.kl7aa.net)



March 2008



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



ARES NETS:

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

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
						1 Iditarod
2 Iditarod Restart	3	4 2008 HAMFEST Planning MTG	5	6 	7 AARC Meeting 7PM	8 PARKA Meeting 11 AM
9	10	11	12 MARA Board Meeting 7PM	13 	14 	15 ARES Training 0930 EARS: 3PM
16 2008 HAMFEST Planning	17	18 AARC Board Meeting 7PM	19	20 American Red Cross	21 QRP meeting 7PM	22
23	24	25	26	27 	28 MARA meeting 7PM	29
30	31	EARS: R1 North, Contact: Ron Keesch: KL7YK@arrl.net 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				

Schedule of Events:

ARES Training: 3/15/2008

3/1 Iditarod Start

Contact: Gordon Hartlieb, AL1W; gordon@systems33.net

3/2 Iditarod Re-Start: Willow,

Contact: Ray Hollenbeck, KL1IL; fuzz@mtaonline.net

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

NTS Traffic Messages;

We will review the fundamentals of passing radio traffic and national traffic messages. We will discuss the difference between formal traffic messages and local traffic messages and when a 'radiogram' message should be used.



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 O'Keefe, 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

Craig Severson - KL2FN, chipman at clearwire.net

John Orella: KL7LL, kl7ll at arrl.net

Susan Woods: NL7NN, NL7NN4606 at yahoo.com

Richard Block: KL7RLB, kl7rlb at clearwire.net

Tom Rutigliano, NL7TZ, tomr at alaska.net

Mike Romanello, KL7BK, kl7bk at mtaonline.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

WL7CWE: Cliffside Amateur Radio Association

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

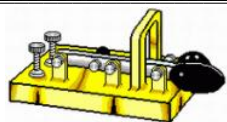
146.52 MHz Calling and Emergency frequency

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



Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-Central Alaska:

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

VHF

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

PARKA Net 147.30/90, 141.3 HZ 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.

Alaska VHF Up Net: 144.200 USB Saturdays 9:00 AM local

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 8:00 PM local



Internet Links, the favorites from our readers:

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

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

EARS <http://www.kl7air.us>

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

Moose Horn ARC <http://www.moosehornarc.com>

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

Practice Exams : <http://www.AA9PW.com>

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

ALASKA MARS: <http://www.akmars.org>

Alaska VHF-Up Group: <http://www.kl7uw.com/avg.htm>

Bethel Amateur Radio Klub: <http://www.al7yk.org/>

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 about amateur radio in Alaska.

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 Northeast 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.

SCRC general meeting has been suspended until further notice. No meetings are scheduled at this time.

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.

3rd Saturday of each Quarter month: EARS general meeting

at 3:00 PM. EARS meetings are held formally each Quarter during the first month: Jan, April, July, and October. Meetings are held informally each month 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@arrl.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@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 Tim Comfort, NL7SK, NL7SK@arrl.net.

2008

ALASKA ARRL Convention

HAMFEST 2008 Update

We are getting inquiries about our event daily.

♦ VIP UPDATE

We have confirmed that ARRL President Joel Harrison as well as two other Board Members of ARRL will be attending our event. Also VP Operations for AMSAT Drew Glasbrenner KO4MA.

♦ CRUISE

There is a cruise that arrives in Whittier on July 28th prior to the start of our Convention. This is a great opportunity to combine a dream vacation to Alaska with a business venture. Check out the website for more cruise details and travel discount options!

♦ RAFFLE TICKETS !

RAFFLE Tickets are printed! We will start selling tickets at the JANUARY Matanuska Amateur Radio Association meeting. Tickets are \$50.00 each for a chance at three separate drawings. The first drawing is a Yeasu 897 mobile radio, the second drawing is a Kenwood TS480V and the final GRAND PRIZE drawing is an ICOM 756 PRO III.

- ♦ Prizes will be drawn on 8/3/2008 at 4:00PM AST.
- ♦ DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!
- ♦ Tickets can be purchased by cash or check.
- ♦ If you live out of the area and wish to participate send a check for \$50 per ticket purchase to the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, PO BOX 101987, Anchorage, AK 99510-1987 and a ticket will be mailed to you.

UPDATE

♦ PLANNING MEETINGS (New Location)

We are having bi-monthly planning meetings for those wishing to attend. The planning meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 530PM in Anchorage at the Denny's restaurant on Denali between Benson and Northern Lights Blvd. **The Wasilla meeting is moving to a new location.** We will be meeting at the **American Red Cross Wasilla office** at 12PM Noon on the 3rd Sunday of each month. This will give us internet access, a better meeting area and a working room for projects. A potluck food effort will be coordinated.

We have a great team of volunteers energized and helping out. We are always hoping for more volunteers and have plenty of opportunities for everyone.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ♦ Are you going to any national amateur radio events in the next 6 months? If so your help in distributing information and promoting our event would be greatly appreciated. DAYTON, SEAPAC? If so let us know!

Email is the best way but a phone call or letter also is appreciated. You can email any member

NATIONAL VENDORS COMING TO ALASKA

 **GORDON WEST
RADIO SCHOOL**

Hi-Q-Antennas™ by W6HIQ
VE7BOC / HA5CMG



Idiom Press

CW Keyers Rotor Enhancements Books SCAF-1 Filter
View Cart Support Contact Us About Us Home



ICOM



KENWOOD
Listen to the Future

♦ TOURS & Fishing Charter

Many of our visitors will be coming to Alaska for the first time. We have arranged some tour options for our guests and attendees. In order to plan the logistics and services, participants must **PRE-REGISTER** for the activities.

HALIBUT CHARTER Tour option:

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a 'competitive' Halibut Charter on July 30th. 3 - '6 pack' boats will be leaving together for a day of Halibut fishing with 18 spots open on a first come, first served basis.

Most spots are expected to be filled by Radio Industry Professionals and guests. Any ham operator wanting to participate can sign up and register on the website. If our turn out is greater than 18, we have other 'boats' available. Costs per participant is: \$250. This includes travel to and from Homer as well as the boat rental costs.

Our halibut fishing trips begin at 7 AM when we leave the Homer harbor. Depending on the tide, we'll run one to one and a half hours where we'll alternately anchor and drift a variety of spots. Some anglers prefer to target the average sized halibut (20-40#) and enjoy the action this provides, while others have a "barn door" in mind. These large fish can literally bring grown adults to their knees. It can take a full day to recover from the battle. The limit is two halibut per person and you must hook your own fish. The reward is many fine meals of boneless white halibut fillets. After photographing your catch, you can sit back and enjoy the ride back to Homer while the crew fillets your catch. We'll arrive back in Homer about 5PM.



RAFFLE PRIZES



**1st Drawing
Yaesu 897**



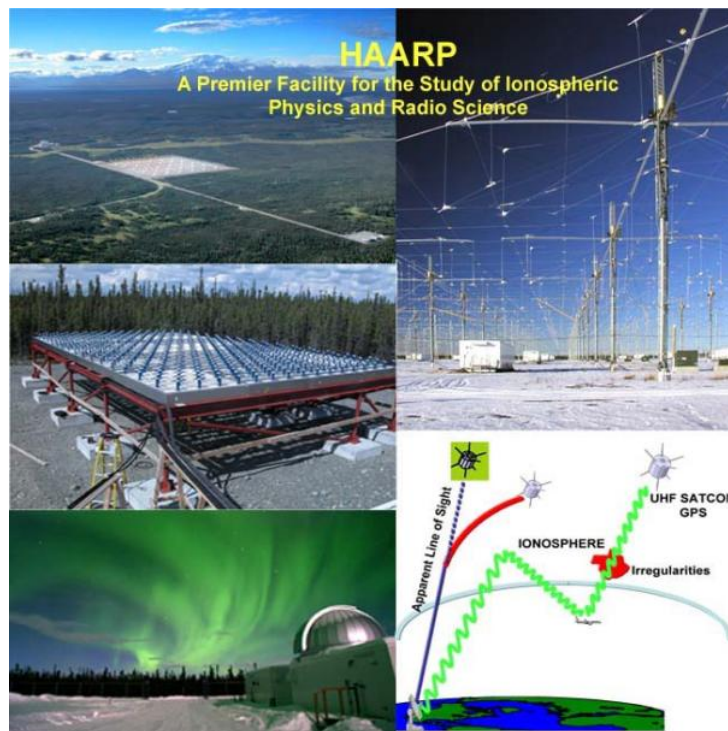
**2nd Drawing
Kenwood TS480V**



**3rd Drawing
Icom 756 ProIII**

GLENNALLEN HAARP Tour:

On Monday August 4, a motor coach will pick you up at the hotel and depart out the Glenn Highway where you will be able to travel and see the beautiful Talkeetna Mountains. While driving through the Copper Valley Center of Glennallen Alaska you will be able to view some of the largest mountains in North America including Mt. Drum, Mt. Sanford and Mt. Blackburn. Once at the HAARP facility in Gulkana a full tour guide of the facility will be completed. After the tour, a stop at the Wrangell St. Elias National Park Visitor Center and then a journey back to Anchorage down the Glenn Highway viewing some of the most majestic mountains in North America. Transportation will then be provided back to the hotel in Anchorage.



EME TOUR:

A tour of KL6M's EME (Earth-Moon-Earth or Moon bounce) communications station will be available on Friday 8/1/2008 in the afternoon prior to the BBQ on the park stirp. Transportation will be provided and leave from the Anchorage Sheraton. Pre-registration is required. Must be a US Citizen

We will be also taking a tour of KL7FH's ham station with another EME communications station in Anchorage.



THE MODULATION TIMES

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

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Club for more
than 50 years*

AMATEUR RADIO

