Solar Cycle 24 Begins

Hang on to your cell phone, a new solar cycle has just begun.


Above: Images of the first sunspot of Solar Cycle 24 taken by the NASA/ESA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO). [Larger image] [Movie]

Solar activity waxes and wanes in 11-year cycles. Lately, we've been experiencing the low ebb, "very few flares, sunspots, or activity of any kind," says Hathaway. "Solar minimum is upon us."

The previous solar cycle, Solar Cycle 23, peaked in 2000-2002 with many furious solar storms. That cycle decayed as usual to the present quiet leaving solar physicists little to do other than wonder, when would the next cycle begin?

The answer is now.

"New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot," explains Hathaway. "Reversed polarity" means a sunspot with opposite magnetic polarity compared to sunspots from the previous solar cycle. "High-latitude" refers to the sun's grid of latitude and longitude. Old cycle spots congregate near the sun's equator. New cycle spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude.

The sunspot that appeared on January 4th fits both these criteria. It was high latitude (30 degrees N) and magnetically reversed. NOAA named the spot AR10981, or "sunspot 981" for short.

Sunspot 981 was small—only about as wide as Earth, which counts as small on the grand scale of the sun—and it has already faded away. But its three day appearance on Jan. 4-6 was enough to convince most solar physicists that Solar Cycle 24 is underway.

Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado, likens sunspot 981 "to the first robin of spring. There's still snow on the ground, but the seasons are changing." Last year, Biesecker chaired the Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel, an international group of experts from many universities and government agencies. "We predicted that Solar Cycle 24 would begin around March 2008 and it looks like we weren't far off," he says.

The onset of a new solar cycle is significant because of our increasingly space-based technological society. "Solar storms can disable satellites that we depend on for weather forecasts and GPS navigation," says Hathaway. Radio bursts from solar flares can directly interfere with cell phone reception while coronal mass ejections (CMEs) hitting Earth can cause electrical power outages. "The most famous example is the Quebec outage of 1989, which left some Canadians without power for as much as six days."

Air travel can be affected, too. Every year, intercontinental flights carry thousands of passengers over Earth’s poles. It's the shortest distance between, say, New York and Tokyo or Beijing and Chicago. In 1999, United Airlines made just twelve trips over the Arctic. By 2005, the number of flights had ballooned to 1,402. Other airlines report similar growth.

"Solar storms have a big effect on polar regions of our planet," says Steve Hill of the Space Weather Prediction Center. "When airplanes fly over the poles during solar storms, they can experience radio blackouts, navigation errors and computer reboots all caused by space radiation." Avoiding the poles during solar storms solves the problem, but it costs extra time, money and fuel to "take the long way around."

Strange but True: While Solar Cycle 24 has begun, Solar Cycle 23 has not ended. Both cycles will coexist for a period of time, perhaps a year or more, as one dies down and the other comes to life. In the months ahead we may see old-cycle sunspots and new-cycle sunspots on the sun at the same time.

NASA is gearing up to study the active sun during Cycle 24 with the launch of a new spacecraft, the Solar Dynamics Observatory. "SDO is a very special observatory," says project scientist Dean Pesnell at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. "Using a technique called helioseismic imaging, the spacecraft will be able to look inside the sun where solar activity begins. SDO will join SOHO, STEREO, Hinode and other missions already in orbit to improve our understanding of solar storms and lay the groundwork for better space weather forecasts."

Now for the good news: More solar storms also means more auroras—"the greatest show on Earth." During the last solar maximum, Northern Lights were spotted as far south as Arizona, Florida and California. Not so long ago, only visitors to the Arctic regularly enjoyed auroras, but with increasing attention to space weather and constantly improving forecasts, millions of people at all latitudes will know when to go out and look. Much of this is still years away. "Intense solar activity won't begin immediately," notes Hathaway. "Solar cycles usually take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max, expected in 2011 or 2012."
It's a slow journey, but we're on our way.

Above: An increasing number of international business flights cross Earth's Arctic to save time, fuel and money.
Notes from the north side, KL7AA
CW-digital station for 2008 ARRL Field Day

ARRL Field Day has many facets that appeal to us in many different ways. Some come to compete as contesters, others to hone their operating skill, some to socialize in person with on-air friends, and some to exercise emergency preparedness. Once again the membership owes thanks and gratitude to Keith Clark (KL7MM) and T.J. Sheffield (KL7TS) for producing a Field Day gem that shined from many facets.

KL7AA fielded a two transmitter operation. The KL7AA CRV (does that stand for Command Recreational Vehicle??) was parked at a pullout along the main road to the Chalet in Kincaid Park. A second station was set up in Mike O’Keefe’s personal RV (KL7MK) about a quarter mile to the north in the dog training area. The CRV continues to be a show piece and good will messenger with a smoothly operating Yaesu FT-1000MP mark V driving a full 1.5 kW amplifier on sideband, with a 3 element trap triband yagi on the power-tower trailer parked next to it. The club’s weatherport tent with food and educational exhibits for visitors was placed nearby.

This year, however, the major new technical efforts were at the north station. The CW-digital station also sported an FT-1000MP mark V and 1.5 kW. The club’s SteppIR yagi and one of the BigIR (mark III) verticals with 32 radials cut for 80 meters were there. Also fielded for the first time were a new 40 foot tower, two new 40 foot extendable Hot Sticks, and a 274 foot loop antenna strung between the power tower, the Hot Sticks, and the new tower.

Corny Eastman (KLØFK) proctored the KL7G GOTA station in one corner of the dog training field using entirely borrowed equipment and tent.

The radio, the antennas, and the logging program were all tied together with the new microHam microKeyer II. Enabled by the microKeyer and through the extensive efforts of Rich Gillin (KL2RG) and the early work by Sean Jensen (KL2CO) the club and the FD station also ran digital modes RTTY and PSK31.

On top of the new tower was the club’s new SAMS (Symmetric Antenna Matching System) from Array Solutions, perhaps the only one of its kind, shipped to us just in time by Heinz Bolli (HB9KOF) as he undergoes chemotherapy. Walter Orell, not yet a ham but we can’t wait until he is, set up an experimental local intranet cloud that allowed real-time video, e-mail, and white board conferencing capability between the two sites.

This year the north station seemed the center of activity. Club members and visitors came down the dirt road to see the neat stuff. The CW-digital log had stations worked by KL7Z, KL2RG, KL2CO, and WBØCMZ.

And did it work? Mostly yes.

The microKeyer works well.
The stacked SteppIR and BigIR antennas worked well.
The Hot Stick supports were very well.
The SAMS tuner worked, but there is still more testing and to be done. The loop antenna tuned well through preliminary testing. At least on receive it seemed to have gain over the BigIR, but we look forward to further testing.

The new tower supported the 40 pound SAMS package, even though to gin-pole and raising tackle were not yet ready for deployment.
The new hinge mount for the SteppIR yagi worked nicely, but the wind liked to rock it like a cradle so some additional design may be in order.
GOTA made only a couple contacts because of a difficult manual MFJ tuner, but the operating position was fun and retro-minimalist.

We made some contacts. Statistics will be posted later. We succeeded with the W1AW bulletin on digital modes. We fell down on traffic handling. There was only a little down time over the 24 hours.

We all had fun. Field Day was therefore a success.
Let’s do it again, bigger and better!

Roger Gollub, WBØCMZ
CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Kathleen O’Keefe (KL7KO).

ANNOUNCEMENT
Kathleen O’Keefe presented the May Board approved expenditures and asked for comment or questions to which there were none. Kathleen noted that anyone wishing to have business brought before the Board may contact her at President@KL7AA.net.

SPECIAL ELECTION
Kathleen O’Keefe reported the AARC Board had selected Calex Gonzalez (KL2BT) to complete the 1 Year Board Member term of Richard Block (KL7RLB) who resigned his position in May. Kathleen asked for a show of hands of the membership in support of the Board’s decision which was approved with no opposition.

PRESENTATIONS
Jerry Beaver, KTVA Channel 11 General Manager, gave a presentation on the DTV Television Campaign. On February 17, 2009 at 11:59:59pm analog television signals will be turned off. Jerry noted that broadcasters have spent upwards of $5 Billion upgrading equipment and that 92% of stations are already broadcasting in digital format. Jerry noted the consumer options of purchasing a new TV set, purchasing a convertor box or subscribing to a pay TV service. Consumers may apply for a coupon worth $40 towards the purchase of a convertor box. There is a limitation of 2 coupons per address, applications can be made by phone to (888)DTV-2009, online at www.mydtv2009.gov, or by mail (applications are available at the Post Office), the coupon will not be mailed to Post Office boxes, and the coupon is only good for 90 days from the date of issuance. The date to convert translators has not been set and there is a coordinated effort to cut all translators over at the same time.

Jerry referred members to www.antennaweb.org and www.dtvanswers.com for further explanation. It was noted that DTV and HDTV are not the same thing as DTV is a transmission method whereas HDTV describes a level of quality. Jerry and KTVA’s station engineer, Pat answered several questions from members regarding transmission power output, interference, frequencies, and antennas.

OTHER
T.J. Tombleson (KB8JXX) reported on a recent agreement between Cliffside Amateur Radio Club and AT&T for the placement of 20 repeaters and use of AT&T’s infrastructure. Additional information can be found at www.WL7CWE.org.

T.J. Sheffield (KL7TS) spoke briefly on the upcoming Field Day event. T.J. detailed the need for Station Captains, Activity Specialists, Setup will begin Friday, June 27th at Kincaid and the stations will begin operation at 10am Saturday and operate until 10am Sunday. Location for the south-end SSB station will at the Nike staging area of the park and the north-end CW/Digital/SSB multi-mode station will be at the Hundenplatz dog training area of the park. Contact T.J. at KL7TS@arrl.net or KL7TS@hotmail.com for more information. T.J. introduced Roger Gollub (WB0CMZ) and Rich Gillin (KL2RG) who have worked to get the digital station up and running and ready for Field Day. They will have the Field Day digital station up on 5 or 6 modes.

John Lynn (KL7CY) gave a report on the upcoming Mayors Marathon and the need for volunteers for several checkpoints as well as an APRS/computer operator. Contact John at KL7CY@arrl.net to volunteer and more information can be found at www.mayorsmarathon.com or www.kl7aa.net.
Heather Hasper KL7SP provided an update on the 2008 Alaska Hamfest/Convention. Speakers from Dayton participating in this event include Lyle Johnson KK7P, Clint Hurd KK7UQ and ARRL President Joel Harrison W5ZN. Heather provided an update on the Augie Hebert Memorial Luncheon to be held during the convention, the Opening Barbeque, HAARP tour, sponsor, vendors and registrations. Registrations have been received from the UK, Japan, Australia, Russia and Germany for this event.

Heather provided an update on the Arctic Circle Special Event Station. The W1AW/KL7 call has been issued for the first time in Alaska for use from July 26th to August 10th. Ray Novak from Icom has volunteered to sponsor all radio equipment required to operate the station and SteppIR may be offering antenna support. Trucks with trailer towing capability and motor homes are being sought for the event as well as set up and tear down support. Heather noted that a sign up sheet for operators and volunteers had been posted for the meeting.

It was noted that there would NOT be a July membership meeting at the APU campus and that a Fourth of July barbeque would be held at the AARC CCV garage at 5923 Rowan St in Anchorage in place of the meeting and no business will be held.

Door Prize Drawing
NL7W, KL7BM and KL7HM

The meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Submitted as recorded on June 6, 2008 by:

Richard Tweet, KL2AZ
Secretary
CORRESPONDENCE REPORT
Richard Tweet requested a copy of Richard Block’s resignation from the Board for inclusion in AARC correspondence. Kathleen O’Keefe will forward the email to Richard.

TREASURER’S REPORT
There was no Treasurers report given.

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

TRUSTEE REPORT
Keith Clark reported that he is receiving many Q’s from Rich Gillian KL2RG from digital contacts. KL7AA club call sign will be used for Field Day.

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

ARES TRAINING
There will not be formal training this month due to the Mayors Marathon and Field Day.

OLD BUSINESS

REPLACEMENT TREASURER
A discussion was held regarding hiring a bookkeeping service to replace some of the AARC Treasurer’s functions. Jim Larsen reported on meeting with Vicky McCormick with Account Ability who was one of the bookkeeping firms recommended by AARC’s CPA, Lisa Rogers. Account Ability estimates services could be performed for AARC for $60/hr and should require less than 8 hours per month to perform the bookkeeping services required. Discussion included obtaining Account Ability’s services on a short term basis until the next membership meeting (September) is held to obtain membership approval, Account Ability would not have signature authority as deposits, transfers and other monetary issues would be handled by the Treasurer and reimbursement requests, invoices, bills and items of that nature would have checks prepared by the accountant for the Treasurers signature on a scheduled basis. The AARC Treasurer would then monthly receive the files for that month and integrate them with the Treasurers files at the CCV garage.

Account Ability would maintain the records and upload to the AARC FTP site to prevent double entries and other errors and provide monthly reports for AARC review. Motion made Diane Olson KL1MY, seconded Craig Severson KL2FN to obtain the services of Account Ability for a period of 4 months at a cost not to exceed $2200.00 to allow for services until a vote of the membership can be obtained. The motion carried unanimously. Motion made Jim Larsen AL7FS, seconded Michael O’Keefe KL7MD that the AARC board propose the use of Account Ability at a rate of approximately $500.00 per month for a period of 12 months. Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL PROJECTS
T.J. Sheffield reported that 16 Capital Projects are active and are 75% staffed with Project Managers. Status of open projects has not changed from last month. The Project Committee meets each Wednesday with the first meeting of the month being a formal committee meeting and the following weeks being hands on, working meetings. Discussion as to status of antennas being ordered for Mt. Susitna and also replacement coax for inventory was held. Jim Larsen raised the question from the Kodiak hams to allow the use of a range extender in Homer to allow communication via the Mt. Susitna repeater. An issue regarding Part 97 rules (Chapter 3, Special Operations) review regarding the use of range extenders requires more in depth re-search and discussion.

Jim Larsen reported on a meeting he had with Col. Bob Eisenburgh who is on assignment to review the communications infrastructure within the state and interoperability between agencies. Col. Eisenburgh is very supportive of amateur radio (he and his wife are both licensed amateur radio operators), and believes ham radio will be the primary mode of communication following a major disaster in Alaska.

REAL ESTATE
Keith Clark reported that he is still monitoring properties as they become available.

KL7AIR REPEATER
Keith Clark reported that Doug Dickenson came in and did an inventory of available equipment. One repeater is available. Decision will be made by the next Board meeting.
STATEWIDE CONVENTION/HAMFEST
Kathleen O’Keefe reported on email from Fairbanks club. They are looking for support (in the form of a disposable piece of radio equipment) to use in the launch of a high altitude packet Digipeater which will be launched in conjunction with the Arctic Circle Special Event Station. Jim Larsen noted the group in Kodiak is planning a similar launch, however it will not be in conjunction with the Hamfest.

SILENT KEY PLAQUE
Diane Olson noted that Susan Woods has compiled a list of 60 Silent Keys and now the plaque is ready to have those silent keys engraved on it. Discussion was held regarding utilizing the plaque vs. a website tribute, prepaid engraving costs, and display opportunities of the silent key plaque. Motion made Diane Olson KL1MY, seconded Paul Spatzek WL7BF to have the 60 gathered Silent Key names engraved on the Silent Key Plaque at a cost not to exceed $600.00. The motion carried with one abstention.

ELECTION COMMITTEE
A brief discussion was held on the time required to count ballots, volunteers for the Election Committee, and election timeline. Richard Tweet was delegated by Kathleen O’Keefe to select the 2008 Election Committee.

REPORT ON CCV and POWER/TOWER TRAILERS
Power/Tower trailers have been serviced by Alaska Diesel Electric and are ready to be picked up. Repairs were made to air filter housings, batteries replaced, generator control issue repaired, and units were tuned up and serviced. Total cost was $713.68. Trailers will be returned to the CCV garage on Wednesday June 18th. It was noted that Bruce McCormick and Michael O’Keefe are coordinating AARC equipment logistics for the Arctic Circle Special event station.

MARA TRAILER UPDATE
John Orella provided the final report on the MARA trailer project. This report will be forwarded to Heather Hasper for incorporation into the club records.

HAM SHACK FAX
Richard Tweet reported that he has researched the fax line issue at the CCV garage. Distinctive Ring is offered by ACS at no charge and is required to allow the AARC fax share the digital voice line and to differentiate between voice and fax calls. This will require a new listed fax number for the AARC and a voice/fax switch (approximately $90).

NEW BUSINESS

CONNEX DISPOSAL
Michael O’Keefe reported that Bridgette Buschue, Anchorage Fire Chief, wants the AARC connex removed from the Fire Training Center property within the next month. Discussion was held as to connex contents, storage location, and connex disposal. Jim Larsen, Michael O’Keefe and Calex Gonzalez will work on relocation of the connex.

KODIAK NEW BOOKS
Jim Larsen reported on his trip to Kodiak. The Kodiak Library has ARRL books that are in need of updating. The Kodiak Club has asked that the AARC provide current ARRL publications to the Kodiak Library. Motion made John Orella KL7LL, seconded Diane Olson KL1IL to authorize up to $250.00 to provide Ham Radio manuals to the Kodiak Public Library via the Kodiak Amateur Radio Club as listed in email to Jim Larsen. Motion carried unanimously.

TRUCK RENTAL
Michael O’Keefe brought up for discussion the proposition to downsize the AARC CCV Vehicle(s). Discussion was held regarding vehicle types, 4 wheel drive capability, new vs. used, Emergency Communication Fund, specialty vehicle bodies, and storage location(s). T.J. Sheffield suggested pitching the idea to the Project Committee.

PROGRAM FOR JULY MEETING
Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of the scheduled July 4th CCV Garage Barbeque. After a show of hands to see availability of Board members in Anchorage on July 4th, motion made Jim Larsen AL7FS, seconded Richard Kotsch WL7CPX to cancel the July 4th meeting/Barbeque. The motion passed with no opposition.

OTHER
Jim Larsen reported the Jim Wiley has prepared 30 exam copies of the Extra exam with the new question pool and they will be available for the next testing session.

APPROvals, KL7AA IN THE NEXT MONTH
None

ADJOURNMENT
Motion made Diane Olson KL1MY, seconded Craig Severson KL2FN to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 6/17/08 by Richard Tweet, Secretary
KL7AA BADGES are AVAILABLE!
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, KL7MD 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 KL7MD for picking up this project.

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

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.

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.

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

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 at clearwire.net
The Alaska DX Club (KL7DX and KL7CQ) has been granted a third call sign which we will be using for a yearlong special event (2009) in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Alaska's Statehood. The call sign is KL5O.

Attached a picture of what the QSL card will look like.

**No ARES Training in July 2008.**

We will be mobilizing the equipment for the Arctic Circle Station on Saturday July 19th, 2008. Stations who are interested in participating should contact Bruce McCormick, KL7BM.

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.


**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.

**LIDS Cartoons** are the creation of NL7SK, Tim Comfort and are available for purchase on CD for only $15. All sale proceeds go to support the Matanuska Amateur Radio Association.

[www.kl7jfu.com](http://www.kl7jfu.com)

**ARES District 7 Contact Information**

Michael O'Keefe, KL7MD

[DEC7 at kl7aa.net](mailto:DEC7@kl7aa.net)
After 18 months of planning and outreach, the hamfest is less than 25 days away. The next few pages will summarize our outreach efforts and provide all of you out there with some information about the upcoming activities and speakers we are fortunate to be having at the 2008 ARRL Alaska State Convention.

BBQ, Friday August 1, 2008
Our event kicks off with a BBQ on the Anchorage Park Strip. Starting at 530 on Friday August 1, 2008, there will be a BBQ hosted by the Matanuska Amateur Radio Association. Door prizes will be announced throughout the evening followed by a transmitter hunt at 800 PM to keep everybody on their toes and learning the streets of Anchorage.

The BBQ will be held between I Street and L Street near the Memorial. The cost is $15. This is included in the full registration package.

REGISTRATION
The Registration desk will be located on the 2nd Floor of the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel just outside of the Exhibit Hall. The Registration table if you would like to check in early will be open Friday, August 1st from 1 till 5 PM. The desk will then open again at 800 AM on Saturday August 2, 2008 to allow for table sales, vendor check ins and early check ins.

EXHIBIT HALL
*Note for Table sales: purchasing a table does not get you access to the exhibit hall. You must also purchase an entrance ticket. Table sales are $20.

TOURS
We have several pre and post activity tours planned. Friday afternoon from 2 - 5, we will have three tours available. Pick up for these events will take place at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel on 6th Avenue.
EME Tour:
State EOC Tour:
SPEAKERS
We have a great list of speakers lined up from all over the United States and the world. We will have simultaneous seminar sessions in both the morning and afternoons. Some of our key speakers include:

- Gordon West, WB6NOA
- Scott Honaker, N7SS
- Clint Hurd, KK7UQ
- Lyle Johnson, KK7P
- Jeff ‘Shorty’ Stouffer, KL7JSI
- Drew Glassbrenner, AMSAT
- Ed Cole, KL7UW
- Neil Heft, KC2KY
- Steve Hatch, WA7DAD

Augie Hiebert Memorial Luncheon
On Saturday, August 2, 2008 we will have an honorary lunch to recognize one of Alaska’s greatest communication pioneers, Augie Hiebert. Augie was a charter member of both the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, KL7AA and the Arctic Amateur Radio Club, KL7KC. Several Elected officials have been invited to attend including Governor Palin and FCC Chairman Kevin Martin.

AWARDS BANQUET and Entertainment
After a great day of seminars and fun playing with radios brought up by vendors, Saturday evening we will have an Awards Banquet and Entertainment. Our guest entertainment includes the famous ‘MR. WHITEKEYS’.

Join us for a fun evening of FOOD and FUN Under the Midnight Sun while we enjoy a fun Alaska show that combines an Alaska delicacy, SPAM and HAM radio into a room full of laughter with the ‘WHALE FAT FOLLIES’

WOUFF HONG Ceremony
For the first time in over 30 years, the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong will be holding the initiation ritual in Alaska. Saturday night at the midnight hour the ceremony begins.

VE TESTING
A VE testing session will be available early Saturday afternoon for all stations wanting to get a new license or upgrade their current license at the hamfest. For more information contact Jim Wiley, KL7CC:jwiley@alaska.net

ARRL FORUM
Come learn about the benefits of membership in the largest amateur radio organization in the world. Leaders of the ARRL including ARRL President Joel Harrison and NW Division Director Jim Fenstermaker will provide an in-depth view of what issues the ARRL is currently addressing on behalf of amateur radio.
Arctic Circle Special Event Station
All amateurs, regardless of license class, are cordially invited to help make this special amateur radio event a success and a memory that will not soon be forgotten. The Special Event will operate from the Arctic Circle during the week preceding the upcoming 2008 ARRL Alaska State Convention. Operations from the Arctic Circle will begin with setup on Friday, July 25th and plan to be on the air July 26th through August 10th, with at least four stations including two all-band HF stations, a two-meter FM station and a Satellite setup. Six-meter operations may also be available.

Our operation will be just starting on 14.292 USB and 3933KHz. We will also use 50.125MHz to start. Once we are up and running our operation will move off to more traditional parts of the bands. All Bands, All Modes, All Day 24x7 for 16 days. The hams in Fairbanks will be releasing the current data to the world as we move into the daily routine. 06:00 to 14:00 UTC will be our ride in the Gray-Line Terminator.

We will also be running 146.760MHz D-Star on the Arctic Circle.

A fun time will be had by all. See 2008 QST on page 21 for more info and Pix.

Visitors can sign up to operate any of these stations or, if you prefer, you are encouraged to bring your own radio equipment to Alaska and set up a temporary operation on the Arctic Circle adjacent to the Special Event station with your own call sign. (Grid Square BP-56 )

Guest operators will receive a certificate of operation from this unique location and QSL cards with this special unique callsign will be available.

Commercial sponsorships are being pursued and we are currently planning the logistics of what equipment will be used. Keep checking www.akhamfest.com for more updates about our special event stations.
WHEN: August 1 – 4, 2008
WHERE: Anchorage Sheraton

The ARRL Alaska State Convention will be the largest hamfest and gathering of ham radio operators in Alaska in over 30 years.

TABLES
Local Amateur Operators: $20.00/ Table

In an effort to accommodate our national vendors, tables are available to local operators on a first come, first serve basis. Operators wishing to reserve a table prior to the hamfest to ensure space and availability may do so by submitting a request via email to: info(at)akhamfest.com This does not include the admission cost of entry into the Exhibit Hall. Tables will only be available on Saturday. Sunday will be dedicated to National Vendors and out Country store auction.

VENDORS

CQ CQ CQ, HOUSING OPTIONS
Attention all Anchorage and Mat Valley Amateurs

We are looking for housing and motor home/trailer space for our Alaska Out of Town Amateurs. Anyone who can graciously provide a spare room or space to park a camper, please contact Carol Bush/KL2FA at cbush@gci.net or call 907 746 6844. We are not looking for hook ups for the campers, just a place to park them during the HAMFEST. We’ll list your information and any details or requirements you may have for your visitors, so as to match the folks up the best we can. This will definitely help our Out of Town Hams.

Thank you
Carol Bush, KL2FA

For More information, Feel free to contact:
➔ Heather Hasper, at KL7SP@arrl.net,
➔ Mike Romanello, KL7BK, KL7BK@mtaonline.net
➔ Richard Tweet, at KL2AZ@arrl.net, 907-244-4335

High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) Tour
August 4th 2008

On Monday, August 4, travel 125 miles through the Matanuska Valley and along scenic views of the Chugach Mountains to the town of Gakona. Then tour the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP), a world class ionospheric research facility. Tour includes round trip transportation, facility tour and a box lunch. Due to Air Force regulations, all visitors must be U.S. citizens. Tour cost $100. Sign up for this tour on the Registration page at www.akhamfest.com
2007 Board of Directors

President: Kathleen O'Keefe, KL7KO  president at kl7aa.net
Vice Pres:  Jim Larsen, AL7FS  vicepresident at kl7aa.net
Secretary: Richard Tweet, KL2AZ  secretary at kl7aa.net
Treasurer: Heather Hasper, KL7SP  treasurer at kl7aa.net

Activities Chairman:
Richard Kotsch, WL7CPX  activities at kl7aa.net

Membership Chairman:
Fred Erickson, KL7FE  membership at kl7aa.net

News Letter Editor:
Heather Hasper, KL7SP  editor at 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
Craig Severson - KL2FN, chipman at clearwire.net
John Orella: KL7LL, kl7ll at arrl.net
Mike Romanello, KL7BK, kl7bk at mtaonline.net

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

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

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**

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
440.70/449.70, 25 watts, auto-patch, 103.5 PL

**WL7CVC: Mount Susitna** 4,396 ft
VHF: WL7CVC/R1 147.270/147.870 PL 103.5, no auto-patch
UHF: WL7CVC/R3 443.300/448.300 PL 103.5, no auto-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

**KL5F Chugiak** 147.15/147.75, 123.0 Hz PL, auto-patch

**KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA**: 146.45/146.25, 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
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
Bethel Amateur Radio Klub:  http://www.al7yk.org/
Links for Propagation  
http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/  
http://www.amqrp.org/misc/links.html
QRP and Homebrew Links  http://www.AL7FS.us
Solar Terrestrial Activity  http://209.130.27.95/solar/
ARRL  http://www.arrl.org/
Propagation Report Recording 566-1819
Please let us know if there are other clubs pages or good starting points that should appear here.
Report dead links or bad info to editor@kl7aa.net

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 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 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/

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.

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 at arrl.net.

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

AUGUST 1st - August 4th, 2008