

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

No club meeting in July due to HOLIDAY



This month:

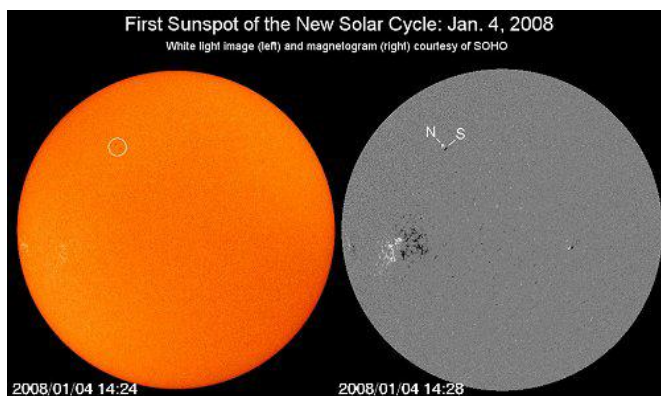
ARRL CONVENTION UPDATES

Speakers, Schedules and Special
Event stations

Solar Cycle 24 Begins

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

"On January 4, 2008, a reversed-polarity sunspot appeared—and this signals the start of Solar Cycle 24," says David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center.



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 congre-

gate 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 Cycle 24 Begins cont.

Right: The first auroras of the new solar cycle, photographed Jan. 4, 2008, by Calvin Hall of Palmer, Alaska.



"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."

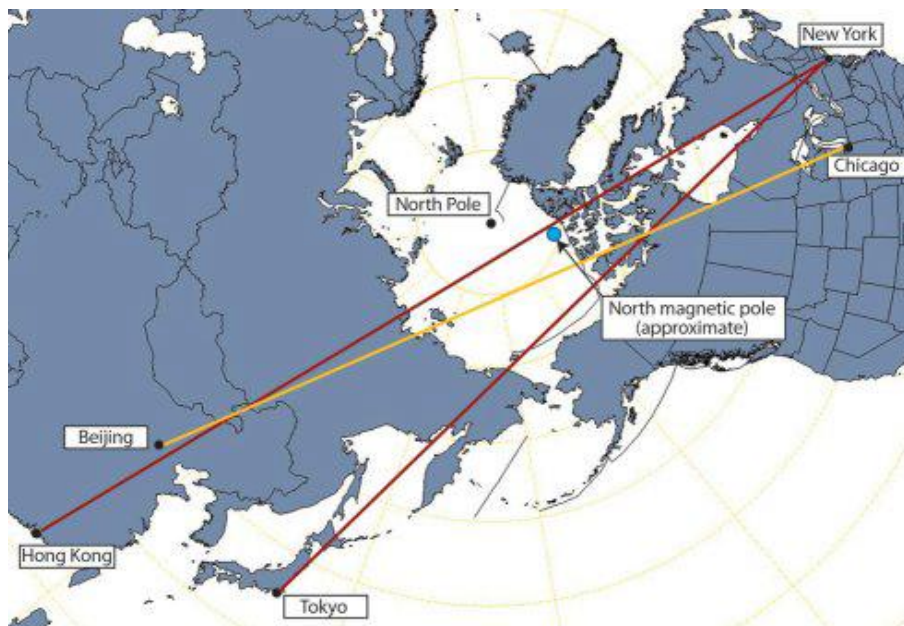
Strange but True: While Solar Cycle 24 has begun, Solar Cycle 23 has not ended. Both cycles will coexist for a period of time, perhaps a year or more, as one dies down and the other comes to life. In the months ahead we may see old-cycle sunspots and new-cycle sunspots on the sun at the same time.

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.



FIELD DAY 2008

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



KL7AA Club Business

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 6, 2008

**Carr Gottstein Building – APU Campus
Anchorage, AK**

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 Calix 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 be 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.



AMATEUR RADIO

KL7AA Club Business

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



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ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BOARD MEETING

June 17th, 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, Vice President Jim Larsen AL7FS, Secretary Richard Tweet KL2AZ, Activities Director Richard Kotsch WL7CPX, Paul Spatzek WL7BF, Craig Severson KL2FN, T.J Sheffield KL7TS, Calex Gonzalez KL2BT, Tom Rutigliano NL7TZ, Diane Olson KL1MY, Michael O'Keefe KL7MD, John Orella KL7LL

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Clark KL7MM

EXCUSED

Mike Romanello KL7BK, Susan Woods NL7NN,

UNEXCUSED

Frank Pratt KL7RX,

REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Larsen requested to add Kodiak Visit to New Business

Jim Larsen requested to discussion of Bookkeeping services to Replacement Treasurer

Richard Tweet requested to add Ham Shack fax machine to Old Business

GUESTS

Eric Macintosh KL2FM, Kim Gonzalez KL2BQ, Rich Gillian KL2RG, Bruce McCormick KL7BM.

SECRETARY REPORT

Previous Board meeting minutes for May meeting and General Membership meeting minutes for June were presented. Motion made Diane Olson KL1MY, seconded Calex Gonzalez KL2BT to accept the minutes as presented to include the correction of the spelling of Bever (from Beaver) in the June membership minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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 research 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.

KL7AA Club Business cont.

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

AARC BADGES

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, 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.



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

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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.



CLUB COATS

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



714

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



www.kl7jfu.com



ARRL ALASKA CONVENTION

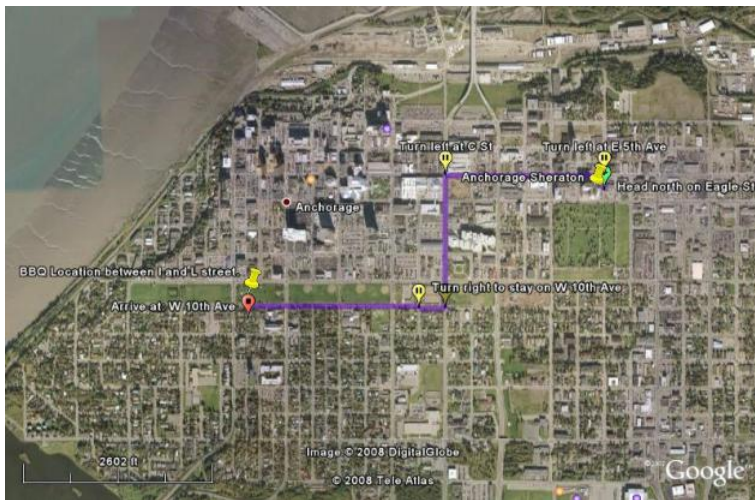


After 18 months of planning and outreach, the hamfest is less than 25 days away. The next few pages will summarize our outreach efforts and provide all of you out there with some information about the upcoming activities and speakers we are fortunate to be having at the 2008 ARRL Alaska State Convention.



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

The Exhibit Hall opens at 900AM on Saturday, August 2, 2008. Vendor access and table sale access begins at 800AM.

Confirmed vendors include:

ARRL, FCC, AMSAT, ICOM, YAESU, NCG, VIS Amateur Radio Supply, Books Etc, Polar Wire, Renewable Energy Resources, HiQ Antennas, Heil Sound, Comm Magazine, Idiom Press, Buddi-Pole and others.

*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'

*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 station 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.



2008

ALASKA ARRL Convention

HAMFEST 2008

W1AW/KL7

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.

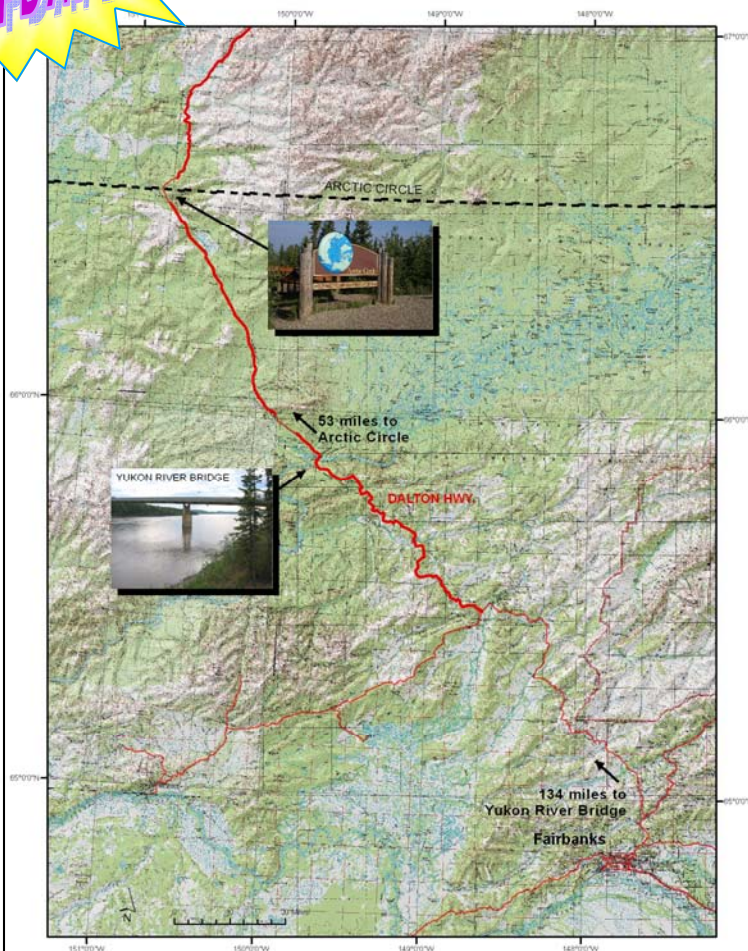
Visitors can sign up to operate any of these stations or, if you prefer, you are encouraged to bring your own radio equipment to Alaska and set up a temporary operation on the Arctic Circle adjacent to the Special Event station with your own call sign. (Grid Square BP-56)

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.

Transportation up to Alaska's Arctic Circle can be made at any of the Tour companies that offer daily round-trip service to Alaska's Arctic Circle and even beyond to Deadhorse-Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope. You can return back down to Fairbanks Alaska and motor your way down through Mt. McKinley-Denali Park or you can just fly straight down to Anchorage, Alaska.

UPDATE



Make your Travel Plans Now!

Tours, Hotels and Transportation book up fast during Alaska's busy summer season.

Don't delay, make your reservations ASAP!



2008

ALASKA ARRL Convention

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](mailto: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

Ham Radio Outlet, ICOM, VIS Amateur Supply, EZ HANG, Idiom Press, Yaesu, AMSAT, HEIL Sound, NGC, Comet Antennas, VIS Amateur Radio Supply, W5YI, Gordon West Radio School

CQ CQ CQ, HOUSING OPTIONS

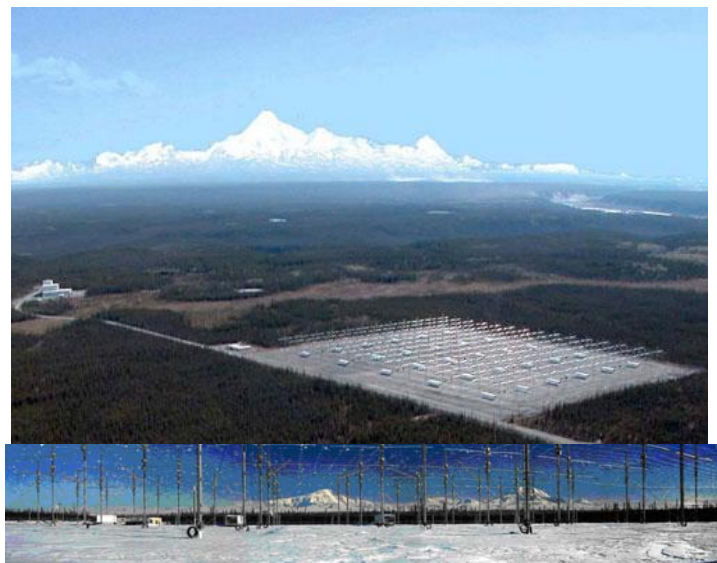
Attention all Anchorage and Mat Valley
Amateurs

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



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)

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

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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 acs.alaska.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

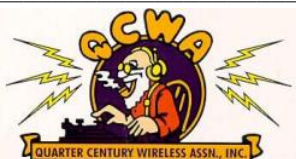
146.49 MHz Anchorage area simplex chat

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

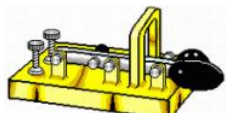
Alaska Motley Net: 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily

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, 52.320 FM, 29.6 FM 28.400 USB

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: Echolink: KL7TQ

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.

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 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 at arrl.net](mailto:NL7SK@arrl.net).

THE MODULATION TIMES

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc
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AMATEUR RADIO

CQ, CQ, CQ
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**ARRL ALASKA
State
Convention**



AUGUST 1st - August 4th, 2008