

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club



Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting

Friday, March 7, 2014

7:00 PM

Carr-Gottstein Bldg.

Dave Snider

National Weather Service

Interfaces between Amateur Radio and the National Weather Service



The amateur's code, formulated in 1928

§1 - The amateur is considerate

He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others

§2 - The amateur is loyal

He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club and his national association, through which amateur radio is represented

§3 - The amateur is progressive

He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well-built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach

§4 - The amateur is friendly

Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are the marks of the amateur spirit

§5 - The amateur is balanced

Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school or his community

§6 - The amateur is patriotic

His knowledge and his station are always ready for service of his country and his community

From John Lynn

Email johnlynn@gci.net or KL7CY@arrl.net

2014 Vital Connection Exercise Drill Summary

BACKGROUND

The Vital Connection exercise was offered through USNORTHCOM to “Promote communications interoperability between DoD, Federal, State, Tribal, & emergency responders”. It was designed to establish a non-threatening testing and learning environment for participants to test interoperable communications. This event was deemed *keystone* for the Functional and Full Scale exercises planned within the State of Alaska in the near future.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this exercise drill was to test interoperable voice and data communication between all participating agencies. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) was one of many specific agencies listed. From an ARES perspective, the following specific communications resources were to be potentially exercised during this drill:

SEOC: Located on Fort Richardson.

VHF voice

VHF packet

EARS/R1 North: Located at R1 North on Elmendorf AFB.

Winlink VHF Packet RMS, WL7CVG-10. System connected to terrestrial commercial internet.

AARC Club Station: Located at 5923 Rowan Street, Anchorage

VHF Voice

Winlink VHF Packet RMS, KL7AA-10. Frequency 144.98 MHz. System connected to HughesNet satellite internet.

VHF Packet

HF Voice

HF Pactor

ALMR HT

KL7JFT: Located in Palmer.

VHF Voice

Winlink VHF RMS, KL7JFT-10. Frequency 145.19 MHz. System connected to terrestrial commercial internet.

HF Voice

HF Pactor

Anchorage EOC: Located at 1305 E Street, Anchorage

VHF Voice

VHF Packet

American Red Cross: Located at 235 E 8th Avenue, Anchorage

VHF Packet

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KL7EDK: Located in Fairbanks

VHF Voice

VHF Packet

HF Pactor

AD4BL: Located in Fairbanks

VHF Voice

VHF Packet

HF Pactor

ARES involvement in Vital Connection was on 21 Feb 2014. It centered on use of the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system (roll call), as well as testing various communications pathways to deliver traffic in digital form from the SEOC on JBER to the Alaska SEC, Linda Mullen, AD4BL in Fairbanks. We also ran traffic between the SEOC and the Anchorage EOC (AEOC), and between the SEOC and the America Red Cross (ARC) Headquarters in Anchorage. Further, we had intended to run traffic from the SEOC to deployed Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management ([DHS&EM](#)) Rapid Com 1 Trailer at the Alcantra site in Palmer.

EXERCISE ACTIVITIES

The SEOC performed an ALMR roll call at 0800. When net control called for ARES, KL7TS located at the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) checked in as ARES using one of the ALMR HTs. There was clearly an opportunity here for other participation of other ARES assets with ALMR capability, as well as a need to add ALMR capability to some of our ARES assets.

At 1000L, we commenced traffic distribution via various pathways from the SEOC. A total of 12 messages were planned to be passed out of the SEOC. Nine were bound for the SEC, with each being routed in a unique fashion to test our capabilities. One was bound for the AEOC, one was bound for the ARC, and one was bound for the DHS&EM Rapid Com 1 trailer. Each message was formatted in ICS 213, General Message Format.

Rather than detailing the results of each message and route, the following summarizes the digital traffic activity and findings:

It was possible to hit the WL7CVG-10 VHF RMS at R1 North on Elmendorf AFB direct from the SEOC. Traffic was successfully passed in both directions with this station.

We were not able to make contact with KL7AA-3, the Anchorage EOC during this exercise due to equipment configurations and time constraints. We believe that the equipment configuration issue has been resolved.

It was possible to hit KL7ARC-1, the Anchorage Red Cross Headquarters on VHF direct.

We **COULD NOT** hit the KL7AA-10 VHF RMS or the KL7AA packet station in South Anchorage direct on VHF from the SEOC. We were only able to run traffic to this location by digipeating through the Anchorage Red Cross station, KL7AA-3.

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We **COULD NOT** hit the KL7JFT-10 VHF RMS or KL7JFT in Palmer direct from the SEOC. Unfortunately, we were unable to explore opportunities to digipeat to KL7JFT peer-to-peer via the KL7AIR R1 north packet station, or any other possible digipeaters in the area. The only way we were able to move traffic to KL7JFT was to send it directly to one of the Anchorage VHF RMS stations for insertion into the internet. This method did not successfully simulate loss of terrestrial or satellite internet connectivity and failed to demonstrate any ability to move digital traffic from the SEOC to KL7JFT, our main communications hub in the region, without some sort of human intervention or relay.

No traffic was run with the DHS&EM Rapid Com 1 trailer. The station was reportedly never brought online during the drill.

HF conditions were marginal at best during this event which restricted our ability to run traffic in state, point to point. KL7JFT was able to pass traffic to Winlink HF RMS stations outside of the state to deliver traffic to the SEC. KL7AA did not attempt to route traffic to an out of state HF RMS due to inadequate exercise tasking instructions.

Voice communications summary:

Voice communications on the EARS KL7AIR 146.67 repeater were poor. Reports from KL7AA and the Anchorage EOC were that the SEOC signal was up and down, weak and broken with static into the repeater.

Voice communications on the KL7ION 147.30 repeater were better, but reports from KL7AA and the Anchorage EOC, again, were that the SEOC was not as solid as it should have been.

NOTE: Several days after the exercise, KL7EV identified a faulty VHF antenna at the SEOC which caused the difficulties noted in items 1 and 2 above. A different and fully functional VHF antenna is now in service on the system.

In addition to the traffic indicated above, SEOC officials sought us out and asked us to pass message traffic via Winlink to three specific e-mail addresses within the facility. The purpose was to help ensure that the SEOC firewall would allow Winlink traffic through. All message traffic indeed passed through successfully.

FINDINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

It was clear during this activity that a number of opportunities exist relative to station equipment installations, station equipment performance, link capabilities, operator training, and facility access. The following line items, in no particular order, indicate clear opportunities, some of them critical, for successful completion of the ARES mission in case of a disaster of any sort that might take down commercial communications system in the Anchorage area:

The current VHF station at the SEOC appears to have some sort of antenna problem. It could be a feed line issue, a problem with the antenna itself, or perhaps antenna location. It was clear that this station did not get out well, nor did it receive well. There is only one of

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these stations currently in the SEOC radio room.

NOTE: As mentioned above, a bad VHF antenna was found and a new one placed into service. This issue is RESOLVED.

The SEOC VHF Winlink station needs a dedicated computer installed. I was forced to connect my personal tablet PC to the system in order to participate in this activity. Any PC that is installed should have some ability to communicate with the SEOC proper, and also have a printing capability.

Once a dedicated computer is installed at the SEOC, a comprehensive list of e-mail addresses from which message traffic could be received needs to be compiled, and messages sent to these e-mail addresses from the SEOC Winlink station to update the system's White List. This also goes for the Anchorage EOC and the Anchorage Red Cross stations.

The SEOC VHF station needs headsets. The air handling inside that room is very loud when running and is a significant distractor and hinderence when attempting voice communications.

Access to the SEOC for assigned amateur radio operators needs to be secured. This is indeed reportedly in progress.

A digital VHF link to from the SEOC to Palmer, specifically to the KL7JFT-10 VHF RMS as well as direct to KL7JFT for point to point traffic needs to be established. This would preferably be in the form of a direct VHF link. If this is not possible, then digipeating possibilities must be identified. It seems reasonable that it should be possible to do a single station digipeat through any station located at R1 North, as well as through other sites. This situation should be considered mission critical and needs immediate attention. Until such a link or links are established, we should consider the Anchorage AARC Club Station as well as the Elmendorf AFB EARS club station as routes for Winlink/digital traffic in/out of the area in a full comms out situation.

One of the VHF voice stations at the Anchorage EOC appeared to be inoperative. Fortunately, there are two VHF stations on site. The inoperable station should be repaired.

No printer is currently online at the Anchorage EOC. A printer of some sort should be installed. There is a printer on site that is reportedly MOA property that might be able to be used.

The DHS&EM Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) is equipped with a Kenwood D710 radio as well as an HF radio, but it is not yet equipped with a computer or HF Pactor TNC/Modem. A computer should be installed capable of interfacing with the D710 radio's built-in packet TNC as well as with any HF Pactor III (with Pactor IV) modem.

Access to the Anchorage EOC for assigned amateur radio operators needs to be secured. This issue is NOT yet being addressed. At present, the only way to get personnel to the operating position at the Anchorage EOC is to pre-coordinate visits with Rob Fitch when he is present.

The Anchorage EOC amateur and CAP radio room is currently set up as a break/sleeping area for emergency services dispatchers. It is believed this is a temporary situation, but the details are unknown. This situation complicates access into the radio room.

The computer inside the Anchorage EOC does not currently have internet connectivity. It appeared that it indeed had connectivity in the past. Connectivity will allow for remote man-

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agement of the computer to ensure that the operating system, Winlink software, antivirus software, and other applications are kept current.

The ALMR mobile radio designated for the Anchorage EOC needs to be reinstalled.

Additional amateur frequencies need to be programmed into the ARES ALMR radios.

ARES needs to periodically practice/test the ARES talk groups on the system. Any amateur that might be assigned to operate an ALMR radio needs to have some level of basic training to understand radio operation and net/network protocol.

The AARC CCV needs to be reconfigured so that it has at least basic HF and VHF capabilities, ALMR, and VHF packet capability. This asset should probably be deployed anytime ARES participates in a major drill.

Additional comments, observations, and recommendations were provided by Jerry Curry, KL7EDK and Rich Gillin, AL4S.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

Interface with DHS&EM staff at the SEOC couldn't have been better or more positive. All staff we met or worked with while on site were welcoming, supportive, interested, and engaged in our effort. I can not say enough about how well we were treated while in the facility. Of the numerous folks we met with during the day, a few I'd like to mention included David Aragon, Brian Fisher, Mark Roberts, and Ted Johnson. Many thanks are in order to these folks for the hospitality and assistance they provided to the ARES effort during this event.

SUMMARY

To the extent that this exercise tested our equipment and abilities to identify opportunities, it was indeed very successful as indicated by the number of opportunities identified. It is hoped that the recipients of this summary understand the ramifications of the findings and are prepared to take the necessary steps to rectify the conditions noted.

RECOGNITION

The following ARES operators were known to have been involved with the Vital Connection.

SEOC:

KL5T – Kent Petty

KL3TW – Cody Hilsman

AARC Club Station:

KL7TS – TJ Sheffield

AL4S – Rich Gillin

KL7MM – Keith Clark

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Palmer – KL7JFT:

KL7JFT – Don Bush

Rapid Com 1 Trailer:

KL7EV – Greg Eubank

Fairbanks HF Relay:

KL7EDK - Jerry Curry

Fairbanks SEC Station:

AD4BL – Linda Mullen

THE FUTURE

A high priority of mine as DEC is to ensure that our critical communications assets are staffed for real events as well as for drills, exercises, and tests. Five important locations include the State EOC, the Anchorage EOC, the Anchorage Red Cross, the AARC Club Station, and the EARS Club Station. To that end, I'm working to build teams of individuals who will be committed to deploy to these critical assets when the time comes. This will require team members to have a working knowledge of the equipment at the site they are assigned to, and to take responsibility for equipment upkeep and testing. I'd ask each of you to consider your willingness to assist in this effort as this is really where the rubber meets the road. With teams of 6-8 individuals for each location, we should always have someone available to respond. A team leader for each will be appointed who will be the point person for that location. They will be asked to provide me a brief monthly report that asks for a team status (training, team member availability, etc.) and equipment status, as well as any other useful information. You can contact me a KL5T@arri.net to let me know of your availability and willingness to serve. Thanks.

DE KL5T

Kent Petty

District Emergency Coordinator

From Craig Bledsoe, KL4E

Porcupine Lust:

Does this photo inspire admiration or jealousy?!



Engineer's Week — 2014

February 16-24, 2014

From Craig Bledsoe, KL4E

I have attached an Arrow satellite tracking photo taken by Jim Froehlich (details below) from my visit to Susitna Elementary this past Wednesday, February 26th. Also attached are several photos from both inside and outside of Susanna DiFranco's classroom at Sand Lake Elementary taken during my visit one week earlier. Finally, I have enclosed are several promotional letters and flyers from this year's Engineers Week celebrations. Please feel free to cut and paste any of this material into your upcoming AARC March newsletter.

Since these items address the purpose of Engineers Week and the many facets of its interface with the public and students of all ages, I will concentrate on the School Presentations aspect since that is where Amateur Radio made a big impression on hundreds of elementary school students over the past two weeks.

Every year during the Engineers Week celebration there are School Presentations which in 2013 enabled 33 volunteers to demonstrate to almost 1000 Anchorage area elementary and middle school students the creations and techniques of Professional Engineers in modern society.

Besides being the Chairman of this year's E-Week Steering Committee, I also had the pleasure of visiting two local elementary schools to discuss STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) with several hundred students and their parents who were eager to learn about Amateur Radio and how ham operators communicate through satellites.

Two weeks ago I was had the opportunity to spend the day with the classes of Mrs. Susanna DiFranco at Sand Lake Elementary, and last week I did the same with Mr. Jim Froehlich at Susitna Elementary. In both cases I was able to demonstrate three satellite passes while communicating through SO-50 to area ham radio operators who had been previously notified of our operation and were able to speak with the fascinated students.

While we heard several Lower 48 hams during our conversations via SO-50, I greatly appreciated having the Alaska State AMSAT Coordinator, Dale Hershberger, KL7XJ, of Soldotna present on almost all of the passes to converse with the many eager students. Dale's experience as a program manager for NASA's Challenger Space Learning Center in Kenai really came through as he sorted out the chaos on my end and had meaningful exchanges with selected students by means of communications relayed through SO-50.

Before and after the extraterrestrial conversations on the playground, we covered some basic geometry equations in order to discern the period of the satellite from its velocity in space compared to the size of the Earth. We also touched on Newtonian orbital calculations to determine the relation-

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ship between height of a satellite above Earth as compared to its period, and considered the special case of geostationary satellites "parked" in 24 hour equatorial orbits in the Clarke Belt. Then we connected satellite communications with the general functions of the engineering profession and discussed ways for young students to begin working on engineering pursuits (computer programming and robotics) as well as getting started in Amateur Radio.

I believe that these visits were very worthwhile in generating lots of interest in the engineering professions in young minds looking for academic and career guidance.

It was a pleasure to work with these two dedicated teachers and meet their eager students ready to experience Amateur Radio on a very personal level. I hope that anyone reading this who would like to have a similar rewarding experience next year will get in touch with the Engineers Week School Presentation coordinators to get on the speaker assignment schedule for Engineers Week in 2015.

Thanks and 73,

Craig, KL4E



Longest Bridge in China

From Craig Bledsoe, KL4E

Note that the person below is 1102 feet above the ground and is sweeping the dirt off this twenty-first century engineering marvel with a broom that was designed centuries ago and he has no safety line.

The Aizhaite Bridge in Hunan province is 336 m (1,102 ft.) high and has a 1,176 m (3,858 ft.) span. It connects two traffic tunnels in the mountains, cutting the time needed to traverse the canyon from 30 minutes to 1 minute. Construction took five years.

Work finished at the end of last year, making it the world's longest and highest suspension bridge.

Blasting and coating this steel superstructure in a couple of decades will be an interesting project.

A brave worker put the final touches on the Anzhaite Bridge. The bridge, which connects to two tunnels, was built to ease traffic. During the opening ceremony, vehicles motor along a two-way, four-lane motorway. Pedestrians walk along it on a special walkway under the road.



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ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

21 January 2014

Approved Minutes



Board Members Present: Mark Sabel, WD6BMJ. TJ Sheffield, KL7TS. Fred Erickson, KL7FE. George Wilkinson, KL1JJ. Richard Tweet, KL2AZ. Alice Baker, KL2-GD. Lara Baker, AL2R. Ron Keech, KL7YK. Paul Spatzek, KL7PS. Kent Petty, KL5T.

Visitors Present: Keith Clark, KL7MM.

Board Members Present via Teleconference: Jim Wiley, KL7CC. Rich Gillin, AL4S.

Board Members Excused: TJ Tombleson, KB8JXX. Eric Thompson, N6SPP.

Board Members Unexcused: --

The President, Lara Baker, AL2R called the Board Meeting to order, at 7:04 pm. A quorum was established. Additions or corrections to the meeting agenda were requested.

Secretary Report: Mark Sabel, WD6BMJ, introduced himself as the new club Secretary.

Treasurer Report: Alice Baker, KL2GD, presented the Budget vs. Actual Expenditure Report for all of 2013. There was no comment on the report.

AMSAT has asked for donations. TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, pointed out that because AMSAT is out-of-state, AARC would need to use non-gaming funds. The Treasurer suggested using funds donated to AARC by Big Wild Life. Lara Baker moved AARC donate \$500 in non-gaming funds to AMSAT. The motion was seconded by Kent Petty, KL5T. The motion was passed by the Board unanimously.

Mail to the club's post office box from First National Bank is being returned to the bank as being mis-addressed even though the address is correct. The reason is a mystery. Alice has requested a duplicate of the December statement, the only statement missing. Alice is not aware of any other mail that hasn't been delivered.

Outside of her duties as Treasurer, Alice noted she had received a letter from someone from the Lower 48 named "Bill". Bill is retired military who will be visiting Seward in June. Bill wrote seeking Seward repeater info. The Board knows of no operational repeaters in Seward. Bill and two little girls are also interested in fishing from boat. Ron Keech, KL7YK volunteered to contact Bill.

Finance Committee Report: Keith Clark, KL7MM reported the Committee met on 20 January 2014. They reviewed 2013 figures but hadn't received any data for the new year. The committee also discussed moving some expensed items into the asset category.

Law suit restitution from Heather Hasper to date is \$4000.00. The committee believes there may have been a month when a payment wasn't forthcoming. Keith will check with the Attorney General's office.

On the subject of credit cards, Alice said the club no longer has one from Tesoro. It hadn't been used in over two years and was registered in a former member's name. So Alice cancelled the card.

Grant Committee Report: Lara Baker, AL2R, reported that the committee did not meet. There have been no new grant requests this year. The remaining requests for 2013 will be reviewed shortly.

Gaming Committee Report: Lara Baker, AL2R, reported that the committee continues to cope with troubles the State is having processing the club's payment to renew the gaming permit. Though the club's check payable to the State cleared, the State lost track of the payment. Lara is in contact with the State.

The final payment for 2013 gaming is expected shortly. The club is expected to have been on budget for 2013.

Projects Committee Report: TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, reports the ECCP account needed to be spent down. The club has 22 approved projects, 14 have been completed, 5 haven't started, and 3 are ongoing. No new projects have been developed for 2014, though the committee is starting to look at planning for a series of projects.

VE Program: Jim Wiley, KL7CC, reports Kathy O'Keefe, KL7KO, will be temporarily taking over the Anchorage VEC sessions from Eric McIntosh, KL2FM.

Jim has begun checking into airfares to attend the NCVEC conference on 16 & 17 July 2014. Currently airfares range from \$2,600.00 to \$2,700.00. Jim will continue shopping for reduced fares.

Trustee Report: Keith Clark, KL7MM, reports the club's Logbook Of The World has expired. Keith is in the process of renewing.

Membership: Fred Erikson, KL7FE, reports that at the end of 2013 there were 157 Alaska voters. The club roster shows 257 of which 225 have HAM license. \$1,523.00 in receipts has been collected by Fred. Dues paying members (not counting Life Members) number 97.

By-Laws: Lara Baker, AL2R, reported there was no activity this month.

ARES Report: Kent Petty, KL5T, and TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, reported on the Cross Border Exercise. Everything worked successfully. A number of call signs appeared on Winlink that were willing to move traffic. To be truly useful in an emergency, more system-wide organization would be needed.

Vital Connect, a State sponsored exercise, will occur in February. In late March the major exercise, Alaska Shield, will take place.

ARES is building teams of HAMS and is working to get consistent access to the state EOC and other emergency related facilities.

The need to get the Hughes Net satellite dish mounted on the club house roof was discussed. The dish will provide an alternate means of connectivity in case of a power/communications

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grid failure. It was decided that Richard Tweet, KL2AZ, and TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, will head a work party will hoist and mount the dish on January 25th.

Old Business: An update on the embezzlement case was given by TJ Sheffield, KL7TS.

New Business:

Activities: TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, says Dave Heimke, AL7LO, has volunteered to be the clubs Activities Manager. President Baker entertained a motion to vote on Dave Heimke, AL7LO, as Activities Manager. Moved by Richard Tweet, KL2AZ, and seconded by George Wilkinson, KL1JJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Ham Class: Paul Spatzek, KL7PS, said that Mike O'Keefe, KL7MD, will be putting on a HAM class for the Red Cross. Mike wanted to know if the club might want to take part in the class. The inquiry is being referred to Eric Thompson, N6SPP.

Hope Telecom: President Baker asked that someone check with Hope Cottages about getting access to dialing an outside phone line for club meetings. Keith Clark, KL7MM, volunteered to pursue gaining phone line and WiFi access.

Donations: President Baker says the club is receiving an email or two every month from people wanting to donate equipment, usually from estates. President Baker can't handle it all. After discussion it was decided that President Baker would make the initial response. The inquiry and response will then be forwarded by email to all Board members. Hopefully a Board member will then volunteer to pickup the gear.

Maintenance: Kent Petty, KL5T, asked that a notice be put in the club newsletter asking members to use his website for club maintained requests. The website can also be used maintenance schedules and gear valuation.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Mark Sabel, WD6BMJ
AARC Secretary

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



February 7, 2014
Approved Minutes

Lara Baker, AL2R, President, opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Twenty-seven members and guests were present. Introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

Announcements:

Susan Woods, NL7NN, is doing well and expects to be at Prestige off Muldoon (room 206 in "Birch Court") for about 12 weeks. She would appreciate visitors.

Craig Bledsoe, KL4E, urged participation in the upcoming Engineers Week (Feb. 21 through 27). Many volunteers are needed to present information about amateur radio.

Some Public Service Events were mentioned: the MS Walk at Lake Hood on May 10, the Bike Ride from Girdwood to Hope and back on May 31, and the "Gold Nugget Triathlon" on May 18.

The Parka group meets at the midtown Denny's Restaurant every Saturday at 11:00. All are welcome.

Presentations: Update on Alaska Shield 2014 by TJ Sheffield, KL7TS. The RMS system for Winlink was explained. Kent Petty, KL5T, explained how members can manage work requests on the Internet at <https://KL7AA.macmms.com/>. Kent also updated the membership on the status of the state EOC and also that of Anchorage. Finally, a video celebrating 100 years of ARRL was shown.

Door Prizes: Dave Heimke, AL7LO, awarded 5 door prizes to lucky winners.

Adjournment: Lara Baker, AL2R, President, announced the meeting to be adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Crowley, KL2VK, for
Mark Sabel, WD6BMJ
Secretary, Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

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People to Help You!! 2013 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers

President	Lara Baker	AL2R	president@kl7aa.net
Vice President	Ron Keech	KL7YK	vicepresident@kl7aa.net
Secretary	Mark Sabel	WD6BM	secretary@kl7aa.net
Treasurer	Alice Baker	KL2GD	treasurer@kl7aa.net
Activities	Dave Heimke	AL7LO	david.heimke@gmail.com

Three Year Board of Direc- tors

3 Year remains	Rich Gillin	AL4S	rish@gillin.us
2 Year remains	Paul Spatzek	KL7PS	paulspatzek@gci.net
1 Year remains	Jim Wiley	KL7CC	jwiley@gci.net

One year Board of Directors

TJ Sheffield	KL7TS	kl7ts@arrl.net
Richard Tweet	KL2AZ	rtweet@ptialaska.net
TJ Tombleson	KB8JXX	kb8jxx@wl7cwe.org
George Wil- kinson	KL1JJ	gdwilkinson2@yahoo.com
Fred Erickson	KL7FE	fredferickson@gmail.com
Kent Petty	KL5T	pettyak@gmail.com
Eric Thompson	N6SPP	n6spp@arrl.net
Vacant		

Other Contacts

Trustee	Keith Clark	KL7MM	trustee@kl7aa.net
Membership	Fred Erickson	KL7FE	membership@kl7aa.net
Newsletter Editor	Alice Baker	KL2GD	editor@kl7aa.net
Web Master	Ron Keech	KL7YK	webmaster@kl7aa.net



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Repeater Changes:

Please remove **147.27 & 443.3** repeaters from your repeater list for the time being. The power to this pair of linked repeaters was turned off as scheduled on Dec 31, 2012

The local **ARES Net** is now moved to the 147.33 repeater + shift and 103.5 tone (no UHF side at this time)

VHF net info: We have the Thursday Night 8:30PM Alaska Statewide ARES Net and on Sunday evenings the Alaska Statewide Linked Radio Net now at 8:30PM, both are on IRLP reflector 907 channel zero, Echolink KL7M node 1654 and Allstar node 27597. The Anchor-age IRLP repeater remains 145.15 as listed.

From your Treasurer!!!

I will no longer make reimbursements for club expenses unless I have a copy of the proper reimbursement form with all the information such as Project Number, Date of Expenditure, and Item Description on it.

This form can be found on the AARC web site (as an Excel spreadsheet)— and a hard copy is also in the Board member's books. And I will be happy to see that you get a copy.

I must have these forms in the files to back up the reimbursements.

There is a copy of this form attached to the back of this newsletter.

Thanks for your help,

Alice

From Charlotte Rose McCormick

Amateur Radio (HAM) Practice Exams websites

Try them —

<http://www.hamtestonline.com>

<http://www.qrz.com/ht/>

<http://aa9pw.com/radio/>

<http://www.eham.net/exams/>

<http://hamtesting.com/>

<http://www.w8mhb.com/exam/>

<http://copaseticflows.appspot.com/hamtest>

<http://www.hamradionation.com>



Regular Committee Meetings:

By-Laws Committee: Inactive at the present time.

Finance Committee: Monday of week before Board meeting, 7:00PM at Hamshack.
Contact Keith Clark, KL7MM, trustee@KL7aa.net for info.
(Members: Chair, Keith Clark, KL7MM, and Alice Baker, KL2GD.)

Projects Committee: Tuesday of week before Board meeting, 7:00PM at HamShack.
Contact TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, kl7ts@arrl.net for info.
(Members: Chair, TJ Sheffield, KL7TS, Rich Gillin, AI4S, and George Wilkinson, KL1JJ)

VEC Testing: Testing on 1st Tuesday and 2nd Saturday each month.
Contact Jim Wiley, KL7CC, jwiley@gci.net for info.

VHF: As needed (usually with a repeater in trouble and needing "aid").
Contact Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX, kl7ikx@yahoo.com.

Who Do I Contact to Join AARC?

Fred Erickson KL7FE
12531 Alpine Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516-3121
E-mail: membership@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.



Have you considered a Life Membership?

Life	\$250.00
Senior >65	\$200.00
>70	\$150.00
>75	\$100.00
>80	\$50.00
>85	\$1.00

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For Sale



If you have equipment that you want to have listed for sale, please notify the editor at editor@KL7AA.net before the 20th of the month. Thanks for your help.

Items advertised will have a "date of first appearance" added — and they will be deleted after two months appearance on the newsletter unless we are otherwise notified.

Please check KL7AA.net website for updates on availability of these items.

Equipment for sale

February 2014

Kenwood TS-430S transceiver, PS-430 power supply and hand microphone. 160 thru 10 meter SSB, CW and AM. 100 watt output and TX has been opened up. Has 1 SSB filter, no FM board or manuals. It operates well. Used when purchased \$475.00

Heathkit SB-104A transceiver, HP-1144 power supply, SB-604 speaker, and Turner 454 desk microphone. The rig was repaired, aligned and tested by RTO Electronics last summer. The unit has modifications in the VOX, NB, and an added RIT circuit. It comes with a non working SB-614 Station monitor and manuals for both. This rig operates well for its age. Used when received \$1,000.00

One lot: Heathkit HW-100 and a HW-101. They are not complete, the 100 is parts and the 101 might be resurrected. Used when purchased \$100.00

LDG AT-200 ProII antenna tuner, new, used 1 week. \$225.00

Heathkit SA-2040 manual antenna tuner. Used when purchased \$175.00

Shure 444D microphone, no plug and short cord, used when purchased \$100.00

Heathkit SB-201 amplifier, 80-15 meter, new Harbach power supply, soft start, soft key, and fan. Tested into dummy load, 500 watts on each band. – Used when purchased, \$600.00.

Your choice on shipping at actual cost.

James Kohl
KL7KK
Cell: 907-545-2212
Email: jimkohl@arrl.net



Upcoming Events



Plan ahead:

The "Community Service" event season is gearing up!!

Coming soon:

The MS walk around Lake Hood — Saturday, May 10th

Hope Walk & Roll — probably Saturday, May 3rd (the web site didn't have this entered yet)

Golden Nugget Triathlon — Sunday, May 18th

MS 150 Ride — Saturday, May 31st — ride Girdwood to Hope and back.



THE AARC ANTENNA

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club
PO BOX 101987
Anchorage, AK 9510-1987
www.KL7AA.net



ARES DISTRICT 7 & 5
KL7AA & KL7JFU
www.aresalaska.org



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 VE Testing	5	6	7 AARC General Mtg 7:00PM	8 VE Testing
9	10 Finance Com. 7:00	11 Projects Com. 7PM EARS Genl Mtg	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 AARC Board Meeting 7 PM	19 MARA Board Meeting 7 PM	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Alaska Shield	28 Mara Meeting 7:00 PM	29
30	31					

ARES NETS:

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

ARES Net: Thursday Nights 8:00 PM
147.33+ PL:103.5
(no UHF at this time)

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 147.33+ 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 688-0660.

1st Thursday each month: Moosehorn Amateur Radio Club General meeting - 7:00 PM

Location changes monthly so call on 146.88-repeater for info. Moosehorn ARC also holds a weekly luncheon every Thursday, locations and times change — contact George Van Lone, KL7AN: don-nav@acsalaska.net

2nd Saturday each month: PARKA (Polar Amateur Radio Klub of Alaska) Meeting at 11:00 AM.

Polar Amateur Radio Klub of Alaska. All amateurs welcome. Denny's on Denali Street in Anchorage. Some business is discussed. Originally established as an all woman organization, membership now includes spouses or significant others. 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 688-0660.

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.

2nd Tuesday of each month: EARS general meeting at 5:00 PM. EARS meetings are held at the EARS shack location. Contact info - Doug Myers, KL1DJ or Ron Keech, KL7YK for information. EARS: 552-2664 (recording); Talk in on 146.67-. Email: club@KL7air.us or kl7yk@arri.net

4th Saturday of each month: Valley VE Testing at 7:00 PM. Sessions will be held at Fire Station 61, at 7 pm on the fourth Saturday of each month unless it is a major holiday weekend. Contact Ken Slauson, KL7VE, Ken.Slauson@gmail.com or 907-376-8698.

The last Friday each month: MARA meeting at 7:00 PM, Wasilla Fire Station 61. Talk-in help for the meeting can be acquired on the 146.850 repeater. Further details can be found by contacting Don Bush, KL7JFT, dbush@gci.net.

Every Monday at 11:00 AM: Meeting of interested Amateur Radio Operators — and lunch at Denny's on DeBarr — across from Costco. Many code and HF operators attend this function. Come talk radio. For information, contact Kathy O'Keefe, KL7KO, kokalaska@gmail.com

Every Saturday at 7:00 AM: Meeting of a group of Amateur Radio Operators at Denny's on Denali for breakfast. Topics? Radio, photography, and upcoming events For information, contact Kathy O'Keefe, KL7KO, kokalaska@gmail.com

THE AARC ANTENNA

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)

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>

PARKA <http://www.parka-kl7ion.com>

ARES <http://www.aresalaska.org>

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

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

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

Alaska VHF-Up Group: <http://www.gsl.net/ak-vhf/>

Yukon Amateur Radio Association: <http://www.yara.ca/>

Links for Propagation: <http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/>

QRP and Homebrew Links : <http://www.AL7FS.us>

Solar Terrestrial Activity: <http://www.spaceweather.com>

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

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

HF RMS's

- Anchorage VHF ARES RMS WL7CVG- 10 144.9 (Elmendorf Moraine)
- Anchorage HF ARES RMS WL7CVG (multi-band scanning see WWW.WINLINK.ORG for frequencies)
- Palmer (MATSU) VHF RMS KL7JFT- 10 145.19
- Fairbanks VHF RMS KL7EDK- 10 147.96
- Fairbanks HF RMS KL7EDK (multi-band scanning see WWW.WINLINK.ORG for frequencies)
- South Central Digipeater WL7CVG- 4 144.9 (Knik)

NETS in ALASKA:

The following nets are active in Alaska:

VHF

- **ARES Net:** 147.33 103.5Hz - Thursdays at 8:00 PM local
- **No Name Net:** 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
- **South Central Simplex Net:** 146.52 FM, 144.2 USB, 446.0 FM, 432.2 USB, 223.5 FM, 927.5 FM, 1294.5 FM, 52.525 FM, 50,125 USB, 29.6 FDM, 28.4 USB, 145.01 packet (Eagle node) and 147.96 packet (Valley node).
Tuesdays 8:00 PM local
- **Alaska VHF Up Net:** 144.200 USB Saturdays 9:00 AM local
- **Statewide LINK Net:** 145.15(-) PL 123.0Hz; Sundays 8:30PM local
- **Alaska Morning Net:** 145.15(-) PL123.0Hz; Daily at 9:00 AM

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):** 3540 kHz, 7042 kHz, 14050 kHz Non-directed, CW calling and traffic watch for relaying NTS of other written traffic. AL7N monitors continuously. Receivers always on WL2K. (RMS connection available (AL7N@winlick.org))
- **Alaska Pacific Net:** 14.292 MHz 8:30 AM M-F
- **ERC HF Net:** 3.880 MHz—Sunday 8:30PM

ANNOUNCEMENT:

AL7N is the Alaska Section Traffic Manager. Ed is looking for Code operators for passing formal NTS traffic throughout Alaska on the AK CW Net. For more information please contact: AL7N@arrl.net.

THE AARC ANTENNA



Data You Can Use:

Frequency	Tone	Call Sign	Features	Area
147.18 -	88.5	ADES		Ft. Richardson
146.88 -	no tone	AL7LE	Phone patch	Kenai Soldotna
146.82-	103.5	WL7CWE	IRLP	Anchorage
146.76 -	123.0	KL3K	IRLP	Seward
146.94 -	103.5	KL7AA	Phone patch	Anchorage to Wasilla
224.94 -	no tone	KL7AA		Anchorage
444.70 +	103.5	KL7AA	Phone Patch	Anchorage
146.67 -	103.5	KL7AIR	MARS Station	Anchorage & Highway North
147.30 +	141.3	KL7ION		Very Wide Area
146.85 -	no tone	KL7JFU		Mat Valley
146.91 -	no tone	KL7JL		Homer
147.15 +	107.2	KL5E	Phone patch	Eagle River & Chugiak
147.84 -	103.5	WL7CWE		Wasilla Repeater
147.33 +	103.5	WL7CVF	Cross linked to 443.900	Very Wide Area **
443.900 +	103.5	WL7CVF	Cross linked to 147.330	Very Wide Area **
147.27	Powered off			
443.300	Powered off			

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

WINLINK	Callsign	Frequency
Anchorage ARES RMS	WL7CVG-10	144.9
Palmer (MATSU) RMS	KL7JFT-10	145.19
FAIRBANKS RMS	KL7EDK-10	147.96
South Central Digipeater	WL7CVG-4	144.9

THE AARC ANTENNA



The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club has been an ARRL Affiliated Club for more than 50 years



Are you an
ARRL Member...
Life Member?

www.arrl.org/benefits

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. Consider becoming a member of ARRL today. www.arrl.org

For more information about the ARRL DX Century Club Program check out: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>



KL7AA Mail Reflector

If you like to **stay in touch on KL7AA news** and other posts of local interest.

Step #1: First point your browser to: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/kl7aa>

Step #2: On the web page you will see a section titled "Subscribing to KL7AA". Enter your e-mail address in the "Your email address" entry box.

Step #3: Pick a password for your account and enter it in the box marked "Pick a password" and then enter the same password in the box marked "Reenter password to confirm". This password will be used to change your settings on the list such as digest mode, etc.

Step #4: If you would like the e-mails in daily digest form click yes on the line marked "Would you like to receive list mail batched in a daily digest?"

Step #5: Click on the "Subscribe" button below the information that you just entered.

Step #6: Follow the directions.

THE AARC ANTENNA

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.

www.ares.org

Emergency
Management
Institute



FEMA

<http://training.fema.gov/>

**ARES South Central Alaska District
Contact Information Don Bush,
KL7JFT@arri.net**

ARES NETS:

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

ARES Net: Thursday Nights 8:00 PM

147.33+ PL:103.5

"Alaska ARES and the Alaska Native Medical Center have in joint effort stood up a HF Remote Messaging System (HF RMS) in Anchorage. This system provides HF Radio Email Service to the area. In an emergency this system will provide digital email capabilities if we lose the Internet. It is designed to accept connections from Amateur Operators who are using either PacLink or Airmail software and a Pactor 1-3 capable Terminal Mode Controller (TNC). If the Internet is lost to the area the RMS will forward messages to another RMS over HF Radio. Being HF Radio based, the coverage area is quite large. While it is intended for intra-Alaska use we have stations from as far away as Arizona using the HF RMS to pass email traffic to the internet on occasions.

ARES also hosts a VHF RMS which provides Radio to Email service on VHF Radio in the Anchorage area.

The WL7CVG RMS's frequency listings, etc. can be found on www.Winlink.Org . "

THE AARC ANTENNA

KL7AA HAMSHACK

The KL7AA station is available for training in HF operations. Learn from an experienced HF operator about propagation, voice and Morse code modes as well as best practices and legal operation. The station is fully integrated with a PC and soundcard to operate in many digital modes.

Take advantage of this unique benefit! Arrange a session by contacting the club trustee, Keith Clark, KL7MM, (aksunlite@aol.com) to meet at the KL7AA station at 5923 Rowan Street.

Notice: 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. **IRLP is not authorized on KL7AA repeaters except for special events as approved by the board and trustee.**

THE AARC ANTENNA is the monthly newsletter of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, published by and for its members. The entire contents of this newsletter are copyrighted 2011 by the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club.

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Newsletter Submissions, Information or Corrections:

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 below. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor **no later than the 10 days prior** to the general meeting. Email: [editor at kl7aa.net](mailto:editor@kl7aa.net)

Since THE AARC ANTENNA is no longer being sent out by US MAIL, we need some help from all the AARC members. We have gotten a large percentage of the e-mailed newsletters returned as undeliverable. Also we have no e-mail addresses for many of you.

Would you please e-mail "membership@KL7AA.net" with a current e-mail address and current mailing address and phone numbers (home, work, and cell — as you choose).

If you have special needs or concerns please send your comments to editor@kl7aa.net to bring to the attention of the board of AARC. Current and newsletters from years past can be found on the club website at www.KL7AA.net.

Thanks for your help in this.

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