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WINLINK Emergency Communications

By Linda Mullen AD4BL

We are in the process of developing an amateur radio digital emergency communications system here in the Interior of Alaska. It is called Winlink.

Jerry KL7EDK, has the only PMBO [Public Mail Box Office] in Alaska and is running both HF and VHF systems. The PMBO also connects to the Internet. If the Internet is not available here, then all the traffic will be routed via HF to a similar system on the west coast or Hawaii where it can be put into the Internet system.

The Winlink station consists of: a radio, a TNC, a computer, and an antenna. If you have a packet station, then you can run Airmail [the software part of Winlink]. The software is free, a download from the website. The URL for the website is <http://www.winlink.org> and there you can click on the link for Airmail.

During an emergency, we can get out using this system. The Airmail program looks similar to a commercial email program with a few limitations. You can send regular email to anyone. You can also send attachments up to about 35K. I can send an email to my daughter in Alabama and she can use the same system to send one back even though she is not a licensed amateur. When she replies using my Winlink.org address, it automatically adds my callsign in the header.

Using the same system the Health Dept here in Fairbanks could send a message to the

CDC in Atlanta if they need to do that. Any of the agencies that we serve can use the system.

During the Mass Dispensing Exercise, we used the Winlink system to send the data files back and forth between the North Pole Mall, the Civic Center, the Health Dept. We also send the data via Winlink email to the Borough Emergency Manager, FMH, and the Health Dept. It was an impressive effort and we really scored points with the agencies that we serve considering that it was the first time that we had used the system.

This is just the first step in this system. We can also use a program called Paclink which works via wireless links using a router, between the agency computer and our radio system so that the agency personnel can work on their computer and send and receive email via our radio system.

This has been an expensive system to setup, not individually, but because we are starting so many of the units. Jerry has expended a considerable amount to set up the PMBO which runs on Pactor for the HF side. We were able to get a grant from the Anchorage club to put together 6 of the Em-Com kits. Each kit consists of: Yaesu 8800 dual band radio, a KPC-3Plus TNC, an Astron SS30 power supply, a Winbook laptop, a 12 volt light, an MFJ Power strip, and all the parts to make the whole system operate on 12V. To build 6 of the kits cost \$10,000. We have put in for another grant to

build 6 more, 3 will go to Nenana, and 3 will go to Delta Junction. This will greatly increase our capability in Interior Alaska.

There are a few of us that also have the complete mobile Winlink systems and we have the software loaded on the computer at the National Weather Service. That gives us at least 9 operating systems in the Fairbanks area.

We are going to try out the system on a limited scale for the Yukon Quest. What we can do with it will depend on being able to access the digipeaters that Jerry has around the area. We are currently looking at North Pole and Chena Hot Springs as well as the Log Cabin hub. It will be fun to try.

The more we work with the system, the more we learn. I invite you to check it out and if you have any questions, give Jerry, Kody, or myself a call. #

Yukon Quest Signups

We need volunteers to help set up the AARC Net Control (Log Cabin), volunteers to man checkpoints and safety locations, radio operators to provide 24/7 support at the Log Cabin, spotters and miscellaneous support personnel. The race begins 2/10 in Whitehorse.

Contact AD4BL or sign up using the on-line form at <http://www.kl7kc.com/QuestVolForm.htm>

**See special
insert on
WinLink
2000 HF**



The Ham's Holiday Wish List

New Rules Effective 12/15



It's not too late to order those last-minute gifts for the ham who has everything. Thanks to Alexander Graham Bell and the internet, the goodies below could be in your stocking within days. Print this page, highlight the desired items, and leave it where your personal Santa will find it.

Custom callsign decals, fun bumper stickers and signage: www.shortwavesupply.com

Logo and callsign shirts, hats, jacket, and more: www.callsignwear.com

Crystal radio kit and other cool electronics projects: www.arcsandsparks.com

KD1JV QRP power and SWR meter kit: www.4sqr.com/kits/swr_pwr/swr_pwr.htm

World time clocks: www.officeclocks.com

Plasma Dreams by Eric Nichols KL7AJ: www.amazon.com

KD0DAN's "Morse Code for the Rest of Us" CW course: <http://www.users.qwest.net/~danhayman/>

Windup emergency broadcast radio: www.ccrane.com

Colorful ARES radio vest: www.thevestguy.com

Cable control kit with clamps and ties: www.k1cra.com

DXing on the Edge book and CD about 160m DXing: www.radiobooks.com

Amateur Satellite Frequency Guide: www.amsat.org

New Technician Study Manual 2006-2010 by Gordon West WB6NOA: www.w5yi.org

Antenna connectors, adapters, and cable: www.rfparts.com

Vacuum tubes—6146s and more: www.radiodaze.com

Commemorative Christmas ornament key, 2007. Back years available: www.morsex.com

A little over a month after the Federal Communications Commission released the Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) to the public, a revised version appeared November 15 in the Federal Register. The changes in the R&O will take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST, 30 days after its publication.

As expected, the Report & Order clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released last month: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7.075-7.100 MHz band.

Among three unresolved issues are expansion of the 75-meter phone band, and elimination of certain digital modes, which could make illegal some current mode-power combinations. ❄

2006 ARRL Field Day

Displaying entries for Section=AK

Entries 1 to 6 of 6 listed

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	KL7IG	2,224	1A	613	2		AK	8	Juneau ARC
2	KL7KC	1,028	1A	313	1		AK	22	Arctic ARC
3	AL1G	728	1D	421	1		AK	1	
4	K4RS	630	1B1	36	2		AK	1	
5	WL7CSJ	380	1E	115	2		AK	1	
6	AL2F	150	1B1	50	2		AK	1	Alaskans Love 2 Fish



May the Force (12) be with You

By Larry Ledlow, Jr. N1TX

The challenges we all face living where we do and doing what we do just begin with sleepless days and nights during temperate weather trying to pack all that recreation in between those building and gardening chores. There's a little matter of finding time for amateur radio work — the physical kind, not the on-air kind — before winter weather arrives. Lord help us when Aunt Sally shows up with the three kids and a grumpy husband smack in the middle of prime antenna season. The situation can seem almost hopeless.

In early October I found myself nearly panicked after the end of a hectic summer wondering if I could/would ever find the time to get at least one high-band antenna installed on my tower before it became too cold to climb. Enter Force 12 and some extraordinarily helpful hands to the rescue just in the nick of time.

I wrote a couple of months ago about assembly of the EF-140 rotatable dipole from Force 12. Unfortunately, as time slipped away, I had to re-prioritize and abandon any notion of installing (and writing about) it this year. A "Super Loop 80" delta from Radio Works would have to suffice for this year on the low bands. However, I really, really, really wanted to get up a tri-bander, which would be important for contest season. So I turned to Force 12 again.

For about a year on and off I

studied various specifications and pricing for tri-banders. It's easy to get obsessed with antenna performance specs, which cover the gamut from gain to front-to-back ratios. As an engineering professional, I have come to regard numbers on data sheets as highly suspect. Invariably there are unstated conditions under which the specs are true, and almost none of them reflect the real-world conditions of your installation. This isn't to say it's all nonsense, but I advise you not to stress over the decibel here and the decibel there on HF.

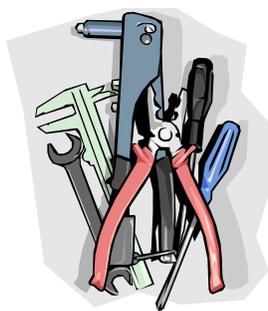
My requirements evolved to a short list: 14/21/28 MHz coverage on a single boom; a cost of no more than around \$1000; and a relatively compact size that could be assembled quickly and installed by one on the tower and one or two ground crew. This latter requirement proved to be a huge differentiator. It's easy to be seduced by the dream of a "high-performance" tri-bander with a 30-plus-foot boom and full-sized elements. (And I say go for it if you have the resources!) Reality hit me hard when I thought more about the logistics of hauling such a monster up the tower and securing it in place. (Some of you may recall my plan is to have side-mounted antennas and use a switch to select direction.) The popular HyGain TH11DX, for instance, has a 37-foot boom, a 22-foot turning radius, and weighs just

about 90 lbs! That's a lot of work when you have to manage getting it around trees, guy wires, and various other obstructions within 45 feet of the tower. Yes, you can assemble something like this on the tower, but I think even those "smaller" sections really aren't that much more manageable for a small crew.

My investigations led me to look seriously at a couple of products from Optibeam (the OB7-3) and Force 12 (C3), both seven-element tri-banders with booms less than 20 feet long and weighing roughly 40 lbs. Ultimately, the C3 won out. The OB7-3 is about \$1050 at today's Euro-dollar exchange rate, and the C3 runs \$759. Neither price includes shipping. With that information and by changing around a few other priorities, I figured I could stretch my budget to buy two C3s, one to aim Stateside, the other towards Europe. In addition, the C3 was delivered from California in about three weeks versus a potential 10- or 12-week wait for the Optibeam



Photo—KL1JP



(Force 12 — Continued from page 3)

to be shipped from Germany.

I had the C3s in hand by mid-August, but as mentioned earlier, various interruptions delayed assembly until early October. Shelley KL1SE, Dan KL1JP, and Rod KL1Y converged on the shack to put in a solid six hours in the fall chill to complete some badly needed ground work. Shelley worked on grounding and antenna switch box assemblies, Dan whacked trees and installed the Super Loop 80, and Rod began C3 construction. Each multiplexed with me on various tasks, and by the end of the “party”, we had made a major dent in the program plan. I completed one C3 after about two more hours on a subsequent day. With snow looming in the forecast, the second C3 would probably have to wait until spring.

I estimate one C3 took about 5-6 man-hours to assemble, which included a thorough review of the instruction manual and an inventory of all parts for both antennas. The second should go together somewhat faster.

The Force 12 C3 is shipped in nicely packaged bundles about four feet in length, which include boom sections and individual elements. Although I purchased two identical antennas, some parts are not readily interchangeable. Force 12 pre-drills and assembles the antennas at the factory. The rivet holes for elements and bolt holes in booms on antenna “A” will not necessarily align with corresponding holes in antenna “B” without re-

drilling. This is not a criticism, though. The factory pre-assembly makes sure the antennas go together with minimal frustration, unlike some manufacturers’ products. Everything is well-marked, and should the need arise to cannibalize one antenna to repair another, the drilling should be very easy.

As with the EF-140 dipole, the elements use tapered aluminum tubing and three rivet holes to secure each joint. The application of NOALOX to the inside overlapping section is easy with the included packet of anti-oxidant goo and a small brush. You insert the smaller section into the larger, align the three rivet holes in each, place the 1/8-inch rivets, and use your pop-riveter to finish the work. The 10m and 15m elements actually have four rivet holes on some inside tubing sections to allow you to lengthen or shorten these to adjust SWR suitable for your operating objectives within the band. This is especially important on the very wide 10m band, where the 2:1 bandwidth is about 1.5 MHz.

The four sections of the 18-foot boom use bolts and “nylock” nuts.

Each assembled element is bolted to the boom using U-bolts and welded L-brackets on left and right side of the main structure. UV-resistant PVC tubing fits over the center of each element to prevent crushing the aluminum tubing, yet the method provides a very secure hold.

Force 12 does not supply a 1:1 balun with the antenna, but one is available as an option

(Model B1/3S 3 kW version is \$36.95), or you can make your own using several loops of coax. I preferred to purchase the Y1-5K 5 kW-rated current balun (\$47.95) from Radio Works. The C3 manual recommends trimming any balun leads to around two inches. Any longer, and they may influence the tuning by making the 20m driver appear longer than it should be. I secured the balun to the two-inch boom using UV-resistant cable ties.

Considerations for mounting the two-inch boom to the side of the tower included K0XG Systems, Custom Metal Works, and a homebrew solution using SuperStrut galvanized metal framing. I really liked the K0XG boom-to-tower bracket. Shaped like a trough, it bolts to two tower legs, and the boom drops into the V-shaped saddle, then is secured with U-bolts. Unfortunately, after a promising initial inquiry, K0XG failed to respond to my follow-up correspondence asking for final pricing and delivery times, and I gathered he simply didn’t want my small-potatoes business (\$68 for each). Perhaps there was a miscommunication. Nevertheless, Custom Metal Works is a reputable firm affiliated with Array Solutions with some very heavy-duty solutions for antennas on a tower. My budget wouldn’t allow any of them.

In the end, I turned to materials available at local hardware and electrical supply stores. Galvanized SuperStrut metal framing channels are very handy for constructing just

SuperStrut is very versatile.



(Continued on page 5)

(Force 12—Continued from page 4)

about any antenna or accessory mount to be installed on other structures. If you can build with the grandkids' Legos or Tinker Toys, you can build with this stuff. It is manufactured by Thomas and Betts in a variety of finishes and configurations. You can download the catalog at the company web site noted at the end of the article. The material can be in short supply locally, particularly at the end of construction season, so plan ahead.

I played with a few design ideas on paper. Then I bought a 10-foot section of 14-gauge slotted channel and cut two two-foot sections. These were to be mounted parallel and about two feet apart, each section face-side to the tower and secured with two U-bolts to the 1.25" tower legs. In the middle of each channel side (facing out), I decided to use two-inch clamps to mount a three-foot section of EMT conduit vertically. To this mast, I would secure the C3's mounting plate using the included U-bolts.

The big day for one final push was October 21. It was just about freezing, and the forecast called for freezing rain and snow later in the day. It would be nip-and-tuck all the way. Dan KL1JP and Gary Pearse NL7Y arrived late morning. While I gathered my tools, parts, and climbing harness, Gary and Dan began to partially disassemble the C3 boom into three sections. This would make hauling them up and avoiding obstacles easier.

My first task was to re-locate a vertical V/UHF from the 60-foot level to a location just about 10 feet higher so I could have plenty of room for the C3. As I dangled and maneuvered I could see snow squalls closing in from the west. The pressure was on.

That's when I hit a snag. The prototype antenna mount worked beautifully at ground level. At antenna level, I ran out of threads on the 1.5" U-bolts used to mate the tower legs to the outside face of the channel strut. I suddenly realized that at ground level, the tower is Rohn 55G with 1.5" diameter legs. At antenna height, the tower is 45G with 1.25" diameter legs. My disappointment was obvious to everyone within earshot.

While Connie KL1BE went for washers in Valley Center, Gary and Dan showed great innovation by scrounging some other stainless U-bolts from my VHF antennas on the ground. The problem's solution had been determined quickly, but it was slow-going on the tower as my hands began to get cold.

The remaining physical part was modest, because we assembled the beam on the tower by hauling it up in three element-boom subassemblies. I mounted the center boom section first onto the new mast and turned it 90 degrees. This would make bolt alignment easier, and the remaining sections hauled up vertically anyway. I slid the center section left and right while sliding on the front and rear sections. Gary pulled on the haul rope while Dan wrangled the dan-

gling sub-assemblies with a lightweight Kevlar-core line.

The antenna is 18 feet long, has a turning radius of about 20 feet, and weighs about 36 lbs. No single subsection pulled up the tower weighed more than about 15 lbs. This did not require heavy hardware. A good sturdy, two-inch mast would hold this antenna easily for cabin or Field Day use.

As I looked around me, snow was within a mile in all directions. NL7Y made a last inspection and pointed out the 15-meter driver had not been properly centered. Fortunately, access to the element was simplified by shifting it towards me by sliding the boom, and the problem was corrected. All nuts secured, I began the climb down the tower. Within minutes of stepping on the ground, freezing rain and snow began to fall. It was that close.

After checking the SWR from ground level, all cables were connected and weather-proofed. The 20m VSWR was less than 1.5:1, while the 15m VSWR hit 1.7:1 at 21.4 MHz. The 10m VSWR is good from the bottom of the band up to about 28.5 MHz. I prefer CW anyway, so all systems were go right out of the box! I cannot thank Dan and Gary enough for their help this day.

Naturally, the real proof is in the pudding. Dan and I turned on the radio and immediately heard a CE (Chile) S7, W5 in NM on CW, and a W7 in WA on an otherwise-dead 20m band. A number of RTTY con-

My disappointment was obvious to everyone within earshot.



(Continued on page 6)

I intend to move the current 55-foot C3 in one piece up to the 85-foot level.

(Force 12 — Continued from page 5)

test stations were heard, but I don't know where they were.

Five weeks, three contests, and nearly 1300 contacts later, I have a good feel for antenna's performance. Key observations include: (A) Its height and direction seem to work as planned, as it covers most of the US, Canada, and South America. (B) The relatively low front-to-back ratio works in my favor for DX, because I

can work Asia off the back of the beam without rotating or switching. (C) Europe is problematic. I can hear well, but the antenna is pointed nearly 90 degrees away from Europe, which lies to the north.

My next installation at 80-85 feet should cure that last problem and will give me the rear to work the South Pacific and Antarctica. For that project, I intend to move the current 55-foot C3 in one piece up to the 85-foot level. The second tri-bander will replace the original Statewide beam, and will be assembled in three pieces as the first one was.

Maintenance for these antennas should be minimal. Users on the internet report having to drill out and re-rivet elements after several years in the air. As the elements flex, the rivet holes will elongate. Installations in windy areas are more prone to this, of course.

When re-doing the elements, cleaning joints and applying another coat of NOALOX will be necessary, too. This kind of work should be done every 3-7 years, depending on your local environment. Except for the cold, Fairbanks weather is not unusually hard on fixed structures like antennas. ☺

Elmer Central

Q: What is SINAD?

A: The term is used to specify the sensitivity of FM receivers. Generally, radio sensitivity can be specified as a required signal strength to produce a specific quality signal at the output within a given bandwidth. Often, the output can be specified in terms of SNR or something similar. In FM, the standard used is the ratio of total signal, noise, and distortion power to that of noise and distortion alone (SINAD). It is measured using a 1 kHz tone and an FM deviation of 12.5% of channel spacing.

A typical sensitivity spec may read something like 25 microvolts for 12 dB SINAD, which equates to 25% distortion. This means a 25 uV signal at the input will yield a 12 dB ratio of signal+noise+distortion power to the power of noise+distortion. 20 uV for 12 dB SINAD would indicate a more sensitive radio. ☺



FOR MORE INFORMATION

ANTENNAS

Force 12: <http://force12inc.com/>

Optibeam: <http://www.optibeam.de/>

ACCESSORIES, CABLE, LINE

SuperStrut catalog:

<http://www-public.tnb.com/contractor/docs/superstrut.pdf>

DX Engineering: <http://www.dxengineering.com>

Array Solutions: <http://www.arrayolutions.com>

Radio Works: <http://www.radioworks.com>

Custom Metal Works:

<http://www.custommetalworks.com/>

IIX Equipment: <http://www.w9iix.com>

Radian (Rohn): <http://www.radiancorp.com>

Davis RF: <http://www.davisrf.com>

Small Parts Co.: <http://www.smallparts.com>

Frigid North: <http://www.frigidn.com>

REVIEWS AND MAILING LISTS

http://mail.qth.com/mailman/listinfo/force12talk_qth.com

<http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/towertalk>

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/products/11>

WinLink 2000: A Worldwide HF BBS

Remember the good old days, when you chose the best bulletin board system (BBS) in your neighborhood to serve as your "home BBS?" All your radio mail would be addressed to you at your home BBS (**you@yourhomebbs**) and when you wanted to read your radio mail, you connected to your home BBS.

Problem was that when you were out of town, on the road and out of range of your home BBS, you could not get your radio mail. Unless your home BBS provided a landline dial-in service and you were somewhere where you could dial-in, you had to wait until you got home before you could receive your radio mail.

The times have changed and today, there is an HF BBS service that allows you to pick up your mail anywhere in the world. The system is called *WinLink 2000* and it has a backbone network on the Internet, which allows all participating *WinLink* mailbox operation (MBO) stations to share their message databases. Therefore, a user can connect to any participating *WinLink* MBO in the world to send or retrieve mail—doing away with the necessity of having a home BBS.

WinLink 2000 is a *Windows* application that permits messages to be transferred automatically between remote Amateur Radio stations and the Internet. "Remote" is defined here as not having landline access. Therefore, *WinLink 2000* provides Internet e-mail access for maritime, recreational-vehicle and other remotely located Amateur Radio operators, enabling those traveling to maintain contact with family and friends, regardless of their location.

WinLink 2000 is the latest addition to the *WinLink* suite of programs that permit PACTOR and PACTOR II Amateur Radio stations to use the Internet for the transfer of messages that comply with the existing third party traffic rules. In the August 1996 installment of this column, I wrote about how *APLink*, a DOS AMTOR application, had evolved into *WinLink*. Three and one-half years later, I am writing how Jim Corenmen, KE6RK; Hans Kessler, N8PGR; Rick Muething, KN6KB; Victor Poor, W5SMM and Steve Waterman, K4CJX, are taking *WinLink* into the 21st century as *WinLink 2000*.

WinLink 2000 is a BBS that provides for HF-to-HF and HF-to-VHF text message transfer as well as HF/VHF-to-Internet

K4CJX's *WinLink 2000* Web page (<http://winlink.org/k4cjsx/>) is the source for everything you want to know about the software and more.

e-mail transfer. It uses PACTOR I and PACTOR II for semi-automatic HF operation. The *WinLink 2000* software scans the HF amateur bands continuously. Scanning takes approximately 1.2 seconds per frequency, with 8 to 21 frequencies to scan depending on propagation and time of day. When the software detects a station trying to connect with it, it parks on that frequency to send and receive traffic with that station.

From the system operator's point of view, *WinLink 2000*'s modularity permits a Sysop to run any one mailbox on different computers. For example, all control modules may run on a computer in the Sysop's shack, while some or all TNC port controllers operate miles away at any remote location with Internet access.

From the user's standpoint, accessing a *WinLink 2000* MBO is the same as accessing a *WinLink* MBO. You need not use special software. Whatever you use for PACTOR or PACTOR II will do the job. There is software available that makes the mailing process easier, however, like *AirMail*. Just connect to the *WinLink* station of your choice and you are off and running! Note that not all *WinLink* stations have implemented the Internet connection.

Here is a very boring, but very useful list of frequencies used by the K4CJX *WinLink 2000* MBO. Center frequencies: 3618.9, 3620.9, 3621.9, 7070.4, 7072.4, 7073.9, 7075.9, 7076.9, 10121.9, 10122.9, 10123.9, 10125.9, 10126.9, 14064.9, 14065.9,

14069.9, 14071.9, 14072.9, 14073.9 and 14076.9 kHz. For LSB, call 2.1 kHz above the center frequency, for USB 1.9 kHz below.

Support for *WinLink 2000* is available at winlink.org/k4cjsx/, where you can find a downloadable version of *AirMail* that is compatible with *WinLink 2000*, as well as a lot more information regarding the system.

APRS Redux

I often mention APRS in this column and whenever I do, readers ask me "What is APRS?" To answer those questions, I have written a new book *APRS: Tracks, Maps and Mobiles*, which should be available from the ARRL and your favorite ham radio dealer by the time you read this.¹

Also, available from your favorite ham radio dealer is a new dual-band (144 and 440 MHz) mobile transceiver from Kenwood (the TM-D700A), which, like the TH-D7A handheld introduced a year earlier, has a built-in TNC and APRS software. Unlike the handheld, the mobile APRS radio can digipeat. The radio has been the main topic of conversation on the TAPR hot technology APRS (HTAPRS) e-mail list for a month now, as owners are making new discoveries about the radio every day. (To subscribe to HTAPRS, go to <http://www.tapr.org/>.)

¹ARRL Order #7741, ARRL publications are available from your local ARRL dealer, or directly from the ARRL. See the [ARRL Bookcase](#) elsewhere in this issue, or check out the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/catalog>. **Q57-**

Arctic Amateur Radio Club

Membership \$20 individual, \$25 family. Send checks to AARC
PO Box 81804
Fairbanks, AK 99708
Phone: 907-479-5203
E-mail: bennie@aci.net

Visit www.kl7kc.com for the latest club news and events!

Service to Interior Alaska: We can, we will, we do.



FROM THE BOARD:

The monthly board meetings are now held at
Trio Hawaiian Grill, 1235 Airport Way, near Gottschalks
First Thursday after general membership meetings, 7 PM

Calendar of Events

- Dec 1: General meeting, UAF IARC Room 401. 7 PM. Pre-meeting activities start 6 PM. <http://arlhs.com>
- Dec 2: License exams. License exams. Noel Wein Library. 1 PM. Contact NL7XH.
- Dec 1-2: Skywarn Recognition Day. <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.
- Dec 7: AARC Board Meeting. Trio Grill, 7 PM.
- Dec 9-10: ARRL 10m contest. Begins 0000Z (1500 local time).
- Dec 16-Jan 1: Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party -- all modes, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society: Frequencies: 1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030; SSB -- 1.970, 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370
- Dec 31-Jan 1: Straight Key Night. See right.
- Jan 5: Dec 1: General meeting, UAF IARC Room 401. 7 PM. Pre-meeting activities start 6 PM.
- Jan 6: License exams. License exams. Noel Wein Library. 1 PM. Contact NL7XH.
- Jan 17: AARC Board Meeting. Trio Grill, 7 PM.
- Jan 13-14: North American QSO Party, CW (1800-0900Z)
- Jan 20-21: North American QSO Party, SSB: (1800Z-0900Z)
- Jan 27-28: CQWW 160m Contest, CW: Start 1500 AKST Jan 26, runs 48 hours.



Happy Holidays!

Operate on Skywarn Recognition Day

The National Weather Service (UAF - IARC Building) will again be hosting the annual Skywarn Event. The event begins Friday December 1 at 3:00 PM (Local) and continues for 24 hours (December 2, 0000 through 2400 UTC). Tracy from the National Weather Service is actively recruiting local Ham radio operators so the Fairbanks facility can compete. He promises to get participants a free parking pass so they can park next to the IARC building and plug their vehicles in during their operator period.

This event is especially geared towards the Technician operator who would like to gain some radio experience, have some fun and practice their radio skills. Remember that experience gained here will help during the Yukon Quest!

The NWS equipment includes a Kenwood receiver for VHF and repeater contacts and an Icom 718 radio for HF contacts. The new NWS antenna should provide a significant boost in the number of contacts this year.

To volunteer, contact Dan KL1JP at webmaster@kl7kc.com

Straight Key Night

Straight Key Night is an old tradition for New Years. The object of this friendly event is to enjoy some good, old fashioned QSO fun, using straight keys. The emphasis is on rag-chewing rather than fast contest-type exchanges. SKN 2007 begins at 4:00 p.m. AKST December 31 and runs for 24 hours through 4:00 p.m. AKST January 1 (0000 -2400 UTC January 1, 2007).

When participating in SKN 2007, instead of sending RST before sending the signal report send the letters SKN, to indicate your participation, and to clue in passers-by who may be listening that SKN is going strong. After SKN, send the ARRL Contest Branch a list of stations worked: straightkey@arrl.org #