DARC NEWS

May - June 2026 Newsletter
Interior Alaska Ham Radio

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General Frequencies

APRS North America - 144.390

Simplex National Calling Frequencies·

2M 146.520 - 70cm 446.000

Local 6M Calling Frequency- 52.525

WinLink RMS Gateway - 145.030

GMRS Repeater - Ch 20

President's Message

Happy Spring! Warm(er) weather is returning to our great Interior and the skeeters aren't out (yet), so our thoughts turn to hunting down those elusive summer DX contacts and FIELD OPERATIONS! Whether you are into Parks on the Air (POTA), Summits on the Air (SOTA) or a combination thereof, nice weather brings hams out of the shack and into the field. With that in mind, the annual **ARRL Field Day 2026 (FD26) will be held 27-28 June** this year. DARC will be setting up our FD26 operation at the Farmer's Market here in Delta for both days. If you've never operated "al fresco" then give it a try! Here's some info from the ARRL website:

What is ARRL Field Day? You're Invited!

ARRL Field Day is a radio communications event that brings together amateur radio operators (also called "hams") within your community. The theme for 2026 events is "Field Day - A National Resource" – highlighting the many ways that wireless technology connects people across America. The event is part picnic, camp out, practice for emergencies, informal contest, and most of all, fun! ARRL Field Day is the most popular ham radio activity held annually in the US and

Nets in Alaska

The following nets are active in Alaska:

Alaska Sniper's Net: 3.920 MHz daily at 1800

Daily Alaska Bush Net: 7.093 MHz 2000 daily moving to 3920 at 2015

Alaska Motley Net: 3.933 MHz 2100 daily

Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net: 14.292 MHz 0800 M-F

South Central Simplex Net: Wednesday at 1900 local, starting on 146.520

DARC Local ARES net: 147.030 repeater Thursdays at 1900 local

Alaska Emergency Frequency Test: Last Saturday of the month on 5167.5 MHz/USB

Alaska CW Net: 24/7, 3.940MHz, 7.113 MHz, 14.115 MHz

Pacific Seafarer's Net: *14.300 MHz,* Every day 0300Z / 1800

Canada. On the fourth weekend in June each year, more than 31,000 hams get together with their radio clubs, schools, or friends to operate from remote locations.

For many radio clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights on their annual calendar. A typical Field Day site will showoff many aspects of amateur radio and its many roles.

Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to practice their emergency communications readiness. ARRL Field Day is an annual demonstration and invites the general public and organizations to see how amateur radio can serve in an emergency, **When All Else Fails®**. Hams are well-known for their communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations. Despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they are so complex — ham radio has been called into action, again and again, to provide communications in crises when it really matters.

Amateur radio also inspires the next generation of technical leaders by providing a hands-on sandbox where students gain experience in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

For those with a competitive spirit, Field Day stations compete to make radio contacts with as many other stations as possible while learning to operate radio equipment in challenging situations and less-than-optimal conditions. These same skills are used by hams who volunteer to help with large, preplanned, non-emergency events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fundraisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades, and exhibits at fairs, malls, and museums.

Please see the ARRL website for further information:
https://www.arrl.org/field-day

We'll be sending out more information about FD26 via email to all DARC members well prior to the event to help in planning. Don't miss this great event. See you there!
73 ~ Jeff KL2NL

Internet Links, the favorites from our readers:
Anchorage Amateur Radio Club - AARC: https://kl7aa.org/
Elmendorf Amateur Radio Club - EARS: https://www.kl7air.us/
Matanuska Amateur Radio Association - MARA: https://kl7jfu.com/
(Kenai/Soldotna) Moose Horn ARC: https://al7le.org/
ARES: https://kl7aa.org/anchorage-ares
Arctic Amateur Radio Club - Fairbanks - AARC: http://www.kl7kc.com/
Yukon Amateur Radio Association: https://www.yara.ca/
Delta Amateur Radio Club: http://www.kl7drc.org/
HAARP Project: https://haarp.gi.alaska.edu/
Amateur Radio Reference Library: https://www.radioreference.com/db/browse/stid/2
VOCAP: https://www.voacap.com/hf/
ARRL: https://www.arrl.org/

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 the Editor, Dave KI5NVJ at Dave.Kelly2024@outlook.com

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES; Articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you'd like to submit any articles, jokes, or cartoons, please submit by E-mail to the newsletter editor, Dave KI5NVJ. Submissions must be submitted to the Editor no later than 5 days prior to our monthly meeting or it may not be included.

Secretary's Report - Tony KL5RP

DARC Apr 14 2026 Meeting Minutes
Members: Jeff K, Tony P, Roger W, Phil L, Dave K, Scott B, Jeannie B, Dean J., Don F, Mike P.
Called to Order: 1800
Secretary's Report: Meeting minutes - last meeting
Treasurer's Report: Balance $1480.95
Old Business:
1. Repeater operational
New Business:
1. Newsletter need stories, send to Jeff/Dave
2. Phil will be net control for April-May
3. 27-28 June Field Day. Farmers market, be there to promote Amateur Radio.
4. Deltana Fair – reserved spaces, same as last year
5. Fund Drive?
6. Shares Review
7. Meeting closes : 6:27

Presentation: Ham Radio Aggregators
18:40 adjourn

Treasurer's Report - Phil KL5EX

- 15 April 2026, $40 deposit, from membership dues paid
- 1 May 2026, $200 paid to Deltana Fair Association

Current balance: $1320.95.

Getting Licensed

Before you can get on the air, you need to be licensed and know the rules to operate legally. US licenses are good for 10 years before renewal and anyone may hold one except a representative of a foreign government. In the US there are three license classes—Technician, General and Extra.

Technician License

The Technician class license is the entry-level license of choice for most new ham radio operators. To earn the Technician license requires passing one examination totaling 35 questions on radio theory, regulations and operating practices. The license gives access to all Amateur Radio frequencies above 30 megahertz, allowing these licensees the ability to communicate locally and most often within North America. It also allows for some limited privileges on the HF (also called "short wave") bands used for international communications

General License

The General class license grants some operating privileges on all Amateur Radio bands and all operating modes. This license opens the door to world-wide communications. Earning the General class license requires passing a 35-question examination. General class licensees must also have passed the Technician written examination

Amateur Extra License

The Amateur Extra class license conveys all available U.S. Amateur Radio operating privileges on all bands and all modes. Earning the license is more difficult; it requires passing a thorough 50 question examination. Extra class licensees must also have passed all previous license class written examinations.

-Courtesy ARRL

Alaska Ham Radio Happenings

For **May 2026**, Alaska ham radio operators have several opportunities to get licensed and participate in organized nets. The **Last Frontier Amateur Radio Society** is hosting multiple r**emote exam sessions** throughout the month, typically on Wednesdays at 4:00 PM AKDT and Thursdays at 2:00 PM AKDT, with additional Saturday sessions available.

Upcoming Remote Exam Sessions (May 2026)

- **May 27 (Wed):** 4:00–7:00 PM AKDT
- **May 28 (Thu):** 2:00–5:00 PM AKDT

In addition to licensing events, the **Alaska-Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net** continues its regular schedule, meeting **Monday through Friday at 0830 Alaska Time** on **14.292 MHz**. This net originated after the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake and remains a vital resource for emergency communication in the region.

Other Regional Activities

- **Matanuska Amateur Radio Association (KL7JFU):** While their primary VE testing sessions are noted for late 2025, they host monthly meetings and events; check their website for specific May dates.

National Radio Day: Although observed on **February 13, 2026**, local hobbyists like those in Anchorage (e.g., KL7AA volunteers) remain active year-round ensuring communication infrastructure stays operational.

Famous Ham Radio Operators & What They Do

By telling the stories of a few of the 700 thousand hams in the U.S., I hope you get insights on what ham radio might do for you.

1. Electronics Knowledge (Steve Wozniak)

To get your ham radio license, you'll be asked about questions related to electricity and electronics – including components like resistors and how they work.

A kid named **Steve** learned electronics partly through ham radio; in fact, he earned his first license by the age of 10. He went on to build his own radio and to use the knowledge of circuits and more to do something much bigger for society.

The Steve known in the '60s as **WV6VLY** is known better as just Woz. Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple computers, is a former ham who developed electronics skills through amateur radio.

2. Radio Sport (Tom Georgens)

While we're in Silicon Valley, let me introduce you to **Tom**. During the day, Tom ran a multibillion-dollar data storage company. On his weekends, he would blow off steam with radiosport. That's called "contesting" in ham radio.

Tom would fly from California to Barbados a few times a year and stay up for 48 hours straight trying to get the most countries in his log. Tom Georgens, W2SC, got his license at 14 and has actually won a few awards for his contesting. He's also represented the US in the World Radiosport Team Championships.

3. International Communications (King Hussein, JY1)

A special part of ham radio is international communications. Talking ham-to-ham around the world. If you grew up in a middle-eastern country in the '70s and we're a bit of a radio hobbyist, you probably listened to shortwave radio. Shortwave broadcast frequencies border the ham bands and were rich with news to hear what the world was saying and doing.

One way to establish international fellowship was to communicate out of your homeland on Ham Radio. Establishing that with not just hams, but people around the world was a man named Hussein from Jordan. Hams know him as **JY1**, but people in his country called him **King Hussein**.

4. Out of this world radio (Owen Garriott)

One of the hams that King Hussein talked to was **Owen**. Now Owen loved electronics and ham radio, but he loved space even more. You see, ham radio and space go hand in hand; today there are satellites completely built by amateurs that pass over the skies. When Owen went to work for NASA he made his first trip to space on Skylab III, but there was no ham radio in human spaceflight. Yet. So, on his second trip to space aboard Space Shuttle Columbia, he took ham radio with him and became the first ham to make a contact from space. Owen Garriott, **W5LFL**, was on STS-9 at the time. His son Richard would travel to the ISS and be one of the astronauts who makes contact with schools as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. 50-60 contacts from the space station to students happen every year.

5. Experimentation (Joseph Taylor Jr. K1JT)

Another tenet of ham radio is experimentation. What can we do that's different with radio waves?

That brings up **Joe**, a man whose day job was listening to the stars, and helped turn many hams on to what is now the latest ham radio thing. This physicist spends his time in ham radio developing software that makes it easier to communicate and hear messages at very low noise levels. We know him as **K1JT** but rediscovering ham radio is something Dr. Joseph Taylor did after he won a Nobel Prize for his radio astronomy work focused on listening for messages from pulsars in outer space. That's done through the WSJT software, which stands for "Weak Signal, Joe Taylor."

Some Names you May Know

There are a few other hams whose names you might recognize. The "Tech Guy" Leo Laporte, is **W6TWT**. He runs the TWIT podcast network.

Rocker Joe Walsh of the Eagles is WB6ACU. He used to send Morse code from the back of a tour bus.

Joe's friend is **Bob Heil, K9EID**. Bob invented instruments and created sound systems for stadium shows.

Don't forget toolman **Tim Allen – KK6OTD** – who picked up his ham license after he played a ham on his TV show "Last Man Standing." (continued)

Another is **Dr. Tamitha Skov – WX6SWW** – who appears on science shows spreading the word about how the sun and other space phenomenon impact the way our cell phones work.

One More Ham to Meet

Let me introduce you to one last ham; I'll call him or her **Elmer**. He or she has taken on the mission of "public service communications." Elmer spends evenings and weekends preparing and practicing their ham radio. Elmer wants to be ready to serve their community "when communications assistance is needed" like in blackouts or storms.

Elmer may live up the street from you. They are the neighbor with the strange antenna on their pickup truck, or the person along the marathon route sending messages back to ace control.to serve their community "when communications assistance is needed" like in blackouts or storms.

Now, Elmer really is a made-up name that represents thousands of people named Donna or Chuck, Jack or Patricia. People who have fun with their hobby, helping out with a local bike-a-thon or festival. People who know it's all practice for something bigger they hope they never have to use.

In Ham Radio, **we use the term Elmer as a mentor**, helping one ham learn from the next.

Is there a benefit of Elmer sitting at their home station talking to other countries, or amateur satellites, or just a repeater across town? Yes, it's practice. Practice to know how to get their antenna pointed, which of those 23 frequency bands to use, and how to get their gear set up in case of communications failures.

Recap

So a few celebrities, and mostly Elmers, are the people who make ham radio what it is. People talking internationally hoping

to make contact with a king or just add a new country to their personal list. People with a thirst for knowledge about how radio works or how electronics works. People who want to help their community or others when communications networks like cellular and public safety are down.

Don't forget the woman down the street who wants to fly a drone on some less busy ham frequencies. Or a guy who just thinks it's cool he can go in his backyard and talk to someone thousands of miles away by using an amateur satellite. Or any other aspect of this mile-wide hobby I might have missed out on.

Every person's experience with ham radio is different. What's yours going to be? It doesn't have to be a single one. You can start by talking across town and end with messages through the skies. Start by learning Morse code and sending messages from a radio the size of a mint tin. Morse isn't required for you license these days, but a lot of cool kids still do it.

When you are ready to get started and join Elmer, and the others, visit us at Ham Radio Prep. We have easy to use license courses that will help you get your callsign and get on the air.

For more videos like this, please like and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

Check us out! We look forward to hearing you on the air soon. Until then, I'm Jim – N4BFR – 73 for now.

Courtesy ~ www.hamradioprep.com

Monthly Emergency Frequency Test

The Alaska Emergency Frequency Test is conducted on the last Saturday of each month at 1000 local time, on 5167.5 kHz.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Auxiliary Station NNAØLP hosts the test.

Use only upper sideband USB (J3E or R3E). Continuous Wave CW (A1A) and digital modes (F1B, J2B, etc.) are not authorized on this frequency. Maximum power is 150 watts PEP. There are no restrictions on types of antennas.

NOTE: Government stations often use procedures taken from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Radiotelephone Handbook, for example USCG Force Readiness Command (FORCECOM) CGTTP 6-01.1B, available on-line:

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CGTTP_6-01_1B_Radiotelephone_Handbook.pdf

Each month, a summary report regarding this test is sent to the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X staff are copied in.

Thanks very much -

TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
Vice President
AARC Station Manager
Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) Anchorage, Alaska

Order your pre-designed name tags here:

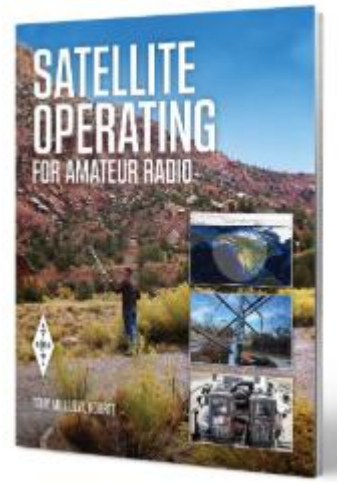
https://thesignman.company.site/products/delta-amateur-radio-club-ak

Cost is $16.50 for the basic badge and clasp. Stronger magnetic clasps are extra.

ARRL Contest Calendar

Contest	2026	2028	2029	2030	2031	
10 GHz	Aug 15-17 Sep 19-21	Aug 19-21 Sep 16-18	Aug 18-20 Sep 15-17	Aug 17-19 Sep 21-23	Aug 16-18 Sep 20-22	
10M	Dec 12-13	Dec 9-10	Dec 8-9	Dec 14-15	Dec 13-14	
160M	Dec 4-6	Dec 1-3 -Dec 2	Nov 30	Dec 6-8	Dec 5-7	
222 MHz	Aug 1-2	Aug 5-6	Aug 4-5	Aug 3-4	Aug 2-3	
Digital	Jun 6-7	Jun 3-4	Jun 2-3	Jun 1-2	Jun 7-8	
DX CW	Feb 21-22	Feb 19-20	Feb 17-18	Feb 16-17	Feb 15-16	
DX Phone	Mar 7-8	Mar 4-5	Mar 3-4	Mar 2-3	Mar 1-2	
EME	Aug 8-9 Sep 5-6 Oct 31-Nov 1 Nov 28-29	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	
Field Day	Jun 27-28	Jun 24-25	Jun 23-24	Jun 22-23	Jun 28-29	
IARU HF	Jul 11-12	Jul 8-9	Jul 14-15	Jul 13-14	Jul 12-13	
Jan VHF	Jan 17-19	Jan 15-17	Jan 20-22	Jan 19-21	Jan 18-20	
Jun VHF	Jun 13-15	Jun 10-12	Jun 9-11	Jun 8-10	Jun 14-16	
Kids Day January	Jan 3	Jan 8	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	
Kids Day June	Jun 20	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 21	
Rookie RU CW	Dec 20	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 22	Dec 21	
Rookie RU RTTY	Aug 16	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	
Rookie RU SSB	Apr 19	Apr 9	Apr 22	Apr 14	Apr 20	
RTTY RU	Jan 3-4	Jan 8-9	Jan 6-7	Jan 5-6	Jan 4-5	
SCR February	Feb 9-13	Feb 14-18	Feb 12-16	Feb 11-15	Feb 10-14	
SCR October	Oct 19-23	Oct 16-20	Oct 15-19	Oct 21-25	Oct 20-24	
Sep VHF	Sep 12-14	Sep 9-11	Sep 8-10	Sep 14-16	Sep 13-15	
SKN	Jan 1	Jan 1	Jan 1	Jan 1	Jan 1	
SS CW	Nov 7-9	Nov 4-6	Nov 3-5	Nov 2-4	Nov 1-3	
SS Phone	Nov 21-23	Nov 18-20	Nov 17-19	Nov 16-18	Nov 15-17	

New Book Release: Satellite Operating for Amateur Radio



Ever wanted to operate amateur radio satellites but felt intimidated by tracking the “birds” or unsure about the equipment needed? ARRL’s new book, Satellite Operating for Amateur Radio, is now shipping and shows just how approachable, exciting, and rewarding satellite communication can be.

Written by Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, the book offers a clear step-by-step path into the world of amateur satellite operation. It begins with the fundamentals of listening to satellite passes and demonstrates how even a basic handheld radio can be enough to get started. From there, readers are guided through making their first satellite contact, with practical tips that build confidence quickly.

“I’ve learned so much from the satellite community, and this book is my way of passing that along to others,” said Milluzzi. “I hope it helps a ham who has always been curious about satellites take those first steps to get on the air.”

Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, author of Satellite Operating for Amateur Radio, working a satellite during a portable operation using a modified “LID stick” Arrow antenna.

Beyond the basics, Satellite Operating for Amateur Radio provides in-depth coverage for more experienced operators. Topics include digital modes such as FT4 and D-STAR®, as well as roving, award-chasing, and advanced operating techniques. The book also explores antenna options, modern tracking tools, and mobile apps, plus ways to engage with the amateur satellite community.

Whether you’re just getting started or building on existing skills, Satellite Operating for Amateur Radio provides the tools and knowledge you need to get on the air and point your antenna toward the sky. This book pairs perfectly with the ARRL Dual-Band 2 m/70 cm Handheld Yagi Antenna, ideal for making satellite contacts and receiving signals from weather satellites.

Satellite Operating for Amateur Radio is now shipping. Order from the ARRL online store or through an ARRL publication dealer. ARRL Item No. 2363, ISBN: 978-1-62595-236-3, $22.95 ARRL member price, $25.95 retail.

For additional information or to place an order, call 1-888-277-5289 (toll-free in the US), Monday through Thursday, 8 AM to 7 PM, and Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time. Outside the US, call (860) 594-0200. ***Article courtesy ARRL***

ARRL Live Events and Podcasts

On the Air LIVE

Join ARRL's Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, as he takes amateur radio to the final frontier! In this session of On the Air Live, we will explore how to make contacts through amateur radio satellites and the International Space Station (ISS) using portable equipment. We'll dive into the essential gear—including handheld radios and directional antennas—and discuss the techniques needed for successful space-based communication. Plus, he'll show you how to use computer and smartphone apps to accurately track satellite passes in your specific area. Whether you are a newcomer or a seasoned operator, tune in to learn how to work "the birds" right from your own backyard!

The session will air on the ARRL'S learning center, learn.arrl.org, on May 26th at 8pm Eastern. Preregistration is required and can be accomplished on the learning center.

- Date: May 26, 2026
- Time: 8 PM Eastern / 5 PM Pacific

ARRL Audio News

Listen to ARRL Audio News, available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features. More info | Listen on Blubrry | Also available on iTunes and Apple Podcasts.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