DARC NEWS

New Newsletter | Alaska Ham Radio | U-Build-It Project

Club Information / Officers:

Website: https://kl7drc.org/
Email: kl5rp@kl7drc.org

President
Jeff Kinsman – KL2NL
KL2NL@protonmail.com

Vice President
Roger Wilson – KL5CZ
alaska4570@use.startmail.com

Secretary / Trustee
Antonio Porreca – KL5RP
tony.porreca.2@gmail.com

Treasurer
Phillip Lee – KL5EX
denali1998@gmail.com

General Frequencies

- KL7DRC REPEATER 147.030, +600, 103.5 PL
- APRS North America 144.390

Simplex National Calling Frequencies·

- 2M 146.520,
- 70cm 446.000,
- Local 6M Calling Frequency52.525,
- WinLink RMS Gateway 145.030

President's Message

Happy New Year! The Delta Amateur Radio Club enters 2026 on good footing with 25+ members and an exciting slate of efforts and projects to complete in the coming year. To start off, I'd encourage each member to get involved in as many of these programs as you can, as they make your membership in the club more meaningful and help it to succeed. We are all here to share enjoyment of our ham radio hobby and to support our community. The more you participate, the more you get out of your membership. Simple as that!

2026 has been designated by the ARRL Board of Directors as the Year of the Club, recognizing that radio clubs are the backbone of ARRL. The growth and development of amateur radio rely on our vibrant community of radio clubs. We can count on participating in ARRL Field Day and the Fair/Parade again this year, as well as participating in other activities around town. If you know of any local activities that club participation

Nets in Alaska

The following nets are active in Alaska:

Alaska Sniper's Net: 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM

Daily Alaska Bush Net: 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily moving to 3920 at 8:15 PM

Alaska Motley Net: 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily Alaska Pacific Net 14.292 MHz 8:00 AM M-F

No Name Net: 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM South Central Simplex Net Wednesday at 1900 local, starting on 146.520

Moosehorn Net: 147.84/.24 repeater Sunday 6:30 PM. Eagle Node Packet 145.01 Wednesdays 7:00 PM

Local ARES net: 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 8:00 PM local

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

might help, bring them to club leadership and we'll discuss at one of our monthly meetings.

As we go forward this year, club leadership will be focusing on the following:

1. Teaching and Testing. In coordination with the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, we will continue to provide prospective and existing hams a variety of classes and testing opportunities for initial and subsequent license class advancement. In addition to regular ham training/licensing we'll also offer Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) communications training and training for non-hams using GMRS and/or FRS frequencies during emergencies (3-3-3 Program).

2. SHARES HF implementation with the City of Delta Junction, Deltana Community Corporation and U.S. Army Garison Fort Greely.

SHARES is a Federally sponsored program to provide HF capabilities, particularly for Federal and State/local agencies, to provide for a common level of long-distance high frequency communication during national emergencies. For DARC it is an opportunity to provide our local community robust HF capability and training for emergency comms. Initial efforts have gone well and we'll continue to develop a standard HF equipment package (transceiver, cabling and antenna) and exact locations forequipment deployment. Eventually, we'll incorporate regular SHARES exercises into our club schedule to compliment and expand our current participation in monthly state-wide Saturday exercises.

3. Fixing and Expanding Repeaters. As most of you know, our 147.030 VHF repeater down and desperately needs replacement. We will focus in January, 2026 in getting a new repeater spec'd, ordered and installed, providing the club most-current repeater technology, including digital modes, and the capability to tie into the repeater system in with the Arctic Amateur Radio Club's Fairbanks' area system. We'll also explore expanding our coverage area by installing VHF/UHF repeaters at strategic locations around Delta, Dot Lake and possibly south towards Glenallen in the future. We'll focus on the use of more digital modes, including DMR, All-Star, Fusion and others.

How about Meshtastic? I'm currently running Dean KC7FWK's GMRS repeater on Ch. 20 from my QTH. Give it a try if you have GMRS repeater capability in your HT or mobile!

Outreach programs - Scouts, CAP Cadets, DHS. With significant and varied ham radio experience in our membership, outreach programs are important to provide the above organizations. Outreach will be another of our priorities to continue into 2026. The club can provide STEM presentations, including radio science training, and demonstrations to interest young minds in radio art and science applications. These worthwhile classes have proven very popular among area youth and are a great way to gain new membership in the club and generate interest in science in general. I'd encourage each DARC member to get involved and give your time to these efforts with our community kids and parents.

As you can see, 2026 will be a busy year for the club! I'm excited for all the opportunities above as well as additional efforts brought forward by you - our club membership. Step up and get involved with your club this year ~ you won't regret it! Until next time - 73 and stay warm!

Jeff Kinsman, KL2NL, President

Christmas Party 2025 at the Diamond Willow Inn

KL7DRC members and guests attended a holiday celebration at the Diamond Willow Inn here in Delta Junction Alaska. Members brought a delicious selection of food and desserts.

Door Prizes were awarded by Jeff Kinsman, KL2NL and included two new HTs and assorted goodies from ARRL.

The club recognizes the generosity of the Diamond Willow Inn of Delta Junction for use of their facilities for this celebration. Thank you to everyone who attended this annual event!

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 Type to enter text 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

The Alaska Amateur Radio Repeater Coordination Website is now on-line and ready for use. This website will provide repeater owners and trustees an easy way to keep their coordination current. The site also offers a list of coordinated repeaters for viewing, as well as a printable repeater list. – Courtesy Alaska Repeater Coordination Website

ACWN operations continue on 3534kHz and 7042kHz. Please note the 80m frequency change due to local interference. AL7N has provided an update on ACWN operations and invites interested stations to check in. The ACWN Mission Statement is also available for download in Microsoft Word format. – Courtesy Alaska CW Net Update

ARRL NEWS

FCC Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15; Continues Amateur Use of Four Additional 60-Meter Channels, and Updates 420 MHz

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited Report and Order adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meter band that was approved for world-wide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15

The Commission also agreed with a petition from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® to continue to allow (see next page)

publication in the Federal Register, when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions but antenna gain must be used to calculate ERP.

The 60-meter allocation is available to amateurs holding a General Class or above license. The maximum permissible signal bandwidth is 2.8 kHz.

-Courtesy ARRL

ARRL Division News Northwestern Division Northwestern News Volume Two,

December 2025

(2025 report from Division)

https://arrlnwdiv.org/

Hello Northwestern Division and welcome to the end of 2025. This will be the final newsletter of the year and will also serve as our yearly report.

Division Staff:

Section Managers:

These hard-working folks continue to lead Field Services operations in our six sections. Section reports, if submitted, are included below.

David Stevens, KL7EB (Alaska)

Kevin Kerr, W1KGK (Montana)

Don Lynn, ND7L (Idaho)

Jo Whitney, KA7LJQ (Eastern WA)

Bob Purdom, AD7LJ (Western WA)

Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI (Oregon)

Assistant Directors:

Daniel Stevens, KL7WM

Delvin Bunton, NS7U

Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO

Dave Cole, NK7Z

Steve Aberle, WA7PTM

Steve McKeen, W7QLO

Bill Balzarini, KL7BB

Advisory committee members:

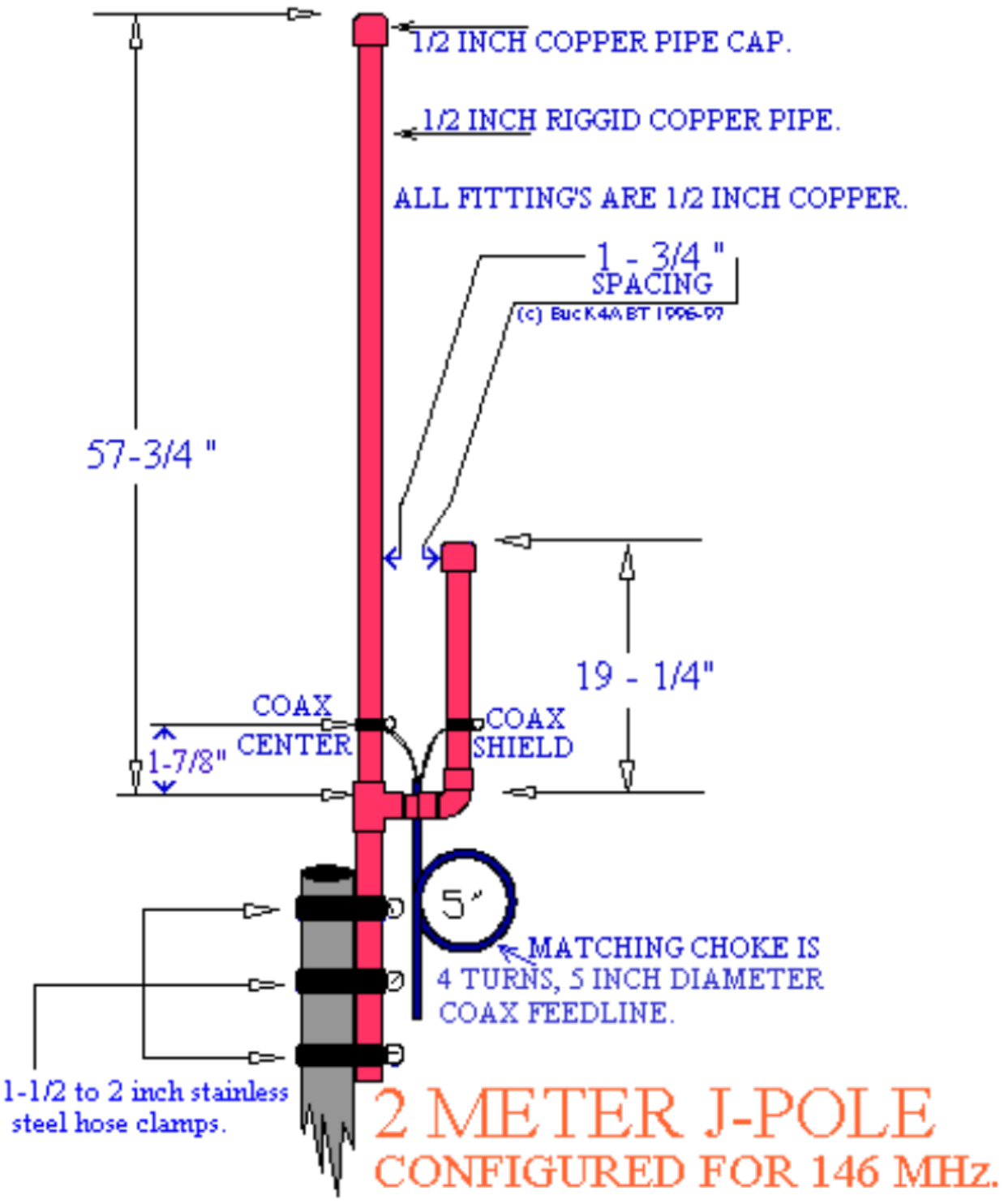
Jim Cassidy, KI7Y CAC, Contest advisory committee

Dick Swanson, K7BTW DXAC, DX advisory committee

5-9 Hamfest and convention list keeper extraordinaire, Lynn Burlingame,

N7CFO http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm

Ham Project of the Month



Building Suggestions

1. You may use a Fiberglas rod (arrow shaft) as an insulator, but you will have to be very careful with the torch or you may weaken or burn the rod, or make it brittle.

2. When cutting the 1/2″ copper tubing, cut the 57-1/2″ piece from one end of the 10″ length, and the 38″ piece from the other end. By doing this you will have factory-cut edges for inserting the 1/2″ dowel.

3. Be sure to keep the flame of the torch away from the insulator to avoid burning it.

4. Use paste flux on all joints when fitting the pieces together. Use enough flux, since you will be cleaning the entire antenna with solvent after assembly.

5. Use a weight to hold the 19″, 57-1/2″, and 2″ pieces, and the Tee and the elbow, flat when they are sweat soldered together.

6. Use a ruler or caliper to check the spacing between the 19″ and 57-1/2″ pieces, to keep them parallel to each other.

7. When drilling the SO-239 fitting, use the drill press. Be careful not to drill into the threads of the fitting. After the holes are drilled, file the opening flat for a better band clamp fit.

8. After the best match has been found, you may want to solder the SO-239 and the stranded wire end to the 1/2″ tubing.

9. When the antenna has been cleaned and matched, spray the entire antenna with a coat or two of clear lacquer to keep it looking nice.

10. After everything else has been done, apply silicon or a butyl rubber compound to the insulating section, then cover the joint with electrician’s tape for a weather tight seal.

11. A 1/2″ pipe coupling and a length of pipe may be used in place of floor flange for mounting in a roof tripod.

The feed point also needed to be made simpler, so I elongated one of the mounting holes of a panel mount SO-239 fitting and inserted a stainless steel adjustable band clamp. This goes on the 57 1/2″ long section of 1/2″ tubing. A short 2-3/4″ length of # 14 copper stranded wire is soldered to the center terminal to go over to the 19″ section. I used another stainless clamp to attach this. (See Photo B.) While experimenting to find the proper feed point, I found that the distance above the crossbar should be about 3″.

(project continued)

Part's List

1 10-foot section of Schedule M 1/2″ copper tubing

1 1/2″ copper elbow

1/2″ copper Tee fitting

2 1/2″ copper end caps

1/2″ copper threaded fitting (for mounting)

1 1/2″ cast floor flange (for mounting)

1 Piece of 3/16″ or 1/4″ soft copper tubing 42″ long

1 Piece of 1/2″ hardwood dowel of Fiberglas rod

1 SO-239 panel mount coaxial fitting

1 Piece of # 14 stranded copper wire

2 3/8″ by 7/8″ stainless band clamps

Tools needed:

Tape measure

Tubing cutter

Propane torch

Solder and flux

Electrical tape

Caulking compound

Screwdriver

A weight to keep parts aligned while soldering

Steel wool or a Scotch Brite pad (for cleaning all copper)

Spray can of clear exterior lacquer (to finish-coat completed antenna)4

NOTE: Coax center conductor attaches to the "Long section" feed point.

Shield attaches to the short section feed point.

Don't forget: On most of the J Pole designs out there, a choke should be used as close to the feedpoint of the antenna as possible to help prevent rf on the feedline and creating difficulty with SWR readings. For 2 meters, the coil is 4 turns of coax at 5 inches in diameter. You should get good results with the choke within 3 or 4 inches of the feedpoint on 2 meters.

- Courtesy MAARS

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.