

Juneau Amateur Radio Club

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE JARC WILL BE HELD ON HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 2ND AT 7:30PM

NEWSLETTER

of the

Juneau Amateur Radio Club

KL7JRC

2011 JARC Club Officers:

President AL7L Pat Moore

V.P. WL7BKA Dave Bruce

Secretary KL0KZ Sam Smith

Treasurer KL2QZ Rich Anderson

VHF Chair KL7HFI Jerry Prindle

AL7BP Howard Sheperd (alternate)

Past President KL1AS Jack Gregson

Bd. Member at Large KL7IG Charley Gray

In Brief:

- **PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 2ND MEETING:** The November meeting will be held November 2nd at the National Weather Service Forecasting Office, 8500 Mendenhall Loop Road, beginning at 7:30 p.m. After a brief business meeting, We will view a new video of the January 2011 dxpedition to the Orkney Islands. This was produced by James Brooks, 9V1YC, his 12th DVD of a major dxpedition. South Orkney Island is 600 kilometers north of the Antarctic lying approximately 60 degrees south and 45 degrees west. For comparison, Yakutat is just shy of the 60 degrees north and Anchorage is at 61 degrees,  
**JUNEAU PREPAREDNESS EXPO:** The Club participated in the 54th Annual Jamboree on the Air the weekend of October 15/16. The Club was at the Nugget Mall from 10 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Saturday October 15th and from 12 noon to 3:00 on Sunday October 16th. The portable antenna tower was erected at the back of the Mall and HF and VHF rigs were setup in the mall proper. The tower was extended to a height of 60 feet with a three-element beam on top. If you have not seen this,

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it is quite impressive. We made a number of contacts on the air and made contacts with folks at our booth including several scouts. We had a lot of help from Club members, and we are getting more experienced in setting up the portable tower.

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- **PORTABLE TOWER STATUS:** Howard replaced the defective limit switches on the tower and it is operating correctly now. We acquired 200 feet of rotor cable and I am working on finding a rotor control box. Dave Bruce is still working on getting the title to the trailer but it is only a matter of getting a signature on a power of attorney. The cover that Jerry donated to cover the trailer is holding up well so far.

Larry KL7IWC

- **SWEEPSTAKES PHONE EVENT:** Sweepstakes contest November 18, 4 p.m. to November 20, 4 p.m., probably at Fire Training Center. See write up in this issue.
- **SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY:** Skywarn Recognition Day most likely December 10, 24-hour operation as WL7NWS from Forecast Office
- **SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**
  - Lunch every Wednesday at Safeway
  - WL7NWS station at Forecast Office open to members 24/7 365; arrange to be checked out on operation by KL7HFI or AL7L
  - Meeting November 2nd
  - Sweepstakes contest November 18, 4 p.m. to November 20, 4 p.m., at Fire Training Center
  - Meeting December 7th
  - Skywarn Recognition Day most likely December 10, 24-hour operation as WL7NWS from Forecast Office

### DETAILS OF THE SWEEPSTAKES PHONE EVENT:

At our meeting on Wednesday, we'll work out details for the Club's participation in the ARRL Sweepstakes contest November 19-20. We'll move the tower trailer over to the fire training area and operate out of the "warm room," the small space in the fire training building where we usually make coffee during Field Day. This is a 48-hour contest; the object being to work as many stations in the 80 ARRL and RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) sections that make up the US, its possessions, and Canada. Our goal will be to make a "clean sweep," working at least one station in each section.

We'll operate on the non-WARC bands from 160 to 10 meters, propagation permitting. This is a voice-only contest, so anyone can play. We'd like to have teams of two operators continuously working the station for about 2-4 hours each during the 48-hour period, with one seasoned operator and one relative newbie making up each team.

Pat, AL7L will provide his K-3 with N1MM software, an integrated contest logging program. We'll use the big Vee we usually put up for Field Day, in addition to the club's triband beam up at 100 feet on the tower trailer. We can operate this event on mains power, so we'll use the club's 600-watt linear amplifier from WL7NWS unless some kind club member can make a 1,500-watt amplifier available for the weekend.

Sweepstakes is unique among contests, as the exchange is more complex than the usual "59 zone 1." In

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Sweepstakes, stations transmit an exchange to one another which is patterned after the ARRL message handling format. For the first contact in the contest, our operators will send:

"1... M...KL7JRC...02...AK ("Number One Mike...Kilo Lima Seven Juliet Romeo Charlie...Zero Two...Alpha Kilo").

The first item in the exchange is the sequential number of the contact. The second is the Precedence of the message, and tells the class the station is operating in. A is low power, B is high power (over 100 watts), Q is QRP (under 5 watts), M is multioperator, S is school club, and U is unlimited (stations using a spotting network). After the Originating Station (our call sign) comes the Message check: the last two digits of the year your license was granted - our most recent grant date for KL7JRC was in 2002 - and the last item, the section, is the station's 2- or 3-letter ARRL or RAC section abbreviation.

It can be a real challenge to copy all that information coming from the other station, but it sharpens your operating skills and keeps you on your toes.

A Sweepstakes operating guide is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Operating%20Guides/2011/2011-SS-OpGuide.pdf>

SHORTWAVE LISTENING STATION:      Strange Russian Shortwave station UVB-76

Most interesting article; link to Laid's site below.

[http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/09/ff\\_uv76/](http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/09/ff_uv76/)

<http://uvb-76.net/>

### MEMBERSHIP:

David Bruce reports that we now have 73 paid members. We continue to accept dues for the 2011 term. Membership information is available at monthly meetings and on our web site.

\$36.00 for an individual membership including one autodial number, plus

\$12.00 for any number of additional family members;

\$5.00 for each additional autodial numbers; and

\$10 for a youth membership.

Please bring your dues to the Annual meeting or mail to:

Juneau Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 35484

## Juneau Amateur Radio Club

Juneau, Alaska 99803-5484

Attn: Treasurer

The Club needs your active participation and dues.

### WEDNESDAY LUNCH MEETINGS:

We have had 8 to 10 members at our Wednesday lunch meetings. The informal lunch meetings continue to take place at the Safeway Deli at noon every Wednesday. There is a great selection of sandwiches and soups. Come join us!

### ARES Activities:

Participation in the ARES Net has been excellent. Although summer is over, let's make a commitment to being on the air this fall. The net meets on the Mt Roberts repeater each Tuesday at 7PM. Now that all of the Club repeaters are linked, you can join the Net on any of our repeaters. It only takes about 10 minutes and provides good practice for any events that could overwhelm our community. The Northern Southeast Alaska Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) net operates with participation from Haines, Gustavus, and Juneau. The purposes of this net are to check on the readiness of ARES members and their equipment, to make announcements pertaining to amateur radio, to conduct informal training and to give members experience in managing a net. All are welcome to check in. We hope to see you on the radio!

Tell us your new E-mail Address:

Sam Smith, KL0KZ, our Newsletter editor has been sending out our Newsletters electronically to the 95 percent of our membership who use Email. Please contact Sam at [ssmith@ptialaska.net](mailto:ssmith@ptialaska.net) or at [sam@borealcontrols.com](mailto:sam@borealcontrols.com) if you obtain a new e-mail address.

The Newsletter:

We are frequently able to include articles and information by Club members, which are far more interesting than the usual dry information produced by the editor. If you have time to put something together that would interest the membership, please send by e-mail to [ssmith@ptialaska.net](mailto:ssmith@ptialaska.net) or at [sam@borealcontrols.com](mailto:sam@borealcontrols.com). We will edit it for you; so don't hesitate to send something to us. The appropriate length is less than one page.

Club Web Site: The Club is looking for help keeping our web site working. If you have the skills or interest in taking over as our web master give Pat or one of our other officers a call. An archive of past Newsletters, Club Minutes and ARES information will be available on the site. It will also provide an excellent

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opportunity for selling used radio equipment. The URL is <http://www.qsl.net/jarc/>

Repeater Status: The club's linked repeater system is again operational! Jerry, KL7HFI and Howard, AL7BP spearheaded an effort to mount a 30-foot tower next to the repeater shack on Mt. Roberts, They installed the repeater in the shack with its new 220 MHz linking transceiver and put up an antenna on the new tower, bringing 146.22/.82 back to full operation after years of noisy and intermittent service. The link that ties Mt. Roberts to Lena Point still has a little noise on it, but Jerry's next project will be to raise the linking antenna at Lena Point, which should increase link signal strength at both Mt. Roberts and the KL7HFI 146.04/.64 site.

Still to come on the repeater front, we're looking for helicopter rides to Pedersen Ridge, Haines, and Hoonah to pull all three repeaters and service them at Jerry's, and then put them back into service at each location. We're also seeking grant funding to replace equipment and install better antennas at all our repeater sites. We dream of a day when we have reliable, redundant noise-free linking, IRLP and Winlink access from 2 meter stations throughout the area.

<b>REPEATER LOCATION</b>	<b>H-T FREQUENCY</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
Mt. Roberts Tramway	R146.82/T146.22	A new tower and antenna has been installed at the radio shack. The repeater and link are both working excellently.
Lena Point	R147.00/T146.40	Repeater is operating well since the new controller was installed.
Mendenhall Valley Repeater (formerly Heinzelman Ridge )	R146.64/T146.04	System is located at Jerry's home in the Valley. It is operating properly.
Hoonah Mountain	R146.70/T146.10	Repeater is now functioning, although the signal is a little weak.
Petersburg/Duncan Canal	R147.36/T146.76	Equipment has not yet been installed
Haines Repeater	R147.06/T147.66	Functioning, but with some problems.
Skagway Crossband	440 mHz band	Functioning
State Repeater	R147.30	Not functioning

Repeater Status:

The work on the Mt. Roberts repeater has been completed for the winter. The treetop antenna which had become inaccessible had failed, due to water infiltration in the antenna and coax. This caused the link ADC radio to fail from high VSWR and the repeater radio to lose sensitivity. Due to these failures, the linking back to the hub system at Lena Point also failed.

# Juneau Amateur Radio Club

## JUNEAU AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2011

Meeting called to order by the President at 1930 hrs.

Attendance: Pat Moore AL7L; David Bruce WL7BKA; Sam Smith KL0KZ; Rich Anderson KL2QZ; Gary Parker KL7GP; Glenn Sicks KL0QZ; Bob Simpson NL7XZ; Jerry Prindle KL7HFI ; Larry Walter KL7IWC; Howard Shepherd AL7BP; Jack Gregson KL1AS; Ivan Hazelton KL2UG; James Zuelow KL2ZZ; Charlie Gray KL7IG; John Larsen KL2AX; Jim Cummins KL7IYD

Minutes of the September 7, 2011 Meeting:

The Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Report:

Rich reported that the balance in the bank is \$2,205.73. Rich reviewed the bills paid during the month.

VE Report:

Jerry reported that there will be seven students taking the Technician exam on October 15th and that the class is going well.

VHF Report:

- Mt Roberts repeater is working well with the new tower and antennas since the Lena Pt. Antenna direction was improved.
- Power for the Mt Roberts repeater is provided by Gastineau Guiding. We will have to pay for all the power delivered to the Gastineau Guiding transformer. Jerry is going to determine the actual energy delivered to the repeater. We will make some changes in the arrangement if the transformer loss is too great. The energy cost is estimated to be less than \$100 for the winter.

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- Jerry has purchased a pair of 220 MHz linking antennas, which will be installed at Lena. One will be pointed North and the other towards Mt Roberts.
- Charley has built a 220 MHz yagi antenna for use at Lena Pt.

### Membership:

Bob Simpson reported that we currently have 71 paid up members.

### Old Business:

- Larry reported on the Preparedness Expo held on September 23 and 24 at Centennial Hall.
- Jerry moved the mobile tower to the site next to the building. We used a wire antenna using the tower mast to hold up one end.
- We had a good location at Centennial Hall and we had a good turnout of Club members.
- Pat made two presentations during the technical sessions.
- Dave reported that we are very close to having all of the remaining documentation on our ownership of the mobile tower so that it can be properly licensed.
- Dave reported that our grant request to the AARC for repairs to our repeater system is still pending.
- Ivan reported on the Scouting Jamboree on the Air. It will be held on October 15 and 16 at Nugget Mall. Set up will be at 9am Saturday and dismantled at 3pm Sunday. We need volunteers to man our booth. There will be a VE test at 1pm at our booth location in the mall.
- Glenn Sicks was presented with a document thanking him for his hard work planning and executing the great field day event in June. Thanks Glenn!
- It was moved, seconded and passed that the Club spend \$175 for rotator cable for the triband antenna.
- It was moved, seconded and passed that the Club authorize \$100 to be spent for power at Mt Roberts.
- It was moved, seconded and passed that the Club authorize \$200 to be spent for trailer repairs.

### New Business:

- Larry Walter has accepted the post of ARRL Emergency Coordinator for SE Alaska. Congratulations Larry!

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 20:45 hours.