



SHORT CIRCUIT, NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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FEBRUARY 1988
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Officers for the 1987-88 club year are:
President, Hank Hove, KL7HPR
Vice-President, Jim Dixon, NL7HI
Treasurer, Jim Gilmore, KL7SW
Secretary, Lewy Overton, N0SN
The newsletter is published monthly

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*MEETING TIME IS HERE*

The Arctic Amateur Radio Club will hold its February meeting on Friday, February 5 at the Globe Room of the Geophysical Institute, UAF. New, old and non-members are encouraged to come out for visiting, idea sharing and a program. Arrive somewhere between 7:30 to 8 pm. We offer a short business meeting, coffee, donuts and a program to rival the rarest of DX's.

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NEW ARRIVAL TO AMATEUR RADIO

Spark MacKenzie Marshall Estes arrived at 5:31 am January 5, 1988. Steve and Dianne have added a blue eyed boy to their family. According to Dianne he sleeps all night, eats and travels well and may be a left-handed key. Al Weber has predicted that Spark will get his license at 3 months but most long time amateurs would opt for 5-6 years. Who, out there in ham land, has had a young child receive an amateur license?

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*DO YOU WISH TO VISIT FAR AWAY PLACES AND TAKE YOUR RADIO?*  
Do you want to be the rare DX every ham calls? Nancy Vander Velde, AA6EA, a travel and tourist writer, has volunteered to send us her view of Micronesia. Read on, now and in the next few months.

Micronesian Visitors by Nancy Vander Velde AA6EA

In previous years, visitors traveled to Micronesia in Spanish galleons, New England whaling vessels, pirate ships, and Japanese submarines. Today, visitors arrive on modern jets and cruise ships. Yet, although the modes of transportation have changed, the reasons for going have remained very much the same -- Micronesia with its tropical sun and sparkling ocean has always been an ideal area to find a haven to relax, renew, and refresh.

*Cont.*

The 2,000 islands and atolls of the Pacific which comprise Micronesia were first encountered by the Western World in 1521 during Ferdinand Magellan's historic around the world voyage. Later on, Guam became an important stop-over for the Manilla galleons, while during the mid-nineteenth century, Pohnpei and Kosrae became favorite winter retreats for American whalers. A few decades later, Palau, Yap and the Marshalls were profitable locations for Germans to trade for dried coconut and sea cucumber.

Despite all of this international contact throughout the centuries, Micronesia has remained obscurely known, especially when compared to its romanticized neighboring island group, Polynesia. But slowly, every slowly, visitors are realizing that the many varied islands of Micronesia are a perfect place to vacation.

These modern day "South Sea" travelers no longer bring with them whaling harpoons or calico cloth, but instead, scuba gear, camera gear, and for a privileged few, their amateur radios to enjoy the ultimate of a tropical DXpedition.

For those holding American licenses, transmitting from the U.S. territory of Guam, (KH2) of the United States' Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, (KH0), is no problem. Guam with its bases is a particularly popular QTH for hams, especially those whose military assignment have taken them, less willingly than other Micronesian visitors, far from what they call home.

The rest of Micronesia until a few years ago was included with the Northern Marianas in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Now these other islands are in transition into three separate countries, The Republic of Palau, (KC6), the Federated States of Micronesia, consisting of Yap, Truk, Pohnpei and Kosrae, (also KC6), and the Republic of the Marshalls, (KX6). These new nations are still in a semi-independent state with the United States right now, some entities consider them U.S. while to others, they are foreign. For hams wishing to keep up their transmission time while visiting any of these islands, it is best to check with both parties first to see what the current status is.

But Micronesia is too large and diverse to fully discuss all at once. It spreads over an area of ocean approximately equal to that of the Continental United States. It includes a native population speaking over a half dozen distinct languages and doing things according to their own particular customs. This short introduction to the forgotten islands of the Pacific will be followed by a series of reports on Micronesia from an amateur radio operator's point of view. So until then, just tie the antenna to a coconut palm and enjoy the sunset as the waves crash on the shore.

Yokwe, Len Mwo, Kase/helia, Ran Annim, Hafa Adai... and, of course, 73s.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AARC MEMBER LIST

Additions:

Gilmore, Jim; PO Box 29, Ester, 99725; KL7SW; 479-4113  
Gilmore, Jo; PO Box 29, Ester, 99725; KL7YQ; 479-4113

Both Jo and Jim are ARRL members  
Jo is a Tech and Jim is an Advanced

Powell, Dale; PO Box 74992, Fairbanks, 99707, 457-3518 h;  
277-5591 w; Dale is an Extra and an ARRL member

Corrections:

Dixon, Jim; NL7HI; Phones: 474-0221 h; 474-7274 w

NEW AMATEUR EXTRA MOVING TO ALASKA IN AUGUST

Daniel L. Stephenson, N8HLC, will be arriving about the 15th of August to a new assignment at the Eielson AFB. He sent the club a letter requesting data on amateur activity in the Interior. I answered it, though if anyone else would like to contact him please do.

Lewy

Daniel L. Stephenson, N8HLC  
722 Choctaw Rd.  
Elgin AFB, FL 32542

WITH SADNESS, the Arctic Amateur Radio Club acknowledges the sudden passing of Ben Jason, AL7EZ, on Wednesday, January 20 while on his vacation in Douglas, Arizona. Ben, an Amateur Extra, was a friendly, inquiring and diverse individual who enjoyed packet radio activity. He was an enthusiastic dancer, had participated in FLOT productions and flew a small plane. He was a person who could be counted upon to help friends in need and to give generously of himself to others.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting applications for its annual \$1000 scholarships. Licensed amateurs graduating from high school in 1988 are eligible. Please make this known to amateurs in Alaska. For further information and application forms write: DARA Scholarships, 317 Ernst Ave., Dayton OH 45405.

UPGRADES AND NEW FAIRBANKS AREA AMATEURS

Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ, VEC Director, reported the following newly licensed or upgraded individuals in the Newsletter of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. All individuals will be sent a complementary newsletter when the newsletter editor/club secretary receives mailing addresses. Please give Lewy an assist here. Thanks.

|                        |        |          |             |
|------------------------|--------|----------|-------------|
| John T. Adams          | NL7KC  | Advanced | to Extra    |
| Tovan L. Adams         | -----  |          | to Tech     |
| Clara M Collins        | WL7BPS | Novice   | to Tech     |
| Charles E. Collins     | -----  |          | to Tech     |
| Christopher Q. Collins | KL7QO  | Tech     | to Advanced |
| Lin Hopkins            | WL7BHT | Advanced | to Extra    |
| Margaret E. Milem      | WL7BPV | Novice   | to General  |
| Leslie I. Rogers Jr.   | WL7BPU | Novice   | to General  |
| Mark A. Weis           | WL7BPT | Novice   | to Tech     |

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HAMSHAP

Plans are proceeding. I have some possible locations, and the AARC Board suggested having the event in August. Maybe we can entice in some visiting hams. Features will include: food and drink for sale; code and theory tests (I hope); some technical/semi-technical demonstrations at scheduled times; films; and maybe a speaker with a slide show. Swap tables will rent to individual members for a nominal fee, and there will be a Club table where you can leave a few things for sale and pay the Club a selling percentage. There will be some activities of interest to non-hams and elementary/secondary age children.

joan / NPAJW

A NEW NET

Some local hams decided to start a net that would be available to amateur operators with a novice/tech class of license. So in September, the Tanana Valley Emergency Preparedness Net was formed. The primary purpose of the net is to establish a network of amateurs with emergency equipment to assist local, state, and federal agencies during an emergency. Additionally, it would be nice to train novice/tech operators in proper emergency/net procedures. The net meets every Sunday at 2000 hrs local on 28.400 MHz and at 2015 hrs on the 146.37/97 repeater.

Future plans are to test the system with exercises that will identify weaknesses within our network (after 1-1-88). This emergency communications service will be offered to local officials for incorporation into the disaster program. This State wide program is tested once each year... hope we can be there !!! To date checkins have been good, thanks to all of you !!! Any improvements may be brought to the net manager (WL7BNC, Len) or to the net control on Sunday evenings.

Tnx AGN -73- KL7VK

A Letter from the AARC President on Swapping your Gear

The Arctic Amateur Radio Club is once again planning a flea market later this year. Joan Soutar has generously offered to coordinate this event and she has some ideas that I think may make it a better and more enjoyable event for all of us.

The general subject of flea marketing is what I would like to kick around a bit this month. Flea markets can be great fun...and they can serve very useful purposes as well. Where else can you dispose of property that isn't of much use to you but may be just what someone else has been looking for? Where else can you practice your bargaining skills for that upcoming trip to Pakistan or even Mexico, where bargaining is an art form? And where else can you have a full day of fun for practically no investment and benefit your club, all at the same time?

The AARC has had flea markets for quite a number of years now, and while they have been moderately successful, there are a few things that we could do that would make them truly outstanding. Here are some hints that I think would make the experience really rewarding for all of us and for the club as well.

Bring everything that the OM or the XYL has been bugging you about cleaning up (or out) that you just don't have any real plans for.

Don't restrict yourself to ham equipment....one of the elements of success of a flea market is surprise. In technical terms, this means that depth and breadth of inventory is essential to creating traffic.

Separate your inventory into at least two categories....the first category is that stuff that you don't have any idea what you're going use it for, now or in the future....(this stuff is used as bait).... and the second category is those items that have a current market; i.e. are listed regularly on used equipment sheets or are of relatively recent manufacture.

Whether you are a buyer or a seller...be ready to bargain. Except on the most pristine high ticket items, adopt a flexible pricing strategy. On the first category items, liquidation is the byword. You want to move this stuff off the table, but not too early. You want to be sure to make a sale sometime during the day on every item if possible, so take offers for awhile and check out the competition. If you find another seller who has your item for sale also, you may want to find your potential buyer and make a deal....fast.

Profit is nice but it doesn't necessarily have a role in flea marketing. I have seen just average rigs for sale at our flea markets in the past that were so far over market that that one item cast a negative selling atmosphere over everything else the seller had available. If you do want to try to sell such an item, create a barrier of some sort between that item and the rest of your inventory, such as physical separation.

Cont

Consider offering credit. Credit is a strong inducement in making sales. In over 30 years of countless deals I have never once been burned in offering credit to a ham. 30 to 90 days is about as long as I will go myself and then I will be careful and offer credit only to hams I know or who are highly recommended by someone I trust.

Now to one of the really important and crucial items that can make or break our flea market....inventory. I touched on this before, but it needs emphasizing. WE NEED INVENTORY. At least once a week we all hear one of us say that he/she needs to clean up "this mess." What better way to get it cleaned up than to take it all to the flea market. If it sells, thats great! If it doesn't, thats great too.... it's out of your way and you'll probably even get some help in disposing of it at the end of the day.

And one final thing....especially for you "oldtimers" out there.... be sensitive to the needs of our new hams just starting out. If you can.....cut 'em a deal. They probably could use the help. I'll wager that someone helped you out in this way in your early days and now it's time to return the favor. So what's ten or twenty bucks on a \$200 item.....just do what you can.

So start planning your sale now....look your stuff over and decide what you might like to turn into a little pocket money. Bring it to the flea market and let's all have a great time poring over each others trash! See ya there!

Minutes of the January 1987 Meeting
Arctic ARC Board of Directors
Lewis Overton (n0sn), Secretary

Actions Passed by Board

1. To establish a club communications officer, to coordinate with a representative of the Borealis ARC and with the Borough, to establish a comprehensive emergency plan.

The President appointed Jim Dixon (NL7HI) to the newly created position. The board accepted the donation of Borough maps from Dave Williams (KL7JIZ), who is a member of the Borough Emergency Services Board, and who will be the Borough representative in liason with Jim.

2. To authorize the purchase of 1,500 QSL cards, at a price not to exceed \$100, to respond to KL200KC cards received.

Anonymous contributions totaling \$65 were accepted by the board toward the expenses of KL200KC QSL's.

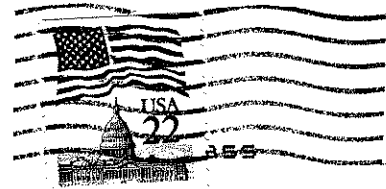
3. That the club adopt sponsorship of amateur radio exams, to be held of a regular basis in a publicly accessible place, to be coordinated by a board appointed club member.

No appointment was made pending consultation with Wigi Tozzi (AL7IF), the current coordinator of Volunteer Examiners.

CONTENTS: VISIONS OF MICRONESIA: A CONTINUING STORY
SOME SELLING /BUYING ADVICE FROM OUR PRESIDENT
WHAT SORT OF CONSTITUTION DOES THE AARC HAVE???
MORE MEMBERS JOINING EVERY DAY

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