

SHORT CIRCUIT, NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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JUNE 1988
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Officers for the 1987-88 club year are:

President, Jim Dixon, NL7HI
Vice-President, vacant
Treasurer, Jim Gilmore, KL7SW
Secretary, Lewy Overton, NOSN
The newsletter is published monthly
ARRL membership number for renewals (1913)

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CLUB ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER

June 18-19--Yukon 800 held on the Chena, Tanana and Yukon Rivers

June 25-26--Field Day, everywhere

July 9--AARC/BARC picnic, Chena Lakes, River Pavilion, 11am

July 16-24--Golden Days QSO Party

July 22-26--Motley Picnic, Byers Lake

August 6--Amateur Radio Exams, Conference Room, Noel Wein Library, 1 pm

August 27--Hamfest and Swapmeet, Badger Building Tanana Valley Fairgrounds 9 am-5 pm

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YUKON 800

To those amateurs who helped in the Yukon 800 this year many thanks for your contributions of time and enthusiasm. I want to thank, in particular this year, those individuals who run in the race, the speedboat fans who race up and down the river. Without them we would not be able to have a delightful weekend of working at checkpoints and doing the radio communication hobby we enjoy.

Jim Dixon, NL7HI

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The following upgrades are noted with enthusiasm.  
Kirby Wheeler, KL7VK general to advanced  
Joe Stevens, now NL7LQ and a general  
Christine Betts, now NL7MY and a general  
Lin Hopkins, WL7BHT, an extra  
Leonard Betts, now NL7NF and a general

## THE MAGIC MONEY NUMBER IS 1913

Now the idea of a magic money number may sound a bit absurd, but it is true. When you renew your ARRL membership, there is a space for a four digit club number (1913) which identifies the Arctic Amateur Radio Club. We then receive a return of member dues (a kick back) of \$2 for each renewal and \$5 for each new member. So for putting in number 1913, you donate to the club with no effort.

## BARC and AARC picnic

Gather with your best smiles, mosquito dope, frisbees, balls and what have you from 10-noon for the combined club picnic. Bring something to drink and meat to barbecue. Bring friends, canoes, spouses and children. The club cannot provide picnic stuff this year so bring all that you will need. But do come to share in the fun. See you at Chena Lakes at the River Pavilion on Saturday, July 9.

## GOLDEN DAYS QSO PARTY

The annual Golden Days QSO Party will be held this year. QSL cards are free and can be obtained by contacting Jim Dixon. The club call KL7KC will be used in a similar fashion as was KL7200KC so contact Jim Dixon. As an extra bonus for those using KL7KC, the QSL cards will be filled out by the QSL manager.

## 50th Anniversary of the AARC

Be thinking about loaning QSL cards for a public library exhibit; also other things to do to celebrate our anniversary next year.

## Emergency Communications

by Jim Dixon, NL7HI

Although Field Day is contest oriented, it is an excellent opportunity to test your emergency preparedness. If you are planning a serious effort to be first in the Alaska section for Field Day, the experience that you will get in organizing the station layout, scheduling operators, setting up the station in a minimum of time, etc. will give you the knowledge and skills that may be required in an emergency. These skills, although more critical the more people that are involved, will also be acquired if you participate alone or with a group of people. As for most things that are not intuitive, the more you practice the better you will perform. BUT THE KEY WORD IS PRACTICE. An amateur cannot become better in the art of communications if he or she does not communicate with others. This applies to emergency communications as well and Field Day is an excellent opportunity to practice under less than favorable conditions. Remember, the skills gained during Field Day may turn a marginal situation in an emergency into a manageable one.



## SUNKEN SHIPS AND RAISED ANTENNAS

by Nancy Vander Velde, AA6EA

To most people, if the name "Truk" means anything, it means the place where a fleet of Japanese war ships was laid to rest during World War II. To scuba divers in particular, the terms "Truk Lagoon" and "wreck diving" are practically synonymous, and each year hundreds come to explore these submerged relics first hand.

But sunken ships are only a small aspect of what the Truk Lagoon is all about. Geologically, the lagoon is a delightful treat as it is one of the few places on earth where a sinking volcano system and its resultant coral atoll can be seen together, creating one of the largest barrier reefs in existence. Then there are the almost 200 atolls and reef islands outside the lagoon itself. Here a Micronesian lifestyle quite unaffected by Western influence prevails. Men still know the ancient navigational skills and are attired in the native loincloth or "thu".

To try to see all of these aspects of Truk would be a monumental task for any one person. The main way most of the islands are kept in contact with the District Center of Moen Island is by boats and copra ships. Yet this District Center is also where Continental Airlines flies its 727s and foreign visitors stay. So an American tourist can easily find himself riding in the back of a pick-up style taxi along with a loinclothed Western Islander.

Moen is also the center of electronic communication for Truk. Not far from the International Airport stands the State Radio station, WSCZ, (1593 Khz), short-wave antennas, and the Satellite Communication Center. But as is often the case for Truk, these modern set-ups are not nearly as impressive as the old Japanese ones. On a hill from the downtown section of Moen, stands what is now Xavier's High School. The main school structure is the former Japanese Communications Building -- an impressive sight in itself! Thick, fortified concrete walls with steel window shutters -- there is good reason the building withstood the American bombings and various subsequent typhoons. Even the most dedicated amateur radio operator has never dreamed of a "shack" like that.

The Truckese on Moen are not in the stoneage as far as electronic interests. Direct television viewing has succumbed to a profusion of video cassettes, and video rental stores can be seen all over. However, what is also seen all over and appears to be growing in popularity are vertical HF antennas. Yet, to hams from other parts of the world, "CB radio" may be a foul word, but in Truk, it has the potential to be a useful tool. With phones not being available to even all who desire them on Moen itself, much less on the outer islands, the practicality of a Citizen's Band set-up is quite apparent. A person may live where there isn't even a car, but with an inexpensive radio, he can keep in-touch.

This is not to say that Truk is void of Amateur Radio. Some dedicated and long term operators live on Moen. Their raised 3-element beam antennas tower high above the much larger number of CB ones.

How many of those now enthralled by the simpler style radio will progress to ham radio, only time will tell. Truk, even with all of its war wrecks, is anything but stagnant and communication is playing a more and more important part in its future. Scuba divers may continue thinking that all there is to Truk State in the Federated States of Micronesia is a bunch of sunken ships, yet for amateur radio operators who have the chance to contact the raised antennas of resident Truk hams, they will have opportunity to learn about caves and tunnels, birds and bats...and much, much more.

Ran Annim o Fik-me-unungat  
(Good Day and Seventy-three)

The Prez Sez by Jim Dixon, NL7HI

At the May club meeting there was a fairly long discussion concerning the finances of the club. One of the largest expenditures of the club is the extension of the current repeater network. We are now at a point where this extension has put the club at the limit of its budget and for some, at the limit of their own person contribution. At this juncture, the AARC must make a groups decision whether to embark on a fundraising campaign to support the repeater expansion, be satisfied with and maintain the repeaters with little expansion on the clubs behalf, or support a regional organization which could more effectively utilize the financial and manpower support that the club and its members currently supply toward the repeater network. If you have any ideas on this or any other project, attend a board meeting this summer. The direction the Arctic Amateur Radio Club will take in the next few years may be decided this summer so please participate in these critical decisions.

On a lighter note, I hope everyone has a good summer. If you are not involved in any of the summer activities already, feel free to contact the sponsor and volunteer.

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HAMFEST ACTIVITIES--SAVE SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

Plans for the Hamfest are progressing. Some individuals have already been recruited to assist, and I will be working my way down the member list in the next week seeking volunteers for different events for the day. The Hamfest will be, club officers hope, a money making and interesting event this year.

Swap table applications are due by Wednesday, August 24th. All hams are invited to purchase a swap table; from around the borough, state and country, we welcome you. Tables are standard Fair tables, eight feet long. The COST is \$10. per table.

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Name and Call \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tables Needed (maximum of 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to arrive at the Badger Building, Tanana Valley Fairground by 8 am, Saturday, August 27th to set up your table for the 9am opening. Call Joan Soutar, NOAJW, with your questions. 479-6224.

Mail application and a check for the number of tables to the Arctic Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 81389, Fairbanks, AK 99708, Attention: Ham Fest Coordinator.

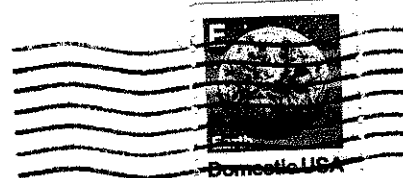
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!

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To be eligible for an Alaska Field Day Trophy  
and to use the club call, contact Jim Dixon

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