

SHORT CIRCUIT: AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

Fairbanks, Alaska

June/July 1989

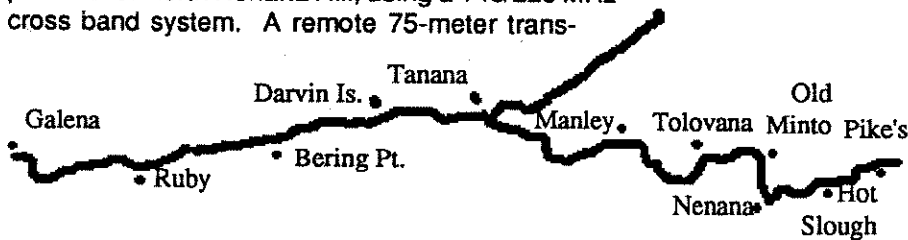
The Yukon 800 Marathon 1989 *a Fairbanks Outboard Association boat race*

June 24 & 25

It's almost time for the Yukon 800 again. Once again, the Arctic ARC will provide race communications for the boat club in support of a continuing effort to keep the race a safe event for the competitors.

The Arctic ARC communications center will be at Pike's Landing, which is between Airport Way and the Chena River, west of where the parks highway crosses Airport. Pike's has undergone a major face lift recently, with the addition of a large 3-level deck, a floating dock, and a covered patio area. Pike's Landing always is bustling with activity during the race (the start and finish lines are there, as are copious refreshments). Our communications center is a great place from which to follow the race.

To improve communications with down-river this year, a remote station is planned for North Nenana Hill, using a 146/220 MHz cross band system. A remote 75-meter trans-



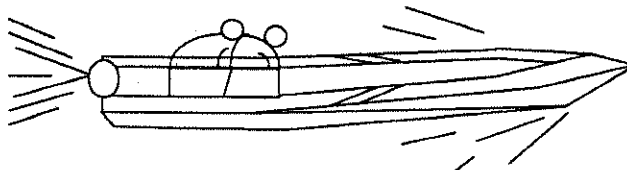
ceiver and antenna will also be there depending on equipment availability.

There have been some changes in checkpoint locations so that we can provide better coverage in the more dangerous parts of the race. Checkpoints are shown in the accompanying map. Planned staffing for checkpoints is shown below. Please note that some checkpoints are still available, even at this late date.

This year's race is being sponsored by Alascom. KTVF, channel 11 in Fairbanks, will be televising the start. TV coverage is also planned for Galena, where the boats stop for the night and turn around for the second day's run up-river. The Galena coverage may be either live or tape delayed.

If I have left anyone out, or if you would like to help at a checkpoint, give me a call. I will be outside May 31 to June 21, but I will still be getting messages during this period.

Dale Powell (AL7KB)
457-3518 or 28/88



Check-Point Checkoff

Pike's Landing:

Dale Powell (AL7KB), Steve Estes (KL7XO), Billy Connor (AL7FQ), and the Mongol Hordes (everyone who shows up is welcome).

Hot Slough:
Open

Nenana:

Herb & Veronica (KL7JLF & WL7BFB)

Old Minto:

Craig Bledsoe (K4TXK)
(tentative)

Tolovana:
Open

Manley:

Darryl Scott

Tanana:

Dick Atwood (KL7B) tentative

Darwin Island:

Al & Mary Worrall (KL7T & NO7QH)

Bering Point:

Dave & Bonnie Williams
(KL7JIZ & NL7GL)

Ruby:

Dan Stephenson (AL7KJ)

Galena:

Rod Combellick (KL7JJA)

... volunteers for open checkpoints?
Call Dale ASAP!

More About No-Code Licensing

The following is the text of a letter dated 3 March 1989, from George Winford (KL7VZ) to the ARRL, with a copy to *Short Circuit*.

Good Day:

In recent months it has been fun to read the pros and cons of a no-code license, but it looks to me that a lot of folks crossed the bridge before they got to it, and they apparently did it with a cart that was pulling a horse.

I have not seen any solid research supporting the hypothesis that morse code is killing amateur radio. I also have not seen any objective research supporting the notion that a no-code license will swell our ranks. In fact, I have not seen any valid research data that addresses any aspect of the growth or lack of growth of amateur radio.

If this were a competitive business decision, I suspect that we would have already seen some pretty solid evidence of what steps are needed to solve our problem. Unfortunately, up to this point all I have read are impassioned pleas either for or against the code, and I have seen the results of an occasional convenience sample supporting the notion that mandatory code keeps our ranks thin.

I think something needs to be done to give all of us a rational basis on which to make a decision about how best to bring about growth in our hobby. I suspect very strongly that it will take more than a no-code license. It will take a multi-faceted approach that includes personal involvement and regulatory action.

The successful marketeers in our society do not leap blindly into the marketplace. Their steps are carefully planned through market research. They have done market surveys, and their campaigns have been subjected to rigorous sampling. There is a technique that assures an excellent chance of success.

Therefore, it seems to me that if we are really serious about expanding our ranks that we ought to take a lesson or two from those who know how to effect expansion.

Let's put aside the code, no-code argument until we have some facts. I

would prefer that my stance on the code be based on a broader concept: Has it been shown through research that a no-code license will significantly help our growth? If the answer is no or non-conclusive then the code question is quelled. If the answer is yes, then I can make a logical decision. Do I vote for or against expanding amateur radio? The code question itself becomes secondary.

Amateur radio operators tend to be intelligent. I think it is about time we were afforded the opportunity to make an intelligent decision on the code, no-code question.

73, George M. Winford, KL7VZ

[Jim Dixon] thought this article was worth sharing. Excerpted from the Chenango Valley ARA newsletter the "Bullthistle Bugle" May 1989 issue.

TEC TOPICS:

by Don Russ, N2CZL

There are many reasons to go to a hamfest. The origin of the hamfest was to get hams together to swap rigs, parts and money. Lately thou there are many more reasons to go. There are lectures, presentations, manufacturers representatives, retail sales, auctions, contests, licence tests, ARRL booths, club booths, ECT. I have even witnessed people leaving without buying anything but the admission and a burger! But I'm a purist. None of that before 10 O'clock. I'm there for serious reasons. I have made it best known talent. To get that bargain! And there are a lot to be found.

The best way to get the bargains is to have a plan of attack. The most vulnerable time for a person selling junk, I mean equipment, is when he is unloading it

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from the car. Then he is busy, distracted, and anxious to make the first sale. In many cases he hasn't thought of what he wants to ask for the thing in your hand and will take an off the cuff offer. This means you should be there first in line. This also guarantees that you get the "I have no idea what this thing-a-ma-jig is so it's fifty cents" type of bargains before someone else does. I have bought fifty dollar tools and parts that way. The best plan of attack is to skim the tables for this type of deal first. Most of my real buys occur an hour before the official start time. Ignore the tables with established parts inventories and 100 pieces of each part, they will be there later. Concentrate on the newcomers and the small

Short Circuit

is published monthly
except July by the
Arctic Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 81389
Fairbanks, AK 99708

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tables first and then clean up the rest later.

After the tables have been scanned go back for the "truffles" run. This is where you rout through every box and bag of junk on the site. Look through the 10 cents each box (Molex extractor \$25.00, alignment tool \$5.00) and the old junk boxes. (6CW4 new in box, variable caps for antenna tuner.) Look for small things under or in larger things. (4 voltage switching supply in old computer cabinet for \$1.00, SSI204 touch tone decoder with crystals and a Z-8 controller in a dirty, scuffed cabinet, \$50.00 dollar value for \$5.00) Look at everything and never ask the question "What do I need this for?", ask "What can I use this in?" These seem to be the same questions but they are totally different. Also go back to the area where the latecomers are to catch the stuff coming out of the trunk.

Around 10 O'clock you can take it easy and catch some of the other events and displays. Look at the parts tables and professional tables around the fest. Also grab some of the free literature and advice that you can get from the league and other organizations. Grab a burger and seltzer and then do the clean-up round.

The clean-up round involves going to the tables that are packing up and giving the last minute offers. I got a great letter quality printer for my computer buy holding a conversation with the guy while he was in the process of putting it into his trunk. About the time he was about to herniate or burst a vessel he dropped the price to \$25.00 and dropped it in my arms as he collapsed. The last minute deal is the best time for the higher priced items. Some guys are counting on selling a rig to buy a new one at the retailers booth. They might make up the difference out of pocket. Never under-estimate the urge to fiddle with a new piece of equipment. This is also a good time to get free junk. Some people drop the prices to zero just so they don't have to look at it again. Bring a set of tools and scrap it there! Look in the garbage can. You'll find that some junk was just plain thrown out. Cut out the resistors and caps, remove the switches and knobs and leave the carcasses behind.

When you are in the process of making a deal ask questions, "Are there any minor problems?", "Has it ever been repaired?", "Why are you selling it?", "Where are the manuals?", "What is your call?" If you catch him in even a minor slip of the lip don't trust him. I have been given some real strange stories. If you have his call or address you can get in touch with him later. Get his address from the call book and then ask directory assistance for his number. If you can try it out, do it! Go inside and get 110 AC. If it's a rig you should hear signals if you touch the antenna connector. Try transmitting into

nothing for a second. If the rig is any good it'll try to put out power. If it's a 12 volt rig pop your hood and tie it in! Computer gear should give a raster on the screen at least. I tried a LASER that was supposed to work and it didn't. The guy knocked the price to \$15.00 and I found a new tube for \$20.00. The original price was \$50.00.

Homemade equipment has a wealth of parts. This area has a lot of industry that dabbles in computers and such so you sometimes see the prototypes at the fest. These are great for parts and such. Grab a box and sit in front of your TV while unwrapping some wire wrap. One \$1.00 box can give you: 35 wire-wrap sockets at \$0.50 each, a proto board for \$17.00, a power supply, BNC connectors, caps and resistors, standoffs, cabinet, switches, lamps, IC's and such. If you were to buy these separately it would cost hundreds! Home-made parts are usually the kind of parts you want anyway, so these are the best sort of things to buy for parts. But the most important thing to remember is to have fun! See you at the fest!

Civil Air Patrol Needs Radio Operator by Rod Combellick

The Fairbanks Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol is looking for a ham radio operator with general class license or higher to take an active role in CAP radio communications. A major benefit for the ham who becomes active in this capacity is the FREE use of an ICOM 720 general coverage HF transceiver and Alpha 76 linear amplifier at his or her home.

Civil Air Patrol is a volunteer organiza-

tion providing air support for search-and-rescue and disaster relief missions. CAP operates under the auspices of the U.S. Air Force and receives additional financial support from the State of Alaska Department of Military Affairs. Numerous search-and-rescue missions occur every year, some of which develop into major efforts involving dozens of aircraft operating in remote areas over periods up to three weeks. As an example of disaster-relief missions, CAP is currently providing air support for the Prince William Sound oil-spill cleanup effort. Between actual missions, practice missions and training occur on an almost continual

Arctic Amateur Radio Club

Hamfest & Swapmeet

Saturday - August 19, 1989

at

Moose Lodge

10th Ave & Steese Expy

Fairbanks, Alaska

**Door Prizes & Raffle at
the hamfest.**

contact: Joan Soutar (NØAJW)
PO Box 81389
Fairbanks, AK 99708
(907)479-6224 eves

Schedule of Activities

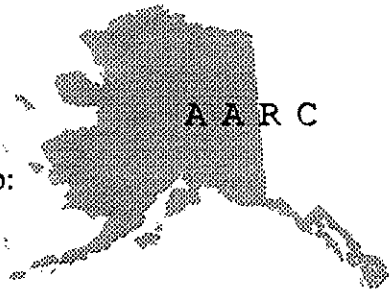
8am - 8:45:	Swap table setup (\$10.00 per table)
9am - Noon:	Swap & visit
noon - 2pm:	Programs & Demonstrations
2pm - 4pm:	Amateur Radio Exams
Evening:	Banquet held elsewhere

RV parking is available

*Admission is \$1.00
for age 13 & over*

Calendar of Coming Events

by Jim Chapman (WL7BOF)



Looking at the next month or so, the following are coming up:

Contests:

June 24-25: Field Day weekend. (Same as Yukon 800 boat race.)

Club Events:

June 24-25: Yukon 800. Field Day same weekend.

July 7-9: Motley Net Picnic at Byers Lake.

July 14-23: Golden Days Special Event Station: See Jim Dixon, NL7HI.

Aug 29: AARC Hamfest.

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