



THE SHORT CIRCUIT



April 2003

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Arctic Amateur Radio Club (AARC), Alaska's first amateur radio club, was formed in Fairbanks in 1939 and was incorporated as an Alaska non-profit organization in 1966. We have about 121 members and we meet September through May at 7:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the month at the Geophysical Institute University of Alaska. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Officers and Board Members

• Linda Mullen

AD4BL 488-7046

- President
- Alex Cryan AL7EX 457-4040
- Vice-President
- Debbie Treb AL1S 451-1911
- Secretary
- Benny Benevento NL7XH 479-5203
- Treasurer
- Kevin Abnett NL7WO 479-0370
- Board Member
- Jim Baldridge AL1I 479-7185
- Board Member
- Steve Estes KL7XO 479-5819
- Board Member
- Larry Ledlow N1TX 488-8399
- Board Member
- Eric Nichols KL7AJ 488-0483
- Board Member
- Rod Mitchel KL7YU 452-0584
- Board Member
- Jim Movius KL7JM 452-6347
- Board Member, Past President

Alaska Radio Nets:

- Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 0300 UTC
(1800 L) daily
- Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 0400 UTC
(1900 L) daily
- Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 0600 UTC
(2100 L) daily
- Alaska Pacific Traffic Net 14.292 MHz 1900 UTC
(1000 L) daily
- Interior Net 146.88 MHz 0500 UTC
(2000 L) Sunday

April Club Meeting Minutes:

April Club Meeting 2003

Linda AD4BL greeted everyone. Introductions were of everyone present.

Minutes were accepted

Treasure's report:

AARC General Account Checking: \$1332,57

Repeater Account:

Grand Total \$749.61

Newsletter 23 were printed and 20 were sent. Articles for the Newsletter please give to John Slater KL1AZ.

Benny NL7XH gave Repeater Report 120 machine is up and has minor problems that they are working on.

Hamfest website is up.

Iditarod – Hats for those who worked it are suppose to be coming.

Ham Class sometime in April. Day/Time still to be decided.

Board decided to get Club Plaque – ANYONE can contribute. The cost is \$250. \$200 has been raised so far. The Plaque is part of the Chena River Fence being put up.

Main Program: Benny NL7XH and Rod KL7YU gave an excellent talk on Echo Link. You can talk all over the world using a microphone and computer.

May's Meeting will have a pre-meeting: A Swap and Shop at 6:30. Main meeting will be Richard Stroud talking about DXing. He is from Fairbanks.

Coming events are the TOUR DE Cure and YUKON 800.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Treb AL1S

Club Secretary

Board Minutes:

April Board meeting 2003

There was not enough for a Quorum.

Board members present:

Linda Mullen AD4BL, Deb Treb AL1S, Jim Movius KL7JM, Benny Benevento NL7XH, Steve Estes KL7XO

Also Present:

Mike Drury KL7GL, Bill Mullen KE4TIP

Iditarod hats are in. You may pick them up at April's Meeting.

Deb Treb AL1S

Club Secretary

Repeater Report:

The 146.88 machine lost auto patch capabilities. Found the control modem had failed and had seized the telephone line. The modem has been removed and will be replaced soon. The '88 machine is now working normally.

We installed the 147.120 machine in at Pole Hill (about 7 miles south east of Eielson AFB). We still need to install the telephone line for auto patch on this machine. It has a small problem with a "squeak" each time it is accessed. I think the transmitter is causing the receiver to oscillate momentarily. I works fine just a bit annoying. I have a notch filter to add to the duplexers to see if this will solve the problem.

Canyon Creek is still down. We have purchased a 5 1/2-foot by 6-foot hut to house the repeater. I have it ready to go, we need to get the snow off the mountain there before we can install the building. It is now insulated with 2" foam, has a breaker panel, outlets, lighting, ventilation fan, and soon will have a small heater for it. I have 100 feet of armor BX cable for the power feed installed. It is our hope we can install it this month.

Healy is still down, again we are awaiting snow conditions to allow us up there to see if we can get rid of the interference to the repeater. As you may remember the repeater is working OK but is getting "hits" from the mine repeater thus causing lots of problems on the repeater network. We think it is a function of the TV translator and the mine repeater causing the problem.

Manley Hot Springs is still down we shall see about getting to it sometime this summer.

The link to Mount Fairplay needs to be worked on ... we are going to change the link from 220 to 2 meters. Every time I am at Mount Fairplay I can reach DotLake on my handheld radio, so it would seem that we can link on 2 meters and make this critter work better than the 220 link. There is not a direct path and we feel that the 2 meter frequency will work better. Now that we have talked to Bill Cross (the FCC guy) and he has told us it is OK to link on the 2 meter frequency we shall try it this summer.

We are still working with the Army to get back on Birch Hill to put the 147.09 machine back on line. We

have real problems getting the Army to give us power to the new building they wish us to install there. I am working

with Roger Weggel to see if we can get a neat 8' X 10' building that was build by students at TVCC.

The rest of the network is working just fine as far as we know.

That is the 146.88 Ester Dome: 148.82 Dot Lake: 146.06 Nenana: 146.70 Porcupine Dome: 146.79 Chena Dome: 146.88 Dot Lake: 444.40 Mount Fairplay: 146.94 Mount Eldridge: 146.82 Northway: 146.79 Mount McKinley Park and the 146.94 at the Geophysical Institute.

The 146.94 machine at the GI is now connected to Echo Link all the time. If you listen to it you will hear some neat calls from all over the world. If you have time try and talk with folks on the '94. I have seen over 300

connections from around the world on my log but many of them go unanswered, as there is no one on frequency to respond to the caller.

Benny NL7XH

Events Schedule:

April 4 AARC Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

April 10 AARC Board Meeting

May 2 AARC Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

May 8 AARC Board Meeting

June Tour-De-Cure

June Yukon 800

June Motley Group annual picnic

September 13-14 Hamfest and annual election of AARC Club Officers/Board Members

HAMFEST:

The Arctic Amateur Radio Club's Interior Alaska Hamfest 2003 is now announced by the publication of its website, a work in progress:

<http://www.mosquitonet.com/~fbrown/03hamfest.html>

The Interior Hamfest and the ARRL Convention in Anchorage are scheduled for the weekend of September 12-14.

The events in Fairbanks are on Friday and Saturday Sept. 12-13, though ham radio classes for license exams and exam day may be in the week leading up to the Hamfest and, as has happened before, some other events may crop up: in past years we've had the tours of research facilities, contest stations, and other additional events.

The convention in Anchorage is on Sunday Sept. 14. We're encouraging vendors and other visitors to

come to Fairbanks on Friday-Saturday and then to Anchorage for activities on Sunday.

Corrections and additional info for the website are invited. Thanks.

Fred Brown KL7CUS
Arctic ARC Hamfest Webguy
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907)452-3452 (home and office)
kl7cus@arrl.net

AARL NEWS:

Copied from: The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 16, April 18, 2003

"ENHANCED SSB" BANDWIDTHS "EXTREMELY INCONSIDERATE," FCC SAYS

The FCC has sent advisory notices to four enthusiasts of what's become known as "enhanced SSB"--the practice of engineering transmitted single-sideband audio to approach broadcast quality. Letters went out earlier this month to amateurs in Illinois, Florida and New Jersey who are aficionados of enhanced SSB, also known as "upper wideband" and "lower wideband."

"The Commission has received numerous complaints regarding the operation of your station," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Paul Christensen, W9AC, John Anning, NU9N, Anthony Latin, W4NSG, and Sareno Salerno, W2ONV, on April 3. Hollingsworth said complaints to the FCC alleged that the bandwidths of the stations' enhanced SSB emissions were "wider than necessary and contrary to good engineering practice."

"Wideband overly-processed audio, especially when coupled with the high intermodulation levels of certain amplifiers, results in the use of bandwidths extremely inconsiderate of other operators," Hollingsworth said. Such transmissions may violate FCC rules and may be at odds with what Hollingsworth described as "the expectation that the Amateur Service be largely self-regulated."

Occupying more bandwidth than necessary in a heavily used amateur band, Hollingsworth wrote, not only could generate ill will among operators but lead to petitions asking the FCC to establish bandwidth limits for amateur emissions. At present, the FCC imposes no specific bandwidth limits on various amateur modes.

Hollingsworth cited §97.307(a) of the Amateur Service rules that requires the signal of an amateur station not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." Some amateurs have complained that enhanced SSB signals can take up 8 kHz or more of spectrum, cause splatter and unnecessarily interfere with other stations.

"The Amateur Service is not a substitute for the Broadcast Service," Hollingsworth said, "and the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service were not allocated for a 'broadcast quality' audio emission or sound." Hollingsworth suggested the enhanced SSBers operate when the bands are less busy or on bands that are not heavily used.

The many complaints the FCC has been getting--20 or so per week--leads to the conclusion that the stations' enhanced SSB operation is having "a negative impact" on the Amateur Service, Hollingsworth said. He requested that the four amateurs "fully review the rules" and make sure their stations conform to them.

For Sale/Help Wanted:

1. Below equipment for sale by Mike Riley @ 488-2381 or e-mail riley 1081@att.net.

Yaesu FT-707 HF XCVR 10-160 Meters 200.00 OBO
FV-707 Ext VFO & Scanning Mic. \$125.00 OBO
FP-707 Speaker/Pwr supply \$75.00 OBO
FC-707 Ant Tuner \$75.00 OBO

Yaesu FT-301 HF XCVR 10-160 Meters (INOP) make offer
FP-301 Speaker/PWR supply \$75.00 OBO
FC-303 Ant Tuner \$75.00 OBO
FV-301 Ext VFO \$75.00 OBO

*Note the 301 equipment does not have power cords.

Yaesu FL-2100 Linear AMP 10-80 Meters 1200W \$275.00 Firm

CDE Tailtwister HD Rotor \$100.00 OBO

NEWSLETTER EDITOR COMMENTS:

As a reminder the Club meeting time has change to 7:00 now. All input and comments/articles are welcome. If you have an e-mail address this is one way to save the club money, with the recent rise in postal rates it is going to become more expensive to mail out the newsletter. As a reminder if you wish to have something put into the newsletter you may e-mail me at slaternorthp@mosquionet.com and be sure to include your call sign in the subject so I will know it is from another ham, or it will be deleted, or you may call me at home 488-5209.

