



# THE SHORT CIRCUIT



February 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 Baldrige AL1I 479-7185
- Board Member
- Steve Estes KL7XO 479-5819
- Board Member
- Larry Ledlow NL1TX 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

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## February Club Meeting Minutes:

Linda AD4BL greeted everyone.

Everyone introduced himself or herself, including the visitors.

The minutes of last club meeting were waved to read.

Treasurer's report was \$2180.83 in Club fund.

Newsletter was sent out.

Frank Denardo ALLOW.

Old Business: none

Jr. Quest: Linda recognized all that worked.

New Business:

Jim KL7MJ presented gavel (Ham Club's) to Linda AD4BL.

Hamfest: Events Friday and Saturday. Anchorage Hamfest on Sunday.

John from the Alaska State Defense Force explained they are a voluntary group. He was there to let everyone know about the group. The group is made up of retired military. A person who is on active duty or in the reserves can not join. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join. They meet once a month at the National Guard Armory. They begin at 9 am. This month it was Feb. 8 & 9.

**PROBLEM:** Someone is accessing the Repeater Autopatch WHO IS NOT A Ham. He will not give a Call Sign or will not say who he is. A suggestion was made to let the proper authorities know so our club will not get into trouble. He either has or is using someone's ham gear. He is trying at times to tie the Repeater System up for quite sometime. Not allowing legitimate hams to use it. Another suggestion was to try and triangulate where he is located and catch him.

March's Club meeting will be given by Tim Shy of the National Weather Service.

PLT (Power Line Telecommunications) is not a good type of Ham Radio communicating. It raises the noise floor substantially. Keep Aware – Long wires RADIATE 60 HZ. It takes a LARGE toll on HF.

Yukon Quest – Start time was changed to Noon. Amateurs will be the ONLY ones inputting data on the Web Page. Volunteers will be faxes and phones.

Rex AL7BJ, Benny NL7XH, Jim KL7JM, Alex AL7EX and Jim WL0JM – HF monitors for Race. If a person has a General or Extra license they are allowed to use the HF radio at the Log Cabin. Instructions are with the radio.

NO information will be given that is not on the Website. All Radio and TV persons with questions on

the race are to be told to talk with Layne St. John at the Quest office.

Deb Treb AL1S  
Club Secretary

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## **Board Minutes:**

Greetings

Minutes

Treasurers Report

ARES report

Old Business  
Quest

New Business

Iditarod

Next Meeting March 7 Tim Shy from NWS guest speaker

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## **Events Schedule:**

March 3 restart on Iditarod in Fairbanks

March 7 AARC Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

March 7-9 Two Rivers 200

March 13 AARC Board Meeting

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

April 10 AARC Club Meeting

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

May 8 AARC Board Meeting

June Motley Crew annual picnic

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

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## **HAMFEST:**

To members of the Arctic Amateur Radio Club; to Gail Ianonne at ARRL Headquarters; and to Gordon and Suzy West.

Our hamfest website IS NOT that of the 02 website nor that of the club itself; Vendors and others were, on a temporary basis, referred to last year's website and the main Arctic ARC website for a time.

Gail in Newington: PLEASE now show in the ARRL's Hamfest listings the '03 Website URL shown

below -- the one you were originally provided. And I join Jim KL7JM's thanks to you and Greg Milnes for your fine cooperation again this year.

Gordon WB6ONA in California and Hamfest Coordinator Jim KL7JM here:

Please do all you can to bring this URL to the attention of the vendors who have been hamfest-shopping for 2003. It WILL grow with more detail as the weeks go by.

To Arctic ARC members and EVERYONE:

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

409 C Street

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

(907)452-3452 (home and office)

[kl7cus@arrl.net](mailto:kl7cus@arrl.net)

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## **AARL NEWS:**

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 07, February 14, 2003

**HOLLINGSWORTH PREACHES COURTESY, COMMON SENSE**

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth told those attending his forum at the Richmond, Virginia, Frostfest February 9 that Amateur Radio enforcement still has a long way to go, but that amateurs can do a lot through peer pressure to head off problems before they become enforcement issues.

"Enforcement is no substitute for courtesy and common sense," Hollingsworth declared. "More courtesy would go a long way. Hollingsworth again suggested that amateurs "operate so that listeners will be impressed with Amateur Radio," not offended or turned off by it. He said awareness of Amateur Radio is on the rise in the wake of media attention since September 11, 2001, and, more recently, with ham radio assistance in the search for debris from the shuttle Columbia. He pointed to 20 and 75 meters as the current enforcement hot spots as well as the bands where the least courteous operating practices are found--some of which he described as "a disgrace" to the Amateur Service.

Off-the-air peer pressure, he said, is an effective tool to provide guidance to amateurs who may be unaware of how they sound to others on the air. The reactions of some hams when they confront interference--or perceived interference--can be worse than the original interference--whether or not it's deliberate. "Don't overreact," Hollingsworth advised. "The best reaction is no reaction whatsoever."

"You have to always be aware of your image and be willing to protect it," he told those gathered in the packed forum. "You can't shoot yourself in the foot." More than 1000 attended the Richmond Frostfest, sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society <<http://www.rats.net/>>.

The use of new technology and on-the-air experimentation also sometimes brings controversy to the amateur bands, Hollingsworth said, and may prompt an occasion for the FCC to revisit its current Part 97 Amateur Service rules. Hollingsworth pointed to the use of so-called "enhanced SSB," where experimenters have been attempting to achieve full-carrier AM-like high-fidelity audio in that mode. Hollingsworth said the presence of the enhanced SSB experimenters has led to complaints to the FCC—as many as 20 per week--that these signals are taking up excessive bandwidth.

Hollingsworth told his Richmond audience that deliberately operating a wideband mode in a crowded spectrum is "shortsighted and rude," may be ignoring the "minimum bandwidth necessary" rule. If its use isn't accompanied by courtesy and common sense, he said, it will lead to pressure on the FCC to revise the Amateur Service rules.

The "Emission Standards" section of Part 97--specifically §97.307(a) and (b)--requires amateur transmissions to not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice" and to "not cause splatter" on adjacent frequencies.

Hollingsworth said the bandwidth of a given signal is not easily determined by the average amateur transceiver--even one equipped with a band scope of some sort. He pointed out that the problems with apparent splatter can be aggravated by the use of a noise blanker on the receiving end. "Just because it sounds wide doesn't mean it is wide," he said, adding that he'd prefer the amateur community come up a way to

accommodate such experimentation, because "a government solution will be worse than the problem."

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## YUKON QUEST 2003

I am overwhelmed by the awesome team that worked the Yukon Quest this year. It seemed such a struggle to get it off the ground but folks volunteered when I needed them.

When Benny was airlifted to Anchorage, I knew what was going to happen and it scared me to death. I had a lot of help from some awesome guys and I will be always grateful for that help.

This year we had 32 amateurs who worked the Quest doing everything from setting up the Comm Center to working on the trail at -40. We had 8 who did the Comm Center setup, 5 on the HF support team, 11 out on the trail, 3 working on the repeaters, 15 who kept the Comm Center working, and 2 who helped in other ways.

The night before the race started, it rained and turned to ice, dangerous icy roads, so bad that we couldn't get into town to open the Comm Center for the start of the race.

I was working from home but the Quest switched the data flow to Whitehorse.

Monday a few hardy folks managed to work during the day but I had the logbooks. Finally on Tuesday [after 5 inches of snow] I was able to get into town. I had been working from home and keeping up the logbooks so they were up to date when they made it to the Comm Center. Everything that we had planned for working during the early part of the race was changed, it kept us on our toes.

When the mushers got to Braeburn, they were told that the trail was so dangerous that they would be trucked to Carmacks and the race restarted with a 9hr layover to cover the move. My neighbor who ran the 250 later told me that the trail between Carmacks and McCabe was really bad. Where it was on the river, they had jumble ice to contend with. Huge block of ice 5-6ft tall. She got her sled wedged between ice blocks and Darren Lee who was running the Quest stopped to help her several times. Where the trail went overland it had snow but no base and was full of stumps and boulders.

In the meantime the Quest officials in Whitehorse started back to Fairbanks in a bus which broke down at Kluane Lake CA. No way for us to get in touch with them. A rescue bus left Fairbanks and made it to just below North Pole and turned around....a trip of 4 hours. Several days later, the bus repaired, the crew made it back to Fairbanks.

The teams started deploying to the checkpoints and the first HF was out of Scroggy with Joe May at the Checkpoint and the HF team here picking up his transmissions. The HF comms were mostly good the first few days. Ken Severin went to Dawson, then Eagle and M101. Hal Morgan went to Dawson and onto Eagle and M101. Hal had planned to spend just several days on the Quest but that stretched into 5+ days, he was just having too much fun.

The Circle team Jim Matthews, Ken Kloph, and Betty Marshall were transported by Diane Marshall. They had to wait at Eagle Summit for the plows to clear the pass so they could get thru. That pass regularly was closed by winds and blowing snow. When Dick Sullivan got to Central, the trailer he was towing came loose when he hit a bump and he lost the battery that powered the furnace. It was -32

outside and 45 in the trailer. He spent the night in the lodge.

Benny, Alex Cryan, Brian Lawson, Benny's son-in-law and Brad Brooks went by helicopter and truck to put in the repeater on Chena Dome just north of Angel Creek. They got that installed and went to Porky to bring in 8 new batteries. They could only hook up one of the batteries. Later it was discovered that the battery was not getting charged right because of the solar charger. The repeater was only usable during the day as long as we had sunshine. The next day Benny and Alex went down to Canyon Creek to find out why it was not working. The power to the 440 side had been turned off, an easy fix but a 3hr drive. They finally were able to get the copter to go back up to Porky and get the batteries all hooked up, just in time for the teams coming thru.

In the midst of the Quest, we found out that the start of the Iditarod had been moved to Fairbanks, for the first time in 31 years. Planning for that was ongoing during the Quest and a number of the amateurs who worked the Quest signed up for the Iditarod

Rod KI7YU pulled the best duty of us all. He was at the Nordale bridge just in time to see and talk to Hans Gott, the winner of the Yukon Quest, when he came thru at 5:20AM.

We had 32 amateurs working on this Quest. Last year we had 60. The team did an awesome job and I have no criticisms or things we should have done or done better. It worked like clockwork. There were areas we couldn't cover because we didn't have the folks to do it. There were amateurs who pulled long hours who could have used some relief and support.

Those of you who didn't participate for what ever reason really missed being a part of amateur radio at its best, and you missed a really good time.....maybe next year.

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## For Sale/Help Wanted:

1. Here's some stuff I'd like to get rid of...

High performance transverter kits from Downeast Microwave 50-28 6M transverter kit, 20 Watt, <1 dB NF, High level mixer, 28MHz IF 222-28 222 MHz. 25W, <1.0 dB NF, High level mixer, 28MHz IF See details at <http://www.downeastmicrowave.com>. These kits are unassembled and come with all connectors, machined enclosures and heatsinks. Require moderate experience with electronics assembly. Retail price \$295 each. Asking \$175 each, \$335 for both. Phone Larry N1TX 488-8399 or email [n1tx@arrl.net](mailto:n1tx@arrl.net).

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

Yaesu FT-101ZD HF XCVR 10-160 Meters, includes DC/DC converter \$125.00 OBO.

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

YO-301 Monitor/Scope \$75.00 OBO

301 Phone patch \$35.00

\*Note the 301 equipment does not have power cords.

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

Daiwa CS-401 position coax sw \$20.00

CDE Tailtwister HD Rotor \$100.00 OBO

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## **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@mosquitonet.com](mailto:slaternorthp@mosquitonet.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.