



THE SHORT CIRCUIT



March 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

March Club Meeting Minutes:

AARC Meeting March 7, 2003

Welcome

Introductions

Minutes

Treasurer's Report transferred \$840 from main account to repeater account

New Business

Amateur Class

Repeaters new repeater on Chena Dome 146.79 autopatch coming
Echolink on the 146.94 machine

Old Business

Jr Yukon Quest Report

17 amateurs, 9 CAP Cadets from Eielson 186 Man-hours \$11,628 in equipment
Total support value \$13,488

Yukon Quest Report

34 amateurs value up to \$75K and still counting

Awards

"Joe Friday" Alex AL7EX

Comm Center Bob KL7EBF

Trail Operator Ken WL7HU

Trail Operator of the Year Dick WL7UB

Communications Operator of the Year John KL1AZ

Rookie of the Year Dan KL1JP

Amateur of the Year Rod KL7YU

Coffee and cookies....no takers

Program Tim Shy NWS Tim showed us the NWS coverage area and how they need
Us to assist them with ground reports.

April program April 4

Board Meeting March 13 7PM

Board Minutes:

March 2003 Board Meeting

Board members present:

Linda Mullen AD4BL, Benny Benevento NL7XH, Kevin Abnett NL7WO, Steve Estes KL7XO, Rod Mitchel , KL7YU, Deb Treb AL1S, Jim Baldrige AL1I, Alex Cryan AL7EX, Larry Ledlow N1TX

Also present:

Mike Drury KL7GL, John Slater KL1AZ, Bill Mullen KE4ITP

Minutes from last board meeting were accepted.

Treasures' s report:

Account:

AARC General Account Checking Current Balance: \$1,343.04

Repeater Account: \$1,046.32

Club members are free to look at the more thorough records that the Club Secretary has on hand.

Newsletter was sent out last month.

Old Buisness:

Quest has started planning for next years Yukon Quest 2004. Brad Brooks and Quest board are meeting end of this month to draw up a 3 year plan. Linda wrote the report for the Quest as to what the club does.

Alex Cryan got the "Joe Friday" award for all he did for the Quest this year and being Linda's "right arm."

Rod Mitchel was awarded "Amateur of the year" for bringing the donuts.

Ken Severin got the "Trail Operator" award.

Dick Sullivan got the "Trail Operator of the year" award.

Bob Clark got the "Comm. Center" award.

John Slater got the "Communications Operator of the year" award.

Dan Wietchy got "Rookie of year" award.

Club Members are CONTRIBUTING for the plaque for fence along the Chena River IF YOU Are INTERESTED. Festival Fairbanks is having renovations to the downtown Chena River walk area. They are going to put up a wrought iron fence along First Avenue between Barnett Street and the Aurora Energy Power Plant. They are going to put bronze plaques to help pay for this endeavor. The Club Executive Board has donated \$200.00 toward the \$250.00 needed to have a plaque. We will have a plaque with "Artic Amateur Radio Club Fairbanks KL7KC.com" If you would like to help please contact Benny and we shall get the plaque done we only need \$50.00 more to have enough to do this. Also if you have a better "message" for the plaque please email me. The above is just a suggestion and will be modified if we get a better "message". We have 60 characters to work with.

Larry: ARES report is not busy at the moment.

The club needs to get a formal agreement with FEMA, RED CROSS, Borough Emergency Disaster – Tim Biggane, and Homeland Security.

John Slater is going to take charge of storing some of the Club Radios at his home.
The meeting was adjourned.

Deb Treb AL1S – Club Secretary

Yukon Quest Report:
Jr. Yukon Quest

17 amateurs, 9 CAP Cadets from Eielson. Total of 186 man-hours \$11,628 in equipment for a total of \$13,488

Yukon Quest

34 amateurs, 2473.5 man-hours, Equipment \$50,856, total \$75,591

Repeater Report:

We got the bad news that ACS has removed us from the Canyon Creek site. They are installing new equipment and there will not be any room for us in the microwave building. We got permission from the State folks and ACS to put a building at their site to house our repeater. We will build a building this summer ... will be asking for help in this task.

With Canyon Creek down this kills the link to Dot Lake, Mount Fairplay (Chicken) Mount Eldridge (Eagle) and Northway.

Manley Hotsprings is down, and we think that Reindeer mountain in Cantwell is also down. Healy is down as there is sever interference from the TV translator and the mine repeater that kills our system. We shall work on this some time this summer.

The 147.09 machine is still down as the Army has removed us from their building for the same reason ACS removed us from Canyon Creek. The new radio links take up so much more room in the buildings that there is no room for us. Dave King WL7IP is working with the base commander to get a building there to house the "09 machine.

Bob Ball is working with the Air Force contractor to get us back to the 147.120 machine to remove it and we then will set it up at Pole Hill site (this is the site that the old 146.79 machine use to be. We have taken the 146.79 frequency and put in a new repeater at Chena Dome. This repeater is at 5000 feet and is located several miles behind Angel Creek Lodge. It has great coverage from Eagle Summit to Chena Hotsprings. A great addition to our network.

As many of you know we have hooked Echo Link to the 146.94 machine and we encourage all hams to listen to it when possible. We have folks from all over the world connecting to us via Echo Link. It is a great way to meet other Hams in the lower 48 and the rest of the world. A wonderful way to make your technician license work like a Genera license.No great equipment and antenna costs either.

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 Motley Crew 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

409 C Street

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

(907)452-3452 (home and office)

kl7cus@arrl.net

AARL NEWS:

Copied from: The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 12, March 21, 2003

RADIO COMMENTATOR PAUL HARVEY PLUGS HAM RADIO'S EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ROLE

Veteran ABC Radio Networks commentator Paul Harvey this week offered some kind words for Amateur Radio. The mention was the second item on "page four" of his March 19 Paul Harvey Noon News and Comment program.

"America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies--amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes," Harvey said. "After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public."

The commentary's enigmatic and mysterious final sentence--typical of Harvey's habit of leaving his listeners hanging--apparently refers to the fact that many Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Emergency Service (RACES) teams have ramped up their alert status as hostilities get under way in the Middle East.

The entire Wednesday noon broadcast is available on Paul Harvey's Web site <<http://www.paulharvey.com/>>. Click on the Wednesday noon link under "Listen Now."

ARES:

Fairbanks ARES received a boost with some nice newspaper and ARRL publicity after the November 7.9 earthquake. ARES itself has been somewhat quiet since, as many ARES volunteers have been dedicating post-Christmas time to support the Junior Quest, the Yukon Quest, and the Iditarod dog races. In February we welcomed Myron Babcock AL7QY, former AARC president, to our ranks as an ARES volunteer. Two Fairbanks ARES members win February's "Right Time, Right Place Award." Dan Wietchy KL7JP arrived just in time to douse an electrical fire during N1TX's short-circuited effort in the ARRL DX CW contest. Rod Mitchell KL7YU arrived at a spontaneous checkpoint on the Nordale Bridge just after 5 AM one morning during the Yukon Quest. He inquired to us at HQ if we had reports of leader Hans Gatt. We hadn't heard a thing from Chena Lakes. Lo and behold, Hans Gatt approached Rod's checkpoint moments later and asked where the North Pole dog drop was! It was one of the closest encounters any of us had with this year's winner. Join us on the Interior Net Sundays at 2000 local on KL7KC. We need a work party to help the American Red Cross install and inventory communications equipment. Also, we need someone to lead educating their disaster service volunteers in the basics of

telephone, radio, and satellite communications. Please contact Larry N1TX to volunteer. 73 de n1tx@arrl.org

Here is a little quip from Larry:

The following home study lesson with Albert Einstein is recommended for all communication specialists who came from IT world and have only restricted knowledge in RF technology:

"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way, you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

(Einstein)

News Article:

Copied from USA Today Web site: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-03-19-ham-crisis_x.htm

Posted 3/19/2003 9:13 AM

In times of crisis, agencies rely on ham radio operators

DALLAS (AP) — With the possibility of additional terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, emergency management coordinators and government agency personnel say amateur radio operators remain a vital part of the nation's homeland security network.

It's a familiar role for the operators, known as "hams," who have established backup radio communications during 9/11, severe weather and other emergencies.

Most recently, ham radio operators helped in the search for debris from the doomed space shuttle Columbia last month after it disintegrated over North Texas last month.

"On the surface, they may not seem important, but in my business, they're critical," Pat McMacken, Irving's emergency management coordinator, told The Dallas Morning News in Wednesday's editions.

"I'd never go into an emergency without them. You never know what's going to happen."

Hams helped emergency officials in New York City after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. As in other crises, the volunteers traveled to the scene, set up equipment and worked as couriers for rescue agencies, taking and transmitting messages. They are on agencies' lists for callout if terrorists decide to attack during American military forces' activities in the Middle East.

Disasters can strike in remote areas where electrical power is unavailable or unreliable. During crises, telephone lines quickly become jammed and computers crash. Hams serve as backups for emergency agencies when other communication lines fail. City officials and rescuers rely on hams because radio equipment is expensive and requires expertise to operate.

Hams, who must pass exams to become certified and operate on specific frequencies, keep track of communications technology that has not been outmoded by cellular phones and the Internet.

Cities are encouraged by the federal government to use ham radio operators for support, said Don Jacks, spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security.

Texas' Division of Emergency Management endorses hams as an official resource during emergencies. They are critical during a disaster because they're mobile, said Bill Gross, Dallas' coordinator of emergency preparedness.

"It's a good tool to have when all else fails," Gross said.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council is recommending that hospitals train employees to become hams. They would then help hospitals contact medical vendors to order supplies and communicate with other hospitals to determine patient flow, said Paulette Standefer, the council's executive vice president. She said some hospitals are buying radio equipment and towers.

Scattered across rural East Texas, shuttle debris has been difficult to locate and hams have helped speed the recovery process, said Nacogdoches County Sheriff Thomas Keress.

"They became a vital link in our operation," he said. "Without the ham radio operators, we simply would not have had communication capabilities in certain areas."

Charles Hargrove, New York City's district emergency coordinator for the American Radio Relay League, oversaw 275 hams who staffed shelters at city schools after the World Trade Center attack.

Hams communicated with the Red Cross to request food, personnel, nurses and baby supplies.

"When (the twin towers) came down, the guts of the communications infrastructure of New York City was wiped out," he said. "It took something like this to prove that if you rely on an infrastructure that you have no way of controlling, then you're hostage."

About 835,000 hams live in the United States, the ARRL says. But the group's president, Jim Haynie, says hams need to attract young people into their hobby.

Rena Dulworth, 20, got hooked as a 12-year-old. The Irving resident tracks stormy weather and talks to hams from Europe.

"If I can go out and help the community by doing something I like, that's great," she said.

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.

2. 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

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 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.