



THE SHORT CIRCUIT



August 2002

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 250 members and we meet September through May at 7:30 p.m. on the first Friday of the month at the Geophysical Institute University of Alaska. All interested persons are invited to attend.

o [Jim Movius](#)

[KL7JM](#)

452-6347

452-6349 FAX

President

○ Linda Mullen	<u>AD4BL</u>	488-7046	Vice President
○ <u>Bill Beam</u>	<u>NL7F</u>	457-2727	Secretary
○ Cliff Cullings	<u>AL7P</u>	479-6659	Treasurer (Nov 8,'01 board action)
○ Bob Ball	<u>KL7AH</u>	479-7785	Board Member
○ <u>Rex Keirn</u>	<u>AL7BJ</u>	457-4025	Board Member
○ <u>Warren Tilman</u>	<u>KL0RA</u>	474-9484	Board Member
○ Michael Drury	<u>KL7GL</u>	488-0660	Board Member
○ Eric Nichols	<u>KL7AJ</u>	488-0483	Board Member
○ <u>Debbie Treb</u>	<u>WL7CRG</u>	451-1911	Board Member
○ <u>Myron Babcock</u>	<u>AL7QY</u>	455-4925	Board Member, Past President

Board Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of AARC Board of Directors meeting August 8, 2002.

Meeting hosted by Jim Movius, KL7JM.

Board members in attendance:

Bill Beam, NL7F Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, Jim Movius, KL7JM Warren Tilman, KL0RA, Myron Babcock, AL7QY Mike Drury, KL7GL.

Other club members in attendance:

John Slater, KL1AZ

Meeting called to order by President Jim Movius, KL7JM.

Minutes of last board meeting (July 13, 2002) presented by Sec. Bill Beam, NL7F.

Treasurer's report: Jim Movius, KL7JM reports no change since June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flower Committee: Jim Movius, KL7JM reports he spent \$160 on flowers for Terry Preston, WL7TY and Dick Atwood, KL7B.

The Board members present state that Jim be reimbursed for his above expenses.

Nominating Committee: Myron Babcock, AL7QY advises that the committee's list of nominees is a work in progress.

Communications Trailer: Bill Beam, NL7F reports that three work sessions have been held as follows:

June, 2002 work session, 3 hours.

Bob Ball
Bill Beam

Removed appliances, interior partitions, started removal of plumbing.
6 ham-hours.

July, 2002 work session, 3 hours.

Bob Ball, KL7AH, Bill Beam, NL7F, Linda Mullen, AD4BL, Bill Mullen, AD4BL, Jim Movius, KL7JM
Myron Babcock, AL7QY

Cleaned interior, continued removal of plumbing.
18 ham-hours.

August, 2002 work session, 3 hours.

Bob Ball, KL7AH, Bill Beam, NL7F, Jim Baldrige, AL1I

Manufactured and installed operating table.
Manufactured and installed interior partition.
Manufactured and installed exterior trim.

9 ham-hours.

33 ham-hours to date.

Bill submitted for the Board's consideration a "want list" of items needed to equip the trailer under the financial grant from the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. Jim Movius, KL7JM agreed to make the purchases.

Bill reports that the trailer, now stored at Bob Ball's (KL7AH) residence needs to be moved prior to winter.

News Letter: John Slater, KL1AZ, editor advises that the News Letter is being distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

Jim Movius, KL7JM inquired on the status of the proposed new Chatinika-Angel Creek-Fairbanks dog sled race. Linda Mullen, AD4BL is our contact for that race.

Jim advises that he has asked the Yukon Quest Board for a meeting to establish a relationship between the Quest organization and AARC during the race.

Jim has asked the Repeater committee for their budget and plans.

Hamfest: Jim advises that Gordon West, WB6NOA will attend and will arrive Wed. 9/11. Bob Ball, KL7AH will begin ham license classes on Mon. 9/9 and Gordon will continue the classes. Testing is expected on Sat. 9/14. Contact Bob Ball 479-7785 or <KL7AH@gci.net> for further information. Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, ARRL Northwestern Vice Director and his wife will be attending. We need to budget for a mailing to members who have no e-mail. The Hamfest will be held in Pioneer Park (Alaskaland) and will be cosponsored by FNSB Dept. of Emergency services. Fred Brown, KL7CUS has prepared a Hamfest web page.

<<http://www.mosquitonet.com/~fbrown/02hamfest.html>>

Library donation: Bill Beam, NL7F advises that Bob Ball, KL7AH requests a budget of \$200.00 for materials to be donated to the public library.

Moved by Bill Beam, NL7F that the club appropriate \$200.00 for library donations.

Seconded by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ

Passed unanimously.

Club tower sections: The club has 150 ft of Rohn-45 tower sections stored at Bob Ball's home. This tower needs to be moved prior to winter. Jim Movius, KL7JM suggests that the club accept donations of \$5.00/ft.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,
Bill Beam, NL7F
Secretary.

Silent Keys:

Terry Preston, WL7TY passed away August 18, 2002.

Summer/Fall Events Schedule:

September 12 7:00 p.m. ARRC board meeting, location TBA

September 15 AARC Hamfest and annual membership meeting, location TBA

October 4 7:30 p.m. AARC general membership meeting at Geophysical Institute

October 10 7:00 p.m. ARRC board meeting, location TBA

November 1 7:30 p.m. AARC general membership meeting at Geophysical Institute

November 7 7:00 p.m. ARRC board meeting, location TBA

December 6 7:30 p.m. AARC general membership meeting at Geophysical Institute

December 12 7:00 p.m. ARRC board meeting, location TBA

Submitted by Steve KL7XO

Upcoming Events Report:

Hamfest:

Website for Hamfest:

The Website for the 2002 Interior Alaska Hamfest is now available. Much more will be added over the coming week, particularly after the Arctic ARC Board meeting. Note that Arctic ARC has a co-sponsor for the Hamfest!

There's the URL for the website: <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~fbrown/02hamfest.html>

Please send new info and corrections for the site to: KL7CUS, Arctic ARC's Hamfest Webguy.

kl7cus@arrl.net

fbrown@mosquitonet.com

Saturday Sept.14: find the BUNNY!

September 14-16 Arctic ARC Annual Elections!

SPONSORED BY The Arctic Amateur Radio Club and the Emergency Operations Department of The Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Main Event: Sunday Sept. 15, Noon-5 p.m. at Pioneer Alaska Centennial Civic Center formerly Alaskaland Civic Center (the "Pickle Barrel")

Free Admission

Door Prizes ! - - \$2 per Raffle Chance

LAST YEAR THE ALASKA HAMFESTS WERE HELD ONLY DAYS AFTER THE SEPTEMBER

11 TRAGEDY IN THE EASTERN U.S. IT WAS A BRUTAL REMINDER OF THE CONTINUING NEED FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS. AS A RESULT THE MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND BOARD OF ARCTIC A.R.C. HAVE BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN THIS AREA, AND WE'RE ALL REMINDED OF THIS KEY OBLIGATION OF THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE. SO WHILE WE'RE STILL LOOKING TO THE HAMFEST FOR SELLING AND SWAPPING GEAR, TECHNICAL TALK, TRANSMITTER HUNT, THE BANQUET, FUN AND ALL THE REST, WE'RE REMINDED THAT PROVIDING SERVICES DURING EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS IS A DUTY THAT IS OURS, ONE THAT'S PART OF THE LAW AND WHICH HAS BEEN A KEY PART OF THE HISTORY OF ARCTIC A.R.C., ALASKA'S OLDEST AMATEUR RADIO ORGANIZATION. AS ALASKA RADIO AMATEURS LEARNED MOST NOTABLY IN 1946, 1964 AND 1967, MAJOR DISASTERS ARE REALITIES HERE IN ALASKA. AS A RESULT, THROUGH THE PLANNING OF OUR PRESIDENT (AND HAMFEST COORDINATOR) JIM MOVIUS KL7JM AND OF TIM BIGGANE, DIRECTOR OF THE BOROUGH'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT, WE'LL HAVE A HAMFEST THAT STILL INCLUDES THE USUAL CELEBRATION OF AMATEUR RADIO AS A HOBBY, WHILE ALSO FOCUSING ON AMATEUR RADIO AS A NEEDED SERVICE IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS.

NOTE: We now have the basic links for info on tables for seller/vendors/ displays (click on "Want Tables?" above) and to Arctic ARC info. Soon we should have links to info on the September 14 Bunny Hunt, the Banquet, Grand Prizes, ARRL forum on Monday 9/16, Arctic ARC elections, ham classes given by Bob Ball KL7AH and Gordon West WB6NOA, along with info on how the hamfest will present, inform and teach about handling emergency communications. And certainly more than this. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING ON HAMFEST DISPLAYS, DEMONSTRATION AND PROGRAMS ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, CONTACT Jim Movius or a Board member. Table costs: \$10.00 or a door prize. To reserve tables or for inquiries about Hamfest tables and other matters contact:

Jim Movius, KL7JM, Hamfest Coordinator

ajmovius@gci.net

(907) 452-6347;

fax to 452-6349.

Or look for him on the KL7KC repeater system, 146.88- in Fairbanks, with other frequencies linking to the main site on Ester Dome from many locations (Healy, Manley, Cantwell, Delta, Dot Lake, Northway, and others) can be found in the Repeater Briefing Book portion of the webpages of the Arctic Amateur Radio Club.

Amateur Radio Technician Class

The Arctic Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring an amateur radio technician license class to help anyone interested in obtaining their amateur radio license. Join the exciting world of amateur radio, go from no-license to a technician class license in just one week. The technician license is an entry-level license that

does NOT require any Morse code and is open to every one of all ages. The class will be held in the evenings at the U of A Geophysical Building from Monday, September 9th through Friday, September 13th, with the exam given on Saturday, September 14th.

On Wednesday evening we will be honored by having the premier ham radio spokesman and author Gordon West, WB6NOA, take over the class. It is with pride that the Arctic Amateur Radio Club can present such a renowned educator to teach one of our classes, presenting the class with a rare and exciting learning experience. The AARC has used Gordons study materials for years finding them very comprehensive and easy for the students to use the best the market has to offer.

So call today to register, receive a study guide to preview before the class starts, and you too could be a licensed amateur by week's end.

What: Amateur Radio Technician Class

When: Sept. 9 thru Sept. 13th, 6:30-9:30 PM

Where: U of A Geophysical Building

Cost: \$25, includes study materials & exam

Call to register: Bob, KL7AH at 479-7785, or message at 479-6640, or e-mail

kl7ah@gci.net

Tec Corner:

By Bob Ball

With the approaching Labor Day holiday, the shorter days, a few leaves turning color, and the slight nip in the air we all know what lies just around the corner. If you've been thinking about putting up another antenna (why stop at just one?) or even getting that much dreamed of tower erected then time is starting to get short if you're going to beat the foul weather we'll surely see all too soon. There's a ham saying that you're not having fun unless you're putting up antennas in the middle of winter. Bunk! I've installed antennas, both amateur and commercial, in the winter in temperatures down to -35 degrees and trust me, "it ain't fun"! Besides if the work is done in decent weather the job goes a whole lot faster, the work will most likely be completed now instead of next summer, and the quality of work will be much higher. So get started on that system you've had rolling through your brain for the past couple of summers, gather some parts, and start construction while it still is fun putting up new antenna systems.

If your new system for this fall is some type of wire antenna such as a dipole, multiband dipole, sloper, inverted V, long wire, etc. then the job should be pretty easy, particularly if your yard has a variety of decent sized trees. Depending upon the band(s) of choice, the supports, natural or manmade, that are at your disposal and the type of antenna being erected you might be able to get by with just a single tall spruce or then may need as many as three such supports. The dipole needs two end supports as high as

possible for support and some hams like a center support for long dipoles such as 80 meters to help relieve the strain on the wire. Sloper's and inverted V's need a high center support and lower supports that should be 6' or more above the ground to prevent possible shock hazard. If you want to "roll your own" then gather some wire, a few insulators, some nylon rope (for end supports), some coax, possibly a balun, mix well with a nice weekend and your new antenna will be a reality ready for a full winter of hamming fun. If the homebrew route isn't for you then check such ham outfits as Amateur Electronics Supply (www.aesham.com), Ham Radio Outlet (www.hamradio.com), Radio Works (www.radioworks.com), to list just a couple of the many companies selling complete wire antenna kits.

If this is the year you get that much dreamed of tower up then get started immediately because this is a much bigger and time consuming project than it appears to be. I've installed towers both "by the book" as well as "my way" with both methods working well and never presented any problems, however "by the book" is the only right way to install a tower. Follow the manufacturer's instructions including all of the safety warnings. Safety is the key word here, it can't be stressed enough when working on or around towers. I've had three friends get hurt, two very seriously, over the years and all three thought these kind of injuries only happened "to the other guy". Your new tower needs a solid concrete base, solid guy anchors, high quality guy lines, grade three (or better) plated hardware, and you'll need some help getting it stacked vertical. Check www.antennasystems.com/tower.html for some safety tips. If you don't like heights, or are nervous on top of a step ladder, then you have absolutely no business on a tower, ask for help! Just because you don't like climbing doesn't mean a tower is never in your future, there are numerous hams in the club that will help, just ask. Erecting a tower requires two people minimum, a tower person and a good ground person. The ground person can't be your lazy neighbor next door either, even if he does weigh 300 pounds and would make a good rope anchor! The ground person should be someone that has worked on tower also so he knows just what kind of problems you encounter up there. A good ground person makes the tower guys work a whole lot easier, while the guy next door may just drive off your free tower guy! Remember the hard hat for the ground guy. No matter what they say ALL tower people drop things at times, it's never planned but does happen. I still remember when a professional tower crew spilled a whole pail of large hardware from the top of an 870' TV tower. Fortunately for all concerned their screams reached the ground before the parts did. One final note, after that tower is up remember to properly ground it, preferably on all three legs.

Just a reminder, the club has some new Rohn 45G tower that is available to club members for a club donation of \$5 a foot. There is approximately 150' of tower available on a first come first served basis. You can check Texas Towers at www.texas Towers.com for their prices (\$198 for a 10' section, plus shipping!) and see what a deal this is for club members if you are in the market for new tower. Check the Rohn site, www.rohnnet.com under the GT Towers section for more information and specifications.

Ok, that's it for this month, and as always if you have any questions just call or e-mail. Home phone 479-7785, e-mail kl7ah@gci.net. 73's Bob KL7AH

AARL NEWS:

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT TRAINING TO START SEPTEMBER 1

Amateur Radio emergency communications training supported by a \$181,900 federal homeland security grant will begin within a few weeks instead of next year as reported initially. During its first year, the grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) special volunteer program will reimburse the cost of Level I ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training for up to 1700 volunteers.

"It will begin with the recruitment of additional mentors and trainers for the national program," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. Hobart and Dan Miller, K3UFG--formerly ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator and now the Emergency Communications Course Manager--have been working with CNCS to expedite the grant details.

As Emergency Communications Course Manager, Miller will manage the CNCS special volunteer program and United Technologies Corp training grants. Replacing Miller as program coordinator August 19 will be Howard Robins, W1HSR.

The CNCS has accepted ARRL's proposal to commence the expanded emergency training program September 1. The League was among several dozen nonprofit organizations designated to receive some \$10.3 million in federal money to boost homeland defense volunteer programs.

Miller says that since the July 18 grant announcement, interest in the subsidized training has been high. He urged those eager to participate to stand by for announcements via the ARRL Web and other League news outlets. The first priority when the grant-supported training effort kicks into gear in September will be to recruit and train at least 200 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course mentors/trainers. These volunteers then will help to manage and train the student load for the first year of the grant.

This week, ARRL section managers were asked to recommend up to five students to sign up to take the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications on-line course starting in September. These individuals also will receive additional training to become instructors and mentors for future classes.

"Although we have a core group of wonderful mentors and instructors who have helped students through the courses given to date, we need more to help with the volume of students training under the CNCS grant," Hobart emphasized. "With the help of the section managers, we will ensure a good distribution of mentors nationwide who can advise students about local ARES groups and activities in addition to helping them with the course material."

Anyone who has already completed the Level I course is qualified to become a mentor with some additional training. Mentor candidates should contact Miller <k3ufg@arrl.org> for information on how

to take part.

To comply with grant requirements, the ARRL also will survey served agencies and certain segments of the amateur population, Hobart said. The League wants to ensure that the course offered accurately represents "what really happens in the field" during an emergency or disaster, she said.

Once the ARRL members hand-picked by section managers to train as mentors have completed the program, registration for routine Level I training will open October 1, initially for ARRL field appointees. Miller anticipates that the program will continue to handle approximately 200 students per month. "As much as we'd like to, we can't train everyone at once," he said. "Please be patient."

Students taking advantage of Level I emergency communications training under the grant program will be asked to pay for the course via credit card during the registration process. Upon successfully completing the

training and certification, students will be reimbursed the \$45 fee.

Miller said the goal is to dramatically improve the course completion rate from the current 68 percent to nearly 100 percent.

Level I course candidates from Connecticut will continue to be trained under \$33,000 grant from United Technologies Corporation to expand Amateur Radio emergency communications training opportunities. Hobart says the UTC Connecticut grant paved the way for success under the new federal grant.

Hobart emphasized that community involvement is key. "It's not enough to just finish the course," she said. "You're expected to join and take part in your local Amateur Radio Emergency Service organization." The grant

training program is especially interested in attracting more seniors--those 55 and older--and those for whom the course fee would mean a hardship unless they were reimbursed.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR COMMENTS:

Remember that the upcoming HAMFEST is a great way to meet other hams that you only have talked to over the air with for the last year. And that the upcoming Tec class for those who want to learn what it takes to be a Ham is one of the best. If you have someone who wants to join the world of ham radio and thinks that it is too complicated, then this is the class for them. Bob Ball is a great instructor and welcomes questions and we have the extra added privilege of having Gordon West, WB6NOA, as an instructor starting on Wed night.

Thanks to all who are providing input for the newsletter. 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. I would like to that this time to remind all that the one's who make the club are the members, and we are the only one's who can help it to grow.

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.