



# THE SHORT CIRCUIT



December 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 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 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

## December Club Meeting Minutes:

Linda AD4BL Club President greeted everyone

Several new people visiting introduced themselves and then the usual Club member introductions.

Secretary Deb Treb AL1S gave November's minutes.

Treasurer's report was also read from last month.

This month we have \$2,030.83 after club expenses of the Club post Office box rental fee of \$100.00 and the newsletter printing of \$9.98. Total dues received this month were \$1490.00 with 50% of it will be going to the Repeater Fund as by-laws state. The dedicated funds to the Repeater Fund were \$95.00, making the total transfer into the Repeater fund \$840.00. After the transfer the Club balance will be \$1190.83 in the General Fund.

John Slater KL1AZ explained that he tries to get the Newsletter out the week of the upcoming meeting.

ARES lost a member to a move out of state.

Findu.com – ARES is now gated to the internet.

Another note is IF you run APERS use the Full Alaska map and you can see call signs on the map as well as beacon call signs.

Chatanika Sled Dog Race – 8 points still need Club Volunteers. This is a good opportunity to get some radio practice in passing information. We still need to have snow but it has not been called off so we are proceeding as if we have the white stuff.

Linda AD4BL and Benny NL7XH met with Dave Rich who is this years Race Manager for the Yukon Quest. He definitely wants the Club to involved. The 9th of February is the start of this year Quest. February 1st the Jr. Quest is the start of this years race. The main Quest starts in Whitehorse. The Jr. is still run here.

Last year we provided the Quests with \$91,930 of people and equipment, utilizing 56 Amateurs. The Jr. Quest we provided \$17,250 of people and equipment, utilizing 16 Amateurs.

There is 121 members in the club at the present time.

We welcome Rex Keirn back, it was great to see him.

Rod Mitchel gave the main with PSK31.

It was invented by Peter Martinez G3PLX. PSK31 is a digital mode. It has NO correction built in, so you can not count on the message being error free. Bandwidth is 31Hz and you need to remember to keep the band width narrow. It uses a scheme called Varicode. It allows you to use upper case as well as lower case but using ALL lower case uses less time.

The availability of software is freeware at: <http://www.kinder.es/~edu/psk31.html>

It is not hard to do. You need stable SSB Radio capability of tuning the PSK31 frequencies. A computer with a 16 bit soundcard in 133Mhz or higher class.

Hardware that is needed can be a Homebrew, Rascal or a Rigblaster.

These are available at: Radio Shack or use old electronics laying around the house, or

<http://www.buxcomuro.com> or <http://westmountainradio.com>

Any questions you can talk to Rod Mitchel

REMEMBER NEXT CLUB MEETING IN JANUARY WILL BE ON THE 10TH INSTEAD OF THE 3RD DUE TO NEW YEARS. The Board meeting will still be on the 9th of January.

January's Meeting will be on Earthquakes. Given by Steve Estes.

February's will be on the Yukon Quest.

Deb Treb AL1S – Club Secretary

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## **Board Meeting Minutes:**

### **December 2002 Board Meeting**

Present:

Rod Mitchel KL7YU, Alex Cryan AL7EX, Jim Movius KL7JM, Jim Baldrige AL1I, Linda Mullen AD4BL, Steve Estes KL7XO, Larry Ledlow N1TX, Benny Benevento NL7XH, Deb Treb AL1S

Also Present:

John Slater KL1AZ, Bill Mullen KE4ITP, Warren KL0RA & Linda KL0TU Tilman

Treasure's Report

General Fund: \$2,130.83

Repeater Fund: \$476.88 \$400.00 was a dedicated fund from Dave Denardo for the repeaters.

Newsletter: There were 22 mail outs and now 23 were mail outs this last time. The Base Commander of Ft.Wainwright receives a courtesy copy.

Chatanika Sled Dog Race we are still preceding with getting Hams. There are still spots open such as Mark Mays (a hospitality check point), Valley Center, and Chena River. Larry Ledlow volunteered for Valley Center. The race starts at noon at Chatanika Lodge.

National Weather Service Event made 31 contacts, most were CW from Europe during the time Larry was there. Other times when it was manned there was a lot of dead air.

The Ham radio response to handling the earthquake in November was positive.

Jim Movius is still working on the 501C3. Anchorage has it now.

New Business: Dave Rich is an American and actually knows what he is doing. He is very much for the Amateurs support with the Yukon Quest. The Jr.Quest is February 1st and the Main Quest starts

February 9th at Whitehorse this year. Benny is the head of the Visitors Center and Deb will be helping him.

We need to start working on a budget for the 2003 Hamfest. It will be held at the same place as last year's hamfest. Saturday is our day for our Hamfest (September 13,2003) and Anchorage will be have theirs the next day, Sunday September 14, 2003.

Next Club meeting will be on January 10th due to the closeness of New Year. The Board meeting will be the DAY BEFORE, on January 9th.

Ideas being thought about are 6 meters for ARES at Ester Dome? Possible problems with Channel 2 and noise. Worth looking at?

Meeting was adjourned.

Deb Treb AL1S - Secretary

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## **Events Schedule:**

January 4, 2003, from 1800-2400 UTC Kid's Day

January 9 ARRC Board Meeting

January 10 AARC Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

January 11-19, 2003 Special event station KM1CC will be on the air

February 1 The Junior Yukon Quest

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

February 9 The Yukon Quest

February 13 AARC Board Meeting

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

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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## **ARES:**

ARES Training. Amateur Radio Emergency Service is part of every license granted by the FCC. In order to operate effectively during an emergency you need to know how. Just having a license and a radio doesn't give you what you need to be able to operate during an emergency. We have set up minimum training requirements for Alaska. The first one is the ARRL Emergency Communications

Course. There are a number of ways that you can take it depending on the cost. The least expensive way is to buy or borrow the book [\$10] and study the course on your own. Then you take the exam to be certified. I have the books available and since I am a certified mentor, I would be glad to assist anyone who needs help with the course. We are able to run the exams here in Fairbanks. When you are ready to take the exam please notify me so we can arrange an exam session.

The second requirement is a proficiency in handling traffic and knowledge of the National Traffic System. All messages sent during an emergency on a formal net must be in the formal radiogram/ICS format.

The third requirement is how to operate within the ICS. Incident Command System. This system is used thruout the state and in the Borough. There is free training available on-line from FEMA. The website is: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/crslist.htm> .

I encourage all of you to get the training so that you can be a more effective communicator in order to assist your families and community.

AARL NEWS:

Copied from AARL News letter Vol. 21, No. 50, December 27, 2002

**SPECIAL EVENT, SPACE CONTACT TO MARK MARCONI TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL**

Special event station KM1CC will be on the air January 11-19, 2003, to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US and Great Britain January 18, 1903 (January 19

UTC). On that date, from the sandy Cape Cod cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, Marconi--using a powerful (35 kW) rotary spark transmitter coupled to a massive antenna system-- transmitted a 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to England's King Edward VII. The monarch promptly acknowledged receipt of the message via land line and cable, literally igniting the spark of global communication.

The Marconi Radio Club, W1AA, and the Marconi Cape Cod Memorial Radio Club, KM1CC, are working in partnership with the National Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore to organize the celebration. The special event will take place at the former Coast Guard station at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts, which is near the original Marconi site. Operation will include several amateur modes, including SSB, CW, FM, digital and satellite.

Marconi Radio Club President Robert J. "Whitey" Doherty, K1VV, says operators will be on the air 24 hours a day from January 11 through January 19. "We have a half dozen operators who will live at the station for the full period," he said. The special event station will open to the public from 9 AM until 5 PM EST (1400-2200 UTC).

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact--the first of the new year with US students--is to be scheduled during the weeklong celebration. Doherty says that selected

students from three Cape Cod high schools will speak via KM1CC with a member of the new Expedition 6 ISS crew. 1.

Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra Marconi, is scheduled to attend the reenactment of the groundbreaking wireless transmission on January 18, when KM1CC will transmit the text of Roosevelt's original message to King Edward VII.

KM1CC QSL card requests from US amateurs (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope) go via Barbara Dougan, KB1GSO, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd, Wellfleet, MA 02667. DX stations are invited to QSL via the W1 QSL Bureau.

Additional details are on the Marconi Radio Club Web site <<http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa/>>.

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### REPEATER INFO:

To print a list of Alaska repeaters, location, input frequency, output frequency, PL tone you can go to this site.

<http://alaskarepeaters.port5.com/cgi-bin/printinfo.cgi>

You must put the address in the web address line. The search engines do not know this site exists.

I have specified the print friendly part of the site rather than the home page.

If you wish the home page then use this address: <http://alaskarepeaters.port5.com/>

Any questions or additions please contact [bennie@gci.net](mailto:bennie@gci.net)

Thanks.

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### For Sale/Help Wanted:

1. Linda Mullen is looking for any AARL certified VE. Please contact her at [ad4bl@mosquitonet.com](mailto:ad4bl@mosquitonet.com)
2. Extra Class Elmo, KL1AZ John is looking for a Extra Class Elmo who lives in the North Pole area and is willing to help in learning the Extra Class requirements, not just how to pass the exam. Can contact me either on the 146.88 machine, 3.920 Sniper Net at 1800 L, home telephone- 488-5209, or e-mail at [slaternorthp@mosquitonet.com](mailto:slaternorthp@mosquitonet.com) (when using e-mail address please include call sign)

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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@mosquionet.com](mailto: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.