



THE SHORT CIRCUIT



June-July 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 July 13, 2002.

Meeting hosted by Linda and Bill Mullen, AD4BL and KE4ITP.

Board members in attendance:

Bill Beam, NL7F Eric Nichols, KL7AJ Linda Mullen, AD4BL Deb Treb, WL7CRG Myron Babcock, AL7QY

Other club members in attendance:

Bill Mullen, KE4ITP Linda Babcock Jim Baldrige, AL1I Marty Baldrige, KL0ZD Dianne Marshall, AL7FG Steve Estes, KL7XO Betty Marshall, NL7QK

A quorum is not present so no formal business will be conducted.

Meeting called to order by Vice President Linda Mullen, AD4BL.

Minutes of last board meeting (May 9, 2002) presented by Sec. Bill Beam, NL7F.

Treasurer's report: Linda Mullen, AD4BL advises that Jim Movius, KL7JM has spent \$160 on flowers

for Terry Preston, WL7TY and Dick Atwood, KL7B. Jim will ask for reimbursement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

OLD BUSINESS

Eric Nichols, KL7AJ suggests that our communication trailer could be used to house a club station and could be used to provide demonstrations of ham radio at local schools.

Dianne Marshall, AL7FG advises that the Boy Scout radio merit badge program is active. We could use the communication trailer to support Boy Scout activities.

NEW BUSINESS

Linda Mullen, AD4BL passes the following information from Jim Movius, KL7JM:
The Hamfest will be held on September 15 at Alaskaland. Gordon West, WB6NOA will attend and will bring a door prize. The banquet will be held Sunday evening, 9/15 at The Rivers Edge.

Linda also announces that Eric Nichols, KL7AJ has been appointed the ARRL Technical Specialist for the Fairbanks area.

Bill McKee representing the Two Rivers Musers Association discussed a proposed new two day race from Chatanika Lodge to Angle Creek and Fairbanks in December.
Communications needs were discussed.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,
Bill Beam, NL7F
Secretary.

Summer/Fall Events Schedule:

August 8 7:00 p.m. ARRC board meeting, location TBA

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

Repeater Report:

Little has been done on the repeaters this summer. Medical problems at my QTH have made it difficult for me to do anything out of the household. Add to this problem we do not have any money to buy materials for them. We have \$67.66 in the repeater account.

The following problems exist in the system.

1. Porky Pine Dome: It is working but soon will die as the batteries need to be replaced. The batteries are 6 years old and will no longer hold a charge. Last winter I went to the site and put a battery on line to make it work for the Quest. It was the hope of the repeater committee to replace all eight batteries this summer. A cost of about \$500.00
2. Healy is still shut off as it was causing interference with the system.
3. McKinley Park machine needs the 444.40 receiver changed out as it does not have the sensitivity to hear Healy. Of course with Healy off it no longer is linked so this is not a high priority.
4. Mt Fairplay is not linked to the system as the 220 link no longer seems to be there. We want to change the link to 2 meters and link to Dot Lake via the 146.88 frequency. Why the 2 meter frequency seems to work better than the 220 is only a guess. When I was there the 220 was in and out but the 2 meter was solid all the time. We need helicopter time and man hour time to make this work. We have all of the equipment on hand to make the change over.

5. Hill 3295, Eielson AFB repeater needs to have the 444.80 receiver changed out as the present one has low sensitivity. We have been waiting since around December to get permission to go to the site from the Eielson Folks.
6. Canyon Creek RL2 controller locked up in the transmit mode after a long power outage. We need to put a controller reset system on it similar to what was used on the Eielson repeater. This will cost about \$100 in parts to make it work.

Ester Dome: All three repeaters are working normally, although we have at times some QRM ÒhitsÓ from some 220 source.

Manley Hotsprings: Repeater working normally

Donnley Dome: Repeater is working normally

Dot Lake: Repeater is working normally(will need some reprogramming and reconfiguration when Mt Fairplay link is changed from 220 to 2 meters Mt

Eldridge: Repeater is working normally. With the link from Fairplay not working it is not much used.

Northway: Repeater is working normally. With the link from Fairplay not working it is not much used.

Cantwell: Repeater is working normally.

Benny NL7XH

Special Event:

Picnic at Linda (AD4BL) Mullen's QTH

Submitted by Linda Mullen:

Here is some news on the Board meeting held at our QTH July 13, 2002.

We had a house full of board and family members, grilled out on the deck and shared our picnic. We didn't have a quorum so we couldn't conduct any business.

I would like to announce that Eric Nichols KL7AJ has a new appointment. We have appointed him Technical Specialist for the Fairbanks District.

If you have any equipment questions or problems, he is the one who can help you. He is well qualified to assist, especially for our newer amateurs.

I was able to attend the ARES meeting with the group in Anchorage in June and got a tour of the new Communications van they are putting together.

I had my video camera handy and showed it to the board members since we are in process of putting together our own communications trailer.

Bill McKee joined us as a rep from the Two Rivers Dog Mushing group. They have a new race, which is scheduled for Dec 27. It will start at the Chatanika Lodge, thru Angel Creek, and run eventually to the Chena River Convention Center.

The 200-mile race will run 2 days and there will also be a 100mile race. This will take the place of the Henry Hahn and be called the Two Rivers 200. It is a qualifier for both the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest. If you will be available Dec 27-28, keep this in mind and put it on your calendar.

[End of board meeting.....Bill Beam has the minutes.]

We just got notice that ARRL has received a grant under Homeland Security to help with emergency communications training. It involves using the ARRL Emergency Communications Course 1. I don't know yet what the particulars are or what we need to do to use the grant. I understand it will use the Online format for the course. Will keep you posted. In the meantime, if any of you have taken the course already, please send me an email for my records at: ad4bl@arrl.net.

V. MAYREE TALLMAN MEMORIAL CONVENTION:

Submitted by Rose Rybechek:

We got the antenna from: KL7RO (Fred) and KL7VY (Marge). Also got some help with other parts of the convention from KL0PA (Chuck) and his XYL Dee. The convention went very well. We ended up with 55 registered, and 57 at the banquet. The prizewinners for coming the farthest distance were ZL3GL (Glenn) and ZL3AE (Sharron). We had a couple from Nova Scotia, VE1JIM (Jim) and his XYL. Also, a couple from Vancouver Island, VE7MSL (Mort) and VE7DCO (Diana). To round out the DX, we had a member from Barbados, 8P6OP (Carl). There were nine hams from Alaska that were registered, including KL7RO (Fred) and KL7VY (Marge); AL1G (Corliss) and KL7FH (Frank); KL7AM (Bob) and WL7BNX (Louisa), KL0PA (Chuck) and his XYL Dee, and KL7FQR (Stan) and KL7FQQ (Rose).

Everyone seemed to really enjoy all the tours. It would have been nicer if the weather had cooperated a bit more, since it was really chilly at the Midnight Sun Ball game. However, some of the hardier souls managed to stick it out! All in all, it was great to meet people that we've talked to for so many years, and we all had a marvelous time!



r, KL0PA, 8P6OP, Dee, XYL of KL0PA, VE1JIM, KL7FH, KL7AM, ZL3AE (hiding ZL3GL), KL7VY, KL7RO, KL7FQQ, KL7FQR.

Yukon 800:

Submitted by Jim Movius

AARC members provided communications for the Fairbanks Outboard Assn.'s 33rd running of the Yukon 800 Riverboat Race..."800 Of The Toughest River Miles In The World" as club members say. I can attest to the truthfulness of that statement, having run the race 13 times. The effort involved coordinated use of VHF radios, commercial telephones, and cell phones to pass safety and checkpoint information from down river back to Race HQ at Pike's Landing. Mike Drury, KL7GL and Fred Brantingham, WL7IJ were the communicators at Pike's Landing, Connie Ledlow, KL1BE called in reports from Nenana using our 2 meter repeaters, Dave De Nardo, KL0CJ called in reports from Manley Hot Springs using our 2 meter repeaters and HF at 3.920 MHz, and Jim Movius, KL7JM relayed info on 2 meters, HF, and commercial telephone from his home QTH. Outboard Club member Scott Dicks operated a safety boat in the Manley Hot Springs neighborhood with a cell phone while monitoring the 2 meter repeaters. Tanana, Ruby and Galena checkpoints were handled using commercial telephone. Of the eight, possibly nine boats slated to start, seven started, four did not finish owing to mechanical problems and rough river conditions, leaving only 3 boats to finish the race. The winning time for Harold Attla, who piloted his boat, -"My Pleasure"-new last year- to a second straight win was well off his record setting time of last year.

Outboard Club Officers and members thanked us profusely for our efforts, modest as they were. Like us they run a bare bones operation financially and rely greatly on us and our skills to help ensure safety and to communicate checkpoint info for the race.

Thanks much to Mike, Fred, Connie, and Frank who willingly stepped forward to help.

Jim, KL7JM

Upcoming Events Report:

Hamfest:

The 2002 AARC Hamfest will be held Sunday September 15 at the Exhibit Hall in the Civic Center (It now has a new fancy name-we know it as the "Pickle Barrel") at Pioneer Park (formerly known as Alaskaland). The FNSB Emergency Operations Dept. will be cosponsoring the event. As we have done the past 2 years, we'll have a banquet at the Rivers Edge Resort that Sunday evening and an ARRL forum conducted by Jim Fenstermaker, ARRL Northwestern Division Director on Monday at lunchtime.

Website for Hamfest:

The Website for the 2002 Interior Alaska Hamfest is now available, but in a very preliminary form. No links are installed yet, and the site gives just the basics on what, where and when. 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

AARL NEWS:

Copied from AARL News letter dated 26 Jul 02

FCC TO GET TOUGH ON OFFENDING POWER COMPANIES

The FCC plans to get tougher on electric utilities that fail to fix problems causing interference with Amateur Radio and other licensed communications. Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth met recently at ARRL Headquarters with Ed Hare, W1RFI, and John Phillips, K2QAI, of the ARRL Lab staff to discuss various electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) issues. As a result of that session, changes will be made in the way ARRL and FCC cooperate on power-line cases.

"What we've done is to review all cases that the League has worked on where we had no cooperation," Hollingsworth said this week. "In at least three instances, the power company in question hasn't cooperated as it should have." Hollingsworth said these cases will "go to the next step," which likely will entail involving the appropriate FCC field office for additional investigation and appropriate enforcement. In the future, initial letters from the ARRL and the FCC will impose a shorter compliance window and will be more firmly worded. In addition, a follow-up letter from the FCC will be sent to utilities that fail to respond appropriately to the initial inquiry.

The routine FCC letter to a power company cites the requirement to rectify problems with their equipment "if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment." FCC Part 15 rules classify most power-line and related equipment as "incidental radiators." This means the utility equipment does not intentionally generate any radio-frequency energy but may create it as an incidental part of its intended operation. The FCC urges a utility to locate sources of any interference caused by its equipment and make necessary corrections "within a reasonable time."

Typical was a recent letter from the FCC's Consumer Information and Governmental Affairs Bureau to Commonwealth Edison of Chicago citing radio frequency interference complaints from five Illinois amateurs. According to the FCC, the amateurs had attempted without success to work through the utility's complaint resolution channels.

Utilities that appear unwilling to abide by Part 15 rules regulating unintentional radiation are in the minority, Hollingsworth said. By and large, utilities contacted by ARRL as a result of power-line noise complaints from amateurs have been extremely cooperative, and he had high praise for the League's role in resolving complaints in the early going.

Only a handful of cases--perhaps a dozen in all--have ended up being forwarded by the ARRL to the FCC for action.

"The League's record is outstanding here," Hollingsworth said. Cases necessitating FCC follow-up action

have been minimal, he said, and most of those stem from the utility's failure to understand its obligations under Part 15.

Over the past year, the League has worked with amateurs on behalf of the FCC to handle 72 complaints of suspected power-line interference. Hare, the ARRL Lab supervisor, says that the effort has had its successes, some cases may require more than an advisory letter from the FCC.

"Having the FCC field offices investigate those cases where a power company is not willing or able to assume its responsibilities is a good next step," Hare said. "The League and the FCC both hope that continued cooperation will bring these cases to a satisfactory end without having to resort to drastic enforcement measures."

For Sale/Trade:

For Sale

2 meter FM handheld Transceiver Realistic HTX-202 with owners manual and two battery packs rarely used \$100. Mike KL7JAT 488-6733 or mdmccann@mosquitonet.com

One Icom dual band handheld mars-cap. I C -T H 7 with 2 bp-173MH battery packs, 2 BP-173CD battery packs, and 2 BP-170 battery packs plus a quick charger for them, price 250. Call Larry AL0AA 479-5727

NEWSLETTER EDITOR COMMENTS:

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. We are currently faced with a shortage in the repeater fund and some of the repeaters are offline and will not be able to be repaired

without funds.If we wish to continue enjoying our current repeater service we need to look at how we are going to repair those in need.

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.