



THE SHORT CIRCUIT

February 2004

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.

- o Linda Mullen AD4BL 488-7046 President
- o Vacant Vice-President
- o Debbie Treb AL1S 451-1911 Secretary
- o Benny Benevento NL7XH Treasurer
- o Kevin Abnett NL7WO 474-9484 Board Member
- o Mike Drury KL7GL Board Member
- o Steve Estes KL7XO 488-0483 Board Member
- o Dan Wietchy KL1JP Board Member
- o Rod Mitchell KL7YU Board Member
- o Alex Cryan AL7EX Board Member
- o Jim Movius KL7JM 452-6347 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

Board Minutes:

January 200 Board Meeting:

Present: Linda AD4B, Benny NL7XO, Steve KL7XO, Alex AL7EX, Mike KL7GL, Deb AL1S

Also Present: Bill KE4ITP, John KL1AZ

The Hamfest was discussed and if we could get any Vendors up here or is it a lost cause?

Next we discussed the Quest and what our function is.

The Chatanika 200 has asked for our Ham Clubs help.

February 12, 2004 is our next Board Meeting will be at the Log Cabin. 2 Geeks has been gracias to loan us 2 computers.

February 200 Board Meeting:

February Board Meeting Feb 12, 2004 Log Cabin Visitors Center

Those present : Rod Mitchell KL7YU, Steve Estes KL7XO, Mike Drury KL7GL, Alex Cryan AL7EX, Dan Witchey KL1JP, Linda AD4BL and John Slater KL1AZ and Bill Mullen KE4ITP

NO Minutes or Treasurers Report

Old Business Hamfest set for Sept 4 at Pioneer Park. We also discussed having a picnic again at the pavilion on the grounds.

The board decided to have a summer picnic again at Pioneer Part and looking at July 17. Linda will see about reserving the site for both the summer picnic and the Hamfest.

New Business We discussed ways to incorporate new licensed amateurs into the club and ways to build the club membership

Next Club meeting will be March 5 with both a wrap-up of the Quest and a special presentation by Neal Brown WL7NZ on a Meterological Project.

Linda AD4BL

Club Meeting Report:

January 2004 Club Meeting:

The program is on UI-VIEW-COM. You may buy the program for \$15.00. You will find it at <http://www.ui-view.com> Roger Baker created the program in England. The frequency used is 144.39. You also must use lat /longs, also with many maps. A TNC may also be purchased through HRO on the web or phone, 1-800-854-6064, Pat, Ham Radio Outlet

Repeater fund is \$876.36. General Fund is \$922.16

Next Ham Club, Meeting 2-6-2004

Next Board is 2-12-2004, is at the Log Cabin.

2 Geek were very gracious to loan us 2 computers to use for the quest.

February 2004 Club Meting:

Meeting began with introductions. There was no minutes or treasurers report. Alex gave a short rundown on the repeaters and the work being done so that they would be fully operational for the Yukon Quest.

New Business....need to think about officers for 2005, will need President, Vice-President, and Secretary as well as board members.

The program was on the Yukon Quest, the changes, rules etc and handing out the checkpoint materials for both the Jr Yukon Quest and the Yukon Quest. A big thank you for those who volunteered to help

Linda AD4BL

Events Schedule:

5 Mar 04 AARC Club Meeting
11 Mar 04 AARC Board Meeting
2 Apr 04 AARC Club Meeting
8 Apr 04 AARC Board Meeting
7 May 04 AARC Club Meeting (last meeting before summer)
13 May 04 AARC Board Meeting
10 Jun 04 AARC Board Meeting
June 04 events (dates to be announced)
 Montly Crew Annual Picnic
 Tour-de-Cure
 Yukon 800 Boat race
 Field Day
8 Jul 04 AARC Board Meeting
Jul 04 events (dates to be announced)
 Special event station Golden days
12 Aug 04 AARC Board Meeting
Aug 04 events
 2d Annual AARC picnic
9 Sep 04 AARC Board Meeting
Sep 04 events
 HamFest (**Chair person needed**)
 Freeze Up Canoe Race
1 Oct 04 AARC Club Meeting
14 Oct 04 AARC Board Meeting
5 Nov 04 AARC Club Meeting
11 Nov 04 Board Meeting
3 Dec 04 AARC Club Meeting
9 Dec 04 AARC Board Meeting

AARL NEWS:

Copied from: The ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 05, January 30, 2004

LEAGUE FILES "A PLAN FOR THE NEXT DECADE" WITH FCC

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission left unfinished in 1999. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access"<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not to mandate Morse testing for HF access. While several countries--including Germany, the UK and Australia--

already have dropped their Morse requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the central issue.

"Changes in Morse telegraphy are one aspect of the proposal, and it would be insufficient for the Commission to address those issues in a vacuum," the League said, calling its licensing proposal "a plan for the next decade." The ARRL said that plan's overall intention is "to encourage newcomers to the Amateur Service and to encourage those who enter its ranks to proceed further on a course of technical self-training and exposure to all aspects of the avocation."

Last fall a total of 14 Morse-related petitions were filed with the FCC. Several called on the Commission to drop the Morse requirement altogether, while others proposed to keep and even expand the requirement or put forth various license restructuring schemes of their own. The petitions, RM-10781-10787 and RM-10805-10811, attracted thousands of comments from the amateur community.

Beyond the Morse question, the ARRL says, the time is right--now that WRC-03 has finished its work--to follow through on the restructuring process the FCC began with its 1999 restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf>>. Among other things, that landmark Order, which became effective April 15, 2000, reduced the number of Morse code test elements from three to a single 5 WPM requirement for all license classes offering HF privileges.

Simply dropping the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse requirement, the ARRL asserted, would fail to address the critical need for an entry-level ticket other than the Technician. Calling the Technician license "a dead end" for many people, the ARRL said its proposed entry-level license--being called "Novice" for now--would offer newcomers a much wider sampling of Amateur Radio. It would require passing a 25-question written examination--but no code test--and offer limited HF phone, image, CW and data privileges at modest power output levels.

"This structure provides a true, entry-level license with HF and other operating privileges which will both promote growth in the Amateur Service and integrate newcomers into the mainstream of Amateur Radio," the ARRL told the FCC. "It will better introduce newcomers to more seasoned licensees who will assist them."

The League proposal also would consolidate current Technician and General licensees into General class without further examination. Future General applicants would not have to pass a code test, but the written exam would remain the same. Current Advanced licensees would be merged into Amateur Extra class without further testing, and the Extra exam would remain intact. The ARRL proposal would retain the Element 1 Morse exam for Extra class applicants.

The ARRL said its overall plan dovetails with the FCC philosophy and goals stated in its 1999 Report and Order--to simplify the license structure and streamline the licensing process. The League said its plan would implement licensing requirements and privileges that are in harmony with each other and is designed to attract and retain "technically inclined persons, particularly the youth of our country" and encourage them to advance in areas "where the United States needs expertise."

"Now, the issue is not merely whether there should or should not be Morse telegraphy as an examination requirement," the ARRL said, "but rather what is the best overall approach for positioning the Amateur Service for future growth and incentive-based self-training."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/restrux2-petition.pdf>>. The FCC has requested that individuals refrain from contacting or attempting to comment to the FCC on the ARRL's restructuring proposal before the FCC

issues a Rule Making (RM) number for the ARRL petition and invites public comments on it. Until that happens, it is premature to comment to the FCC.

Copied from: The ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 06, February 6, 2004

FCC POISED TO RELEASE BPL NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

The FCC appears poised to release a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proceeding. When it meets February 12, the Commission is to consider an NPRM concerning changes to its Part 15 rules as they apply to so-called "access" BPL systems. Last April the Commission issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket 03-104 http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100A1.doc seeking input on possibly amending Part 15 regarding new requirements and measurement guidelines for access BPL. Issuance of an NPRM would mark the next step in the BPL proceeding.

The BPL NOI has attracted more than 5100 comments. Many within the amateur community, including the ARRL and AMRAD <http://www.amrad.org/>, have expressed concerns that BPL will wreak havoc on the HF amateur bands, since the technology would apply high-frequency RF to parts of the power grid. One aspect of the NOI was to gather information on potential interference effects on authorized spectrum users.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell recently acknowledged interference concerns raised by the amateur community and by at least two federal agencies: the Federal Emergency Management Agency--now part of the Department of Homeland Security--and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which manages spectrum allocated to government users. "We will continue to explore ways to support this technology while protecting services from interference," the FCC chairman pledged in a January 14 address to the National Press Club.

Last month, US Representative Greg Walden, WB7OCE, called on Powell to put off further FCC action in the BPL proceeding until the NTIA had released the results of its BPL study and the public has had a chance to comment. "I feel that it is important to give the NTIA study thorough consideration before proceeding further with BPL technology, in view of the importance of avoiding interference to federal government HF communications," Walden said January 15 in a letter to Powell. An Oregon Republican, Walden is one of two Amateur Radio licensees in the US House.

The NTIA has expressed "broad concerns" about BPL's potential to interfere with government HF users. Its BPL fieldwork was scheduled to wrap up in January, and its observations and conclusions are expected to be released sometime during the first quarter of this year. The ARRL's own BPL field engineering study is still under way. It will explore how BPL might affect HF and low-VHF amateur operation as well as how Amateur Radio operation could affect BPL systems.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>.

Here is the latest update on above:

Copied from: SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB005 ARLB005 FCC okays BPL proposal

ZCZC AG05, QST de W1AW, ARRL Bulletin 5 ARLB005, From ARRL Headquarters, Newington, CT
February 12, 2004

To all radio amateurs

ARLB005 FCC okays BPL proposal

The FCC has unanimously approved a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to deploy Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted more than 5100 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in Part 15 rules governing unlicensed devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation that included President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, attended the FCC open meeting in Washington, and later expressed disappointment in the FCC action.

"The Commission clearly recognized that the existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference, but it's placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that's supposed to be protected," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation systems. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM.

Anh Wride of the OET staff spelled out the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called "access BPL"--the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service. She said the OET staff believes that interference concerns "can be adequately addressed." Wride said the FCC's BPL NPRM:

* Applies existing Part 15 emission limits for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now require that BPL systems eliminate any harmful interference that may occur "and must cease operation if they cannot," she noted.

* Requires BPL systems to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands."

* Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements that would establish a public database to include such information as the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies.

* Proposes guidelines to provide for consistent and repeatable measurement of the RF emissions from BPL and other carrier-current systems.

Mirroring his colleagues' enthusiasm, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called BPL "tremendously exciting." While conceding that BPL has "a long way to go," the chairman said it could be "the great broadband hope for a good part of rural America." Powell also said the FCC's OET has worked very hard to try to "get their hands around" the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area.

The FCC is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime after its publication.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/. NNNN/EX

National Weather Service:

Greetings from KL7FWX at the National Weather Service! Thanks for the excellent spotter support for recent rounds of snow in the area...and for the temperature reports as well during the intervening warm spells. This has helped enormously as we forecast for our complex terrain and for snowfalls which can be less than an inch in one part of our area...and several inches or more in other parts. Spotter reports keep us in business!

Speaking of spotters, look for the next round of spotter training getting underway shortly. If you would like to take our 1-evening spotter training or training refresher...please contact our Warning Coordination Meteorologist John Lingaas (john.lingaas@noaa.gov, 907/458-3701). We'll add your name to our list and get back to you with details. Spotter training not only gives you a neat overview of how your National Weather Service does business, but also gives you an excellent chance to ask us a few weather questions. One thing we love to do here at NWS is talk about the weather!

See you around the bands!

73 de Tim, KM4KS, NWS Fairbanks, KL7FWX

From the President:

Greeting to the Arctic Amateur Club:

I would like to thank all those who assisted with the Junior Yukon Quest Feb 7/8.

KL1JP, KE4ITP, KL7EBF, KL7YU, KL1PN, KL0UE, WL7CRD, WL7CRE, WL7CES, AL7EX, KL1AZ, N1TX, KL1BE, KL0OZ, WL7CRC, WL7UB, N0FGH, KC0CWG, KL1OQ. If I have omitted anyone, I ask your apology.

A big thank you, also to the CAP Cadets from Eielson who assisted with the start. It was a really good event with no injuries or problems.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, we will have a special program given by Neal Brown at the next club meeting March 5. The Chatanika Dog Sled Race is March 13/14. The hamfest is scheduled for Sept 4 at Pioneer Park like we did last year. We have tentatively scheduled a summer picnic for July 17th at Pioneer Park depending on scheduling.

For Sale/Wanted:

1. New never used (excess shipment from HRO must sale or ship back) still in box: MFJ -269 HF/VHF/UHF SWR Analyzer, \$319 firm (save shipping cost). Contact John Slater, KL1AZ, 488-5209.
2. Ten Tec Omni V HF Transceiver with matching Power Supply \$800. Contact Jim Dixon at 4790-4306 or dixon@ieee.org
3. Hi All, Jane and I are writing this email looking for a little help in acquiring and few things and selling some others. We spent the pre-holiday season in the Reno area looking to relocate there this summer. We are looking to buy a few things;
 1. Two axle covered trailer suitable to haul motorcycles and household stuff.

We are looking to sell a few things;

1. For the Amateur radio guys; TenTec Paragon Transceiver 160-10 meters with matching TenTec legal limit Centurion amp. \$1600 will kick in 40' crank up tower. Mucho, electronic parts, connectors, four antenna feed from one line (control at your station) etc. 35amp HD power supply, make offer. MFJ Versa V tuner, 3KW, roller inductor – all the good stuff.
4. Desktop Computer AMD 800 Mhz, 256 MB RAM, 20 GB HDD, CDR-W, Sound, LAN and 19 inch Monitor \$275.00, contact Rod Mitchell, KL7YU, Home: 374-4959, Work: 353-3602
5. AARC looking for: VP for club, Hamfest chairperson, and Refreshment chairperson.
6. Articles for Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR COMMENTS:

All input and comments/articles are welcome. **If you are a member of AARL please contact one of the club officers and let them know it is time once again to certify with the AARL.** The AARC has once again participated in a number of public events this past summer, if you have a report about events that have not been reported that the club has provided communications for please send that report to me and it will be included in future letters. **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.