



THE SHORT CIRCUIT

August 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 Vacant | | | 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 |
| | | | Board |
| 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

Club Minutes:

No meeting Jun, Jul, Aug.

Board Meeting Report:

August AARC Board Meeting Aug 14, 2004

Held during the club picnic at Pioneer Park
KL1JP, AL7EX, KL1AZ, KL7YU, KL7GL, NL7WO, AD4BL

Minutes

Treasurers Report

Repeater Report

Old Business Picnic well attended by many folks.

New Business

Officers 2005 President VP Secretary

Nominating committee appointed consisting of Jim Movius, Alex Cryan, Rod Mitchell

HamFest Sept 4 Noon to 5PM

Forums...emergency communications, APRS, PSK31 etc

AD4BL will set up APRS, KL7YU will run PSK 31

Amateur Radio EXAMS

Pioneer Park Picnic in the pavilion 2-6PM

Cook hamburgers, hotdogs, buns club will purchase

Annual Meeting 1:15

ARRL Forum 3PM

Bunny Hunt 4PM

Contact Fred KL7CUS about the HamFest website

Red Cross emergency exercise Sept 11 cancelled

Website needs to be updated. Need an individual who is website savvy who can work with Steve Estes to get it updated and updateable.

Events Schedule:

9 Sep 04 AARC Board Meeting

4 Sep 04 HamFest

Sep 04 events

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

HamFest 2004:

HAMFEST 2004 SEPTEMBER 4 FAIRBANKS ALASKA

The AARC Hamfest will be held Sept 4, Labor Day Weekend at Pioneer Park in the Alaska Land Civic Center.

The hours will be from Noon to 5PM.

We will have forums/information/demos on APRS PSK31 ARES

There will be Testing available.

Annual Meeting 1:15 for the election of officers.

Bunny Hunt at 4:00PM.

Hamfest cookout/picnic will be from 4PM to 6PM. Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be provided. Bring a dish to share.

Admission: FREE

Parking: FREE

Table fee: \$10.00

More information as it is available.....

Linda AD4BL

Silent Key:

AL1S Deborah L. Treb

On 12 Aug 04 this club lost a valued member and asset. Deb will be missed by one and all, she will be remembered for her love of this hobby and wiliness to help all that asked for help as well as the numerous volunteer hours given to the many activities that we support. Below is the article that appeared in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner on 13 Aug 04.

Fairbanks resident Deborah Lynn Treb, 48, died Thursday, Aug. 12, 2004, of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Deborah was born Sept. 11, 1955, to Margaret and Harley Stull in St. Louis Park, Minn.

She earned an electronics technician degree from the Northwestern Electronics Institute and had received a certificate of achievement from Microsoft Corp.

A resident of Fairbanks for the past 10 years, Deborah had been employed as an electronic technician at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska.

Her daughter said, "She was a great mother and very giving. She cared more for others than she did herself. We will always love her."

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth R. Treb, of Fairbanks; daughter and son-in-law, Joy M. and Mark Daniels of Fairbanks; parents, Harley E. and Margaret V. Stull of St. Louis Park; aunt and uncle, Carol and Ted Teasdale of Minneapolis; sister and brother-in-law, Bea and Paul Flaning of Minneapolis; mother-in-law, Dellie Treb of Fairbanks; nephews, Benjamin and Nicholas Flaning; many other relatives and friends; and her dog, Kodiak.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 14, at Chapel of Chimes. The Rev. Scott Fisher will officiate.

Arrangements were by Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home.

National Weather Service Report:

Submitted by Tim Shy, KM4KS:

An excellent summer at KL7FWX at the National Weather Service! With the support of Meteorologist in Charge John Dragomir, Warning Coordination Meteorologist John Lingaas, and our Electronics System Analyst Randy Davis and his team, we've got some major equipment upgrades and consequent significant improvement in station performance. KL7FWX now has an automatic HF antenna tuner, and a pair of 2-meter mobile/base rigs, and they all work great.

The highlight of the summer was our Kid's Day participation on June 19, 2004...the weekend before Field Day. We worked 14 stations in 8 states...but the real numbers of interest were the age of the operators: ages 5 through 13. We talked about the role of ham radio and weather spotting, and almost all of the lower 48 kids we talked to were amazed that Alaska was not only warm in the summer, but in some cases warmer than their location down south. Our most memorable QSO was with a 9-year old YL in northern Georgia...who was astonished and delighted to learn that our weather and her weather were exactly the same as we talked: mostly sunny and 85 degrees. Each participating kid received a KL7FWX QSL card, and could download a certificate from the event organizers: the ARRL and an affiliated club in Oregon.

We especially appreciate everyone's support during the fire season. Reports of smoke were instrumental in helping us forecast locations and times where thick smoke might accumulate, and allowed us to get a head start on getting the word out to the public. As usual, ham radio comes through...and we're delighted to benefit from the dedication. From all of us at KL7FWX...thanks! And...we'll see you around the bands.

73 de Tim KM4KS,
Senior Forecaster,
Trustee, KL7FWX.

AARRL NEWS:

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 33, August 20, 2004

ARRL GOES TO BAT FOR ARIZONA AMATEURS, SEEKS BPL FIELD TRIAL SHUTDOWN

The ARRL has asked the FCC to immediately shut down a broadband over powerline (BPL) field trial in the Cottonwood, Arizona, area because it's causing "severe interference" to Amateur Radio communication. Electric Broadband LLC and utility APS have been operating the BPL experiment at two Yavapai County sites since June under a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) the FCC granted Electric Broadband in March. Michael Kinney, KU7W, filed the first Amateur Radio complaint in June. It cited testing by the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA) <<http://www.vvara.org>> in the 1.8-30 MHz range to show that BPL interference made attempts at ham radio communication useless.

"The interference on typical Amateur Radio equipment shows received undesired signal levels in excess of 60 dB over S9 on the receiver's signal strength meter," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told FCC officials on the League's behalf. "The utility and Electric Broadband were contacted, and no response was received." The ARRL asserted that both companies are aware that the BPL field trial has been causing harmful interference and "neither has taken any steps to either resolve it or terminate the test."

The League said VVARA and ARRL testing indicates "extremely high" levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations--well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels with which Electric Broadband told the FCC it would comply. VVARA testing revealed "actual harmful interference" from the BPL system to mobile stations in the vicinity and to a fixed station.

The League's shutdown request went out August 16 to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David Solomon and Deputy Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Bruce Franca.

ARRL called on the FCC to instruct Electric Broadband and APS to shut down the BPL trial immediately and not resume operation until it can demonstrate that all interference issues have been resolved. It also insisted that the FCC immediately revoke any STAs granted for the Cottonwood or nearby operations, and that it institute forfeiture proceedings against the two companies for knowingly causing harmful interference.

VVARA submitted a lengthy and comprehensive report to the two companies and to the Commission in late July detailing the interference issues. The club took baseline measurements in January, before the BPL trial began, and it's continued taking measurements since the system's startup. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, conducted independent tests of the Cottonwood BPL system in July, and the League attached a summary of his findings to its letter.

The VVARA and ARRL measurements, the League said, indicate widespread interference to Amateur Radio communication in an area within a mile of the BPL field trial, and radiated emissions from BPL modems at levels "several orders of magnitude higher" than the FCC Part 15 limits. One ARRL measurement cited was more than 32 dB higher than Part 15 allows. The League further accused Electric Broadband of misrepresenting facts to the Commission by saying it would comply with §15.109 of the FCC's rules.

The ARRL said continued operation of the system while violating the conditions under which the STA was granted constitutes "willful and repeated interference," and both the utility and the BPL provider should be subject to fines as a result.

"ARRL requests that this test station be shut down immediately and that the appropriate monetary forfeitures be imposed against both Electric Broadband and APS," the League concluded.

STILL TIME TO COMMENT IN "OMNIBUS" PART 97 RULE MAKING

Because the complete text of the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 04-140 failed to make it into the Federal Register until August 17, interested parties now will have until September 15 to comment. Released in April, the so-called "omnibus NPRM" seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rules changes as well as certain changes to Parts 1 and 2 of the FCC's rules. It does not deal with Amateur Radio license restructuring or the Morse code examination requirement for HF privileges.

Among other things, the NPRM&O recommends adoption of the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan and proposes eliminating FCC rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz.

Interested parties may comment on the NPRM via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Click on "Submit a filing." To view filed comments, click on "Search for filed comments." In both cases, enter "04-140" (without the quotation marks) in the "Proceeding" field.

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. AARC looking for: VP for club, Hamfest chairperson, and Refreshment chairperson.

3. Club officers for next year.
4. Articles for Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR COMMENTS:

All input and comments/articles are welcome. 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.**