

Welcome to the 1st edition of the Kluane Lake Research Station Newsletter. This has been yet another year of growth at the Arctic Institute of North America and for KLRS and you will be able to read about all of our activities in the AINA Annual Report, which will be published in May. In the interim we are pleased to launch this first edition of the KLRS biannual newsletter. We are looking forward to a productive 2017 field season at the KLRS and we are happy to be able to take this opportunity to update you on some of our new activities and initiatives.

Station Operations

This summer brings changes in station operations and the implementation of new research activities and programs. We are pleased to have Dr. Shawn Marshall as Associate Director of AINA with primary responsibilities for building our environmental monitoring program at KLRS, including meteorological instrumentation so that we meet World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standards. We would also like to welcome Mr. Michael Schmidt as AINA's Yukon Coordinator, expanding on his role of the last three years as KLRS Science Coordinator, as well as Dr. Henry Penn and Dr. Michael Moloney who will share responsibility for Research and Operations at KLRS. You can learn more about Shawn, Michael S., Henry, and Michael M. on the AINA website. (arctic.ucalgary.ca)

We are increasing our KLRS support staff and will employ a cook, assistant cook, and mechanical and maintenance personnel, as well as student assistants for the kitchen, station management support, science support, and education and outreach support. We are working with Yukon College, Yukon First Nations and other Yukon-based organizations to recruit locally for the summer field season wherever possible.

We continue to implement the 2014 AINA strategic plan by bringing KLRS into alignment with the policies and practices of our home institution, the University of Calgary, and also with the policies and practices of our partner stations in the Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators (CNNRO) and the International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic (INTERACT).

Research and Education

We are pleased to announce the formation of the KLRS Research and Education Advisory Committee. Members are drawn from Yukon First Nations, KLRS users, Yukon Government, Yukon research organizations, CNNRO, INTERACT, and the AINA Board of Directors. We expect this committee to have a positive impact at the research station and to help us collectively promote research that is useful to the community, build research capacity in Yukon, encourage the use of Indigenous Knowledge, and expand our national and international partnerships.

This year through the EU Horizon 2020 program, as a member of INTERACT, we will receive support and funds for operations and maintenance under the Transnational Access Program. This program enables researchers from across the INTERACT network to apply for support to conduct research at field stations in the network. This year we will welcome Dr. Marjo Helander and colleagues from the Department of Biology, University of Finland, for a research stay during August. The transnational access program will run for four seasons and bring new researchers to KLRS each year. You can learn more about INTERACT at <http://www.eu-interact.org>.

We are also excited about a project funded by the Norwegian Research Council (Forskingsradet) that brings faculty and students from AINA and UCalgary, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the University of Tromsø together for a three year field school program focused on remote sensing and data assimilation. The project commences in May 2017 with a ship-based research carried out from Svalbard, followed in 2018 with research supported out of Barrow, Alaska. In 2019 work will be based at KLRS. This is an exciting step forward for international research and education at KLRS and for international cooperation in northern research more generally.

A new AINA postdoc, Dr. David Roberts, has been recruited to work with KLRS and southwestern

Yukon environmental data reconstructions and projections. David will work on the Global Cryosphere Watch implementation at KLRS, regional-scale historical climate and lake ice reconstructions and future projections, and metadata and data 'rescue'

efforts from the rich history of KLRS-based research and monitoring efforts.

Many thanks to the large group of people who supported the NSERC and Polar Knowledge Canada applications for operations and maintenance support and for implementing the Global Cryosphere Watch monitoring program at KLRS. We expect news on both of these applications sometime in April. Both are for two years of support, from 2017-2019. The NSERC application is a limited-term revival of the Major Research Support program, linked with the Research Tools and Instruments competition. It will be highly competitive, with 10-20 projects expected to be supported nation-wide. Hopefully the demand in this year's competition will increase pressure on NSERC to formally resuscitate the MRS program.

Reserving Space at KLRS

The KLRS reservation systems has been significantly updated based on input from users – thank you! Bookings for 2017 are well underway.

For the new on-line booking tool please see: <http://arctic.ucalgary.ca/make-klrs-reservation>

We are asking all KLRS users to utilize this system to help us manage and optimize their visit to KLRS. Once you have reserved you will continue to interact directly with AINA and KLRS staff before your arrival to confirm the details of your visit including arrival/departure dates and any special needs you may have.

The booking tool allows us to satisfy Board and University requirements, and enables us to meet standards set by funding agencies which require us to:

- demonstrate how our facility is funded;
- document the sources of funding;
- document the number of highly qualified persons who are trained at KLRS;
- and the institutions from which they come;
- and collect project and permit metadata.

We also request funding cycle information (start and end date) to ensure that those researchers who are mid-way through a grant cycle will be charged the

appropriate user day rates; that is, the rate in place at the time you prepared your grant applications.

If you are currently writing new grant proposals for field time at KLRS, please remember to take into account the current or future user rates (see attached user rate fee schedule). If you need help we will walk you through the online reservation process.

KLRS Open House

We will welcome the AINA Board of Directors and the KLRS Research and Education Advisory Committee to KLRS in June 2017. KLRS will host various meetings and functions that will provide the opportunity for Yukoners to engage with members of the Board and the Advisory Committee and with KLRS staff. The week's activities will culminate with a KLRS Open House on June 17. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for details!

As always we welcome your questions and feedback. Please contact us at arctic@ucalgary.ca

We look forward to seeing you this season and to sharing in a productive year.

Sincerely,

Maribeth S. Murray, Ph.D.,
Executive Director,
Arctic Institute of North America



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