



MEMBERS OF THE NENANA Ice Classic gather on the Tanana River for augering through the ice for a traditional measurement. Betting on the Classic is now open and will continue till midnight, April 6. From left to right are, Bruce Penoske, Milt Jauhola, Buzz Moore, Rick Moore, and Jack Coghill.

Tanana ice measured

They've measured the ice and the tripod will be set up in the center of the Tanana River in Nenana on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m.

Then the long wait begins for the tripping of the clock and the signal that break-up has begun. It's all part of the Nenana Ice Classic, and members of the Classic committee assembled recently on a blustery day to measure the ice and prepare for the tripod raising ceremony.

For the first, time tickets for the Ice Classic have risen to \$2, but people throughout the state are already using their own system to figure out the exact minute, day and hour that the ice will go out and the riches flow the the lucky winner of winners.

The Ice Classic will close all betting on midnight, April 6. Then, the committee members and the people of Nenana begin the task of assembling the wagers in the proper chronological order and listing all bets in the huge Ice Classic book.

Once that is done, the long wait begins. People can start checking the ice anytime from April 20 (the date of the earliest break-up) to May 20 (the latest). But of course, there's always the

chance that break-up may occur earlier this year or later.

And if any of those Ice Classic Committee members think they might make a closer guess after measuring the ice--well, the computers were off by 38 days in 1970. Better stick with guesswork and grandma's birthday.