

# KICY Call Letter

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Toll-Free: 1-800-478-5429 e-mail: office@kicy.org web page: www.kicy.org February, 2016

## Manager's Mic

The beginning of the new year is an extremely positive milestone. We had many challenges last year with both the sick transmitter and the completion of the Triplex at the top of the list. But, through God's Grace and many helpful hands, we were able to solve both challenges by

December 1.

On the Friday after Thanksgiving, Stephen Lockwood, from the consulting firm of Hatfield &



Dennis Weidler

Dawson, came to Nome. In an hour, with his really cool network analyzer, he had diagnosed the problem. We were able to use existing parts on-site to make repairs and were all fixed up and back on by 4:30.

The Triplex project wrapped up and all three units were occupied by December 1. We never had to advertise or even talk to the school or hospital administration. In every case, the tenant sought us out.

It is amazing to look back over this project and tally over 125 volunteers who came all the way to Nome to build this admittedly beautiful, and most desirable, housing property. We don't know where to begin to thank all who made this possible. This entire project was only possible due to the willingness of volunteers to labor together.

We are so looking forward to 2016 and all the promises it holds. ■



Nome-Beltz Principal, Chip Sharpe and Patty Burchell calling the games.

## Basketball Moves Into High Gear.

This January started off with a three-day tournament hosted here in Nome at the Den of the Mighty Nanooks. The Subway Showdown, as it is known, saw competition between schools from Fairbanks, Bethel, Kotzebue and Unalaska...way out in the Aleutian chain.

There were lots of planning sessions to make sure we were able to provide coverage of all 12 games. KICY was in charge of finding announcers and the means to provide play-by-play coverage to stations in the towns and villages where high school basketball gets folks through the dark days of winter.

Action started the Thursday after New Years Day with the Nome-Beltz High School Principal, Chip Sharpe in the announcer chair assisted by Patty Burchell. Josie Stiles took over the evening action which featured the Nome teams and those games were carried live on KICY.

Back in the studio, Lon, George and Patty (after her work in the gym) acted as board operators and got the games on the air. With 20 thirty second ads in each game, that's no small feat. Did I mention we were sold out again this year?

A big special thanks to all who worked diligently to make this happen. The folks at KUBC, KOTZ and KYUK all did their part and every game had a listening audience, even down in the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor communities.

We have a big season ahead of us...and then it's Iditarod time! ■

**The Nome Girls WON the Subway Showdown. They lost only one game and that was a Saturday night squeaker against Kotzebue.**

## Repairs Made. New Economies Realized.

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. In the case of our transmission line, that weak link was found where the rigid line met the flexible line. Over the past 10 years, this joint



*The 'bullet' was vaporized.*

has been deteriorating, though we are not sure why. But this summer that weak link began failing, quite possibly due to the failure of our ACC+ power saving device. That weak link was also hidden inside a four inch copper pipe. You couldn't see it, hear it, smell it or track it down with the equipment we had on hand. We had tried meggers, hi-pot testers, everything we could find here in Nome.

Tom King from Kintronics suggested I contact Stephen Lockwood, a partner in the engineering firm of Hatfield & Dawson in Seattle. Stephen left his family and came to Nome the Friday after Thanksgiving. He brought with him a network analyzer. In literally ten minutes, we narrowed the problem to the transmission line and agreed to start by disassembling the line in the transmitter building. After all, it was warm and dry in there. Within another ten minutes we found the problem. I held in my hands a pile of carbonized material that fell out of the connection. That is a catastrophic failure. And, yet, God provided the exact parts we

needed to fix the connection right on site!

We were back on the air at full power in a few hours. Stephen took time to retune both the directional and non-directional patterns. The first indication we were back in a very large way was an e-mail we

received from Finland. A DXer (distant listening hobbyist) told us his friends in Japan were hearing us loud and clear. Had we done something different? Yes, we were back in under four hours from start to finish. But it would not have been possible without the network analyzer...and someone who knew how to make it work.

An interesting side-bar to all of this is the fact the Steve Lockwood's father, who was a lifelong missionary, had purchased time on KICY many decades ago to support the Russian broadcast mission. Stephen had many, many stories to tell about growing up a missionary kid and his families long-term relationship with KICY. It is amazing.

Thank you Stephen for making KICY healthy and reliable. We had just begun our Christmas music the morning he arrived and I was so disappointed our listeners couldn't share in the Christmas season. But my disappointment was short lived.

We were also able to update and convert the ACC+ circuitry to AMC. This has the opposite affect where the modulation peaks drive down the carrier instead of silence. We are looking at additional savings. ■

## A Prayer Request. For each of our staff members.

**George Bard**

**Patty Burchell**

**Ian Coglan**

**Luda Kinok**

**Bertha Koweluk**

**Lon Swanson**

**Candace Weidler**

**Dennis Weidler**

**Frances Whitmore**

We have begun taking reservations for summer work teams, with one confirmed and two more pending. All are posted on our web site.

There is also a listing of projects we hope to wrap-up this summer. Most involve painting and light carpentry work. Okay, yes there is some hanging and mudding of drywall but there isn't much of that to finish up.

So there is some inside work and quite a few outside projects. The Kalamazoo Team from our home church in Michigan scheduled their week in Nome to coincide with the Midnight Sun Festival. They didn't want to miss the Polar Bear Swim or the Bank Robbery. All in good fun.

# KICY Will Cook Wild Alaskan Salmon For You.

It's time again to share the idea of your church hosting a KICY wild Alaska Salmon Fundraising Dinner. Currently, we have three dinners scheduled for the upcoming April Salmon Tour. Two of these came from the recent Midwinter Conference in Chicago.

For full details and an updated schedule be sure to check out our home page at [www.kicy.org](http://www.kicy.org).

We are also scheduling for our Fall Tour, which now stretches from New Jersey to Wisconsin. If your church lies anywhere along that route, and you'd like to host a salmon dinner, please let me know.

Feel free to talk with any of the pastors where we have had the honor of preparing a wild Alaskan Salmon dinner. The salmon is free but the memories are priceless. We love to ship in Nome-caught salmon, cook it up and share the vision of KICY. Can we count on your church to host **salmon-chanted evening?** ■



**Upcoming Dinners Calendar**

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**April 8th, 2016**  
Country Covenant  
Campton Hills, Illinois

**April 10th, 2016**  
Faith Covenant  
Saint Petersburg, Florida

**April 12th, 2016**  
Covenant Shores Retirement Community  
Mercer Island, Washington

**The Fall Tour**

**October 8th, 2016**  
Trinity Covenant Church  
Livingston, New Jersey

**October 15th, 2016**  
Bethesda Lutheran Brethren Church  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

## Help Wanted.

If you can help us with a donation for our tower replacement project, we all would very much appreciate it. This is an ambitious project, but a critical one to the longterm success of this unique broadcast ministry.

As you can see, donations have begun to arrive in our Post Office Box. Thank you!

\$240,000.00	
\$120,000.00	
\$9,125.00	

## Memorials

In December and January we received memorials in the name of:

- Raynold & Florence Peterson**
- Tom & Annie Dotomain**
- Walt & Lucille Hoseck**
- Edward Lattimore, Jr.**
- Gary A. P. Cantrell**
- Homer Hoyt**
- Edmund Wood**

Thank you for remembering a loved one with your gift.

## PLEASE NOTE!

-January Income-

**\$50,098.08**

-January Budget-

**\$79,407.61**

-January Expenses-

**\$52,656.34**

*Includes Sales & Programs but not designated funds.*



Arctic Broadcasting Association is an affiliated corporation of the Evangelical Covenant Church.



**AM-850 & ICY 100.3 FM**  
**P.O. Box 820**  
**Nome, Alaska 99762**

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## Holiday Programming Addresses Suicide.

Suicide is an issue in every community, but even more so in Western Alaska with a rate nearly seven times that of the Lower 48.

Several villages in our listening area experienced a high number of suicides this Summer and Fall. These often occur in clusters as friends form suicide pacts.

In response, Dawyn Sawyer, a local health worker with Norton Sound Health Corporation and member of Nome Covenant Church, organized a seminar and brought in suicide prevention experts from Anchorage. But she wanted to do more. KICY



*Dawyn Sawyer recording her vignettes.*

offered her a voice to address the region. Dawyn produced a series of short messages which aired between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Through "Hope for the Holidays," Dawyn gave sound, Biblically based mental

health suggestions for dealing with grief during the holidays. Messages included a prayer for hope and healing, ways to include the memories of the loved one in holiday celebrations, and suggestions for handling grief without the use of alcohol. The holidays are always a rough time, no matter how a loved one has been lost, and we look forward to airing

these spots again next year. Dawyn is already planning her next set of spots as we partner with the church and community to address difficult issues in Western Alaska, proclaiming the hope and grace that only Christ can provide. -- *Patty Burchell*