

# KICY Call Letter

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## Manager's Mic

Spring is in the air, even if accompanied by snow flakes. Iditarod 47 is in the books, high school basketball is finished, and it is time to take a deep breath and enjoy Spring in the Arctic. We are indeed blessed to live in such an amazingly beautiful place.



*Patty Burchell*

This month, as we celebrate 59 years of broadcasting the Good News of Jesus Christ in Western Alaska and the Russian

Far East, I am reminded of the many men and women with the vision, skills, tenacity, and dedication to start this remote radio station on the edge of the world. When Jesus told his followers to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth, He had Western Alaska in mind. God has blessed this ministry in so many ways for so many years. We would not be here, sending the strong signal of Christ's love to so many, were it not for the grace and provision of God.

God is good, all the time, and continues to provide for all our needs. I seem to say this a lot, but it is no less heartfelt. We are blessed by so many faithful prayer warriors and financial partners. Thank you for the part you play and the blessing you are to this ministry. ■

## Pete Kaiser, Iditarod Champ!



*Peter Kaiser of Bethel, Alaska, Iditarod 47 Champion*

*Photo by Aaron Brown*

One of the best things about the sport of dog mushing, and something that gives us joy in covering the Iditarod, is the camaraderie that exists between competitors even during the intensity of the race. Each is attempting to get his or her team to Nome as fast as possible, but each is also quick to help another if there is a need. The race rules don't allow a musher to accept outside help, however, they encourage mushers to help each other. And they do. Every year there are many stories of mushers lending a hand, even when it puts their own race on hold.

This year, one musher helped another track down his whole team after it broke loose from his sled when the connecting carabiner broke. Another left her extra dog food with a resting musher who spent longer than anticipated at a shelter cabin and was running low on dog food.

There are also stories of villages going out of their way to make sure the teams traveling through are well cared for. In Unalakleet there is a never-ending supply of pancakes, eggs, and bacon. Takotna is known for its pie. And Aliy Zirkle told the story this year of receiving a "to go" meal of caribou stew, freshly baked cookies, and coffee placed on her sled as she passed through Golovin.

This year's winner was Peter Kaiser, an Alaska Native from Bethel. That too, garnered a huge show of support as nearly 100 fans from Bethel, a village about 300 air miles from Nome with no direct commercial flights or road, descended on Nome to greet Pete at the finish.

Stories like this remind us again that this is, indeed, The Last Great Race. ■

## KICY's First Lady, Gert Fondell



*Gert Fondell at the control board at KICY*

**O**n February 14, 2019, Gert Fondell, surrounded by her family, passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus. She was 92.

Gert's association with KICY goes all the way back to before there was a station. In 1958, Gert and her husband Ralph were commissioned as missionaries by the Evangelical Covenant Church. Their location of service was Nome, where Ralph was to be the first engineer for newly licensed KICY. Arriving in 1959, shortly after Alaska's statehood, they were instrumental in establishing the station. They raised their family in Nome and served in many different capacities at KICY until 1984.

Ralph and Gert were partners in ministry, and service at KICY was definitely a family affair. Gert had a regular presence on the air with her programs "Gert's Corner" and "Lines From a Mother's Scrapbook."

She is fondly remembered here in Nome, and in fact just a few months ago my neighbor stopped me to ask if there was any way to

re-air some of Gert's programs. Gert also maintained the station's FCC licenses and was an active member of the Covenant Church in Nome, as well as later in Anchorage, and Eagle River.

Her gift of hospitality was well known to all, and her Christmas Eve Smorgasbord was open to all KICY volunteers, providing a welcome holiday tradition for those living far from home.

Curtis Ivanoff, superintendent of the Alaska Conference of the Covenant Church remembers her fondly. "Gert Fondell was such a blessing to many throughout Alaska for so many years, along with her husband Ralph, with her longtime work with KICY Radio in Nome and also being a charter member of Community Covenant Church in Eagle River. As a kid, I remember her on the radio, and I am confident that many who heard her or were in 'Gert's Corner' encountered the love of Jesus."

Please keep the family, and especially her husband of 70 years, Ralph, in prayer as they rejoice in her homecoming but live with their loss. ■

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

George Bard

Patty Burchell

Kathy Horner

Ron Horner

Bertha Koweluk

Luda Kinok

Lena Mathlaw

Lon Swanson

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## *Other Requests*

\* The preparation of work teams who are planning to come to KICY this summer, and the finances to complete the needed projects.

\* For one or two people called by God to raise their own support and serve with KICY for one to two years.

**Praise God for His faithfulness in supplying all our needs!**

## Summer Projects

Summer is a busy time in West  
Sern Alaska as people take  
advantage of long hours of day-  
light to complete outdoor mainte-  
nance projects, and  
KICY is no exception.

Even though Nome  
is still under near-  
record breaking snow  
cover we have already  
identified several  
larger projects that  
must be completed  
this summer.



As our Triplex enters its fourth  
year we are finding that there are  
drainage issues at the building.  
Summer and fall rain, as well as  
spring melt ends up running under  
the building and creating quite a  
lake both there and in the parking  
lot. This has caused the building  
to settle each year, requiring costly  
leveling. We hope to construct a  
drainage system this summer to  
send the water in a better direc-  
tion. Also, we now know how  
snow drifts (and drips) around the  
building. We need to construct a

roof overhang to cover the en-  
trance. This will keep the door  
relatively snow-free and keep the  
deck from icing up so much.

At our tower site,  
the ground has  
sunk near the  
center tower and  
we are in need of  
several loads of  
gravel to level  
things out. The  
structures in that  
area also need to

be leveled.

Add to that some flooring in  
volunteer housing and the studio  
bathroom, and the never-ending  
painting, and we have a full sum-  
mer.

We rely on the generosity of  
individuals who come, and churches  
who send teams, to provide the  
labor for our summer projects, and  
there are many who have already  
committed to coming. We are  
grateful, also, for the generosity of  
financial donors who allow us to  
complete projects each year. ■

## Maintenance Needs

We are indeed blessed that so  
many individuals and  
church work teams have already  
committed to coming to Nome to  
volunteer their labor to complete  
our list of summer projects. Each  
year we budget for maintenance  
projects, but this year, with the  
added cost of a drain system,  
gravel, and leveling several struc-  
tures (see story at left), we find  
ourselves a bit short. Thank you  
for considering a special financial  
gift toward our summer projects.

## Memorials

In February and March we  
received memorials in the name  
of:

**Tom & Annie Dotomain**

**Edward Lattimore, Jr.**

**Luther England**

**Agnes Komakhuk**

**Carol C. Nelson**

**Eric Plett**

**Gert Fondell**

Thank you for remembering a  
loved one with your gift.

## PLEASE NOTE!

-March Income-

**\$30,142.11**

-March Budget-

**\$33,261.27**

-March Expenses-

**\$39,416.39**

*Includes Sales & Programs but  
not designated funds.*



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

**\$10,000**

**\$5,000**

**\$2,000**



**AM-850 & ICY 100.3 FM**

**P.O. Box 820**

**Nome, Alaska 99762**

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## From The Virtual Mailbag

**G**ood afternoon. Every morning when I wake up I listen to your radio. It gives me energy and good mood for the whole day. Now I cannot imagine my normal day without your radio. *~a listener in Spirovo, Russia*

**T**hank you all up there in the cold, but all with warm hearts making the light of Jesus shine through your broadcasting to so many. In heaven you will be astonished when you will be shown the fruit. *~Sister Daniela*



**T**hank you for airing the birthday greeting for (an elder) yesterday. It meant the world to her. She listens via iPad at Alaska Regional Hospital. Thanks again. God's blessings to the entire KICY staff. *~a listener in rural Alaska*

**L**isten to KICY daily and I am drawn closer to the Lord because of it. Thank you for working so hard to make it possible for listeners like me to be encouraged through the songs and preaching and to be informed about state news along with the weather. I love the singing at night at 7 and look forward to 9 at 9 every Saturday! *~a listener in Unalakleet* ■