

# KICY Call Letter

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## Manager's Mic

What interesting and unexpected times these are. As people are hunkered down in their homes due to the Coronavirus, KICY's impact and relevance as a means of connection has only increased. In the absence of regular church services, our village pastors touch their communities through live call-in services on Sunday mornings. The Hobbs family hosts a live, call-in hymn sing Friday nights from their livingroom. We are airing previously recorded church conferences, as all have been canceled this year.

2020 is turning out to be a challenging year. Our expenses have been higher than expected this first quarter, and unfortunately, donations have been down. It has been quite cold, stretching our fuel budget to its limit. Electricity remains expensive. We also had a few mechanical and equipment failures that needed repair. Thank you to all who have continued to give despite difficult circumstances. If you have not given in a while, now would be a great time to send a gift. Whether or not you can help us financially at this time, we are grateful for your prayers. Through you we are able to stay on the air, offering the peace, comfort, and security that only Christ can bring. ■



*Patty Burchell*

## Celebrating 60 Years

April 17, 2020, marks 60 years of ministry for KICY. On that day, at 6:00 a.m. local time, our first general manager flipped the mic switch on and read the following: "This is the Voice of the Arctic, radio station KICY, initiating with this announcement. KICY is broadcasting with a transmitted power of 5,000 watts. ... This is Art Zylstra, manager of radio station KICY, inviting you to remain tuned and reminding you of this bit of

good news: 'Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.'"

And with that, the villages of Western Alaska were able to hear local news and weather, recorded hymns, live programs like "Lines From a Mother's Scrapbook" with Gert Fondell, and "Pause for Prayer," and recorded, syndicated programs such as "The Morning Chapel Hour." A couple of those first syndicated programs, "Ranger Bill" and "Unshackled" continue to be listener favorites even today.

Since the beginning, our mission has been to spread the encouragement and hope that come only through a relationship with Jesus. That has not changed through the years. Today, pastors call in to offer local prayer

during CareForce, Bible study programs are both syndicated and locally produced, and the music is encouraging.

In a region with limited internet access, radio becomes a means of hope, encouragement, entertainment and connection. This 60th year of ministry seems to have

begun with more of the isolation of 60 years ago than the connectivity of the 21st century. As people are asked to stay home due to



the Coronavirus we are finding creative ways to help our listeners stay connected to each other and the wider Christian community while encouraging folks to face this pandemic from a place of faith, not fear, and compassion, not panic. These are uncertain times, but we have experienced uncertain times in the past. God was faithful then, and will remain faithful today. We know that our God is bigger than any uncertainty and has us in His care. God continues to provide in miraculous ways for this little radio station with the big signal at the edge of the world. We look forward to what God will do through KICY in the next 60. ■

# A Look Back... Iditarod 1978

*From the Spring 1978 Call Letter*

As Spring gets closer, the big event in Western Alaska is the 1049 mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome. KICY gave this extensive coverage this year and with 39 teams registered for this year's race, it proved to be exciting.

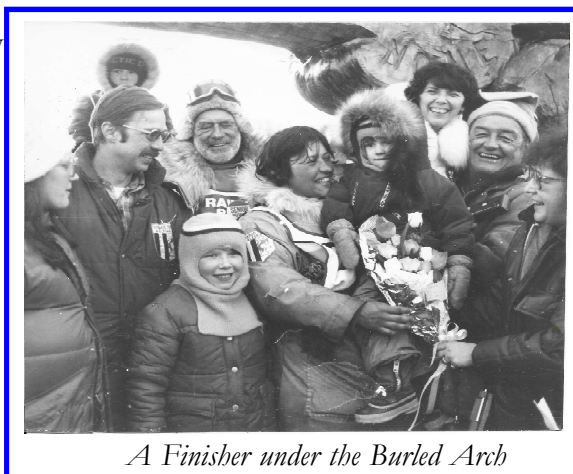


*Front Street Finish*



*Dave DeVries interviews a musher*

In the wee hours of Sunday morning, March 19th, two exhausted dog mushers, Dick Mackey and Rick Swenson (formerly of Willmar, MN) crossed the finish line in Nome one second apart. Their 1049 mile adventure across Alaska was covered by KICY from start to finish. KICY's race reports were broadcast over an eleven station statewide network for several hours. PRAISE GOD for this opportunity.



*A Finisher under the Burred Arch*

*Editor's note: Dick Mackey won this one, but Rick Swenson would go on to win a total of 5 Iditarod Championships, a record that still holds today. ■*

The race took two to three weeks for the majority of the mushers to cover the trail.

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

George Bard  
Patty Burchell  
Nate Hobbs  
Kathy Horner  
Ron Horner  
Bertha Koweluk  
Luda Kinok  
Lena Mathlaw  
Lon Swanson

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## Postage-Paid Envelopes

Thank you to all of you who currently put your own stamp on our Business Reply Envelopes. These envelopes are a convenience, but end up costing us nearly \$2000 per year in postage and fees alone. In an effort to be good stewards of what we are given, KICY will be discontinuing the use of those this year. Please feel free to use them, as long as you receive them from us. We will be phasing them out as our supply at the station runs out. We will continue to provide return envelopes for your convenience, but you'll need to use your own stamp. Thanks for helping us use wisely the resources God so generously provides. ■

# Iditarod 2020

## 60th Anniversary Challenge

At half past midnight, Wednesday, March 18, Thomas Waerner of Norway crossed under the buried arch in Nome becoming the champion of the 48th Iditarod. Less than 24 hours later, the top 18 had finished. With only a half hour between teams for most of the day, the action was fast and furious.



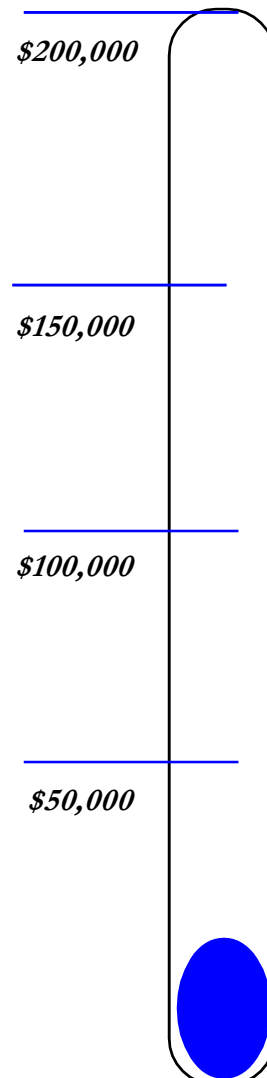
*The Tower Crew: Aaron Brown, Aaron Cooper, Nate Hobbs*

As always, this race was not without its challenges. Heavy snow at the start, frigid temperatures to -40 in the interior, and warm days, wet snow and deep overflow on the coast were just a few of the things mushers had to contend with. Add to that the changes that

A huge thank you to our tower team this year. Three men with pastors' hearts and a love of this race provided stats, color commentary, and much fun as team after team arrived. While the weather held most of Wednesday, by the time the final three mushers of the day came in the wind was blowing, and the snow was flying.

occurred after the race start due to the COVID-19 threat. Two checkpoint locations and services were changed, all celebratory activities in Nome were canceled, people were asked to stay away, and as soon as teams arrived they were shuttled out. Travel restrictions went into effect four days after the finish. This is certainly one race that will be talked about for years to come. ■

Our 50,000 watt AM Transmitter is nearing the end of its expected lifespan. We need to start planning now for its replacement. During our 60th Anniversary year, would you consider giving an extra \$60 (or multiple of 60) toward this fund? It is a huge undertaking, but if everyone on our mailing list was able to donate \$60 toward this project, it would more than cover all associated costs. Thanks for your help in keeping our signal strong for the next 60 years!



## Memorials

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

**Tom & Annie Dotomain**  
**Edward Lattimore, Jr.**  
**Ralph "Bud" Logan**  
**Paul Fondell**  
**Carol Nelson**

Thank you for remembering a loved one with your gift.

## PLEASE NOTE!

-March Income-

**\$32,204.92**

-March Budget-

**\$43,484.50**

-March Expenses-

**\$44,579.08**

*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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## Fun Facts From the Past

*From the 25th Anniversary Edition of the Call Letter, published Spring, 1985*

From the beginning, KICY has had the opportunity to broadcast interviews with many well-known people. Being part of the media, most politicians make KICY part of their Nome visit to take advantage of exposure provided on "Face of Our Town." Others who have been heard over KICY include Roy Rogers (he had been polar bear hunting in Kotzebue), Will Rogers, Jr., astronaut James Irwin, Walter Mondale, Ted Kennedy, and Art Linkletter. We can now add to this list James



Mitchner, well known author of *Hawaii*, who visited Nome in March, soaking up local color as he prepares to write a book about Alaska.

Our 260-foot transmitter tower has quite a story itself. Back in 1959, it arrived in Nome in pieces, sans instructions. Ralph Fondell and Dick Mack were in a race with the weather, and were forced to put the tower together as they saw fit. It was indeed put together, and erected ... when the instructions arrived weeks later it was discovered the tower was put together backward. ■