

Dear Amateur Radio Operators of VY1-land,

Myself, Jim Dixon, NL7HI and Mark Richards, AL7HT have approached the Yukon Quest here in Fairbanks for the purpose of providing communications for the upcoming race this spring. Unfortunately, there have been several hurdles to cross and more than a few bridges to mend in the process, but finally, we've made some progress here, and it looks as though we (collectively, meaning ham radio operators) are again in good standing with the folks at the Yukon Quest, at least here in Fairbanks.

Since the Yukon Quest is an international race, it is only fitting that the communications volunteers also be from both Alaska and Canada. We would ~~very much like to have the hams of the Yukon~~ participate in the communications support that we are providing to the Quest. In fact, we feel that your support is critical to the success of the effort.

It is our understanding that there have been some problems in the past, concerning both the Yukon Quest in Whitehorse, and the perception of the activities of Alaskan hams in the Yukon. I would like to address these concerns as best I can, with what I know about the problems.

Concerning the Yukon Quest in Whitehorse, I have sent a summary of our proposed activities to the office in Whitehorse, via the Yukon Quest Board of Directors here in Fairbanks (a copy of which is enclosed). Since there is an implicit endorsement from the Yukon Quest in Fairbanks, this should help with dealing with the office in Whitehorse (I would hope). If I or perhaps the office in Fairbanks can be of help, please let me know, and we will do what we can (assuming, of course, that you folks will be participating).

Concerning the activities of the hams from Alaska. This was also a problem when it came to dealing with the Yukon Quest office here. I have not been involved in the race in the past, and when I found out what had been going on concerning local hams and their "requirements" to man checkpoints, I was, to put it mildly, a bit dismayed. It is no wonder that the Yukon Quest felt as it did concerning ham radio operators.

When we approached the Board of Directors concerning this spring's race, we assured them that the amateur radio operators wanted only to participate, and that each volunteer would be responsible for their own room and board while manning each checkpoint. The thought of hams accepting free room and board, as well as transportation costs to and from checkpoints is appalling at least, if not blatantly illegal according to the

Any questions that you may have concerning our proposal can be addressed to:

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Summary of Proposed Amateur Radio Participation, 1988 Yukon Quest

Amateur radio operators from Alaska, and hopefully, the Yukon, will be providing safety, health and welfare, and emergency communications support for the 1988 Yukon Quest. Amateur radio operators will be stationed at each checkpoint to provide real-time communications between race headquarters in Fairbanks and each checkpoint.

Communications will be carried out using 1200 baud data/teletype links connecting Fairbanks with Angel Creek, Arctic Circle Hot Springs, and Circle City. Additionally, VHF voice links will be available to Angel Creek, and HF radio and amateur satellite links will be available across the entire race course.

At this time, it is our intention to provide communications between Fairbanks and Eagle, with Canadian amateurs providing communications from Eagle to Whitehorse.

Amateur radio will be the primary mode of communication between checkpoints, safety points, and the office in Fairbanks. We would also propose that amateur radio would be the primary mode of communications between Whitehorse and individual checkpoints, provided that the Yukon Quest office in Whitehorse endorses the proposal.

We feel that there is a significant savings possible in the form of reduced long-distance telephone bills by going with amateur radio as the primary mode of communications, and should amateur communications fail, radiotelephones are still available along the course.

We are currently in contact with amateur radio operators in Whitehorse, soliciting their support to provide communications in the Yukon Territory. We would ask that the Yukon Quest office in Whitehorse support our activities, and assist in securing volunteers from Whitehorse.

Our agreement with the Yukon Quest in Fairbanks is subject to review by the rules committee, to define which types of communication are appropriate to be handled by amateur radio. Additionally, we are bound by the Federal Communications Commission Rules, Part 97, which pertain to amateur radio.

FCC rules and regs.

We have agreed to pay for our own food while at each checkpoint, and to be responsible for a place to stay and transportation to and from each checkpoint that we man (this could include sleeping on someone's floor who offers us a place to stay, and getting a donated plane ride to places like Eagle, which aren't accessable by road). There will be no paid vacations for Alaskan hams this Yukon Quest.

Both myself and Jim, NL7HI are planning to make a trip to Whitehorse on the weekend of October 9-11. At that time, we'd like to discuss further what we have in mind, and also give a demonstration of the soviet satellites, RS-10 and 11, which are an integral part of our proposal to the Yukon Quest.

We're looking forward to working with all of you, and we hope to see you on the second weekend of October.

By the way, we can be reached on the Motley Group almost any night, 3933 khz at 10:00 pm Pacific time.

73 ,

Wigi Tozzi, AL7IF