

Ham Operators

With time for the Iditarod Dog Sled races drawing near, there is a large group of Alaskans making some very special – but low-key, – preparations. They are people who are “hams,” or amateur radio buffs.

Every year these dedicated amateurs shoulder their coils of wire to use as antennae, their most sophisticated but mobile equipment, and spread out along the Iditarod Trail to provide that necessary communications link that ensures that dogs and men have a safety backup, and that news of the leaders and the lagers reaches the public.

Nearly everyone has heard of ham radio these days, but not until the new book, *Amateur Radio, Super Hobby!* has there been a single source where everyone could learn in easy-to-understand descriptions exactly what the hobby is all about.

Author Vince Luciani, Cologne, N.J., says, “This hobby of amateur radio is really 100 hobbies in one. Everyone gets to do their own thing, which isn’t limited to what most people think – gabbing on the air. How about playing chess by radio, for example, or talking through satellites? How about having a telephone patch, which we connect between our set and the telephone line to let friends or relatives talk free to anywhere in the country? And it’s perfectly legal.”

“True,” adds Luciani, “many members best enjoy talking to foreign countries, and why not? With the flip of a switch you can talk to someone in India, England or New Zealand.

Amateur Radio, Super Hobby! is available only from the publisher: Cologne Press, P.O. Box 682, Cologne, N.J. 08215. Price for the 8½x11, 140-page book is \$8.95 for the softcover; \$14.95 for the hardcover. Add \$1 for shipping/handling.