

Adak's Monthly Newsletter featuring Local News and Events

ACC – ADAK COD COOPERATIVE GETS FISH PLANT LEASE



After many months of waiting and wondering, The Aleut Corp. has awarded a lease agreement for the fish plant to Adak Cod Cooperative - ACC. In conjunction with the TAC agreement, the Adak City Council passed Resolution 13-2014-010, at the September 18, 2013 Special Meeting, authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease purchase agreement for the processing equipment owned by the City of Adak. The terms of the agreement calls for full payment of the auction purchase price to the City of Adak spread over the next seven years. ACC, the brain child of John Lowrance and Joe Kelso will be open for cod processing operations "A Season" in January, 2014. Lowrance and Kelso are hoping that some of their workers will make Adak their permanent home.

City of Adak Receives Hydro Power Draft Feasibility Report from McMillen

The City of Adak has finally received the Hydroelectric Feasibility Study Draft Technical Report from McMillen, LLC. McMillen has chosen two best alternative project options out of five site areas analyzed. The study which has been in the works since early spring 2013, strongly states that no matter which hydroelectric alternative is chosen, the diesel generation and distribution system must be replaced, at an estimated cost of approximately \$17 million. In essence, the existing diesel power generation and distribution system on Adak will need to be replaced, something that comes as no surprise.

Alternative 1 would generate power through a wind power and pump storage system utilizing both Lake Bonnie Rose and De Marie. Alternative 1 would generate an average of 2MW of power, under the right conditions, could produce even more. Alternative 1 is the most costly of the proposed alternatives at approximately \$55 million. The significant elements of the project include raising and repairing both dams at the two lakes as well as installing multiple wind turbines. Economically, Alternative 1 is the best option for Adak, according to the City Manager, as power generated from Alternative 1 would provide enough power for Adak to support commercial and industrial growth. If Alternative 1 is constructed, the estimated cost of power would decrease from the current rate of \$1.24Kwh to somewhere in the range of .21-.61/Kwh, depending on utilization and final cost.

Alternative 2 would generate hydro power utilizing Lake Bonnie Rose, Mitt Lake and PRV-1. Alternative 2 also calls for the raising of the dam at Lake Bonnie Rose. While this project is estimated to cost \$21.3 million, the amount of power that could be produced, approximately 246KW, would not lower the average cost nearly as much as Alternative 1.

The City of Adak, in order to ascertain Alternative 1 further, passed Resolution 13-2014-01, to authorize the City Manager to apply for funds from the Alaska Energy Authority Renewable Energy Fund, Round VII, for a wind study. The wind study is necessary for the City of Adak to determine the feasibility of the wind component of Alternative 1.

SARAH OUTEN FIRST SOLO ROWER ACROSS THE PACIFIC WOWS ADAK

Sarah in front of her boat "Happy Socks"



Sarah as she rowed into Adak



Sarah Outen became the first solo rower to complete a Pacific Ocean crossing from Japan to Adak Island, Alaska on September 23, 2013. She was towed from the western side of the Island as a storm was settling in the area and threatened to crash her boat "Happy Socks" into the rocks. Sarah's venture started in 2011 with a bike trip across Europe, then a kayak and bike trip from Northern Russia into Japan. She first left Japan in 2012 but was caught in a tropical storm about 30 days into the trip and was rescued by the Japanese Coast Guard.

Sarah's original boat was lost in the storm off the Japanese Coast so she went back to England; purchased another boat and started training for the journey in the summer of 2013. Sarah plans on returning to Adak in the spring of 2014. She will begin her journey in 2014 at the exact coordinates where she was towed from in a kayak. She will kayak all the way to Homer, Alaska. In Homer she will meet up with her logistical support team who will be waiting for her there with her bicycle, which she will ride across the United States and Canada.

When Sarah reaches the Atlantic Coast, her boat "Happy Socks" will be waiting for her. Together again, "Happy Socks" and Sarah Outen will attempt an Atlantic crossing back to England. Once she arrives in England, Sarah will have paddled, rowed and biked all around the world.

Sarah was at sea approximately 5 months before coming ashore in Adak. She gave a presentation to the community after a scrumptious pot luck.

ELECTIONS 2013



Elections Judges Mary Prince and Mary Nelson prepare for voters on Tuesday October 1, 2013; REAA #8 School Board Elections. Don't worry if you did not get a chance to vote, Tuesday October 8, 2013 will be the City of Adak local elections. Voters will be electing their candidates for City Council seats 1A,3A,3B, and 3C, ACDC Board seats 2A, 2B and 4B, and ballot measure Ordinance 13-2014-082 Opt out of APOC POFD Filing. Polls will be open from 8am until 8pm.

REAA #8 Aleutian Regional School Board – Unofficial Election Results

SEAT A – Alan Zoachney, Seat C – Lisa Spitler, Seat E – Rachel Hines

The results for the Aleutian Regional School Board will not become official until mail-in ballots are received and counted. You may check the DOE Region IV website for results according Becka Baker, SOA Region IV, Elections Supervisor in Nome, Alaska. ***Congratulations Adak; we had a good voter turn-out.*** A special thanks to election judges, Mary Nelson and Mary Prince.

CAPTAIN REX GRAY RETIRES FROM ALASKA AIRLINES

Although you may not recognize him without the beard and red suit, Captain Rex Gray of Alaska Airlines has brought Santa Claus to the children of Adak for many years. Captain Gray would bring volunteer employees from Alaska Air with presents and food for the children and community to enjoy at the terminal. The Christmas flight, as it has become known, stayed on the ground an hour longer while Santa and Alaska employees would give gifts to the children and hand knitted or crocheted caps to the residents. Captain Gray flew his last flight on September 19, 2013. He hopes that the Christmas tradition continues on without him, but it will depend on volunteers at Alaska Airlines. Captain Gray has written a very nice farewell letter to Adak, copies are available at the City of Adak.



No Bake Peanut Butter Cookies

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Cups Sugar | ¼ Cup Milk |
| 2 Tbsp oil | 1.5 – 2 Cups Quick Oats |
| ½ Cup Peanut Butter | |

Combine Sugar, Milk and oil in saucepan. Heat over medium until mixture barely comes to a boil. Remove from heat and add Peanut butter, stir until melted and creamy. Stir in oats. Drop mixture by spoonful (will spread a little) onto wax paper or foil. Let cookies harden before eating. You may add ¼ cup cocoa to the sugar mixture in the saucepan for chocolaty peanut butter cookies.

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October 8 – Local Elections
 October 9 – RAB Meeting 12:00 Community Center
 October 17 – City Council, 5pm Council Chambers

 TBA – Adak Recreation Halloween Party

 October 31 - Halloween



Another Field Season Ends

The seabirds have returned to the sea, and the biologists who monitor their breeding colonies throughout the Refuge are all home from their summer in the field. Here are a few pictures from this field season, taken by the crew of the R/V *Tiglax*, now tied up in Homer for the winter.



Above: First Mate Danno in Hidden Bay on the south side of Adak, with *Tiglax* in the background.



Left: Another wandering Kuluk Bay SBX mooring buoy, this one in a Steller sea lion rookery on Agattu Island. In previous years they've been spotted way out west at Cape Wrangell (Attu Island) and east of Adak on Little Tanaga Island.

Right: Minke whale breaching in Kagalaska Strait.

Adak Office Closed

The Adak office / visitor center is now closed for the winter. As always, if you have injured wildlife or a dead eagle to report, please leave a message on the office phone (592-2406) or track down Lisa.

Do You Rent ATVs?

Some caribou hunters came into the office last week asking about the Refuge boundary signs marking the Mt. Reed Unit border where the trail that starts at Heart Lake illegally enters the Refuge. They had no idea there were any rules about ATV use on Adak, or that they were about to enter Refuge land (where ATV use is prohibited). Trespassing is still occurring and the damage increasing at an alarming rate. If you have ATVs for rent, please help us protect our island and educate ATV riders by giving your customers a copy of the pamphlet pictured at right. If you've run out, please feel free to take the ones in the display racks at the Community Center, airport, FWS office entryway, or Adak General Store entry. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Lisa (592-2406).



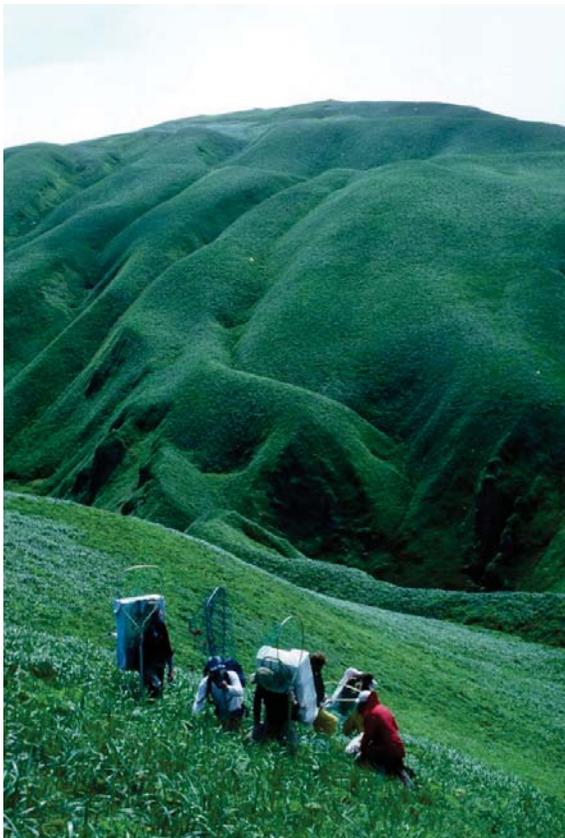
From the Brink of Extinction

A Rare Recovery in our own Back Yard

Every spring and fall we hear the squabbling and gabbling of migrating Aleutian cackling geese—sometimes it's too foggy to see them, but their calls are unmistakable. In recent years more and more geese have been stopping for a rest and a snack on Adak as they travel west in the spring and east in the fall. If you are new to the island, you might not realize you are witness to a rare and wonderful thing: the recovery of an endangered species.



After his extensive surveys of the Aleutian Islands in 1936–1937, naturalist Olaus Murie reported that Aleutian cackling geese “had disappeared on most of the islands, and our total observations indicated that only a few pairs remained in the Aleutians. In fact, these geese are so scarce that the migration is no longer noticeable.” This small white-cheeked goose, characterised by a distinct white neck ring, formerly bred on most of the Aleutian, Commander, and Kuril Islands, but the widespread introduction of arctic foxes for fur farming decimated populations. Because there are no mammalian nest predators native to the Aleutians, birds did not evolve defense strategies. Thus, with the introduction of foxes, they literally became sitting ducks (or geese, in this case).



By the 1940s, Aleutian cackling geese were thought to be extinct, but in 1962 a small population was discovered by Refuge Manager Robert “Sea Otter” Jones on Buldir Island. In order to restore nesting habitat for geese, ducks and seabirds extirpated by foxes, the Refuge began a fox removal program. Over the next 30 years, foxes were eradicated from 11 islands, but for the geese, this was not enough. Geese are creatures of tradition and learn from their parents where to migrate and where to breed. As a result, geese would not naturally re-colonize the islands on their own. Another step was necessary to get the geese back to the islands they formerly inhabited. The Refuge took on the task of translocation, taking family groups of moulting parents and their chicks (just before fledging) to these new islands.

This involved catching the geese (below right), hiking them across the island one by one in specially designed goose-carrying backpacks (left), loading them onto a ship staffed with veterinarians, and taking them to new islands. The adult geese would then lead their brood to the wintering grounds in the lower-48. In the spring, parents returned to Buldir, but the youngsters returned to the islands from which they flew in the fall. These efforts met with amazing success, and many of these islands now have their own breeding populations of geese.



In 2001 the Aleutian cackling goose was taken off the Endangered Species List, a feat accomplished by only 1 percent of species that are listed. Foxes have now been removed from 40 islands, and geese are beginning to nest on islands adjacent to those to which they were reintroduced. Numbers have increased from a low of 300 in 1962 to over 110,000 in 2011. In fact, geese are now a source of contention, particularly on their spring staging grounds in Oregon and Northern California, where they compete with dairy cattle for prime pastureland and deplete crops. There is also concern about conflicts with nesting seabirds and habitat degradation at Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge, the second largest breeding seabird colony in California, where increasing numbers of geese using the area are damaging the thin soil layer, resulting in seabird burrow collapse, erosion, and increased predation due to cover loss. Ironically, managers are debating now whether the current Aleutian cackling goose population size is too large, and at what size it should be managed.



On Shemya, and increasingly on Adak, geese pose another problem: BASH (Bird/Aircraft Strike Hazard). They like to hang out on the runways! For the DOT guys, more geese might be a bane. But for those of us who were part of the Wild Goose Chases of the early 1990s, scrambling through dense vegetation to catch the rare and elusive birds, carefully tending them through the night on stormy seas to ensure they made it to their new homes alive, and cringing every time an eagle claimed another youngster, each goose was a precious treasure to be protected and nurtured. The sight of an Adak field full of browsing geese and the sound of cackling migrants overhead are uplifting, if still a bit unreal.