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**Adak City Council**

**Meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month at 5pm in Council Chambers**

- Ordinance 14-2014-087** – Removal of interest rate(s) on customer deposits, passed.
- Ordinance 14-2014-088** – Operating and Capital Budget for the City of Adak, passed as amended.
- Ordinance 14-2014-089** – FY14 Budget Amendment, was set for public hearing, July 16 at 5:00pm.

**Resolution 14-2014-008** - Land Lease Agreement with Adak Eagle Enterprises was approved. AEE will lease City Property at the corner of Main and Aerology Road (Baseball field). The lease will be effective for a term of 55 years including renewal opportunities.

**Resolution 14-2014-009** – Approving a Master Agreement for a 3-year Dedicated Internet Service Contract with AT&T, passed.

The City Council approved an MOA/Lease agreement with USFWS for the old visitor's center by the water front.

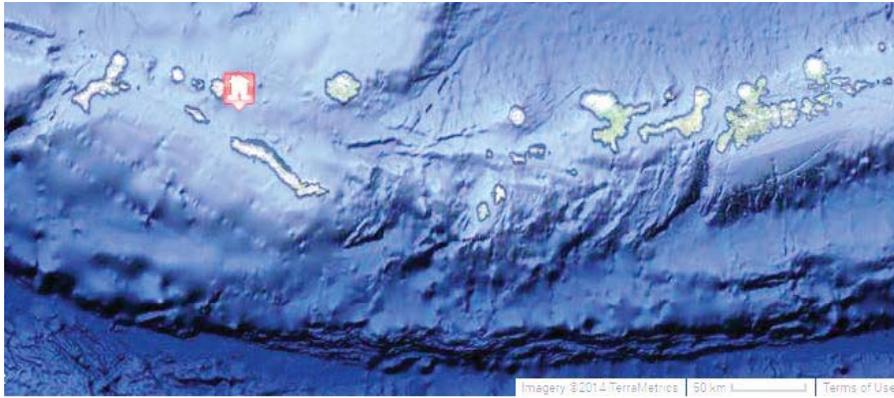
**City Clerk Completes Northwest Clerks Institute**

Every June since 2012, Debra Sharrah, City Clerk has been traveling to Tacoma to attend the Northwest Clerks Institute at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. The institute is a

comprehensive "Professional Development" educational program is designed to enhance the Municipal Clerk's skills as they continue their careers.

The institute offers education credits accepted by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. All clerks wishing to receive the designation "Certified Municipal" or "Master Municipal Clerk" must be a member in good standing with the IIMC.

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**Tsunami "Drill" a Success**

Well we were all safe on the hill after our latest earthquake, June 23, 2014. The quake measured 7.9 on the Richter scale and was centered 25 miles northwest of Amchitka, almost 200 miles away. Due the significant depth (62 miles) little damage and wave action occurred, to

everyone's relief. It is important to note that had the earthquake occurred similar to the depth of the Iquique (Chile 2014) earthquake (20.1 km/12.5 mi) significant damage to the populated area could have occurred by the earthquake and the accompanying tsunami.

It was very good practice for a drill, though. Many of the residents of Adak made their way up to the Tsunami shelter in a calm orderly fashion. Better safe than sorry.

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**RIP - Sam Arrington**

Several people were visiting the Island from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the US Fish and Wildlife Agency in late June. As a result of exploration by these two groups, looking for nests of a particular bird; the remains of Sam Arrington were found in a ravine between Lake Betty and Lake Bonnie Rose.

Mr. Arrington came to Adak several years ago to hike, explore and experience the wilder side of Adak Island. When Mr. Arrington had not contacted relatives, a search party was dispatched. Though his raft and equipment were found; Arrington was never located by the original search crews.

The cause of death is believed to be an accident. The terrain where his remains were found is very rugged. A substantial injury sustained in a fall would have prevented Arrington from climbing to safety.

Please hike and explore in pairs or groups of people and leave a detailed plan of your intended hike in case of emergency. File your plan, along with an expected time and date of return, with someone you trust, Chief Tannehill or the City of Adak.

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**Oil Spill Response Training**

Aleut Enterprise, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and NUKA Research are planning oil spill response training and accompanying drill in Adak during the week of July 20<sup>th</sup>. A planned drill includes responding to an "incident" that could affect Clam Lagoon under a scenario.

As part of this process the above organizations and the City would like to get the community's input on things such as protection priorities. At this time sometime during the week there will be a community forum to talk about the State of Alaska's spill response process and capabilities and gather input from everyone interested.

We will be posting more information on the date and time of the town meeting.

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| JULY 2014 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 20        | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27        | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |

- July 4: Fourth of July – Parade, Beach events, Pot Luck BBQ, and Bonfire and Fireworks
- July 13: ASBAG closing. Open 1pm Pot Luck
- July 16: City Council, 5pm Council Chambers
- July 20: ETT Awards Ceremony 3pm, Refreshments Community Center
- July 21: EAT Executive Director – Town Hall pot luck 5pm Community Center
- July 26: Movie night with Chief Tannehill 6pm Community Center



# FROM THE WILDSIDE

July 2014

## Voices from the Field

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a field biologist, immersed in the rhythms of seabird life during their brief time ashore to socialize and nest? You might be camped on a remote and otherwise uninhabited island with just one other person, or living in a village and commuting to your study sites on coastal cliffs and talus slopes. During the field season (May - September) the Refuge's Adak office is in daily contact with our research vessel *Tiglax* and with biological monitoring camps in Southeast Alaska (St. Lazaria Island), the Gulf of Alaska (East Amatuli Island), Alaska Peninsula (Chowiet Island), the Aleutians (Aiktak and Ugamak Island to the east; Gareloi, Kiska and Buldir to the west), the Pribilofs (both St. Paul and St. George), and Chukchi Sea (Cape Lisburne and Chamisso Island). Each day, the ship and camps report what they've been up to and any interesting things that occur. Here is a sampling of stories and images sent in by this year's crews, to give you a small taste of life in the field.



Aiktak crew grubbing for fork-tailed storm-petrels: "We spent the rest of the day mapping storm-petrel plots and grubbing. Grubbing can become a dirty task. By the end of the day you find yourself pretty muddy. Storm-petrels are sweet and smell amazing!" (photos by Stacie Evans and Amanda Boyd)



Auklet crew on Buldir: "To celebrate our success with auklet tags this year, we thought we'd send you a couple of pictures of very happy biologists retrieving geolocators from crested and whiskered auklets. Hopefully next week I'll have good news about parakeets too. Keep your fingers crossed for us." (photos by Carley Schacter and Kat Robbins)



Poppies on St. George's First Bluffs, with High Bluffs beyond: "My heart sank when I hiked up to First Bluffs, put my pack down and the fog rolled in. Thankfully it rolled right back out just as quick. I had plenty of time to check my plots as well as take my time hiking back down enjoying the flowers and birds. The poppies are going absolutely bananas and I even found a few white ones." (photo by McKenzie Mudge)



St. Lazaria: "Enjoyed seeing our first murre eggs tonight! They were so pretty, all speckled & blue." (photo by A. Gannick)



Fine dining on Aiktak: "Stacie outdid herself making dinner again. She made sushi with coho salmon that she canned from last summer. It was delicious! She also picked some fiddleheads, fireweed and violets to garnish the sushi. She made tempura with the fiddleheads and fireweed. Dinner was a tasty treat!"



Kittlitz's murrelet nest searchers on Adak: As they set up the camera to monitor the nest, they thought they heard bird peeps, but dismissed it as squeaky fittings until they completed their work and, preparing to withdraw, removed the cloaking glove from the egg -- and discovered it was pipping (and peeping)! Surprisingly early hatch date, but a nice treat to see. (photos by Robb Kaler and Leah Kenney)



Gareloi: "Another super long day of very productive work, trying to get as much done as possible before the rain in tomorrow's forecast. Christy and Jenna put out radio tags and color bands and made behavioral observations. Ian scurried around between crested and parakeet auklet habitat, deploying ten more crested auklet geotags (total of 31 for the season so far) and two more parakeet auklet geotags (total of 8); he also found more good parakeet auklet crevices, so has a total of 26 potential tagging sites." (photo by Jenna Donaldson)



Orca photographed from the beach on Gareloi: *"Orcas put on a great show right along the shoreline, cruising just a few meters from shore and sending the auklets scurrying. Ian provided a photo of the exhibition. The whales passed on the shore side of a large rock normally exposed at low tide so they were close!"* (photo by Ian L. Jones)



Artistic rendering of the camp at Gareloi during the 23 June earthquake. (photo and effects by Ian L. Jones)



Horned puffin playing in an updraft at St. George (photo by Kevin Pietrzak), and up close and personal at Buldir (photo by Eva Gruber).

## Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

The news from the camps isn't always cheerful... One of the perils of coming ashore to nest is exposure to predators and terrestrial disturbances such as earthquakes and eruptions. On Chowiet, the crew reports, "On an unfortunate note, the only ancient murrelet nest we were monitoring appears to have been the victim of ground squirrel violence." The St. Lazarians state tersely, "Northwestern crow caught on remote camera plucking fork-tailed storm-petrel from burrow."

The team on Aiktak describes life and death in the tufted puffin colony: "At any given moment you may find yourself under thousands of puffins flying around at a time, encircling you with their presence, while hundreds, if not thousands, of puffins rest on the water below. All you hear is the sound of their wing beats as they come and go from their burrows, located on the top of cliff walls. Once in a while, you can hear the puffins talking to each other and they sound like cranky cattle talking back and forth, grumbling. There are so many predators on the island! Bald eagles, peregrine falcon, short-eared owl, and ravens. I watched a falcon grab a puffin out of the air; it was quite a sight! At one point we were greatly enjoying all of the puffins swarming overhead while making their little 'cattle sounds' when everything suddenly went dead quiet. A bald eagle swooped in and took one of the tufted puffins; we watched it devour the bird in the intertidal zone."



From St. George: *"I've attached a photo of our nemesis, I mean one of the cute cuddly foxes out here. They're working hard eating all the eggs and birds within reach of the cliff tops. The trails along high bluffs are filling up with wings and egg shells. It is pretty amazing some of the nests they can reach. All of us wish we could see them at work. I have 6 nests at my plot that I never would have thought a fox could get to, yet there are a pile of egg shells above them and every nest is empty with adults standing on the nest rims looking confused."* (photo by McKenzie Mudge)

St. Paul: *"We had another round of productivity out at High Bluffs in the afternoon. We're starting to see some kittiwake chicks and expect them to really start popping in the next week or two. The cormorants are hatching as well. Today Greg discovered the loss of three cormorants nests was the work of a particularly acrobatic fox."* (before/after photos by Greg Thomson and Ryan deRegnier)

From Buldir: *"When the quake happened we were just through the pass. It was really foggy but during the 30 seconds of shaking and for a while after we could hear rocks falling all along the Sharp Ridge side of the pass. There were large cliff and rock falls all along the beach headed towards East Cape. There were a few more aftershocks big enough to cause further rock slides during the day. As far as our ledge nester plots go...one is virtually gone, and the other is about half there...and there are a lot of dead birds and murre eggs. Attached is a picture of Plot 39 pre-earthquake (near right) and again yesterday evening (far right)."*

