



**REAA Region 8 School Board
Elections
October 4, 2016**

Section II – Adak Seat C 3 yr Term
Section II – Adak Seat E 3 yr Term

If you are interested in serving on the Aleutian Region School District Board, please file your application online at www.elections.alaska.gov, or in person with the City Clerk, no later than August 5, 2016.



Adak Public School Class of 2016
Alicia Bennett
ARSD Superintendent, Joe Beckford



Graduation 2016

Back Row L) Julie Plummer, Joe Beckford, Alicia Bennett, Molly Lashier, Christopher Muir
Front Row L) Ramzes Penitani, August Bennett, Vuna Penitani Jr., Hunter Robbins and Harold Raga

**Registering to Vote Allows you to
Vote and Run for Office
All Seven Council Seats are up for
Election in October 2016**

If you have recently moved to Adak and would like to vote or run for a seat on the City Council in the local election, you must register to vote as a resident of the City of Adak. All voter registrations must be completed at least 30 days prior to the election, October 4, 2016. You may register to vote with the City Clerk at City Hall.

If you would like to run for a seat on the Adak City Council, you must be a qualified voting resident of Adak, Alaska for at least 30 days prior to submitting your application for candidacy.

Applications for candidacy may be submitted from Friday July 29, 2016 through Monday September 5, 2016, with the City Clerk at City Hall.

Seats up for Election and Terms:

Seats 1A, 1B – One year terms
Seats 2A, 2B – Two year terms
Seats 3A, 3B, 3C – Three year terms

Adak City Council

The Adak City Council met Friday May 20, 2016.

Resolution 16-2016-001 – FY 17 Payment in Lieu of Taxes was accepted.

Carrie Plant was appointed to Seat 2A; vacated by Phyllis Borts, until the next regular election in October.

City Manager, Layton Lockett, has been retained on a temporary basis until December 31, 2016, after the Council accepted Lockett's terms of continued employment.

**City of Adak Seeks Public Works
Director and Laborer/Utility Operator**

The City of Adak has two full time job positions open in the Public Works/Utility Department. The vacancies were created when both Francis "Muggs" Borts and Ozvaldo Rizo tendered there two weeks notice. The former City of Adak employees will be moving to the lower 48.

Francis Borts, who has worked with the City of Adak since 2010 as the Mechanic and Public Works Foreman, has become an Adak icon. He has been the go to man for anything needed in the way of tools to good hospitality and dinner at his home, cooked by his wife Phyllis.

Ozvaldo Rizo, who has worked for the City of Adak for a little more than a year and a half, is vacating his position as laborer/utility operator. Rizo, is well known around town as well. Visitors often met him while he was cooking at Bay 5 restaurant with his wife Estrella.

For anyone interested in applying for either job with the City of Adak, please visit our website at www.adak-ak.gov click on employment.

City of Adak Updates Website

The City of Adak has an updated website with a new look. Check out our new events calendar by visiting www.adak-ak.gov. Business License applications, tax forms, visitor's information and job postings are all available on the new site.

**Thank you to all the residents and
visitors that participated in the
Annual Spring Clean-up.
Great Job!**

Bob Reeve Graduates Reunite after 20 Years

It wasn't your typical high school reunion, but three former graduates of Bob Reeve High School met together on Adak for the first time in over 20 years. George Kuckenbaker, Yousef Murphy, and Ryan Pinson all graduated from Reeve in 1993 and 1994.

What type of careers do these gentlemen have now – may surprise you. Kuckenbaker is in sales. Murphy is a Network Designer and now permanently resides in Australia, though he will be in Anchorage working on a project there for the next 4 months. Pinson is the Director of Sports Medicine at the University of Wyoming.

Yousef Murphy, eating at the Blue Bird Café with his friends, was wearing an aqua blue Adak McDonalds uniform shirt with Rainbow colored logos. He had saved the shirt all these years. He wore the shirt as a memento of his job here on Adak.

While speaking to the trio, they told us there were almost 20 different places to eat or drink here on Adak when they were residents, including a restaurant in Happy Valley – where there is nothing now.

The Reeve graduates re-connected with each other after several years via Facebook.



L) George Kuckenbaker, Yousef Murphy, Ryan Pinson



Memorial Day 2016

JUNE

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Plastics and Marine Debris Litter Alaska's Shores

Anyone who has taken a ride to the Bering Sea Levee at Clam Lagoon, has seen it – plastics, netting, hydraulic fluid buckets and even huge poly totes washed up on the rocks.

Every year the residents of Adak participate in an annual clean up of plastic paper products and other debris that line our roads, fields and dump areas. It is a lot of effort just to clean up our little town in the areas we live. Now imagine the entire State of Alaska and its 47,300 miles of shoreline littered with marine debris.

An article published in the Alaska Daily News on May 18, 2016, "Alaska's \$100 Million Plastic Problem Catches the Attention of Congress" estimates the cost of cleaning the marine debris in Alaska at \$100 million dollars or more. What's more, the article goes on to state that 90% of the debris by volume that washes ashore in Alaska come from foreign countries. By weight, more than half of the debris comes from commercial fishing; not Alaska fisheries, but from dumping in International waters and from sunken fishing and cargo ships.

According to the article, independent research on ocean debris, points to five countries who are responsible for the bulk of the ocean debris washing up on our beaches – China, Indonesia, Viet Nam, the Philippines and Thailand.

Efforts are underway by Alaska State Senator Dan Sullivan Chairman of the Fisheries, Water and Wildlife Committee to bring awareness of the problem to the United States lawmakers.

- 6/6: Recreation Committee meeting, 5pm Community center
- 6/8: Walk & Talk. 3pm Community Center
- 6/14: Flag Day, City Council Workshop 12pm
- 6/15: City Council Meeting, 5pm Council Chambers
- 6/20: Summer Solstice Walk & Talk. 8pm 100 Knot Stop
- 6/25-7/3: Dolly Derby.

IT'S DOLLY DERBY TIME

Tickets are available at the City of Adak.
 Adults \$10 with a 60/40 split the pot for 1st and 2nd
 Children under 18 free – Prizes for 1st and 2nd
 Smallest dolly wins you \$20

Weigh and measure will be at Miss Molly Lashiers Sandy Cove unit 148A 7pm – 10 pm daily.



Baby birds: when to help

Every summer people come across baby birds that can't fly, bewildered little things that seem lost or abandoned. Almost always, trying to help does more harm than good. Why? Because most young birds we encounter are no longer nestlings, which might actually need help getting back to their nests. Once young birds leave their nests, they are considered fledglings, but that doesn't mean they know how to fly very well. They might look vulnerable, but they are where they are meant to be. Even if you were able to find its nest, as soon as you put the bird back it would likely leave again. Why do youngsters leave their nests before they can fly? Because nests are not the safe havens we imagine them to be. A bunch of tasty babies all in one spot are easily wiped out by one marauding predator, so parents work to get their young out of the nest as quickly as possible, spreading them out and moving them to a different spot each night to enhance each youngster's chance of survival.

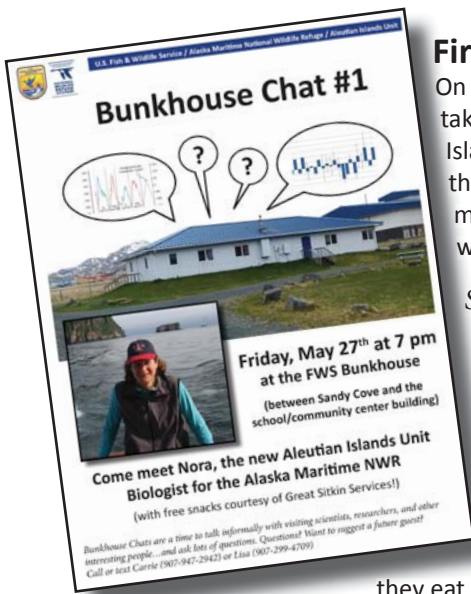
So what should you do when you find a baby bird, all on its own? Well, if it is ugly and unable to hop or perch, then it is a nestling. If you can find the nest (it may be well hidden), put the bird back as quickly as possible. If you can't find it, provide a substitute nest by hollowing out a place in the grass and lining it with moss or dry grasses. Put the baby bird in and leave it alone. As soon as you leave, the parents, which have probably been watching you the whole time, will return and continue feeding their youngster.

If the baby bird is fluffy and cute, has feathers, can hop around and grip your finger, then it is a fledgling. The best thing you can do for these guys is make sure they are out of harm's way. Don't move them far or their parents won't be able to find them to feed them, but do take them out of the middle of a road, and make sure your pets are confined. A fledgling's helpless stage is temporary, and usually within a couple of days it will be strong and capable enough to leave the area.

Please don't try to raise a baby bird yourself. For one thing, it is an incredibly labor-intensive task. Nestlings are ravenous eaters and must be fed every 15-20 minutes from sunrise to sunset. If the young bird is only a day or two old, it may be weeks before it can be released. Most hand-raised birds die, often before they are old enough to be released. Those that don't die are usually unequipped to survive on their own, with no parents to teach them where to look for food, how to avoid predators, how to communicate. Very young birds may imprint on a human caretaker—become irreversibly socially-bonded to humans instead of to its own species. Such birds are unafraid of people, vulnerable, and often permanently dependent on humans for food—a bad situation. One last thought: in addition to being difficult and problematical, raising a wild bird in captivity is also illegal.



Lapland longspur nestlings (top) and fledgling (bottom) (photos courtesy of Laurent Demongin [top] and Lisa Pirie [bottom])



First Bunkhouse Chat

On 27 May we hosted the first Bunkhouse Chat, where scientists in Adak to meet the R/V *Tiglox* take time out for an informal conversation with interested locals. The Refuge's new Aleutian Islands Unit Biologist answered questions, and Doug Causey told stories while trying to explain the psyche of birders. We also discovered we may have a planter (as opposed to birder) in our midst! And everyone enjoyed some delicious snacks (thanks, Carrie!). For those of you who weren't able to come, Doug provided a brief recap of his current work:

Seabirds are Monitors of the Ocean Environment

Douglas Causey, Veronica Padula, and Ashley Stanek—all from the University of Alaska Anchorage—have been studying seabird ecology for the past ten years in the central and western Aleutians in collaboration with the Alaska Maritime NWR. North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea waters have been changing over the past decade, probably affected by larger scale alterations in climate, and causing unusual temperatures and weather, affecting current patterns, and making the coastal regions more unpredictable. The Aleutians are located right between the two oceans, and impacted by changes from both sides. The seabirds that breed in the Aleutians act as monitors of these changes by the food that

they eat, the waters they use, and their distributions and abundance throughout the islands. Some species, like red-faced cormorants and red-legged kittiwakes, have changed their distributions and breeding sites, and experienced drastic declines in abundance.

This summer the team will be working out in the far western Aleutians at Attu and Agattu islands, collecting seabirds for a coordinated series of field and laboratory studies designed to investigate how seabirds are reacting to environmental change and increased ship traffic. Using sophisticated genetic and isotopic analysis, they have been able to show that the ecological patterns are becoming more variable and less predictable. Ingestion of microplastics and their chemicals is becoming more common—probably related to increased shipping traffic, but the actual effects are not well known. Other species, like murre and shearwaters, seem to be doing fine in some regions, while other species seem to be increasing. This year's work will be the end of their first phase of research and after analyses done this summer, we will know a lot more about the effects of change in our Aleutian environment and be able to understand better how to plan for the future.



Red-faced cormorants (photo by Greg Thomson/USFWS)

Please call the Refuge's Adak office at 592-2406 if you'd like to be notified of future Bunkhouse Chats. Due to the unpredictability of the *Tiglox's* schedule, there might not always be much advance notice.