

**Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges**  
**November 17, 2009 -Monthly Meeting Agenda**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** David Raskin(Board), Betty Siegel(Board), Richard Voss (Arctic), Jimmy Fox(Arctic), Kristen Gilbert(Regional Office), Sharon Baur(Board), Rebecca Himshoot from Sitka(Member), Poppy Benson & Rebekah Jones(AK Maritime), Lee Anne Ayres (Selawik), Elisa Russ(Board) , Paul Liedberg (Togiak), Lisa Polito(Kodiak), Phyliss Mains (Iowa)New Member, Michelle (Member, Tok)

***Richard Voss & Jimmy Fox Report on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration***

We will be celebrating the 12/10/1960 establishment of Refuge. The celebration will start in AK in 2010 and then nation-wide celebration in 2011. The goal of the celebration is to increase understanding of what Arctic NWR is, many people think they know what ANWR is but they don't know what the Refuge is. If we don't use the acronym we will miss some of the audience. Help people understand that there is a NWRs. Increase awareness of the Friends Groups and support Refuges across the country. Increase Alaskans' awareness of Arctic NWR.

Jimmy Fox and Arctic NWR appreciate the Friends participation in celebration efforts.

***Potential Activities and Events***

- DEC 6 2010-Congressional Refuge Caucus briefing, evening reception and a exhibit in the Braeburn building, request to get Presidential greeting, youth education curriculum, WO Media tip sheet and expect to see articles on Arctic.
  - Commissioned a documentary film, working title "Beyond ANWR"- calling attention to the acronym and helping to change the perception of the Refuge.
  - Stage Production being created by Gloria Baxter based on Murie writings
  - *Arctic Sanctuary*- photo essay by Jeff Jones Carolyn Cramer, Fairbanks writer
  - Sandy Jamison(Fairbanks Artist)-art piece
  - Create national website for people to celebrate
  - SIDENOTE: 12/12/09 Nature Greatest Defender, George Staller
  - Fairbanks and Anchorage kick-off event at Northern Center-interested in migratory bird story, and connecting with Friends events. New director at Northern Center
  - Support from regional office to hire someone to help with event.
  - WO person to work on media—1/2 time person

**Friends Involvement in Arctic 50th:**

- Congregate and bring communities together and be an example for Friends in the lower 48
- Pursue funding with the NWR Association to send Friends to national event to be ambassadors for AK Refuges and AK Friends group
- Organize a Friends Arctic meeting—have it as a major agenda

David thanked the Deputy Managers of AK for nominating the AK Friends Group as the NWR Association Group of the year

#### **Paul Liedberg, Refuge Manager Togiak NWR**

- ISSUE: Request from GCI to install two microwave towers on the refuge 90 foot towers, fuel generators running around the clock. Connect fiber optic and cables from Homer to YK Delta. Expect that an EA should be prepared starting mid to late winter. Contractor will be responsible to complete EA. By mid to late 2010 Togiak would decide on the EA and a Compatibility Determination. The project is not in wilderness, Togiak has 2.3 million acres of wilderness. Microwave would bring all the calls and data streaming from YK delta to landline system in Homer. There is competing Kenai Kodiak Cable Company proposing fiber-optic link from Kodiak Island to Prudhoe bay—looking for Recovery Act funding to build these lines. January 2010- the companies would hear about recovery act funding. *David? Would it go beyond EA to EIS?* It's a small enough project it probably would not go beyond EA.
- Field Camp out at Cape Pierce still operating. Walrus haul-out up eroded sand dunes. A number of them have cascaded over the bluffs. Staff are experimenting with different methods to remedying walrus build up. Looking for volunteers to stay in cabin and maintain structures and stay in cabin. All the male walrus leave Bristol Bay to move to Bering Sea, they are stopping at Cape Pierce to rest before they move on, it's only an issue if we get 1500-2000. FRIENDS PROJECT: Volunteer opportunities- seems like 1<sup>st</sup> of October to end of November.

#### **Tom Bolland- FIELD REPORT- Friends Academy at NCTC**

- Thank the board for a phenomenal experience, great location and facility
- Trevor Needham put together a 5 day agenda- action activity packed, multiple speakers, highlighted film on Kodiak on refuge. Meet and participate with 23 Friends organizations representing 63 refuges from 16 states and several regions.
- One of greatest benefits was interacting with the leadership of other Friends groups. There interest was piqued in the AK refuges. AK figures prominently in many of the discussions.
- Trevor on a detail in Fairbanks
- Tom could assemble a powerpoint summarizing what he learned for later in the Spring.

#### **Kristen Gilbert- FRIENDS COORDINATOR REPORT**

- Three Friends Outreach Kits will be ready for check out early winter 2010. Kits include all the supplies necessary to put on an Outreach events: netbook computer loaded with photos and presentations, LCD projector, promotional materials (brochures, stickers, giveaways for new members), table top and pop-up displays. The kits will be checked out from: Anchorage, Homer and Fairbanks.

- Science/Volunteer Tool Kits will be reorganized and resupplied for Friends members teaching science and culture camps in summer 2010. The kits include: water and soil test kits, field guides, digital cameras, tracking supplies, field guides and much more.
- In the process of getting requests for 2010 volunteer Friends projects from all the Refuges. Looking forward to a great summer with lots of opportunities for Friends members to get out on AK Refuges.

## OUTREACH REPORT

- During Sitka Whale Festival, Sharon Baur assisted Lisa Matlock, Educational Specialist for Alaska Maritime during 4 days of environmental education at Mt Edgecombe High School and Sitka High School. Lisa taught 2 days at Mt. Edgecombe High School and 2 days at the Sitka High School. Monday and Tuesday November 2-3 were at Mt. Edgecombe and Wednesday and Thursday were at the Sitka high School. Lisa preparation in teaching these classes was truly inspirational, the classes focused on Alaska Maritimes work with Seabirds and Shorebirds, and the work they do on St. Lazaria Island which is just off the cost of Sitka. The children were really engaged when it came to the interactive program on how biologists count birds, it was timed, they worked as a team to count as quickly as they could with an only 5% error margin before the birds, caribou or whatever disappeared. She also taught climate change effects on Seabirds and Shorebirds and how this is connected to all the life in the ocean.
- Sharon had a great experience with Lisa at Sitka. Would like to have Lisa Matlock do an informational program to all the Friends at potluck in the spring. 33 people attended a recruitment and St. Lazaria upcoming bird cam/maintenance pizza party in Sitka—five members joined during the meeting with a promise of more to come, and some of the people were on the call tonight. They will be submitting a CCS proposal for a new web- camera at Sitka. They have laid the groundwork to starting a active group down there. A lot of good talent will be helping with local events and volunteering for other programs.
- Elisa Russ- Going to Allakeket to help out with community event that Kanuti and Kristin Reakoff is sponsoring at village on December 4-5. Elisa will be doing a Friends presentation, and the Friends will be helping out
- New member Phyliss from southern Iowa who is interested in getting involved with the Arctic 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration she is her state captain for the Alaska Wilderness Coalition

## OTHER

- Leanne Ayres, Refuge manager at Selawik will be presenting a climate change presentation at the next **Monthly Membership Meeting on December 15, 2009 at 4:30 pm.**
- Marc Webber new deputy manager at AK Maritime National Wildlife Refuge