

Alaska Anthropological Association Newsletter



Volume 34, Number 3

December 2008

President's Message

Aron Crowell

Transitions

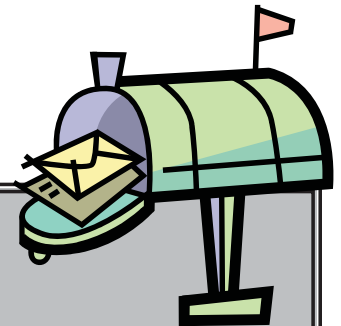
As we pivot into a new year, a new solar cycle, and new world (we hope), there are several organizational turning points to note as well.

The Association has launched its redesigned web site (www.alaskaanthropology.org, same address as before), which contains complete information and on-line registration for the 2009 meeting in Juneau as well as membership renewal, publications and downloadable articles from the Alaska Journal of Anthropology, member news, and more. The site operates through a secure server to allow purchases, memberships, and conference payments by credit card. Please explore and make use of the site, and send us your feedback.

The website includes a member log-in that allows you to review your contact information and renewal date, and to see and post job opportunities and event announcements. You will receive your password by email.

The Alaska Anthropological Association Newsletter is also undergoing transformation. You hold in your hands the last print edition, as the Raven masthead wings into the ether. All future issues will go out to members via email, and be posted simultaneously to the web, where you

will also have access to archival editions. The bi-monthly publishing schedule remains the same, and Becky Saleeby continues (with our gratitude) as newsletter editor. This long-planned move reduces our costs
Continued on next page



**Don't check
your mailbox
for future
newsletters!**

**This is your last paper
copy. You will need to go
to your Association web
page for membership,
news, meetings, and more
beginning in 2009.**

www.alaskaanthropology.org

President's message

Continued from first page

and integrates the newsletter with all the other resources now offered on the web.

A hefty Volume 6 (2008) of the Alaska Journal of Anthropology should hit your mailbox within a couple of weeks. Thanks to journal editor Owen Mason, production editor Sue Mitchell, and volume editors Doug Veltre and David Yesner for pulling together a really great issue.

On behalf of the association board, our best wishes for 2009! And thanks to all for your continuing membership and participation in the Alaska Anthropological Association.

The Archaeology Channel

The Alaska Anthropological Association is now one of the professional organizations around the country which sponsors this web-based, streaming video channel

Visit it at

<http://www.archaeologychannel.org/index.asp>

Do you have any videos to share on this web site?

ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

President

Aron Crowell

Board Members

Joan Dale

Lisa Frink

Karlene Leeper

Daniel Monteith

Amy Steffian

Secretary - Amy Steffian

Treasurer - Dawn Biddison

The purpose of the Alaska Anthropological Association is to serve as a vehicle for maintaining communication among people interested in all branches of anthropology; to promote public awareness and education of anthropological activities and goals; to foster sympathetic appreciation of the past and present cultures of Alaskan peoples; to encourage Alaskan Natives to participate in the elucidation of their respective cultures; and to facilitate the dissemination of anthropological works in both technical and non-technical formats. Membership is open to any individual or organization indicating interest and concern for the discipline of anthropology. The Association holds its annual meeting during March or April of each year and generally publishes four newsletters each year.

The membership cycle begins each year on January 1. Annual membership dues include a subscription to the Alaska Journal of Anthropology. Dues are \$40.00 for student members and \$75.00 for regular members. Checks or money orders, in US dollars, should be made out to the Alaska Anthropological Association. To become a member, send a membership form and payment to the Alaska Anthropological Association at P.O. Box 241686, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-1686, USA. Items for the newsletter may be sent to the editor, Becky Saleeby, at the above address, attention "Newsletter Editor," or to becky_saleeby@nps.gov.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Annual Meeting of the

Alaska Anthropological Association

Juneau, Alaska, March 11–14, 2009

The Alaska Anthropological Association announces its upcoming meeting in Juneau, Alaska. The AAA invites proposals for sessions as well as individual papers for general sessions that address some aspect of anthropology in Alaska and the North. We invite linguists, archaeologists, ethnologists, biological anthropologists, and museum personnel to submit proposals or to contact the program chair: Erica Hill (erica.hill@uas.alaska.edu) at the University of Alaska Southeast.

DEADLINES

For submission of session proposals: **DECEMBER 30**

For submission of abstracts: **JANUARY 30**

For regular registration: **FEBRUARY 1**

Please check the website in coming weeks for registration forms and additional information: www.alaskaanthropology.org



REGISTRATION FORM

ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

2009 Annual Meeting, Juneau, March 12-14

For early registration, submit by **FEBRUARY 1**

Name

Address line 1

Address line 2

Address line 3

e-mail

phone

Affiliation

To pay by check (payable to the AAA):

Complete this form and mail to:

Dan Monteith
 Department of Social Science
 11120 Glacier Highway
 Juneau, AK 99801

To pay by credit card:

Do Not Use This Form

Register on-line at alaskaanthropology.org

Registration Fee	BEFORE FEB 1	AFTER FEB 1	
Regular	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> .00
Student (enrolled)	\$50.00	\$ 65.00	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> .00
Nonmember	\$125.00	\$ 150.00	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> .00
Daily rate	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> .00

Friday Banquet (Speaker: Sergei Kan, Dartmouth College)

Cost: \$42 for each meal; check your selection

- Salmon
 - Chicken Breast
 - Vegetarian Lasagne
- \$.00

Saturday Buffet Lunch (Speaker: Madonna Moss, University of Oregon)

Cost: \$20 for each meal; check your selection

- Grilled Chicken Taco Salad
 - Black Beans Taco Salad
- \$.00

TOTAL \$.00

2009 Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association

Program Organizer

Erica Hill

The following symposia have been planned thus far:

- **Spirited Away: Intersecting Perspectives on Relocation and Religion in the Circumpolar North**
Organized by Patrick Plattet and Peter Schweitzer
- **Archaeology of Southeast Alaska (OPEN for additional submissions)**
Organized by Dan Monteith
(daniel.monteith@uas.alaska.edu)
(This session will feature presentations on any aspect of Southeast Alaska archaeology. Reports on recent field or analysis results are welcome.)
- **Sport Anthropology in the North**
Organized by Medeia Csoba DeHass and Andreas Droulias
- **Symposium in Honor of Lydia Black**
Organized by Allison McClain
- **Displaced Peoples of Alaska**
Organized by Rachel Mason and Becky Saleeby
- **Anthropology, Archeology and Litigation—Alaska Style**
Part 1: Culture Change and Continuity
Part 2: The ‘Local Group’ Concept, or When is a tribe not a tribe?
Organized by Rita A. Miraglia and Steven R. Street
- **Humans and their Environment: Technology and Subsistence in Arctic and Subarctic Landscapes** Organized by Brian T. Wygal and Josh Reuther

Upcoming Meetings in 2009

Society for Historical Archaeology Conference

The Fairmont Royal York, Toronto, Ontario

January 6 - 11, 2009

<http://www.sha.org/about/conferences/2009.htm>

Alaska Anthropological Association Conference

Centennial Hall, Juneau

March 11 - 14, 2009

<http://www.alaskaanthropology.org/>

Society for Applied Anthropology Conference

Sante Fe, New Mexico

March 17 - 21, 2009

<http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2009.html>

American Association of Physical Anthropologists

Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers

March 30 - April 6, 2009

<http://www.physanth.org/>

Society for American Archaeology

Atlanta Marriott Marquis

April 22 - 26, 2009

<http://www.saa.org/meetings/index.html>

International Society for Shamanistic Research

University of Alaska Anchorage

May 27 - June 1, 2009

European Association of Archaeologists

Riva del Garda, Italy

September 2009

<http://www.e-a-a.org/>

Special Interest Group News



**Alaska Consortium
of Zooarchaeologists**
Debbie Corbett

ACZ has started the planning process for the 2010 Alaska Anthropological Association meetings in Anchorage. We are the co-organizers of these meetings, along with the aaa Public Education Group. I have received proposals from several different venues, so we have some good (new and interesting) choices. The ACZ web page will be providing updates on these meetings, which are still over a year in the future (we like to plan ahead!).

Visit our web page
www.akzooarch.org

Please consider joining us for the 10th annual ACZ workshop to be held the first day of the upcoming 2009 aaa meetings in Juneau. The date is March 11. Please remember to visit our web page to register for the workshop. You will need to register for the ACZ workshop separately from the main conference. Hope to see you there.



Public Education Group
Richard VanderHoek

Our big push this fall has been to decide upon the theme of the 2009 Archaeology Month poster. Bob King of the BLM is leading the design team and has come up with a poster concept which highlights the 50th anniversary of Alaska statehood. It will be two-sided with the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District pictured on the front, along with the theme "A Young State - An Ancient Land." On the back, there will be photos and text describing several of the most ancient Alaskan sites.

We have also approached the Board of the Alaska Anthropological Association about including us (PEG) in the annual budget for the organization. We are currently working on a proposal to submit to the Board for 2009. Some of the projects and programs that we are hoping will be funded in the future include the Archaeology Month poster, Project Archaeology, the lecture series, and the Archaeological Mentorship program.

We are looking forward to working alongside our "sister" group, the ACZ, to plan the 2010 Alaska Anthropological Association meetings to be held in Anchorage.

2008 ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP/JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION



PLEASE FILL OUT ALL CONTACT INFORMATION FIELDS

Name (OR Institution) _____ Day Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

Affiliation _____

MAIL TO:
P.O. Box 241686
Anchorage, AK
99524-1686

Membership and Journal Subscription*

Regular: 1 year \$75 _____ 2 years \$140 _____

**Student: 1 year \$40 _____ 2 years \$75 _____

Married/partners: (2 memberships/1 journal subscription)

Name of Partner _____

1 year \$100 _____ 2 years \$165 _____

Institutional: (2 individual memberships/1 journal subscription)

Individual 1 _____ Individual 2 _____

1 year \$150 _____ 2 years \$300 _____

Lifetime: \$1000 _____

*Please add \$8 per annual subscription for postage to Canada and \$15 outside North America

** Photocopy of current school ID required with membership form

Donations

Student Scholarships \$ _____

Publication Fund \$ _____

Public Education Group \$ _____

Alaska Consortium of Zooarcheologists \$ _____

Publications

Total from back \$ _____

Grand Total (Membership/Journal, Donations, Publications) \$ _____

Payment by check preferred

Payable to the Alaska Anthropological Association

For payment by VISA or MasterCard:

Billing address zip code : _____ Total \$ _____

Expiration Date : ____/____/____ 3-digit security code: ____

Signature : _____

Credit Card # : _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

For internal use only

Check # _____

Amount paid : \$ _____

Deposited/charged: ____/____/____

Journal sent: ____/____/____

Publications sent: ____/____/____

NAME _____

PUBLICATIONS 2008

	Non-Member	Member	Qty/ Total
Aurora Monograph Series			
When Our Bad Season Comes by Ann Fienup-Riordan	\$28.00	\$22.40	____/\$____
Lake Minchumina Prehistory by Charles E. Holmes	\$15.00	\$12.00	____/\$____
Bibliography and Index of Alaskan Archeology by C. Eugene West and Richard O. Stern	\$10.00	\$ 8.00	____/\$____
The Hidden Falls Site edited by Stanley D. Davis	\$28.00	\$22.40	____/\$____
In the Belly of the Whale by Glenn W. Sheehan	\$28.00	\$22.40	____/\$____
Ellikarrmiut: Changing Lifeways in an Alaskan Community by Dennis Griffin	\$26.00	\$20.80	____/\$____

Alaska Journal of Anthropology

Back Issues

Volume 1, No. 1	\$20.00	\$10.00	____/\$____
Volume 1, No. 2	\$20.00	\$10.00	____/\$____
Volume 2, No. 1-2	\$20.00	\$10.00	____/\$____
Volume 3, No. 1	\$20.00	\$10.00	____/\$____
Volume 3, No. 2	\$20.00	\$10.00	____/\$____

Last Year's Issues

Volume 4, No. 1 - 2	\$30.00	\$15.00	____/\$____
---------------------	---------	---------	-------------

Current Issues

Volume 5, No. 1	<i>included with annual subscription</i>
Volume 5, No. 2	<i>included with annual subscription</i>

Postage

USA	Canada	Outside North America
1 item = \$4	1 or 2 items = \$12	1 or 2 items = \$14
2 items = \$5	3 items = \$24	3 items = \$28
3 items = \$6	4 or more = \$26	4 or more = \$41
4 or more = \$12		

Publications \$ _____

Postage \$ _____

Publication Total \$ _____

PLEASE BRING THIS TOTAL FORWARD TO FRONT OF FORM

**ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL ELECTIONS**

OFFICIAL BALLOT

The President and three Board seats are up for election. Please use **only** this form (no copies), to cast your vote. Biographical statements from candidates appear on page 11 of this newsletter. Please cast your vote for **ONE** candidate for President and **THREE** candidates for the Board positions. Please return this form no later than **February 27, 2009**.

PRESIDENT

Aaron Crowell

_____ (write-in)

BOARD

Daniel Monteith

Monty Rogers

Amy Steffian

_____ (write-in)

Current President and Board Members: Aron Crowell (President); Joan Dale, Lisa Frink, Karlene Leeper, Dan Monteith, Amy Steffian. Aron Crowell, Dan Monteith, and Amy Steffian have each served one term and are eligible for a second. Lisa Frink has served for two terms and her seat must be filled by a new Board member.

Instructions for mailing:

Fold this sheet in thirds so that the Elections Committee address is showing. Then staple or tape together, add a stamp, and mail. You can also put the ORIGINAL form (no copies!!) in an envelope and mail to:

**Elections Committee
Alaska Anthropological Association
P.O. Box 241686
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686**

Note: Please fold this page for mailing in thirds, not in half!

**Election Committee
Alaska Anthropological Association
P.O. Box 241686
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686**

Biographies for President & Board Nominees

Aron Crowell

I am the current aaa President and Alaska Director for the Arctic Studies Center (National Museum of Natural History) since 1994. I am responsible for Smithsonian research, exhibitions, and cultural education. My field research focuses on Gulf of Alaska archaeology, oral history, contact history, and environmental change. Current cultural projects include Sharing Knowledge, a collaborative research program undertaken with Alaska Native communities to document and exhibit Smithsonian ethnographic collections on the web (see <http://alaska.si.edu>) and at the expanded Anchorage Museum. Past exhibitions include Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People and Crossroads of Continents: Cultures of Siberia and Alaska. I serve as President of Museums Alaska and affiliate faculty for the University of Alaska, Anchorage. As President of the Alaska Anthropological Association, I will continue to work for expanding our connections - to Alaska Native communities, to the museum world, and to broader audiences for our publications and programs.

Dan Monteith

I am a professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS). I began work in Alaska in 1981 in the commercial fishing industry in Bristol Bay. I did a master thesis on the fishing industry in Bristol Bay at the University of Chicago. I have a Ph.D. in anthropology from Michigan State University. I have worked for the Forest Service as an archeologist and for the Tongass Tribe as a project coordinator and ethnohistorian. I have been involved with the Alaska Anthropology Association since about 1992. Over the years I have planned, organized, and chaired many sessions. Every year I try and encourage my students to present at the annual meetings. UAS is a small campus with only undergraduates but over the past several years I have mentored and encouraged over 35 students to present at the Alaska meetings. My current work involves geo-archaeological and ethnohistorical work in Glacier Bay. I am also working with the community of Saxman on their struggle with rural status and maintaining a subsistence priority.

Monty Rogers

I moved to Alaska in 2005. My Alaskan anthropological experience consists of working for Katmai National Park and Stephen R. Braund & Associates, conducting cultural resource work and ethnographic studies. I am a second year graduate student at the University of Alaska Anchorage in the Masters of Arts Applied Anthropology program with a focus in CRM. I have decided to run for the Alaska Anthropological Association Board to provide a student's perspective on current issues in Alaskan anthropology.

Amy Steffian

I serve as the Deputy Director of Kodiak's Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository. As a professional archaeologist, I have been studying Alaskan prehistory for more than 20 years, leading research on the cultural tradition of the Alutiiq people, developing historic preservation projects, and creating publications, exhibits, and educational programs to share Alaska's heritage. I have been a member of the association since moving to Alaska in 1989, have published in the association's journal, and in 2006, helped to organize the annual meeting in Kodiak. I have served the aaa board for the past two years, working to create the association's new web site.

Alaska Anthropological Association Board Minutes

October 9, 2008

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER in Anchorage (Arctic Studies Center) 11:37 AM

II. PRESENT: Aron Crowell (President), Dawn Biddison (Treasurer), Karlene Leeper, Joan Dale, Amy Stefian (by phone), Daniel Montieth (by phone). Not present: Lisa Frink . Four of five board members were present, providing a quorum. Guests included Chris Campbell, Becky Saleeby, Richard VanderHoek (Public Education Group) and Darrell Lewis (History Day in Alaska).

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (17 July 2008) were accepted without changes.

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None.

V. REPORTS

A. President (Aron Crowell): Aron received the Association's executed Articles of Incorporation from the State of Alaska. The application was submitted in mid-April. The Association now also holds a current State of Alaska business license, needed to support on-line publication sales. Bence Braden is preparing the complex financial sections of the IRS 501(c)3 application form, which require four years of accounting, and when these are complete the application can be submitted through attorney Steve Mahoney. Aron filed the IRS 990 form, required of non-profit organizations each year, to show our intention to act as a non-profit organization.

B. Treasurer' Report (Dawn Biddison):

Report:

Bank balances

General checking: (08-31-08) \$34,829.73

Note: Does not include \$1793.66 outstanding checks; \$439 CC deposit.

Actual \$33,370.07

[\$45, 514.79 (12-31-07)]

Vanguard account: \$70,088.55 as of 10-08-08

\$84,113.17 as of 06-03-08

Loss of \$19,506.55 since 12-31-07

Memberships: (09-22-08) 201 USA + 9 non-USA = 210

[206 (07-13-08); 193 (04-01-08); 111 (02-23-08)]

Journal estimate Inkworks v6(1-2) \$6518 [v5(2) \$3605]

We discussed budget projections for the Juneau (2009) meeting that might include the following expenses:

Hotel, conference hall and catering: \$25,000.

Honoraria 2,000.

Printing supplies 1,694.

Student assistant 500.

C. Web site status. A prototype of the new website is now in late development at Couloir Graphics. Billy Finley is awaiting a few text pieces and full information on the Juneau meeting, needed to create the on-line registration form. *Continued on next page*

Alaska Anthropological Association Board Minutes

Continued from previous page

D. Alaska Journal of Anthropology: Volume 6 (1 &2), the Workman festschrift, will go to the printer on 1 December 2008. The board discussed the need to compile .pdf files of previous journal articles to distribute/sell as off-prints through the new association web site.

Post-meeting note:

The Association contracted with Frank Broderick, who was able to produce .pdf files for all issues except Volume 1. After considerable discussion of sale price per article, the board settled on \$12 per download, after considering a range of \$8 – \$18. As a comparison, Arctic Anthropology charges \$18.

E. Annual Meeting 2009: Dan Montieth, the conference organizer, reserved Centennial Hall in Juneau for the annual meeting, on 12-14 March 2009. The opening reception will be Wednesday 11 March at the State Museum or at Sealaska Corporation. He is working on securing catering and hotel rooms. Sergei Kan will be the dinner speaker. Perseverance Theatre is producing “Battles of Fire and Water” in March 2009. Members might enjoy this play while in Juneau. <http://www.perseverancetheatre.org/Perseverance%20Theatre%20-%201/Season.html>.

Erica Hill is the program coordinator for the conference. The deadline for session proposals will be December 30, 2008 and the deadline for paper and poster abstracts will be January 30, 2009. A resolution to budget \$500.00 for a student conference assistant was passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. NPS/CIRI Archaeological mentorship program: Becky Saleeby and Darrell Lewis, both of the National Park Service, followed up on the grant proposal to support an Archaeological Mentorship Program (AMP) (see minutes of July 17 meeting). The AMP would be a project of the Association’s Public Interest Group. Because our non-profit status is not current, the Alaska Anthropological Association can not apply directly to the CIRI Foundation for this project, but Darrell Lewis, representing the non-profit organization “History Day in Alaska,” proposed to apply for the CIRI grant through that program, with the Association as partner. The board passed a resolution in support of this plan. The Alaska Native Heritage Center would be an additional partner in carrying the program.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elections Committee: Becky Saleeby and Ken Pratt were recommended to serve as members of the Elections Committee. The board approved these appointments.

B. Transition to election newsletters: The last print issue of the newsletter, to be published in December, will provide notice that all future editions will be published only on line.

C. Public Education Group: PEG, through Chris Campbell, requested that an annual line item be added to the Association budget to help fund its activities, which are in keeping with the Association’s mission. Federal agency contributions have paid most of PEG’s expenses in the past. The board responded by asking PEG to submit a specific request for annual funding, supported by a budget for proposed projects and information about past projects, expenditures, and what audiences and parts of the state were served.

VIII. Adjournment: The next board meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2009. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Fieldwork Notes

Community Archaeology at Kodiak's Baranov Museum

Mark Cassell, THRC

In June 2008, the Baranov Museum of Kodiak sponsored a community archaeology project on its property and in the adjacent Sargent Park to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the AD 1808 construction of the Russian-America Company magazin (warehouse), which houses the Baranov Museum. Also known as the Erskine House National Historic Landmark, the magazin is the oldest standing building in Alaska and the earliest documented wooden building on the U.S. west coast. The Baranov Museum Bicentennial Archaeology Project was coordinated with its Kodiak Historical Society parent, included support from the City of Kodiak and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and was directed by Territory Heritage Resource Consulting (THRC).

As initially conceived by Baranov Museum executive director Katie Oliver, this project was intended to involve community volunteers and students with archaeologists to understand the entire human land use history of this small part of the current city of Kodiak. Mark Cassell (THRC) managed the overall project, with Margan Grover (Bold Peak Archaeological Services) and Patrick Saltonstall (Alutiiq Museum) supervising fieldwork and students and volunteers. We were honored to have the assistance of Dr. Don Clark. The archaeological excavations amounted to just 10 sq. meters of the 4500 sq. meter study block, or a 0.22% sample. Conducted by dozens of volunteers and students and witnessed by hundreds of community and cruise ship visitors, the ten-day field project was a thrilling success, documenting approximately 3500 years of human land use at this little piece of Kodiak.

The history of the study block is nested within that of Kodiak, and the project encountered a

good sample of historical events there. While no pre-European archaeological sites had previously been found within the city, sites occur throughout the Kodiak archipelago dating to archaeological traditions between ca. 5500 BC-AD 1750. The Russians set up a permanent post on Kodiak Island in 1784, and the Russian-America Company (RAC) established its Alaskan capital at the present city of Kodiak in 1792. With the 1867 transfer of Alaska to the U.S., the Alaska Commercial Company (ACC) obtained a commercial monopoly, using the previous RAC facilities in Kodiak and headquartered at the 1808 RAC magazin.

W.J. Erskine joined the ACC as Kodiak factor in 1908. In 1911 he bought out the ACC's Kodiak interests, including the magazin, where he set up his own commercial company and lived with his wife, renowned for her extensive, successful, and innovative gardens. The Erskines built an annex on to the magazin which, like many buildings in the city and region, collapsed from the heavy ashfall of the 1912 Mt. Novarupta (Katmai) volcanic eruption but was subsequently rebuilt. Mr. and Mrs. Erskine resided in the magazin building until their deaths in the 1940s. Next to the Erskine's magazin residence, the Sargent family built their house about 1910.

World War II brought tens of thousands of American service personnel to Kodiak Island and the city, and the expansion of the city that had proceeded at a modest pace since 1792 exploded in a frenzy of development. More residential, service, and agency buildings were set up in the study block. Tenants sporadically used the magazin for residential and/or commercial purposes into the 1960s, and the building eventually fell into disrepair.

The 1964 Good Friday earthquake created a tsunami that leveled much of Kodiak, spawning what is locally known as the "urban renewal" period: much of the existing city was bulldozed

Continued on next page

Fieldwork Notes

Continued from previous page

to remove traces of prior unplanned development and begin anew. The magazin and adjacent block were located on a low bluff in Kodiak, and were not damaged by the tsunami. Nonetheless, existing structures on the study block were razed during “urban renewal,” leaving only the magazin. The rapidly deteriorating building found its salvation in the 1967 creation of a community museum there by the Kodiak Historical Society. The current grass-covered Sargent Park was created in 1980, with only a modicum of hand-grubbing to modestly level the ground surface covering this microcosm of past Kodiak life.

Period illustrations, maps, and photographs from the 1790s into the 1950s describe a burgeoning and then vibrant social and material landscape in the study block surrounding the magazin, as represented by the presence of and changes in numerous buildings, fences, and roads. This archival background, together with known artifact finds on the property, guided the choice of four excavation areas within the study block to the north, northwest, west, and south of the magazin.

In the north 1x2 m units, we found the remains of a magazin annex built before the Erskine tenure and collapsed under the weight of the 1912 Katmai ashfall. Clear distinctions were found in assemblage and ash content delineating building exterior from interior. As digging progressed, we encountered a dense layer of worked wood fragment in muddy soils, a matrix which also included broken flat glass and ceramics, and an Alutiiq woven spruce root basket in remarkably good condition and likely dating to the early 19th century. (The Alutiiq basket is currently in conservation.) Further excavation found boulders and more wood deep in the muck, and explained the character of the muddy assemblage: it was a former wetland, and the wood, boulders, and midden (including the basket) were deposited in Russian times to reclaim it.

The northwest 1x2 m units provided a scene of destruction, with tumbled and broken concrete and lumber; Russian-era ceramics were found in upper layers and plastic straw were found toward to bottom. This represented the tsunami-driven “urban renewal,” the bulldozing of existing post-war development. At the very bottom were found numerous Russian-era materials, clearly below the limits of razing disturbance.

The west 1x2 units, near the Sargent house, yielded an upper layer of dirt overburden over an intact layer of sod, under which lay domestic material culture items dating to the late 19th-mid 20th century, including numerous toys. The sod is the 1964 surface (remarkably undisturbed in the chaos of razings), and the underlying artifact assemblage likely represents the ca. 1910-1964 Sargent occupancy. (Excavations here were appropriately halted early by HAZWOPER-certified Grover due to petroleum hydrocarbons showing up in the unit after rains flooded it).

In the south, two sets of 1x2 m units were dug only a few meters from the standing magazin. We found a gunflint, and then an intact spruce plank floor on which it sat. Opening units nearby, we found a wood sill and another intact floor section, oriented sufficiently askew from the first to consider it a separate floor. Both floors are well below the level of the magazin. We had thus found two buildings in a location none had been documented previously. The many early illustrations and later photographs existing of the locale since the 1790s depict no buildings here before 1808

Continued on next page

Fieldwork Notes

Continued from previous page

and only the magazin here after 1808. Or so we thought: a closer look at a ca. 1796 drawing by the reliable observer James Shields shows three small buildings immediately south of the future magazin location. It appears that the plank floors may represent two of these pre-magazin buildings, and if so, are the earliest remains found of RAC presence in Kodiak. (The spruce plank floors were left intact.)

While excavating the units containing the second spruce floor, we encountered an intact line of rocks immediately below the present sod. Knowing that this area held one of the numerous Erskine gardens, we asked after a photograph of her gardens. One was found from ca. 1920-1930 showing a rock-bordered garden path, and we had found it, lying undisturbed though decades of development. For much of the Kodiak community, where the Erskine tenure is still fondly recalled by the many people who knew them, this discovery was understandably the highlight of the project. (Mrs. Erskine's garden path border was left undisturbed.)

On the final day of the project, while digging through soils below and outside the spruce plank floors, we found many red jasper flakes. These appear to date to the pre-European Early Kachemak period of ca. 1900-200 BC (likely earlier in that period), and represent the first pre-European site found within the city. Don Clark predicted this on his first day on the project.

It is not a surprise that nearly 4000 years of history exist at this part of Kodiak. It is remarkable that this project was able to document the long trajectory of human land use, from Early Kachemak through to the existing landscape, at this little place with such a small archaeological excavation sample.



Don Clark at the north Erskine annex collapse, with dashed line dividing structure exterior (left) from interior (right); Katmai ash is white lens. Photo provided by Mark Cassell.

This is a testament to the tremendous resource presence within this little acre of history surrounding the Baranov Museum.

Anthropologists in the News

The following news bulletin appeared in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service December 2008 newsletter, *Historical Happenings (Notes on Cultural Resource Management in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)*.

“Our own Debbie Corbett of Region 7 is the winner of the first annual Secretary of the Interior’s Historic Preservation Award. Debbie’s award is in the Federal Preservation Officer category. This is a very important honor for Debbie as it pays tribute to her outstanding work and dedication to cultural resources. Congratulations Debbie!”

Debbie is pictured, on the right, with Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, at a ceremony in his office on December 4, which included three other individuals from around the country whose work in federal, state, tribal offices, and certified local governments was being honored. She was also invited to a White House ceremony announcing the creation of a World War II in the Pacific National Monument. She provided information on the the Alaskan sites of Attu and Kiska, which are included as elements of the monument, along with Pearl Harbor and Midway.

Debbie also made the APRN (Alaska Public Radio Network) news on December 15 because of her efforts in reassembling and interpreting the fragmentary remains of several Aleut skeletons, some of which were removed from burial caves during the 1930s and 1940s. Commentator Anne Hillman from KUCB in Unalaska interviewed Corbett about her efforts to fulfill the federal mandates of NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). Corbett says that the bones



Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service archeologist, Debbie Corbett. Photo provided by Eugene Marino.

reveal interesting pictures of the daily lives of the people and that often modern groups may be uncertain about the procedure for reburial. Some of the Aleut Corporation remains are buried on Shemya Island.

Opportunities for Students

Bureau of Land Management - University of Alaska Museum Archaeological Collections Research Fellowship

James W. Whitney

Archaeology Collection Manager

University of Alaska Museum of the North

The University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAM) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Fairbanks are co-sponsoring a research fellowship to cover expenses to conduct research with existing archaeological collections at UAM. The museum's archaeological collections include significant holdings from all periods of human occupation of Alaska. In particular, the BLM has more than 1,300 accessioned collections at UAM, containing an estimated 500,000 to 700,000 artifacts. In their proposal, the successful candidate for this fellowship will use, at least in part, BLM collections at the museum. Applicants must be currently enrolled graduate or undergraduate students, and eligibility is NOT restricted to University of Alaska students. Research projects must be done primarily at the museum, using existing archaeological collections, although projects may also use other collections, including those from other UAM departments.

Deadline: February 15, 2009

For complete information and a pdf version of the announcement visit:
<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/archaeo>

A Reminder for Students

**Every year the Association
offers:**

- 3 student scholarships
- 2 student paper awards
- 1 ACZ scholarship

APPLY!

**See your September 2008
newsletter for details**

The Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists
Presents its 10th Annual Workshop
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Centennial Hall, Juneau

Sex and Age Determination, A Practical Approach
by
Dr. Susan Crockford
Pacific Identifications Inc., University of Victoria, B.C. Canada



check www.akzooarch.org for registration

**ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 241686
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686**

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Anchorage, AK
Permit No. 318**

NEXT ISSUE WILL BE ON-LINE!

