

Alaska Anthropological Association Newsletter



Volume 34 Number 1

June 2008

President's Message

Aron Crowell

From the Oval Office

It's June, when more than a few words seems like excess. Association news in brief is that the next double issue of the Alaska Journal of Anthropology (Volume 6), containing some great papers from the festschrift for Bill Workman, will be published later this summer. The Board decided to make a special expenditure from reserve fund interest so that this double issue, edited by Doug Veltre and David Yesner, can come out in a timely manner. This will also bring the cover date of the journal (Volume 6 is 2008) in line with the calendar year. For all members, the good news is that your current dues will be rewarded with two AJA volumes (5 and 6) instead of just one. Next year's membership (2009) will be for Volume 7. So look forward to some good late summer/early fall reading in tribute to Bill's many contributions to Alaskan anthropology.

The new web site is now under construction, and will soon be ready

for on-line meeting registration, publication orders, conference news, and more. The Association has filed for Articles of Incorporation with the State of Alaska, which will put us on a necessary legal footing as a non-profit association and must precede renewal of our tax-free status by the IRS. Board minutes from the April 3 meeting are published herein.

So take a quick look through the rest of this issue, then go back to whatever summer diversions you prefer....

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR NEW WEB PAGE!

Please check your photo albums for pictures relevant to the aaa and its missions. They need to be:

8 x 10 inches;

or scanned at 300 dpi.

Most formats are OK (.tif, .jpg, .psd, .bmp), but please do not send copyrighted photos without appropriate permission.

Please respond to Joan Dale
(joan.dale@alaska.gov)

Treasurer's Message

Dawn Biddison

The Association thanks the following members who made donations in 2008:

Ann Fienup-Riordan

Anne M. Jensen

Barbara Bundy

Ben Fitzhugh

Christyann Darwent

David Yesner

Douglas Veltre

Elizabeth Wilmerding

Howard L. Smith

Kerry Feldman

Mark Cassel

Michael Nowak

Nancy Yaw Davis

Natalia Slobodina

Owen Mason

Robert E. Ackerman

Shawn Dickson

Ted Birkedal

Terence Fifield

Victoria Ciccone

Willian Workman

The Association thanks Stephen Braund, who joins Ernest Burch, Jr., as a lifetime member, for his generous support.

Check It Out !

See pages 7-8 of this newsletter :

*** updated Membership form**

*** updated Publications form**

ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

President

Aron Crowell

Board Members

Joan Dale

Lisa Frink

Karlene Leeper

Daniel Monteith

Amy Steffian

Secretary - Karlene Leeper

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.

WE'RE NUMBER ONE !

The Alaska Archaeology Month poster won top honors at the annual Society for American Archaeology poster competition.

<http://www.saa.org/Public/resources/ArchMonthforpublic.html>

April 2008 • alaska archaeology month

The Iditarod National Historic Trail



1913 Mail Team on the Iditarod Trail, Seward to Susitna
(image courtesy Robert E. King collection)

For more information on the Iditarod National Historical Trail visit www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sa/Iditarod.html

Alaska Archaeology Month is coordinated by the Public Education Group of the Alaska Anthropological Association and its sponsoring agencies.



SAA President, Dean Snow, presents aaaa Public Education Group members, Linda Yarborough and Bob King, with the 2008 SAA Archaeology Month poster competition first place award in Vancouver. Wyoming frequently takes first place, but apparently Alaska's poster had more doggone appeal this year! The poster is double-sided, with the back depicting the route of the Iditarod Trail along with photos and text about its history and archaeology. Linda and Bob were on the design "team" for the poster. Some copies are still available if you contact Greg Dixon at greg_dixon@nps.gov.

Special Interest Group News



**Alaska Consortium
of Zooarchaeologists**
Debbie Corbett



Public Education Group
Richard VanderHoek

Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists Meeting Plans for 2010

ACZ has been making early plans for the Alaska Anthropological Association meetings in 2010 in Anchorage. The Public Education Group voted last week (May 15) to work with ACZ as joint sponsors of the meetings so we have a lot of support and help. We have also contacted a couple of willing speakers. In keeping with a theme of bringing anthropology and the public together we have invited Dr. Brian Fagan as the banquet speaker. Dr. Fagan has written numerous popular books in archaeology including *The Great Journey, From Stonehenge to Samarkand, Rape of the Nile, Return to Babylon, and A Brief History of Archaeology*, among others. He has also written several books on climate change and culture: *The Great Warming: Climate Change and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations; The Little Ice Age; Floods, Famines, and Emperors; and The Long Summer*. We hope to arrange a lecture for the public as well at the University. Dr. Ann Fienup-Riordan will be the luncheon speaker. We felt her work is an outstanding example of involvement with the Yup'ik community and bringing that culture to life for popular audiences.

Continued on right column

Elections for the even-year co-chair position for the PEG took place in early May. Jennifer Tobey won in a fairly close race. She will replace Mark McCallum. Along with the other members of PEG, I would like to thank Mark for his leadership and hard work over the last four years. I have greatly appreciated Mark's relaxed manner and steady hand.

Another election result was the unanimous vote to support co-sponsorship of the 2010 aaa meetings along with the Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists.

The next scheduled PEG meeting is Tuesday September 23rd @ 10 am at the Office of History and Archaeology in Anchorage.

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Both speakers are excellent role models of anthropologists who involve the general public and bring information back to the public from anthropology.

Planning for rooms, conference facilities and all the other details are in the beginning stages but we are working on it. If anyone would like to help out contact ACZ president Debbie Corbett at debbie_corbett@fws.gov or call (907) 786-3399.

Report from the 2008 Meeting Organizers

2008 Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association

Polly Wheeler and Rachel Mason

The 35th annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association took place at the Anchorage Hilton, February 27- March 1, 2008. Unbeknownst to Conference organizers, the meetings overlapped with the Iditarod's ceremonial start: the action proved to be compelling competition for the Saturday morning sessions!

The meetings opened with a reception on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, which ushered in an informative three days, covering a wide variety of talks, symposia, papers, poster sessions, book signing, and a lively book room overseen by Greg Dixon. Thanks are also due to Becky Saleeby and Judy Kesler for designing and laying out the conference program.

The dinner speaker was Dr. Patricia Sutherland, Curator, Archaeological Survey of Canada, Canadian Museum of Civilization. Dr. Sutherland spoke on Norse Native contact in the eastern Arctic.

This year's luncheon speaker was Julie Cruikshank, Professor Emerita of Anthropology, University of British Columbia. Dr. Cruikshank's talk was entitled "Encountering Glaciers: Two Centuries of Stories from the Saint Elias Icefields."

The Conference content consisted of 17 symposia, 121 papers, and 6 posters. The business meeting was held at 5:30 PM on Saturday, March 1. Symposia, panel, and paper organizers are all to be com-

mended on their work. A special thanks go to symposia organizers, including (just to name some major symposia) Herbert Maschner and Owen Mason for their session in honor of Don Dumond, Ann Fienup-Riordan for the session on the Nelson Island Natural and Cultural History Project, Jim Kari for the symposium on the Dene-Yeneseic Hypothesis, Dixie West for the session on the Central Aleutians Archaeology/Paleobiological Project, Pete Bowers and Jason Rogers for their session on Underwater Archaeology and Submerged Cultural Resources, and Patricia Partnow for the panel discussion, Racism in Anchorage.

This year's conference organization represented a significant departure from previous conferences, in that the financial accounting was conducted by the Association Board and their treasurer. Pre-conference registration was handled by Board treasurer Dawn Biddison and by Rita Eagle, a student intern hired by the Board for that purpose. Rita Eagle was in charge of on-site registration. Conference organizers were solely responsible for organizing logistics, speakers, papers, and program content.



Participants of the symposium in honor of Don Dumond

Notes from the Membership

Paths Across the Pacific

Nancy Yaw Davis

The Sixth conference of Paths Across the Pacific will be held in Sitka on July 23 -27. This year's topics include a panel discussion of puzzling pottery distribution around the Pacific and new evidence suggesting transoceanic contacts such as the DNA of chickens and other domesticates. The latter will be led by Dr. Stephen Jett, a geographer. Dr. Alice Kehoe, archaeologist, will raise theoretical questions in her presentation, "American Exceptionalism and Archaeological Isolationism", and Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer, oceanographer, will bring new analysis to beach debris from recent container spills that can be tracked from various ocean gyres. This is the sixth time Ebbesmeyer has organized a local Beachcombers' Fair. Bring your favorite beachcombed item, or come and look on local beaches for recently arrived internationally-generated stuff. One theme underlying the conference since its beginning in 2002 is our shared oceans, rapidly growing information about them, and responsibilities for their health.

Terry Fifield, U.S. Forest Service archaeologist for Prince of Wales Island, will provide a history and overview of new scientific information that has resulted from creative partnerships and research with local Native tribes. The work has centered in caves and along coasts on the southern Alexander Archipelago, especially the famous On Your Knees Cave on Prince of Wales Island. He has brought together, and will introduce, a team of volunteers and scientists in cave exploration. The

former include Marcel and Connie LaPerriere; the latter Jim Baichtal, geologist with the Tongass National Forest, who will review the changing coastlines; Dr. Thomas Ager, geologist, who will report on the vegetation changes since deglaciation. Dr. Timothy Heaton, paleobiologist, who will add faunal history to the discussion, and Dr. Brian Kemp, molecular anthropologist, who brings new genetic perspective to questions of entrance of humans into the Americas.

The relationship of rich renewable ocean resources and human migration continues to be an integral part of the agenda. This year the focus will be on herring. Dr. Thomas Thornton, anthropologist, will present "Herring Synthesis: Bridging Traditional and Scientific Knowledge across the Pacific". Shingo Hamada, a student, will present ethnographic data on Ainu perspectives on salmon and herring. Local Tlingit scholars, including Herman Kitka and Fred Hope, will provide unique data and insights based on both oral histories and real maritime experience. This year we hope to add a few key (and probably a bit anglicized) Tlingit words to our shared vocabulary.

Research about the South Pacific will be presented in two talks. Dr. Kazumichi Katayama, Professor of Physical Anthropology, Kyoto University, will review his extensive research on early human migrations eastward from Southeast Asia. Torgeir Higruff, Norwegian leader of the Tangaroa expedition, will report the scientific results of the successful

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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 _____

For internal use only

Check # _____ Journal sent ____/____/____

Amount paid \$ _____ Publications sent ____/____/____

Deposited/charged ____/____/____

Grand Total

(Membership/Journal,
 Donations, Publications)

\$ _____

Payment by Check Preferred - payable to the Alaska Anthropological Association
 For Payment by VISA or MasterCard:

Zip code for billing address : _____ 3-digit security code: _____ (on back of card)

Signature _____ Total \$ _____

Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date ____/____

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 Bibliography and Index of Alaskan Archeology by C. Eugene West and Richard O. Stern	\$15.00	\$12.00	____/\$____
The Hidden Falls Site edited by Stanley D. Davis	\$10.00	\$ 8.00	____/\$____
In the Belly of the Whale by Glenn W. Sheehan	\$28.00	\$22.40	____/\$____
Ellikarrmiut: Changing Lifeways in an Alaskan Community by Dennis Griffin	\$28.00	\$22.40	____/\$____
	\$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	____/\$____
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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 Board Minutes

Board Meeting April 3, 2008 Minutes

(also included are Board decisions made by e-mail on May 15, 2008)

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER in Anchorage (Arctic Studies Center) 1:05 PM

II. PRESENT: Aron Crowell (President), Dawn Biddison (Treasurer), Karlene Leeper, Joan Dale, Amy Steffian (by phone), Daniel Monteith (by phone), Lisa Frink (by phone). All board members were present, providing a quorum. Karlene Leeper accepted appointment as Secretary, and agreed to record the minutes.

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Jan. 4, 2008) were accepted without changes.

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: none

V. REPORTS

A. President (Aron Crowell): Aron has worked with Stephen Mahoney, the attorney retained by the Association, to prepare Alaska Articles of Incorporation. The Association's existing constitution and by-laws will together comprise its official By-Laws for purposes of state incorporation. Incorporation must be approved by the state before the Association can re-apply for federal tax exempt status. Aron has also prepared a calendar, is working on committees, and is revising the 2008 budget for board approval.

B. Treasurer (Dawn Biddison): The general checking account balance was \$36,056.72 as of 2/29/08; the Vanguard investment account balance was \$86,650.69 as of 4/1/08. There were 193 memberships as of April 1. Re: the journal, Volume 5(1) cost a total of \$7642 for production and mailing; 556 copies were printed. Dawn proposed that the membership form be amended to include two names on institutional memberships, for purposes of meeting registration, and that the most recent back issues of the journal be priced higher than older back issues. For identity security, the Association will black out credit card numbers on registration forms as soon as the payment is processed; this was done for the 2007 forms.

C. Alaska Journal of Anthropology: Owen Mason was not able to attend the meeting; Aron reported that Volume 5(2) is on the way, to be mailed in May. The board discussed when to produce Volume 6 (1 & 2), the Workman festschrift. Editing is virtually complete, and the journal is one calendar year behind, arguing for publishing Volume 6 (1/2) in 2008. However, this would be producing two volumes in one year, and the checking balance is insufficient to cover the additional volume, advance costs of the 2009 annual meeting, and other expenses.

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Board Meeting Minutes

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On May 15, the Board voted by email to publish Volume 6 (a double issue) in late summer or early fall of 2008, using a draw-down of interest income from our reserve fund, not to exceed \$12,000. The motion was by Amy Steffian, with a second by Joan Dale; all five Board members voted in favor.

D. Annual Meeting: Dan Monteith has reserved Centennial Hall in Juneau for March 12-14 for the 2009 annual meeting. The opening reception will be Wednesday March 11 at the State Museum or at Sealaska Corporation. He is working on securing catering and hotel rooms.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Web site: Couloir Graphics is the company that is designing the new website. Amy Steffian divided assignments for web site content among the board members. Joan Dale will collect photos for the web site that are 300 dpi or better.

B. Publication of newsletter: The Board voted in favor of publishing the newsletter online only, once the new web site is in place. This is a cost-saving measure.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Articles of Incorporation: Dan Monteith moved to accept the Articles as prepared, Amy Steffian seconded; and the motion was passed unanimously. The document was subsequently signed by three Board members – Dale, Leeper, Steffian – as the official Incorporators, and submitted to the State through Stephen Mahoney. Crowell noted that some of the Association by-laws need to be updated (they were last changed in 2005) to reflect the new financial and membership arrangements. By-laws may be changed by Board action, and Crowell will draft changes for approval.

B. Budget: The 2008 budget was not complete at the time of the meeting, but Crowell submitted it to the Board for approval by email on April 29. The Association is projected to have higher costs in 2008 (\$64,644) than in 2007 (\$39,320) with about the same amount of income (\$47,489 in 2008, \$47,935 in 2007), and will therefore run a deficit of \$17,155. The principal reasons for higher costs in 2008 are:

1. A much more expensive meeting in Anchorage (\$30,695) than in Fairbanks (\$19,117);
2. New web site (\$7865);
3. One-time cost of credits toward 2008 membership as we made the transition to combined membership and AJA subscription (\$1609);
4. Service fees for treasurer, accountant, lawyer (\$3400);
5. Student scholarships, which were not awarded in 2007 (\$1500).

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Board Meeting Minutes

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On May 15, Amy Steffian moved to approve the budget, seconded by Joan Dale; it was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Calendar: A 2008 calendar of board meetings, annual meeting, publication dates for the newsletter, and other association dates and deadlines, prepared by Crowell, was approved by the Board.

D. Appointment of awards and other committees: This is the task of the President. Crowell reported that this is in process. The Board discussed student paper awards and scheduling of papers to be presented during the meetings, such as encouraging submittal of papers from fall semester classes. The Association needs to better publicize the award and have papers submitted in February for review.

E. Treasurer fee: The Board approved an increase to the Treasurer's stipend from \$1000 to \$2000 per year. Dawn Biddison has spent 130 hours on work as Treasurer since Sept. 2007, and it is projected that the normal work load will be about 150 hours per year. Even with the higher stipend, this is still in effect a partially volunteer position.

F. Archaeological Legacy Institute. The Board decided to table until the July meeting a request for \$250/year in support from the Archaeological Legacy Institute.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Paths Across the Pacific

Continued from page 6

use of guara boards in navigating a balsa raft across the Pacific from the opposite direction - from Peru to Tahiti in 2006.

Also, Alaskan poet, Michael Burwell, will read from his book *The Cartography of Water*.

ACRAC

Alan Depew and Diane Hanson

A cultural resources advocacy group held its first meeting in early May at UAA. Although the name isn't official yet, the acronym ACRAC stands for the Alaska Cultural Resources Advocacy Coalition. The group will provide an avenue for its members to bring up cultural resources issues and to request participation in specific Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) or Programmatic Agreements (PA) being prepared by federal and state agencies. All inquiries about ACRAC should be directed to me (Alan) at alan.depew@alaska.gov.

A discussion list has been set up through UAA. To sign up for the list go to: <http://lists.uaa.alaska.edu/mailman/listinfo/akcrm>. You will find a form to fill out at this web page. Let me (Diane) know if you have problems signing up and I might be able to sign you up through the University as my role is moderator of the list. My e-mail is afdkh@uaa.alaska.edu. All opinions and issues are welcome on the discussion list as long as they are written in a professional manner.

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This is a small, informal conference focused on ideas and discussion. We have no formal funding. People come at their own expense or acquire independent funds. A registration fee of \$60 helps pay for the Centennial Hall, the program and abstracts, and snacks. Other activities, for additional fees, include a dinner by the ANS/ANB, canoe paddling, and a beachcombing cruise. A book event will honor both local authors and speakers. For more information, contact nydavis@alaska.net or the website at www.sitka.org/public.html.

ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Anchorage, AK 99524-1686

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NEXT ISSUE: September
DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS: August 15

