

Manager's Update – March 2, 2023

February 26 Fire: The fire on Sunday, February 26 was a tragic event, and my condolences go out to all of the business owners and adjacent homeowners that were impacted. On the positive side, I witnessed a community rally to help their neighbors and family to make sure nobody was injured, that the loss of property was limited to the building where the fire started (and one end of an adjacent building), and most importantly, to come together as a community. The fire is an ongoing investigation conducted by the State Fire Marshal, and I assume he will release a report of his findings after his investigation is complete. Chief Rauscher did release a statement about the fire that is attached.

The fire did not just impact our local community but a wide swath of people that have a history utilizing the historic structure and the businesses associated with it. As a testament to this, I have had considerable outreach from individuals, politicians, and businesses wanting to know how they can help. Specifically, Alaska House of Representatives Andi Story has reached out, as well as representatives of the Yukon Government, representatives of Holland America Group, and numerous individuals and small businesses. I relayed to all of them that the best way to provide assistance is to reach out to the individuals and businesses that were impacted by the fire.

Wave Barrier: Hamilton Construction has been delayed due to complications with a project in Juneau. Mr. Hamilton has indicated he will be in Skagway on March 1 to begin the work.

Rockslide: Drape mesh has been installed on the upper section of the main rockslide and the contractors are moving down the slope to begin the installation of anchors for the mid-slope attenuator. White Pass continues to work with their contractors and suppliers to have the ecology blocks and fencing for on-dock protection ready for installation prior to the first cruise ship arriving in Skagway. Additionally, Holland America Group has hired their own outside engineering firm to review the rockslide mitigation efforts, and the group conducted a site visit the week of February 21. The interactions were positive, and we should receive their review soon.

Ground Transportation for 2023: One of the big hurdles for 2023 is how to manage the cruise passengers after they disembark. With this in mind, we met on site with White Pass and Holland America representatives to discuss the best way to manage the ground transportation areas. We have come up with a solution that I believe will meet the need. However, there will be some inconvenience to all parties involved with the Railroad Dock, small boat harbor, and Pullen Creek RV Park. I hope to bring a visual of this plan to the Ports and Harbors Advisory Board and the Assembly in the next couple of weeks.

Skagway Police Department Audit Update: I have received the draft Police Department Audit and we are planning to have a presentation of the audit the first week of April.

Skagway Fire Department Ladder Truck Donation:

Please see the attached letter from Fire Chief Rauscher regarding the donation of a ladder truck by the Unalaska Fire Department.

Skagway Museum Director Thanks: I was copied on a letter from the National Park Service to our Museum Director Judy Munns, thanking her for her involvement with the Ranger Trivia program. The letter is attached.

Dahl Memorial Clinic Acting Executive Director Update:

Locum provider Casey Rooney, FNP, is at the clinic until March 16. Locum provider Bill Weiss, PA, returns March 6 for three months. Behavioral health clinician Kira Lathrop, LPC, will begin seeing patients approximately March 16. We expect Kathleen Elliott, RN, to start March 8. Estelita Fielding will be acting Clinic Director until March 17th when Thomas Steiner returns to the office.

We are in the process of updating our monthly calendar, Facebook page, and website so that the community is aware which providers are in-house. Please stay tuned for that. Prism Optical will be here next week (March 6-7), and Maggie Hotch OT will be here March 16-17.

The advertisement for Clinic Director has been updated to reflect the wage approved by the Assembly at the February 16th meeting.

Skagway Public Library Director Update:

The Library is heading into March with the continuation of our regular programming, as well as plans for some special events during Spring Break at the end of the month. Our Winter Reading Challenge is currently wrapping up, signaling the impending end of winter, and our March Madness-inspired Tournament of Books is happening now through the beginning of April. We are currently in Round 2 of the Tournament, but Round 3, the final round, will begin in two weeks, at which time we encourage the entire community to read the two finalists and cast their vote for the Tournament winner.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Assemblymember Potter, Mayor Cremata, and the entire Assembly for their support of our accessible libraries grant application. I submitted the application yesterday and attached the Mayor's letter of support. We will know by April whether or not we have been awarded this funding for a new automatic accessibility entryway at the library.

Police Chief Update:

We have hired two new dispatchers, one full-time and one temporary. The Police Department is working on the investigation from the overdoses. Officer Michels is in Anchorage for some interview training and met with the District Attorney on February 28 pertaining to the overdose case.

We have been in contact with ATS techs and the AticComm rep, and we are working still to move forward with the dispatch upgrade to two consoles. We will be moving forward with citations for abandoned vehicles and trailers, moving into the start of the removal process.

Recreation Director Update:

- The Dyea cabin is available to Skagway residents to reserve and use until April 14th – reservations can be made by stopping in the SRC, emailing reccenter@skagway.org or calling 907-983-2679. All users must fill out a user agreement form to confirm their reservation.

- Our general facility use waivers are now electronic! For all patrons who have memberships, staff will be asking them to take a few minutes and eSign their waivers. We are looking for ways to become more efficient and reduce our paper use.
- The SRC has updated the facility age policies after much consideration and review with the MOS lawyer.
 - Weight and Cardio Room use for those aged 14-17 must have an updated parent/guardian signed waiver on file.
 - Anyone under the age of 14 may not use the cardio/weight equipment. This is the standard across the gym & fitness industry and for numerous safety concerns we have decided to go this route as well.
 - We have lowered the age for unaccompanied youth in the gym from 13 to 10. Patrons age 10+ must have a parent/guardian signed facility waiver on file and a membership or day pass to use the facility.
- Punchcard Plans – we are excited to now offer punchcard plans for children’s programming, \$30 for 10 visits! This is only for scheduled children’s programming, such as, Basketball for Middle Schoolers, 4th/5th Grade Open Gym, & After School Program. Must have an updated parent/guardian signed facility waiver on file. Anyone interested is encouraged to see SRC staff for more details!

Tour Director Update:

Please see the attached March report from Tourism Director Jaime Bricker.



Statement from the Office of the Fire Chief Emily Rauscher

At 0953 Skagway Fire was dispatched to reports of a “big fire, black smoke and flames” at 9th avenue between Broadway and State. Command 2 was one of the reporting parties and conducted a scene size up of a large commercial complex with multiple mixed-use occupancies with a working large fire and requested an all call (secondary page out). Command 1 arrived, conducted a 360 of the building and established 9th Avenue command. The building was approximately 45% engulfed with fire origin appearing to be on the Bravo/Charlie corner. The fire had one exposure to the neighboring residence on the Bravo side of the unit.

Crews from Engine 23 simultaneously worked on establishing a water supply, conducting a primary search of the exposed residence, while other crews performed fire attack and extinguishment of the exposure. Next, crews worked on confining the large fire to its origin and protecting other exposures on the property and neighboring properties. During this time the electric company had shut down electricity at the block and north of the structure, due to the gridding system.

The secondary page out brought Engine 4 and that unit was assigned to perform exposure control and fire attack on the Bravo/ Charlie side of the building. Due to strong North winds, engines were not able to stage on the Charlie side (south side) of the building. Evacuations were conducted at the homes south of the commercial structure while Alpha side Fire crews worked on crowd control and evacuation of the structure involving the working fire.

This fire has been assigned to Alaska State Fire Marshal Richard Harrop and a fire investigation is undergoing. The fire scene has been secured and we will continue to monitor and secure the property until Fire Marshal Harrop makes it into Skagway for a sight inspection scheduled for 2/28/2023. We ask all residence to stay clear of the fire scene as to not interfere with the fire investigation.

Skagway Fire is a small department and all our crews worked diligently at bringing this fire under control and containing it to its structure of origin. We are continuing to work with the State Fire Marshal’s office for the fire investigation, decontaminating our response gear and equipment and ensuring our rigs are ready for future responses. We ask that all news reporters or other inquiries allow time for the investigation to be completed and the report finalized. Until the investigation is complete, the Public Information Officer will be Borough Manager Brad Ryan. He may be reached at 907-983-2297.

On a personal note, many Fire Department’s do not experience the support we had yesterday. We were aided with food and hot beverages from the Assembly of God. We had previous members return and aide in response. We had municipal management and our public safety chairman help work defensive hose lines. The Mayor and additional assembly members along with other adults and children arrived for the major cleanup. The community support was truly exceptional, and I will never be able to fully express my gratitude to all of you.

Assisting Agencies: Public Works Department, Skagway Police Department, Alaska Power and Telephone Company

POSTED: 2/27/2023



Skagway Fire Department

Municipality of Skagway

GATEWAY TO THE KLONDIKE

February 28, 2023

Municipality of Skagway Mayor and Assembly,

The Municipality of Skagway Fire Department has been selected for receipt of a 1997 Pierce Aerial donated by Unalaska Fire Department. When applying for consideration, Unalaska Fire Department understood the many challenges Skagway faces and selected us due to, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Zero-foot setbacks in our historic district. The lack of setbacks renders our ground ladders useless at most of the downtown structures on at least 2-3 sides of the structures.
- 2) Current ground ladders, the tallest being 35', cannot be set to the proper climbing angle, not only in downtown but throughout Skagway proper.
- 3) Numerous structures in Skagway of which our 35' ground ladder will not reach the windows or the roof.
- 4) We have cases where the upper story windows cannot be reached by properly positioned ground ladders.
- 5) Skagway operates with a very small firefighting staff. It typically takes 3 – 4 firefighters to effectively position and extend a 35' ladder. Providing the required number of responding staff in relation to the timely positioning of a ground ladder is almost impossible.
- 6) Mutual Aid from other Fire Departments. Our closest traditional (road) mutual aid is across our international borders into Canada, crossing over a summit gaining 1,800 feet in elevation, with a response time of approximately 3.0 hours. Other Alaskan Fire Departments may only access us via plane or ferry, and can only offer personnel, which is limited across all fire departments. Since we do not have the luxury of calling on neighboring towns or cities like almost all other towns in Alaska and the lower 48, Skagway must be able to deal with every situation independently with the equipment we have on hand.
- 7) Wind and weather conditions, will at times, force our fire tactics on the opposite side of where a fire is located, as we experienced this last Sunday. Having an aerial master stream will allow us to broaden our fire tactics and strategies for these situations.

At this time, we have set up inspections for the aerial portion of the truck (the ladder), the pump, and engine to be completed by March 21, 2023. Once we have the green light on the inspections of this apparatus, we will barge it to Skagway. Payment for the transportation has already been approved by Finance Chair Jay Burnham, as that was a condition placed before I applied for the donation of this apparatus.

This is a necessary need and an amazing opportunity for Skagway Fire, allowing us to continue to grow and increase our services provided to the community.

Feel free to contact me for any further questions.

Chief Emily N. Rauscher
Skagway, Alaska Fire Department



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
P.O. Box 517
Skagway, Alaska 99840



IN REPLY
REFER TO: 6.A.1.

February 28, 2023

Judy Munns
Skagway Museum and Archives
700 Spring St,
Skagway, AK
99840

Dear Ms. Munns,

On behalf of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (KLGO), the Education Specialist Jolanta Ryan and the Education Intern Grace Robbins express our sincerest gratitude to your recent involvement in one of our park's newer programs, Ranger Trivia.

Each month, the KLGO Education team creates a three-hour lunch program at the Skagway City School that is centered around one topic and invites students to test their knowledge on that topic in the form of a trivia question. Past topics have included Victorian clothing, local medicinal plants, gold rush archaeology, and animal identification. We strive to make each program more engaging by setting up hands-on activities that will encourage students to get more excited about gaining new knowledge or sharing what they already know (and so many do—the Skagway school is full of excellent students)!

As we grow Ranger Trivia to deliver better quality programming, it is your partnership with us that has made one of the biggest impacts in inspiring more students. We appreciate and admire your enthusiasm to share the Skagway Museum's resources with the school's students, no matter how large that resource might be! From bringing in a gold rush pan and stove to show during our archaeology program, to carrying in full-sized taxidermy mounts of a falcon, a lynx, and a wolverine during our animal identification day, you have provided more interactive opportunities that would not have been possible without your partnership. You have also helped to raise the quality of our programs. We have received so much positive feedback for our last two programs in which you were a partner, and it means so much for us to have you be a part of future programs.

Thank you again for your continued involvement and support in delivering quality educational programming to our community. The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park sincerely appreciates your partnership with us.

Sincerely,

Annie Matsov
Resources Division Manager
Acting Superintendent

Jolanta Ryan
Education Specialist

Grace Robbins
Education Intern

GR:jr



Explore Skagway Tourism Director Report – March 2023

- A. Thanks to Wendy, Nicole & Cesar for sharing the information that they gathered from Cruise Passengers traveling with their brand last year.**
 - a. They will present to SVAB at our meeting on March 6th.
- B. Schatz, Murkowski Lead Committee Passage of Bill to Support Native-Led Tourism**
 - a. <https://www.indian.senate.gov/news/press-release/schatz-murkowski-lead-committee-passage-bill-support-native-led-tourism>
- C. Buckwheat Ski Classic Willy Wonka Winter Wonderland is slated for Saturday, March 11th**
 - a. <http://buckwheatskiclassic.com/>
- D. Ports & Harbors**
 - a. https://www.skagway.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/ports_and_harbors_advisory_board/meeting/packets/47667/2023-1-27_ore_peninsula_60_drawing_submittal_reduced_2.pdf
 - b. https://www.skagway.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/ports_and_harbors_advisory_board/meeting/packets/47667/3a.1_2023-1-27_ore_peninsula_60_cost_estimate.pdf
- E. DOT State Street Work is out for Bid**
 - a. Christy Gentemann
Environmental Impact Analyst
DOT&PF Southcoast Region
Phone 907.465.4524
- F. Busker Permits & Code**
 - a. SVAB discussed at work session and voted to make edits and move it to Public Safety for review
 - b. Public Safety recommended to Civic Affairs for review.
 - c. Section D4/5 was overlooked in the work session. I do not think it is applicable to the spirit of busking as discussed, so I removed the bulletpoint prior to submitting to Public Safety Committee. Please let me know if you like this reconsidered.
 - i. "Limited availability. If at any time a permit is revoked, a new permit will be issued to a new permittee on a first-come, first-served basis."
- G. Idaho Potato Truck**
- H. Veteran's Park – Status and Visitor Information**
 - a. "Veterans Park is under the supervision of MOS/Parks & Rec/Public Works and discussions concerning the Park, Monument, and Quonset Hut would start there. The stone monument with a new bronze remembrance plaque was dedicated in 2019, replacing an earlier plaque dedicated in 1995."

- b. "The Quonset hut was donated by WWII veteran Ben Lingle, restored by Skagway veterans, and moved to the Park area in 1992 for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of WWII. The museum provides routine preservation maintenance (painting of wood trim, roofing, etc.) for the Quonset Hut. Current plans include replacing the weathered exterior sheathing of the vertical front and rear walls of the Hut in 2023-24."
- c. "The museum is replacing the Quonset hut information panels with new weather-and-sun-resistant interior panels viewed through the front glass windows of the Quonset Hut. The new interior window panels will incorporate information and photos provided by the original restoration committee in 1992-1995. Installation of the panels is scheduled this summer."

I. Spruce Root – Build Back Better Economic Group Discussion

- a. Jaime attended meeting on February 7, 2023
- b. Regenerative Economies in 4 sectors – Forest Products, Fisheries, Mariculture, Tourism.
- c. Miakah Nix noted that Kake Alaska has Starlink Internet now and it's the fastest they've had.
- d. Mariculture Conversation - Kake is starting a kelp farm.
- e. Logging and Fisheries discussion – finding balance.

J. Dyea Maintenance Road Closures in 2023

- a. DOT&PF plans to move ahead with Dyea Road Storm Recover maintenance during the 2023 season which will impact traffic at times.
- b. Community members can visit the DOT&PF 2020 Storm Recovery website to sign up for email updates on Dyea Road repairs.
 - i. <http://ak2020stormrecovery.com/index.html>

K. #ThisIsSkagway Photo & Video Contest has Begun for 2023 on Skagway.com

- a. <https://www.skagway.com/thisisskagway2023/>
- b. \$500 cash prize for the grand prize winner of the photo and video contests.

L. Sustainable Southeast Partnership with Ralph Wolf of Spruce Root

- a. Kaylah Duncan is the new Communications Catalyst for the Sustainable Southeast Partnership (SSP).
- b. Two Southeast Alaska tourism businesses – Costa Brava, Bakery & Pâtisserie and New Earth Fungi – have been selected as the winners of the 2022 Path to Prosperity Competition.

M. Alaska Marine Highway

- a. Letter sent to DOT on 01.26.2023 asking DOT to consider all special events on our list.

N. Skagway.com Job Posting Page is a resource for Skagway Businesses

- a. <https://www.skagway.com/jobs/>

O. Visitor Product Cluster Working Group (VPCWG) under USDA's Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy (SASS) Meeting about Action Initiatives

- a. Winter Tourism Initiative
 - i. Met with group on February 21st to listen to Juneau and Haines Winter Sports/North Lights Tour package ideas with Uncruise, Eagle Crest, museums, restaurants, distilleries, bars, breweries, shopping, skiing, sledding, skating, snow shoeing, etc.
 - ii. Are Skagway businesses open for business packaging in January, February and March?

P. Tourism Best Management Practices

- a. Sign Up TODAY at <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/becomeapartner>

Q. Sharing my Education and Training with You

- a. Myths of Social Media By Ian MacRae Podcast
 - i. <https://marketingbookpodcast.libsyn.com/>

R. Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA)

- a. Explore Skagway has partnered with ATIA for a booth at Seatrade and Skagway Representatives will be able to utilize the space and interact with industry.

S. ATIA Cultural Enrichment Subcommittee

- a. Bricker attended meeting Jan. 26th
- b. Cultural Heritage Tourism Specific initiatives made by this group.
 - i. Matador Video:
 - 1. Full version: <https://youtu.be/vbis7OAeHyl>
 - 2. :30 version: https://youtu.be/Ubw8VgNd3_g
 - 3. :15 version: <https://youtube.com/shorts/KcDNiBOamzA>
 - ii. Nat Geo passport article:
 - 1. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/slideshow/paid-content-experience-alaskas-living-cultures>
 - iii. Smithsonian Feature:
 - 1. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/sponsored/5-ways-to-experience-alaska-native-culture-heritage-and-art-180980953/>
- c. ATIA asked reps around the state to recommend Alaska Natives for a special cultural heritage tourism initiative through Nativo and I wrote on behalf of Beau Dennis who has since been interviewed and I'm hopeful he will be featured.

T. Medias, Ads & Internet finds for Skagway & Alaska Industries

- a. Valerie & Valise – Wendy did an excellent job representing Skagway for this Vlog and it performed well on social media

- i. <https://www.valisemag.com/end-of-season-alaska-cruises/>
- ii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZepcK-E0RXQ>
- b. <https://khns.org/legislators-come-to-skagway-for-town-hall>
- c. <https://www.ktoo.org/2023/01/25/the-chilkoot-trail-has-been-designated-a-national-historic-trail/>

U. Public Relations and Engagement Survey

- a. Low engagement to date. I plan to extend the date for another month

V. eCornell Social Media Marketing Class Concepts for sharing

- a. I'm not able to share content created specifically for the class, but I am able to share some of the publicly available resources that are shared in discussions. <https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-marketing-examples/>
- b. <https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-ideas/>
- c. <https://www.campaignlive.com/article/twitters-best-brand-launch-tweets-2019/1668542>
- d. <https://shortyawards.com/>