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Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

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July & August 2014

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The sights of summer



NPS photo

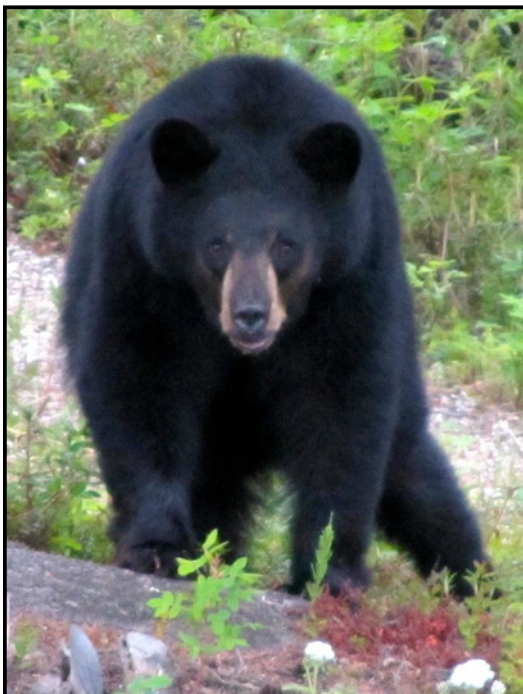


Photo courtesy Eric Yould



WSEN staff photo

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

The last time I checked the outdoor thermometer today, it read 78 degrees— summer temperatures for McCarthy! The date is July 22. We apologize for the lateness in getting this issue into your hands. This season seems especially busy to us when it comes to our bed and breakfast, Aspen Meadows B & B. I found it quite challenging “keeping” my writer’s hat donned. Thankfully, a couple of quiet days arrived and we are on the roll to the finish line: a completed July/August WSEN! Thank you for your patience!

First of all, I want to thank the contributors to this publication. Craig Medred, a reporter for *Alaska Dispatch*, willingly shares many of his articles with our readership. This issue of WSEN contains two of his pieces. Thank you, Craig.

On the cover of this issue are two photos that were posts on Facebook. Eric Yould and his wife, Patty, have a homestead out the Nizina Road and his numerous animal photo shots are excellent. Thanks, Eric, for the great bear picture. It was difficult deciding which one of your bear photos to use. Keep up the good work of capturing these amazing creatures for our enjoyment.

By the time the results from the local Packraft Race came in, we were chocked full. We decided to include the information here on the “note” page. Our congratulations to the winners and thanks to Kennecott Wilderness Guides and all the supporters of this event for making it happen again!

On June 19th, Rick and I were pleasantly surprised to see a familiar face at the mail day gathering.

Long-time subscriber and Kennecott Kid, Inger Jensen Ricci, and her daughter Linda Brown, both of Anchorage, were on hand to catch the McCarthy mail plane back home. We enjoyed the reunion with Inger and the opportunity to meet her daughter, Linda. They had flown out to spend some time in Inger’s old stomping grounds, Kennecott. Both ladies thoroughly soaked up the memories of yesteryear as Inger revisited the once, famous mining town where she was born.

As I complete this last page, I can hear the printer in the background. When it is done Rick will need this final column. I better get this winging its way to him.

Just in case I haven’t mentioned it lately...you, WSEN readers, are greatly appreciated!

The Second Annual McCarthy Creek Packraft Race and White Water Festival was a huge success. It took place July 19-20. The Race Results are:

Up & Over:

1st—Killian Sump 3 hours 51 minutes; 2nd—Mat Brunton 4 hours 10 minutes; 3rd—Eric Mundahl 4 hours 19 minutes

Z—Rock:

1st—Paul Lafrance 1 hour 50 minutes; 2nd—Cody Landenburger 2 hours 27 minutes; 3rd—Wil Brown 2 hours 45 minutes

This year there was an exciting new event, The Boater Cross. Results from this race had not yet come in by printing time.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

George Cebula: George and dog Shane arrived in McCarthy safe and sound from their winter quarters in Tucson. In late June they were hosts to brother Ted's daughter, Sharon, and her two children, Jacob, 11, and Maya, 9. All would agree that the time went much too quickly.

After arriving in Anchorage from Richland, WA, Sharon, Jacob and Maya boarded the train to Fairbanks, taking in the sights along the route. The 8-hour excursion was an adventure and enjoyed by all three. George was on hand at the railroad station to greet them. Shane was delighted to have more family members to give him attention!

Before long they were headed back to McCarthy and the sights in our local area. This was not Sharon's first visit to George's summer home. In fact, neither was it for Jacob. However, I suspect Jacob didn't remember his first trip. He was only 6 months old when he, his dad and mom, came to visit Uncle George.

He also doesn't recall the numerous backpack trips he made with his folks when they took in the sights of the glaciers and mines for the first time, eleven years ago. At least he will remember this visit.

Since Uncle George started flying south instead of driving and making his annual visit to Sharon and Dave's home in Washington state,

Sharon says they haven't seen near enough of him. Thus, her trip to McCarthy.

Next month Sharon's dad, Ted, is making his annual trip north. Sharon hopes her next trip here will coincide with her dad's visit. In the meantime, I'm stocking up on coffee, Ted!

John, Barbara and Clark Rice: Other summer neighbors arrived on schedule. John, Barbara and dog, Clark, drove in the end of April and found their home in fine shape. Before long they were settled in for the season. Clark who is 14 years old is finding winter life in St. Louis less than desirable, but his other life in McCarthy is high on his list. He seems to forget just how old he is when he is here.

Shortly after they parked their truck and began unloading their supplies, Clark disappeared into the woods. He was SO glad to be back in his old stomping grounds—chasing off bears and moose. Since he is very hard of hearing now, Barbara went in search for him. While she meandered around looking for signs of Clark, he circled around, found his way back to the truck. The back door was open and there right within his reach was a box of muffins. Feeling a spurt of energy, he scarfed them up in no time. Yep, he was home and feeling like a youngster once again! (Needless to say, Barbara wasn't impressed.)

Two weeks later her grandson, Robert McGonigle, arrived with his friend Meghan Wilt. Both hail from North Carolina. This was Meghan's first visit but Robert's second trip to McCarthy. In 2002 he, his mom Laura (Barbara's daughter), husband Bob, and Robert's sister Kate came to McCarthy. Although Rick and I didn't know John and Barbara very well at that time, they all stayed in our two B & B cabins. Now, of course, the Rices have a house that bears a strong resemblance to the historic Kennicott Cottages.

Meghan and Robert did the whole "nine yards" while they were here: hiked to Bonanza where they discovered snow, did an overnight camping trip out near the Nizina River, a packrafting trip, a glacier hike and ice climbing, took an historic tour of Kennicott and McCarthy and participated in Trivia night at the Golden Saloon. They didn't leave much to do on their next trip!

The Rices are very popular with family and friends so a newly-built guest house is in the making. Last fall John Adams, along with the help of Joe Russo, framed in and had the building enclosed before winter. Now the finishing touches on the inside and outside of the building are keeping John and Barbara occupied. Numerous shopping trips to Anchorage for woodwork, paint and other supplies have been on the "to-do" list.

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This “item” may trigger a line of friends and family members wanting to visit our town and the Rices. Barbara may need a reservation book to keep track of them all!

One of Barbara’s trips to Anchorage brought back her close friend (and ours), Marcheta Long from Battle Creek, NE. She returned again to manage the McCarthy Lodge’s gift shop in downtown McCarthy.

Welcome back, John, Barbara, Marcheta and last, but not least, dog Clark.

Jim and Peggy Guntis: The Guntis’ made their entrance to the neighborhood the end of May. Since making a very important decision this last winter to sell their McCarthy house, they have their own (very long) to-do list. Daughter Kim, husband Richard and son Robbie, of Homer, arrived mid-June to assist in many of those items on the list. Their week-long stay included a lot of hard work, but Robbie made sure there was time for “play.” He is the proud owner of his own RC helicopter. He was eager to show my Rick what a fine pilot he was. On one of his visits to our house, Rick gave Robbie, who is a very smart 5 year old, his first lesson flying Rick’s RC Champ. Robbie did very well. While Kim, Peggy and I visited, Rick also introduced Robbie to a computer flight simulator called Real Flight. Robbie was instantly “on it.” I expect by now Kim has purchased one for him (and her!).

Although we would rather not lose such wonderful neighbors as the Guntis’, we are assured that they will still be summer visitors. They also own another nearby piece of property that has a small cabin on it. Jim is already thinking of ways to improve it and ensure a reason to continue returning to their summer stomping grounds on the west side of the Kenicott River. This came as very good news to Rick and me! (Be sure to look for the Guntis’ ad on the back cover of this publication.)

Jason Esler: I don’t recall the last time I wrote an “item” on Jason, but a lot has happened since then. A

couple years ago he acquired his own piece of property. Now he has his own business venture— Alaska Homestead Services. His rubber-tracked mini-excavator is busy at work these days moving dirt, performing brush work, digging holes, drainage work, making trails, removing stumps and trees and even helping folks design their gardens. Outhouse packages are available, he says, and he is helping folks complete their Fire-wise forestry projects. (Don’t miss Jason’s ad located on the inside back cover of this issue.)

While Rick was printing some posters for Jason the other day, I managed to get an update from his winter activities. He certainly traveled to some out-of-way places in our state while working for the Alaska Division of Subsistence. From January through May, he visited several Alaska villages performing subsistence surveys, interviewing native Elders and recording their many stories.

Once he returned home he got his saw mill set up, the Bobcat excavator humming (it is so quiet) and Jasons been running ever since. “It’s more than one guy can handle, but I’m having a lot of fun!”

In-between his new services in town, he is managing to start up a McCarthy Community Fishwheel project. He’s also just recently been appointed the new Chairperson for the Residents of the Wrangells’ organization. Says Jason: “It’s time for a broader representation of the people which are as environmentally important as the natural resources.”

Congratulations, Jason, on all fronts! Now, if you can just remember which hat you are to wear at the proper time!

Tom and Mary Kaye Golden: The Golden’s are back at their cabin on the McCarthy Creek side of town. Tom is already busy building ice cream cones at the McCarthy Center. It’s always a pleasure to see Tom’s smiling face behind the counter greeting us ladies on our way home from mail. (I hear he’s raising

funds to help support his winter golf games!)

The drive up the Alecan begins at their winter home in Titusville, Florida. Tom’s family home is in Wisconsin as well as the home of his two brothers, Bill and Barry. He and Mary Kaye always make a stop there on their way north.

Writing about Tom’s brothers brings me to the “highlight” of Mary Kaye’s summer. Brother Barry of Madison, WI and brother Bill (and wife Sue) of Neenah were just here visiting. “We had a wonderful time,” says Mary Kaye. Trips to the Nizina and the glacier were enjoyed by all. On their way back to catch their flights out of Anchorage, Bill, Sue and Barry (Tom joined in on the fun, too) stopped off at the Klutina River for an adventure-packed fishing excursion. Bill and Sue each caught a large salmon. (Mary Kaye says Sue caught the biggest! Congratulations, Sue.)

A raft trip on the river capped their Alaskan vacation.

Maggie and Molly, the Golden’s Cairn terriers, are thrilled to back in Alaska, guarding the homestead from marauding moose and bear. Of course, we are always glad to have Tom and Mary Kaye back in the neighborhood!

Mark Vail: I decided the best time to catch Mark inside his cabin was “before” the day was too far along. When he answered the phone this morning, he was still sipping on his morning coffee. Good timing. Dog sitting, Max, for his neighbor Jim Kreblin who is presently in Anchorage recuperating from knee surgery, is high on Mark’s list these days. Gardening is always a daily activity this time of year. Most of the time, it is a pleasant experience. Like today Mark is planning to harvest his bok choy to ready it for pickling and canning. Pickled cabbage is always a good treat for those long winter months.

One of the down sides of gardening is discovering a mama moose and her calf eating a good portion of your

cole crops! He says 24 broccoli plants were eaten, not counting the cauliflower and cabbage plants. According to Mark, Mama didn't like the hot mustard plants, however, so they were safe. Thankfully, Mark has other garden plots yet undiscovered by the area moose and he hopes it stays that way.

Three batches of Pine Grosbeaks visited him recently— adults with their new fledglings. A friendly Hairy Woodpecker returned with her 2 babies to let them sample Mark's peanut butter offering.

August is a full month for Mark, he says. He is preparing to teach three homesteading classes at the Wrangell Mountain Center: Jams & Jellies, August 5; Pickles and Relishes, August 19; Root Cellaring and drying food for storage, August 26.

According to Mark he has received about 6 reports of black bear sightings in the local McCarthy area. The soapberries are ripening now, so the bears are on the hunt for one of their favorite meals. It's a good reminder to keep your eyes open to your surroundings if you are out for a hike or just doing a chore in the yard.

Mark passed on some interesting news. DOT is making use of their brush hog on the McCarthy Road so some of those infamous blind corners are being (thankfully) brushed. Thanks, DOT! And thanks, Mark, for keeping us informed from your neck-of-the-woods.

Sonny Asbury and Dian Cook:

Sonny and Dian are back from their winter stay in Texas. They are settling in and unpacking. Chores like tweaking and/or repairing the two 4 wheelers was at the top of the list of late spring projects. It seems there is always something to repair somewhere! Sonny did manage to get the U-Haul truck running so they can use it for an upcoming town supply run.

Dian says she is thrilled with their new and improved water system this year. It provided them with the means for Sonny to build a classy outdoor shower. In fact, when I

called the other night for an item, that's where Dian was. Sonny was on kitchen duty, he said, but he was glad that Dian was enjoying the fruits of his labors.

Dog Mac is another one of our neighborhood dogs that is relishing on being back in Alaska where life is...well, let's just say different! Squirrels in abundance, those elusive voles and even the huge sort that meander through his domain. Yes, this is a dog's world!

Tim, Tenley, Conner and Sylvia Nelson: Rick and I recently reconnected with the Nelson family at a memorial luncheon for our mutual friend and neighbor, Larry Turnbull. I asked Tenley if she and her family would join the ranks of "Items of Interest." She graciously accepted the invitation.

The Nelsons live at Mile 12.1 of the McCarthy Road on Sculpin Lake. Tim's grandparents ran the Nelson's Lakeside Campground before their deaths. Thus, long-time area residents may remember Sculpin Lake being called Nelson Lake. Tim, Tenley, Conner and Sylvia live on the Nelson Homestead which Tim's grandparents homesteaded starting in 1968 on a ten-acre "territory" of family land.

Here is the Nelson's item in Tenley's own words: "We are very busy this time of year as Tim will head up north to guide big game in the Brooks Range for two months, and we are trying to finish up all his projects before he goes. It is hard on the kids to have their Dad gone for so long but this year we have purchased our own sat phone and we are really looking forward to hearing Tim's voice. In previous years the flight service was nice enough to deliver/post mail for us— 4 or 5 letters a season.

"We are working on our ongoing addition to our cabin where we hope to have Conner and Sylvia in their own bedroom by Christmas. And as always in the summer, I am in the garden and greenhouse every day. It is the time of plenty and we are eating lettuce, tomatoes, green beans,

kale, chard, zucchini and more. My first round of cucumber plants trans-plant shocked with the cold spring temps but my second batch is just starting to develop female flowers so I have high hopes for a late cuke harvest!

"Preserving season is upon me for the garden so I will be busy the next two months with berry picking, garden harvest, and jelly making. I am glad I was able to put up all my smoked salmon in June so I will have some free time in September before Tim returns home and we begin the butchering season. He brings home Dall sheep and moose meat and we go caribou hunting at the end of October for our protein needs.

"Conner is 7 and Sylvia is 4. Conner will be returning to school August 25th to start second grade at Kenny Lake School. It is a big commitment to attend school so far away and summer is a nice break from having to get up early. It is a 1 ½ hour commute each way for him to go to school and he leaves at 7:15 to return at 4:30. Needless to say, he is enjoying some lazy summer days! We are also trying to spend some time playing on the lake. This past week has been hot and sunny and we have been swimming and playing on the floaties."

Thank you, Tenley, for allowing us a peek into your daily lifestyle!

Fred Denner: The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/preserve recently announced the winner of the Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary Digital Photo Contest. The winner is Fredrick C. Denner of Dan Creek, AK. His photo of the Mile High Cliffs, located near McCarthy, AK, displays what many people envision as true wilderness. The Park is displaying a framed copy of his photo in their main visitor center in Copper Center. They are also giving out free postcards of his photo to visitors.

We add our congratulations to you, too, Fred, for a job well done!

Alaska Grown-1982-1983

BY RICK KENYON JR.

Fall rapidly edged out the short summer and it was time once again to put away the summer tools we used on a daily basis. The seasonal changes brought a different perspective in the way daily life was conducted. As the temperatures dropped and the snow made its way down the mountain peaks, we put away the summer clothes in exchange for warmer ones. The clouds dropped into the valleys, and rain began preparing the ground for the winter's covering of snow. To look out the windows and see bare branches that once were full of green leaves was somewhat depressing; this year was no exception. I would stare out the window to the north as I did my schoolwork, lost in thought and daydreaming of adventures to come with Sam, our dog.

We woke up to snow falling one morning, and this time, it did not melt off. The blanket of clean white snow covered up the ugly tree branches and brown grass. Our spirits were lifted by the breath-taking beauty of win-

ter and the holidays soon to be celebrated: Thanksgiving and Christmas. All too soon, another year was over and a new one began. Little did we know that 1983 would prove to bring many changes in the faces of our community.

Many friends and neighbors left to be with family by the time the holidays came. On our side of the "river" were the Edwards and us. At Long Lake, there was Harley King; then a family who built a house at the top of the Long Lake hill. In McCarthy, the Heglands (who lived at the airstrip) and ran the weather station. Gary Green was also in for the winter. Kennicott was quiet also, with 4 or 5 folks. Most mail days, one of us (Dad, Mom or I) would drive the snow machine over for mail, unless the Edwards walked over.

One particular overcast mail day began like many others. Several folks stopped by on their way to town to pick up their mail. There was no need for us to leave the cabin that day and I recall taking Sam on a hike to the winter creek for water after lunch. Later, that afternoon, we noticed a helicopter flying over to Mc-



Carthy but thought nothing of it other than the Park Service flying around. As was our custom, we checked into the state-wide ham radio net around 6:00 pm. John from Valdez requested us to go off to another frequency which Dad did. He then proceeded to patch a phone call from a reporter to ask questions about the "tragedy in McCarthy." When we did not know what the reporter was referring to, it was brought to our attention that the news reports were about a shooting in McCarthy. At least 6 folks died and several injured.

This information was shocking and we were dumbfounded that it could happen in our community, of all places. It appeared that a part-time resident who lived in Kennicott went on a shooting rampage that cost the lives of six of our friends and neighbors. A couple from Kennicott, the Heglands, Maxine Edwards and Harley King lost their lives that March 1st. Chris Richards and a lady from Long Lake were injured and survived. (Gary Green was able to fly Chris to Glennallen for medical treatment and notified the mail plane



to turn around and not to land in McCarthy. The State Troopers were also alerted and sent a SWAT team by helicopter from Anchorage. As the team flew the McCarthy Road, they landed in front of a snow machinist who turned out to be the perpetrator of the crimes. Lou Hastings was captured and later sentenced to six life terms in prison. While the motive was not clear, evidence pieced together by investigators pointed to a diversion that was likely to allow Hastings time to escape and continue his heinous crimes. Thankfully, those plans were stopped by the quick thinking of that brave SWAT team.)

The weather began its traditional spring thaw as our community regrouped and focused on moving past the event that threatened to destroy it. More than ever, the need for communication with the outside world was important. Our ham radio was just that source and we three took turns daily, making contact with friends throughout the state and new ones across the seas.

As spring continued to melt the winter's snow and ice, our living room turned into a temporary greenhouse. Seeds germinated in trays and were set close to the large living room window. When the time and weather was right, those seed-

lings would be transplanted into the large garden and temporary greenhouse. The summer birds migrated north and soon the robins and swallows became our closest neighbors. We cleaned out the swallow bird houses for the new arrivals and families.

Our summer creek thawed and began to flow, eliminating the need to walk down to the winter creek.

We made a quick trip to get supplies and enjoyed a few days in Anchorage. Dad killed a black bear that wandered into our yard, and the meat was put to good use.

One project was to build a guest cabin, close to the old cabin. Trees that were felled during the winter were cut and brought up

to the yard to peel and varnish. The ranger was put into good use, pulling those logs out of the woods. The Bellezza's came out to visit and assisted in the raising of the cab-

in. We stopped working on the cabin when salmon season arrived and all three of us (and Sam) went to Valdez. The PA-12 was put on floats and ready to spot salmon.

Arrangements were made to rent a forest service cabin in Galena Bay, in the Prince William Sound. It was approximately 15 miles from Valdez, and accessible by boat or floatplane. One of our fishing boats pulled the flat-bottom skiff there where we anchored it 100 feet off shore. There was a large fuel tank in the skiff which would refuel the floatplane as needed. A green canoe would take us back and forth to the plane and shore.

Our cabin sat on a bluff about 12 foot high, overlooking Galena Bay. While rustic in conveniences, it did boast of bunk beds, a table and a small oil stove. We brought a Coleman camp stove and cooked on it. There was no electricity, and it was not needed for the short stay. Oil lamps gave off enough light when darkness fell. Sam was having the time of his life, checking out new territory and encountering new critters. The scenery was lush and green; common for the coastal areas. The berries we discovered were appreciated and welcomed just outside the cabin. Fishing was a daily activity, even when we had enough to eat. We dug clams a short distance from the cabin. Sometimes one of the boats would pull a crab trap. Dad could eat seafood three times a day, and soon Mom and I were looking for other items for the menu!



In Alaska bear encounters, could old advice be completely wrong?

BY CRAIG MEDRED

Sometimes you have to wonder if the efforts that go into trying to teach people how to handle bear encounters in Alaska aren't largely a waste of time, given the amount of luck involved in these things.

Some people do everything wrong and never have a problem. Some do everything right and end up getting mauled or worse.

Joel Bennett, a former member of the Alaska Board of Game and a respected Juneau cameraman who specializes in wildlife films, once described the late Timothy Treadwell as the best he'd ever seen at reading the behavior of grizzly bears and knowing how to handle them.

Sadly, though, things did not work out well for the Californian who spent 13 summers in the wilderness of Katmai National Park and Preserve trying to make friends with the bears. Treadwell touched and petted massive grizzlies. He babysat the cubs of some sows. He obviously figured out which bears were approachable and which were not, or he never would have lasted so many summers.

In the end, of course, all that knowledge couldn't save him. Treadwell was killed and then eaten by a bear. His last words before his death on a fateful evening in October 2003 were a shout to companion Amie Huguenard to hit the bear with a pan. His voice was recorded on a

video camera, which captured no video. The camera was apparently turned on with the lens cap still in place.

Would pepper spray have helped?

Treadwell's advice to Huguenard was good. The only thing you can hope to do to survive a predatory attack by a bear is fight back. In his case, it didn't work. The bear killed Treadwell and then Huguenard.

One has to wonder how things might have turned out if they'd had some pepper spray to use in their defense. The efficacy of pepper spray — a non-lethal bear deterrent — is well documented.

As Alaska Dispatch columnist Rick Sinnott noted after a group of teens were mauled by a grizzly in Alaska three years ago, "bear spray was effective in 92 percent of the 50 cases involving grizzlies in Alaska and 90 percent of the 20 cases involving black bears. No one who used bear spray was killed. In the nine instances where a grizzly charged a person, the bear broke off the encounter after it was sprayed, and only one person was injured. The injury was relatively minor: Deep scratches requiring stitches. Eventually, someone who uses bear spray will be severely injured or killed by the bear. But it seems clear that bear spray promises to be at least as effective at preventing maulings as a firearm."

Sinnott, former Anchorage-area wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is a proponent of bear spray. So am I, though I do have a special place in my heart for firearms, having once shot a grizzly off my leg, thus stopping it from doing further damage. Guns are great if you know how to use them well.

Most people don't. Some are simply unfamiliar with firearms. Many others can't shoot for beans.

Thus pepper spray is much better for them than a bullet, which needs to hit a specific, not-very-big target in a very difficult shooting situation. But that's not why I'm a proponent of pepper spray.

I'm a proponent because a) it can stop bear attacks; and b) it largely makes people deal with bears in the proper way, though there really is no proper way.

Why aren't runners mauled?

As noted earlier, you can do everything wrong and never get touched by a bear. Despite the oft-repeated advice that you should never run from a bear, over the years I've talked to dozens, possibly hundreds, of people who've run from bears. None were victims of maulings.

And sometimes, counter-intuitive as this might seem, running from a bear or past a bear is the right thing to do.

Which brings us back to Jessica Gamboa, who was mauled while jogging on a trail at Joint

Base Elmendorf Richardson on May 18. She did nothing wrong. In fact, she did largely what people are taught to do when encountering a grizzly in Alaska.

She stayed calm. She turned and faced the bear. She tried to indicate she meant no harm. The bear responded by mauling her badly. She might have been a lot better off if she'd just kept running and pretended she'd never seen any bears.

How can anyone say that, given all the good advice about not running from or around bears?

250 black bears, 65 grizzlies in Anchorage

Let's take a minute to look at this from the standpoint of the bear, in this case a sow with two small cubs near Anchorage. Most bears near Anchorage are habituated to runners, mountain bikers, dog walkers, cars and other human means of movement.

Radio-tracking studies done by biologist Sean Farley of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game found many bears live among us. As you read this, there are an estimated 250 to 350 black bears and 65 grizzlies roaming the city.

All parts of the city.

Farley's radio collars documented bears regularly using Anchorage trails. On-the-ground investigations found sign of bears sleeping alongside trails in Anchorage greenbelts. These bears know people. People run past them. The bears ignore the traffic.

Thankfully.

If bears made a practice of sometimes hunting people — as lions and tigers are known to do

— we'd all be in a big trouble. But bears don't do that. They generally try to avoid us.

Enter Gamboa. She's jogging down a road on JBER somewhere out of sight of her husband, who has run ahead. She spies a grizzly bear cub. If she keeps running and pretends she hasn't seen anything, she might well be fine.

I've watched a small parade of runners go past a sow bear with cubs on the Anchorage Hillside without the bear paying them any attention. She was feeding and kept on feeding though the runners were sometimes within 100 feet or less.

I know at least three mountain bikers who have ridden between sow grizzlies and their cubs in Anchorage's Hillside Park. They got a big scare. But they were not attacked. The bears seem accustomed to our going past.

Gamboa, however, didn't keep going past the JBER bear. Startled by the cub encounter, she did a very normal thing. She stopped. It's pretty much what people are told to do if they meet a bear. But it's not necessarily what a grizzly sow wants to see.

She has likely seen runners on this or other trails. She has, quite possibly, watched people run past her cubs and concluded it's no big deal.

This one, however, doesn't run past. This human gets near the cub and stops. At that point, the mother can't help but be thinking, "Oh-oh. What's going on here?"

So she comes running. If you listen to Gamboa's videotaped account of what happened next,

she's looking at the cub when she looks over her shoulder to see momma bear coming, not at a full run but more of a gallop. So, Gamboa partially turns to face the mother bear, which is again the thing to do. But then, as she describes it, "I put my back kind of maybe toward her."

How does this look from the sow's perspective? All wrong.

What the sow sees is that the human has just turned her attention away from momma and back toward the cub. Momma is sure to take that as some sort of threat. So she flattens the threat and works Gamboa over.

Gamboa smartly and properly plays dead, and she comes out of the encounter beat up but alive. It is a testament to clear thinking and a strong resolve on her part.

And the rest of it? Well, someone who has spent a lot of time around Alaska grizzlies, or thought a lot about the behavior and adaptation of bears in Anchorage, might have handled the situation differently. But that's a pretty small group of people.

Bear spray makes a difference

Most people don't know enough about bears to begin to understand the nuances involved in any confrontation. And even if they do, it might not make any difference, as Treadwell's case proved.

Bear spray will make a difference. To use it, people need to turn and face the bear and act brave — the mere display of which has been known to deter bears.

So maybe instead of trying to teach people how to deal with bears, we should just be telling

them to go to the store, buy some bear spray, study how to use it — practice would be a good idea — and take the spray with you on Alaska trails.

Not that it hurts to study up on bears. Knowledge is a wonderful thing. But in this case, an 8.1-ounce can of prevention might be worth a lot more than any bear lecture.

Editor's note: This story originally appeared in the Anchorage Daily News June 4, 2014. It has been reprinted here with permission.

Federal subsistence hunting permits for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve available starting July 28

COPPER CENTER—

Federal subsistence registration permits for permit hunts in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve will be available starting Monday, July 28, at the park's Visitor Center in Copper Center and the Slana Ranger Station. The Visitor Center is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through September 19 and Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from September 20 to October 31. The Slana Ranger Station is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the end of September. Permits will be available at the Chitina Ranger Station starting July 31. The Chitina Ranger Station is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday through Monday (closed Tues.-Wed.) through Labor Day. In the McCarthy-Kennecott area, contact the District Ranger at 554-1144 for permit information.

Permits will be available for moose hunts in Unit 11 and a portion of Unit 12, goat hunts in Unit 11, and sheep hunts for persons 60 years of age or older in Units 11 and 12.

There is no federal registration permit for the general sheep hunts in Units 11 and 12. Federally qualified hunters wishing to harvest sheep in Units 11 and 12 during the regular season may do so under the federal harvest limit, but must obtain a state harvest ticket and comply with the state's reporting and horn sealing requirements. Note that the state sealing requirement for Unit 11 applies to all rams, even rams with less than full-curl horns. Sealing is not required for sheep harvested under a federal registration permit during the elder hunts.

Please bring your State of Alaska resident hunting license, a photo ID (such as a drivers license), and proof of local physical address when you come to get a permit. Documentation of

physical address can include a voter registration card or a utility bill listing your physical address.

Permit applicants must be federally qualified subsistence users and meet special eligibility requirements for lands managed by the National Park Service. They must have their primary permanent residence in rural Alaska, and their community must be listed in the "Species/Customary & Traditional Use Determination" (C&T) column of the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations Booklet for Wildlife for the intended species and location. Individuals wanting to hunt on National Park lands (as opposed to in the National Preserve) must additionally have their primary residence in one of the park's 23 resident zone communities.

For more information, contact Barbara Cellarius, Subsistence Coordinator, at (907) 822-7236.

Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626): "One of the Seven [wise men of Greece] was wont to say: That laws were like cobwebs, where the small flies are caught and the great break through."

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642): "In questions of science the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual."

American author Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862): "Must a citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience, then? It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right."

NPS issues decision on Subsistence Collections Environmental Assessment

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—

The National Park Service (NPS) has issued a decision to develop regulations to allow the subsistence collections of wild, renewable resources from NPS-managed lands in Alaska where subsistence is authorized. When these regulations are in place, NPS-qualified subsistence users will be able to collect resources to make and use handicrafts for personal or family uses, to barter them, or to sell them as customary trade. NPS-qualified subsistence users are residents of communities and areas already specified in NPS regulations. These subsistence users would receive written authorization from the local NPS

Superintendent before making collections.

The NPS undertook this effort because system-wide regulations prohibit these types of collections and uses; however, a purpose of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) is to provide opportunities for rural residents to continue a subsistence way of life. Many rural residents near park areas indicated they thought ANILCA authorized them to collect shed or discarded animal parts and plants to make handicrafts for personal uses, to barter, or to sell because these activities were traditional since before and after ANILCA.

This decision is the result of an environmental assessment released in 2012 and nearly two

years of analysis and discussion of public comments, resulting in the selection of this action (Alternative D with minor modifications) in the Finding of No Significant Impact signed April 14, 2014. This selected action includes mitigating measures to minimize potential adverse effects on resources and values of affected park areas. The action also provides flexibility to address local situations and conditions. The NPS intends to begin drafting regulations within the year.

The EA and the final decision are available with responses to public comments on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=1&projectID=35955&documentID=58841>

BLM announces adjustments to mining related location and annual maintenance fees

The Bureau of Land Management has published in the Federal Register a final rule that adjusts for inflation the agency's fees for the location (or "staking") and maintenance of unpatented mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites. The location fee will increase from \$34 to \$37, and the maintenance fee will rise from \$140 to \$155.

Since Fiscal Year 1993, mining claimants staking new

claims or sites have been required to pay a one-time location fee. Claimants must also pay an annual maintenance fee in lieu of performing annual assessment work and making annual filings. The Mining Law of 1872, as amended, requires the BLM to adjust these fees every five years to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The BLM has not adjusted location and maintenance fees since 2009. The adjustments made in this final rule are based

on the change in the CPI from December 31, 2008, through December 31, 2013 (a 9.96 percent increase), as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The adjusted annual maintenance fee is due on or before September 1, 2014, for existing claims and sites. Those who have already paid their annual maintenance fee for the 2015 assessment year will be given an opportunity to pay the additional amount without penalty upon notice from the BLM.

McCarthy Solstice

BY MARIA SHELL

On a rainy day in August of 2011, the community of McCarthy, Alaska gathered at the Old Hardware Store to make quilt blocks for a community quilt I hoped to stitch.

When I make community quilts, more often than not, the community members involved do not know how to make a quilt block. I prep lots of sheets of fabric by placing a fusible, heat-activated adhesive to the backside of the fabric. The community members then cut their images out of the fabric and adhere, with heat, the images to a background fabric. This method works well as it allows the maximum number of individuals in a community to participate.

I asked each quilt block maker to make a block that represented them in the community. It could be something they loved or something about themselves. I did not limit or control the size or topic of the quilt block.



Photo courtesy Maria Shell

Once the blocks were gathered, I began moving them around into various compositions. I like to create pieced blocks that mimic the appliquéd blocks. I enjoy trying to free form piece trees, glaciers, braided rivers, and mountains. I pieced almost the entire quilt top at our cabin in McCarthy.

Last summer in Anchorage, I spent hours and hours on my long arm quilting machine stitching all three layers together.

This quilt, thanks in part to the Art Acquisition Fund and the Rasmuson Foundation, is now part of the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum's permanent collection.

The museum is filled with wonderful artifacts documenting the copper and gold mining days of the community. In recent years, the museum has dedicated more energy and space to the years following the mining days.

What I like best about making these types of quilts is the opportunity to stitch a community together.

At the top of the quilt is a lone snowflake created by long time community member Meg Hunt.

In the next section from left to right is art work by Joe

Donohue, Jenny Rosenbaum, Paul Hanis, (of course I had to put the engaged, now married couple, next to each other!) Ardia Thurston-Shaine, Nancy Cook and Emmett Gregory.



Photo courtesy Maria Shell

The following row features work by Ava Gregory, Sunny Cook, a Man traveling to

ends of roads (This is true. He asked Jim Drewry if the parking was the end of the road, and Jim sent him on into town where he ended up at the Hardware Store making a quilt block.), Ozzy Tague, Mark Vail, and Brita Mjos.

In the next row, there is artwork by Christine Johnson, Denise Lopez, Roni English, Jeremy Pataky, Lyn Plomaritis, and Rob Rosenbaum (Jenny's Dad).

The final row features images created by Allene Hanis (Paul's Mom), Barbara Rice, Chris Gregory, Nancy Cook, Karen Loso, Leif Mjos, and Allison Sayer.

All of the filler surrounding the appliquéd community member blocks was made by me.

I hope you will take a moment this summer to stop by the museum and enjoy the quilt in person. I think it's a beautiful representation of McCarthy and its community.

ADOT&PF and ADFG Work to Improve Traveler Safety

JUNEAU, ALASKA—

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), is conducting statewide vegetation management on state highways this summer with the primary goal of improving traveler safety.

Left uncontrolled, roadside vegetation can obstruct motorists' line of vision and limit their view of the road ahead, traffic control devices, approaching vehicles and wildlife. Abundant woody vegetation along roadsides provides winter browse and can encourage moose to spend time near roads.

Moose collisions can result in serious injuries or death as well as significant damage to vehicles. The Department of Fish and Game supports effective vegetation management along roads and highways to reduce the risk of vehicle collisions with wildlife.

The two agencies collaborated to identify highway corridors that require special maintenance attention. The following tactics are being implemented to improve traveler safety on Alaska's highways:

- Removing and disposing vegetation that attracts wildlife species to the roadside.
- Improving sight distance and visibility of signs and markers.
- Removing possible roadside hazards, such as trees.

- Decreasing shaded areas to increase the effectiveness of snow and ice maintenance efforts.

Vegetation management additionally helps to reduce asphalt deterioration, preserve guardrails, fences and other roadway safety features, and controls or eliminates invasive and noxious weeds.

ADOT&PF and ADFG recently formed the Wildlife and Highways Workgroup to promote traveler safety, efficient transportation, and economical ways to plan, design, and operate Alaska's highways while reducing negative impacts to wildlife populations.

Plans for Subsistence Hunt of Chisana Caribou Herd Announced

COPPER CENTER, AK—

Plans for a federal subsistence hunt for the Chisana caribou herd were announced today by Wrangell-St. Elias Superintendent Rick Obernesser, the designated federal manager for the hunt. The Federal Subsistence Board authorized a limited harvest from the Chisana caribou herd at its January 2012 meeting. Consistent with the cooperative management plan for the herd, the harvest quota will be 7 bull caribou, and a maximum of 18 federal registration permits will be issued to federally qualified subsistence users. The hunt will open on August 10 and close on September 30 or when the quota has been reached. Hunters are asked to report back within three days of harvesting an animal or at the end of the season if unsuccessful. The hunt area is Federal public lands in Unit 12 that lie east of the Nabesna River and Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running

southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border.

Eligibility for the hunt is limited to permanent residents of Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta Lake, Northway, Tetlin, Tok, Unit 12 along the Nabesna Road (mileposts 25-46), and that portion of Unit 12 east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail. For residents of Chistochina, Mentasta Lake, Northway, and Tetlin, permits will be distributed through the tribal council offices in those communities. Contact the council offices for additional information, including any application deadlines. Permits will be issued to residents of Tok on a first-come, first-served basis at the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge office in Tok, between 11 AM and 1 PM on Tuesday, July 29. Please bring your State of Alaska resident hunting license, a photo ID (such as an Alaska driver's license), and proof of local physical address. Documentation of physical address can include a voter registration card or a telephone or electric

bill listing your physical address. For residents of other eligible areas and for Tok residents after July 29, contact Barbara Cellarius, Subsistence Coordinator, at 822-7236 for permit information.

The Chisana caribou herd is a small international herd occurring in Yukon and Alaska on the Klutlan Plateau and near the headwaters of the White River. In the United States, its range is primarily within the boundaries of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. From the late 1980s through 2003, the herd experienced a decline in population and almost all hunting was stopped in 1994. From 2003 to 2006, a recovery effort designed to increase recruitment and calf survival was conducted. The herd population currently appears stable at approximately 700 animals. The herd management plan provides recommendations and strategies to guide its management and conservation. The conditions for this hunt are consistent with the plan.

Why do reality shows make Alaska look insane?

The sad reality of Alaska reality shows

BY CRAIG MEDRED

The 49th state is quickly approaching a point where it has more reality shows than salmon—and there are a lot of salmon up here. Unfortunately, the call of the wild, ratings dreams and tax credits haven't always attracted Hollywood's finest.

When the reporting staff of *Alaska Dispatch* sat down one day to rank the 10 worst Alaska reality shows, there was no problem coming up with contenders. The difficulty came in deciding which was the worst among the bad.

About the only reality show that looks real to the people who live here is *Deadliest Catch*, which has picked up 10 Emmys in nine seasons. Most of the rest do a spectacular job misrepresenting the state and the people who call it home. Some, like *Ultimate Survival Alaska*, are fake, fake, fake.

Others, such as *Wild West Alaska*, make us look like deranged misfits.

And then there is *Alaska Moose Men*, which would be better if it were about creatures who are half-human, half-moose, as its title suggests.

Into this mix comes MTV's planned reality series *Slednecks*. Segments being screened for advertisers are reported to feature snow-machine riders (snowmobile riders, for you in the Lower 48) crashing, arguing and jumping into a frozen lake through a hole in the ice. There

will no doubt be plenty of backwoods beer-drinking, bear-fearing and beard-sporting, too, for people who haven't gotten enough from the other Alaska shows.

Whatever reality *Slednecks* depicts, it will probably have little to do with how most Alaskans live. Alaska isn't as wild and crazy as seen on TV.

"Any other place you go, any place down south, it's all been mapped, logged, hiked, game-managed," Marty Raney, a cast member of "Ultimate Survival Alaska," claimed in a New York Daily News interview. "In Alaska, if you go a mile off a road almost anywhere in the state, you're putting your foot on ground that has never been walked before by any human being. Ever."

Truth be told, if you go a mile off the road in most places, aside from where the road goes through federally protected lands, you're probably trespassing in someone's yard. Beyond a mile, the state gets wilder, but it's all been mapped and trodden, and Alaskans are game-managing the hell out of it.

We're busy killing wolves and bears to help "Grow more moose," as the Alaska Moose Men would say. Though sometimes when we want big game, we just farm it. When *Wild West Alaska* went on a wild elk hunt, the stars scrambled into a floatplane at Lake Hood in Anchorage and made a short hop across Cook Inlet—to a place where

the only elk are at the farm where the hunt was staged.

The average Alaskan is more at home in or near civilization than in the wild, though you wouldn't know it from watching *Life Below Zero*. That's the show in which Sue Aikens lives "All alone" at the Kavik River Camp—except for the film crew, the Internet connection and the many visitors who drop in to go hunting, fishing or hiking. She's a rarity.

More than half of Alaska's 730,000 residents live in Anchorage or just north in suburbs known as the Valley. (Former governor and Wasilla mayor Sarah Palin grew up a Valley girl.) Add in the people of Fairbanks and Juneau, the capital, and you've captured two-thirds of the state population.

Wild Alaska does sometimes interject itself—it's not unusual to spot a moose, or even a bear, in Anchorage—but at the foot of the awe-inspiring mountains is a pretty mundane landscape, with sprawling subdivisions of cookie-cutter houses, plenty of fast-food restaurants and the usual big-box stores.

Of course, crazy people doing crazy things in crazy places makes for better TV. So the Alaska reality programs play up the freak-show aspects. "Hitch a risky ride along with the Ice Road Truckers as they drive headlong into bone-chilling danger," hypes *Ice Road Truckers*. Experience "Forty-foot waves, hurricane force winds, heavy-ma-

chinery and massive icebergs, proclaims *Deadliest Catch*. And *Bering Sea Gold* promises everything “from possible jail time to injury and even death.”

It's true that the real Alaska sometimes kills people. Witness Timothy Treadwell, star of the documentary *Grizzly Man*, who, along with his girlfriend, was eaten by a bear. Or Chris McCandless, subject of the book and movie *Into the Wild*, who starved to death near Denali National Park.

This is real, not reality.

On Alaska reality TV, cut to a commercial, and somehow everyone is always fine when the show returns. Producers don't want to assume liability for someone being seriously injured or actually dying on set. They employ safety officers to make sure that doesn't happen. *Ultimate Survivor* is even rumored to use stunt doubles for some of its trickier shoots. Although the Season 2

trailer for *Bering Sea Gold* featured mourners and implied that a character had died while underwater, mining for gold, it turned out that 26-year-old John Bunce had, sadly, committed suicide. Suicide is a serious issue in Alaska, which has one of the highest suicide rates of any state. The reasons are complicated and unfortunately don't make for good TV.

MTV's *Slednecks* appears ready to follow the same formula as many of the shows that have come before it: tracking a cohort of the Alaska population naturally inclined to engage in risky activities in some of the wilder parts of the state. The show borrows its title from Alaska slang for someone who spends a lot of time on a snow machine and doesn't care about much else. The term used to be considered pejorative—something greenies mumbled under their breath about those people on

powerful, noisy machines shattering the great white silence. But young snow-machiners have embraced it, marketing outdoor gear under the Slednecks brand and posting videos of their stunts at Slednecks.com. You can go there to watch them launch themselves off mountaintops into big, big air.

Alaskans are likely to find MTV's version of Slednecks as unreal as most of the rest of the crop of reality shows. Then again, nothing would make the state happier than a hit show promoting the joys of snow. It would be a big boost to Alaska's economy if some of the many tourists who overrun the state each summer came north in the winter to enjoy Seward's Icebox.

Editor's note: Reprinted from a story in the Alaska Dispatch May 9

Craig Medred is a reporter for Alaska Dispatch.

Upgrades planned on McCarthy Road

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has announced several major projects on the McCarthy Road.

The first is what they call High Float surfacing for mile 3 to mile 17. Mile 3 gets beyond the unstable Kotsina Bluff area, and mile 17 is where the Kuskuhana Bridge is located.

Typically a high-float emulsion asphalt surface treatment consists of a thin layer of asphalt concrete formed by the application of emulsified asphalt or emulsified asphalt plus aggregate to protect or restore an existing roadway surface. An AST

provides a nonstructural but durable and highly functional pavement surface when constructed properly with good materials. Within certain limitations, ASTs offer lower life-cycle costs than competing paving options. They give a long service life where traffic intensities are low and thicker pavements are inappropriate. ASTs are typically less than 1 in. (25 mm) thick.

Originally scheduled to start in July, the project was delayed when some in McCarthy objected to the hard-surfacing. Meetings were held in McCarthy and Chitina. According to David Miller, Director of Maintenance and Operations at DOT&PF, “We have

reviewed the public comments and there was not a clear majority either for or against the High Float project.”

Miller also said that the native corporations nor the NPS objected to the project. The stated goal is dust control and reduced maintenance costs.

The second, much larger project is the replacement of the Lakina Bridge slated for 2015. The bridge was damaged several years ago, causing closure of the McCarthy Road for some time. More project details are available at the DOT&PF website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/lakina/>

The McCarthy Weekly News

1923 July & August editions

WORKMAN SERIOUSLY INJURED

Wm. Smith, an employee of the A. R. C. at a camp eight miles above the Sourdough Roadhouse on the Richardson Highway was seriously injured on Tuesday. His horses ran away, throwing him, and the heavy wagon passed over his body, fracturing two ribs and breaking one leg in two places. He was brought to Chitina, a distance of 108 miles in a truck, being very weak from pain and loss of blood. Dr. Gillespie and a nurse were rushed down on a speeder, and were there when the injured man arrived in town late Tuesday night. After a brief rest, the patient was placed on an improvised bed on the side of the speeder and taken to the hospital at Kennecott.

McCarthy has had a spell of rather warm weather this week, the mercury climbing to 95 in the shade and close to 110 in the sun on several occasions. If we'd had a palm leaf fan and a banana tree to sit under, we'd all have been real hot. But we kept right on working without even trying any Coue on ourselves, and before we knew it, evening had come and the cool breezes from the Kennecott Glacier had blown away the heat and cares of the day.

July 7

PERSONALS

Capt. J. P. Hubrick is enjoying a brief vacation, which he is spending at the Kennecott Hospital, where he had an operation Tuesday. He expects to return home Sunday. Mrs. J. P. Hubrick and Mrs. John Barrett walked to Kennecott Thursday.

Friday evening Sig went for a spin up the Mother Lode trail. The trail proved rather elusive and Sig couldn't find his way home until Saturday morning.

Baby Tries New Drink

As a beverage gasoline is not to be recommended. That is what little Mary O'Neill would tell us if we stupid grown-

ups could understand her language. The little miss to whom life is a series of investigations – mostly for new dishes to tempt the palate – last Tuesday found a dish with a bit of gasoline in it. She drank it. It acted as sedative, making her dozey. Acting on the advice of Dr. Gillespie, who was telephoned to, the child was taken to Kennecott where a dose of epinephrine was administered. Next morning when she awoke, she was as chipper as ever.

HEAD WORK

A want ad for an office boy brought many applicants. One little fellow gave the young lady at the information desk a scribbled note for immediate delivery to the boss. When opened it read, "I'm the last kid in the line. Don't do anything until you see me." He got the job. – Printer and Publisher

July 14

Mrs. John E. Barrett was hostess at a dinner Thursday evening. Home grown new potatoes and freshly picked strawberries were included in the menu.

July 21

McCARTHY AND CHITINA MOURN

The news of the death of President Harding came as a distinct shock to the community on Friday morning, as no apprehension was felt concerning his recovery, because of his rugged constitution. On receipt of the news, flags were lowered to half mast and a hushed silence settled over all.

Mrs. Wills of McCarthy, who with her little daughter, Verna shook hands with the president at Cordova, stated that she had been much impressed with his appearance of health. His eyes, she said, were the most kindly she had ever seen.

At Chitina, flags which had been ready to greet the president in event of the trip over the Highway, fluttered at half mast.

Mrs. Harding personally wrote letters to all roadhouses on the Highway, expressing regret at having had to abandon that trip.

Frank McCafferty, the A. R. C. mechanic who chauffeured the president's car on the drive out of Fairbanks and again at Valdez, stated that the winning personality of the man made everyone eager to service him.

Announcement to Military posts of President's Death

Valdez, Alaska, August 3, 1923

The following order from Washington from the secretary of war announces to the army the death of Warren Gamaliel Harding, President of the United States.

"It is the painful duty of the secretary of war to announce to the army the death of Warren Gamaliel Harding, President of the United States, which occurred at San Francisco, California, at 7:30 p.m. August second, nineteen hundred and twenty three. The grief of the nation in the untimely death of the president is keenly shared by the Army of the United States, in the welfare of which he displayed at all times a deep interest and solicitude. His kindly wisdom and strength, his consistency to duty, and his loyalty to our national ideals entitle him to the respect of every American citizen.

Appropriate funeral honors will be paid to the memory of the late president and commander-in-chief at the headquarters of every corps and every department at every military station and every camp of troops in the United States in the field.

The vice president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge has taken the oath of office and assumed the duties of president, in accordance with the provision of the constitution."

Dwight F. Davis

Acting secretary of war.

Alaska mourns, as never before, the loss of the hand that was guiding,

with a calm, unswerving purpose, the nation to prosperity. We feel the loss – oh so keenly – because it is but a few days ago since we felt his sympathetic handclasp and looked into his kindly face, as we learned to love him as a man – a friend.

Our hearts bleed for his wife, who in her visit with us, endeared herself, for all time, to Alaskans.

PERSONAL

A party of Kennebec people spent the day at Nikolai Wednesday. Little Eleanor Tjosevig and Dickie Lander, accompanied by their mothers, spent Tuesday at the Tjosevig cabin on the Mother Lode trail. Just above the first tunnel the party saw a good sized sheep. The animal stopped several times in its ascent of the cliff and gave the car and its occupants "the once over" most indifferently. It would have made an excellent target for gun or camera as it stood on the cliff, barely 100 feet above the spectators.

Copper Tints

At the McCarthy Drug Store can be had copies of Cordova's contribution to the literature on Alaska. The book is "Copper Tints" written by Katherine Wilson. Miss Wilson is one of the competent staff of the Cordova Daily Times, a paper that any town might well be proud of.

"Copper Tints" is well named; it is a series of sketches of persons and events, that add color to the history of the Copper River valley. It is written in an easy, readable manner, with a wealth of description, that give to it a value apart from its historical significance.

The value of the book is enhanced by the illustrations, done by Rev. Eustace P. Ziegler, the minister-artist of Cordova, who painted the mural decorations for the Alaska Steamship Company's palatial new liner, Alaska.

The book is well printed on a good paper, and is altogether a valuable addition to the library of the lover of things Alaskan.

August 4

Sam Seltenreich has completed a new hay barn at his ranch.

A FEW NOTES FROM CHITINA

Mrs. Thomas Lynch, formerly of Strelna, whose husband was a victim of

pneumonia last winter, has sold her home to V. J. Dwyer and left for Seattle on the last sailing of the Alaska. She will permanently reside in Seattle, her former home.

Mrs. O. A. Nelson, with her two small sons, has taken over the Lynch cottage at Strelna for a month's outing.

August 11

HUNTING PARTY LEAVES FOR HAUNTS OF BIG GAME

Mr. Russell Mott, an attorney of Chicago, and his son, Cutler, arrived in town on Sunday's train and left for an extended trip in pursuit of game, on Tuesday. Capt. J. P. Hubrick, of McCarthy is conducting the party, Carl Anderson and John Nickell acting as packers, while Jimmie Brown with his train of pack horses, is chief "horse wrangler." Steve Kansky accompanied the expedition to bring home the limit in denizens of the wild.

The party will take its time, crossing the Nizina River, going up the Chitistone, over the "Goat Trail" into Skolai Basin, thence over Russell Glacier to the head of the White River. From there, it will proceed to Shushanna, down the Shushanna River to the mouth of the Nabesna; from the Nabesna to Chistochina, then to Gulkana. At this point the party will divide; Jimmie Brown returning to the Nabesna, where he will winter his horses and trap, and the rest continuing their way by auto stage to Chitina, a distance of seventy five miles, then returning to McCarthy by rail.

In all they will have traveled about five hundred miles expecting to be gone from six weeks to two months.

Capt. Hubrick, the pioneer guide and hunter, says that this will be his last trip as guide. In the future he will devote his time to "shooting" the mountains and rivers, as he admits that photography has more thrills for him now than even sighting the most ferocious bear, the biggest buffalo or the fleetest antelope, had in the days when he was known as "Winchester Jack."

The veteran hunter has wielded a gun on every frontier in the West and North, having hunted buffalo on the plains of Texas, sheep in the mountains of Colorado, cougar in Wyoming,

antelope in Brigham Young's valleys and lastly brown bear in Alaska, whither he came with the Klondike stampede in 1897.

New babies – eighteen of 'em – have arrived at the Iverson ranch within the last two weeks to gladden the hearts of two swine mothers. The youngsters are to be brought up according to Hoyle, so Mr. Iverson says.

August 18

NEWS FROM CHITINA

Chitina August 25 – The Chitina school will commence this year on or about September 10. Miss Elsie Spence, who formerly taught in Cordova, and last year at Circle City, will have charge.

Miss Spence is an experienced teacher, and is exceptionally well qualified, having been engaged, before coming to Alaska, in normal school work.

A nine months school, with a monthly salary of one hundred and seventy five dollars, will be maintained. Considerable repairs will be made to the school, for which a liberal allowance has been granted. At least eight pupils will be enrolled, representing four grades.

When the truck owned by C. D. McCauley, horticulturist and carpenter of Fairbanks, left Chitina last Friday morning it may not have had the earmarks of a wedding chariot, yet that is exactly what it was. The previous day Mrs. Alma Hathcock and Mr. McCauley had been married at Chitina.

Mrs. Hathcock, with her three year old son had just arrived from the states, having come from Atlanta, Georgia. She was met here by Mr. McCauley, with his nine year old son, and the wedding occurred immediately. Next morning the luggage was put aboard the Ford truck, leaving just space enough behind the seat for the two youngsters; the bride and groom slipped cozily into the seat and they were off on the three hundred mile honeymoon jaunt to their interior home. Mr. and Mrs. McCauley both come from Atlanta, but they had not met previously, the courtship having been carried on by correspondence.

August 25

Arctic Alaska a different kind of place

BY NED ROZELL

Slicing through the top quarter of the Alaska map, the Arctic Circle marks the boundary of perpetual light. North of the line, the sun won't set on summer solstice.

But somehow the breezy, treeless tundra of Barrow has a more arctic feel than Fort Yukon, also poleward of the line but home to dense spruce forests and Alaska's all-time high temperature of 100 degrees.

A more "ecologically sound" definition of the Arctic is any area with an average July temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit or less. Alex Huryn and John Hobbie wrote this in their book, *Land of Extremes: A Natural History of the Arctic North Slope of Alaska*.

While that definition applies to Adak, Shemya, Wales and a few other cool places south of the circle and excludes Umiat (with a long-term July temperature average of 54.7 degrees), it includes most other towns and villages in what most people consider Alaska's Arctic. When plotted as a line, that temperature standard somewhat marks the northern limit of trees.

Huryn, a professor at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and Hobbie, with the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, have spent many hours on Alaska's North Slope, a Nebraska-size region extending from the backbone of the Brooks Range to the pale salt water of the Arctic Ocean.

Hobbie is a founding researcher of the Toolik Field Station.

Land of Extremes is full of reasons why arctic Alaska, in particular the North Slope, is a place like no other.

While driving north on the Dalton Highway and passing the final spruce tree in a narrow valley north of Coldfoot, people have contemplated why there are so few trees in the Arctic. The authors write that while there are several factors that contribute, cool summer temperatures are probably number one.

Abundant woody shrubs that don't get much taller than a moose have the advantage of growing closer to the ground, where it is warmer. Hovering within the shrubs are a species no writer would omit from a book of Alaska fauna. Huryn and Hobbie wrote of the Toolik Field Station mosquito record: in 1994, a researcher there killed 278 with one slap. Extrapolating from the size of the man's hand, the authors calculated that a naked person stranded on tundra in such conditions would die from blood loss in 22 hours.

"True flies" including mosquitoes make up 50 percent of insect species in North America's Arctic. Beetles rule everywhere else on the planet, but up north four fly species exist for each beetle.

Bumblebees of the North Slope are sometimes active when the air temperature is colder than freezing. They pull it off by maintaining a body temperature warmer than a human's, in part

by the warmth generated by their bulging flight muscles. Some butterflies and moths instead depend on the sun to warm their flying machinery. On early summer days, moths and butterflies will cease flying when clouds block the sun.

Creatures that appear better suited for a land of eight months of winter include the snowy owl, with white plumage that traps body heat better than any bird except the Adelie penguin, and the arctic fox, which fattens up in summer and autumn with such vigor it can survive a month in winter without eating.

Caribou are probably the most visible of the large animals living on the North Slope. The authors calculated that one caribou exists for every square kilometer between the Brooks Range and the Arctic Ocean.

Caribou "were essential for the existence of humans" in the interior of the North Slope for thousands of years, the authors wrote. After both the Western Arctic and Central Arctic herds crashed from about 300,000 to 15,000 animals from 1890 to 1900, the Nunamiut Inupiat Natives began to abandon their camps in the foothills and mountains.

"By 1920 there were essentially no human residents in the interior of the North Slope," the authors wrote. That area remained quiet until caribou herds recovered in the 1930s, and, in the late 1960s, the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay brought many humans northward.

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4G LTE Wireless Service Expansion is Underway in Glennallen and Copper Valley

Copper Valley Telecom announced this week that its Glennallen cell site has been upgraded to 4G LTE and higher data speeds are now available when using that site. The Glennallen cell site is located at the Copper Valley Telecom office at mile 188.8 of the Glenn Highway.

The company reported that handsets and data cards are regularly achieving speeds 10 to 15 times faster than was formerly available in the area.

Thirteen additional cell sites will be upgraded throughout the Copper Valley, Valdez, and Cordova by the end of June. The sites are:

- Tazlina
- Tolsona Ridge
- Willow Mountain
- Nelchina
- Chistochina
- Glenn-Rich (at Tok Cutoff)
- Silver Springs (Copper Center)
- Slana
- Cannon Hill (Chitina)
- Sourdough and McCarthy (McCarthy)
- 7-Mile/Alpine Woods (Valdez)
- Eyak River (Cordova)



Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961): "Every form of addiction is bad, no matter whether the narcotic be alcohol or morphine or idealism."

Historian Henry Steele Commager (1902-1998): "Men in authority will always think that criticism of their policies is dangerous. They will always equate their policies with patriotism, and find criticism subversive."

Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965): "If you have 10,000 regulations, you destroy all respect for the law."

University of Alaska
Facilities and Land Management



National Park Service
Alaska Region



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Land Exchange in Long Lake/McCarthy area, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, for University of Alaska Lands in Seward, Alaska

The National Park Service (NPS) and the University of Alaska (University) are proposing an exchange of lands. The federal authority for this exchange is section 1302(h) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of December 2, 1980, 16, U.S.C. 3192(h). The NPS would acquire from the University approximately seven hundred seventy-two (772) acres just north of Long Lake, Alaska, located in sections 31 and 32, T. 5 S., R. 12 E., Copper River Meridian, described as:

- Section 31:** Lot 4, SE1/4SW1/4, NE1/4, W1/2SE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4,
N1/2SE1/4SE1/4
- Section 32:** E1/2, E1/2SW1/4

in exchange for two parcels of an equivalent value located at 212 and 220 Fifth Avenue, Seward, Alaska 99664, also described as:

Lots Twenty-Six (26), Twenty-Seven (27), and Twenty-Eight (28), Block Eight (8), ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF SEWARD, according to Plat S-1, and Lot Twenty-Nine A (29A), Block Eight (8), ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF SEWARD, NORMAN REPLAT according to Plat No. 97-23, filed in the Seward Recording District, Alaska;

The University of Alaska Long Lake Parcels Disposal Plan and map are available for review online at www.ualand.com or upon written request at the University of Alaska address listed below. Parties interested in commenting on the disposal plan or public notice may submit written comments to the NPS and/or the University at the addresses below no later than **5:00 P.M., Monday, August 25, 2014** to be considered.

NPS at Chuck_Gilbert@nps.gov, OR National Park Service, Attn: Chuck Gilbert, 240 W. 5th Ave., Rm. 114, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, and/or University of Alaska, Facilities and Land Management, Attn: Tina Schimschat, 1815 Bragaw St., Suite 101, Anchorage, AK 99508-3438 (907) 786-7733 (fax).

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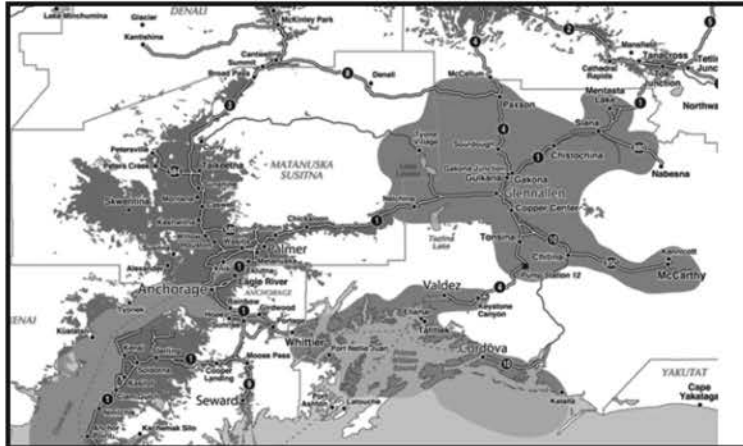
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- * Downtown

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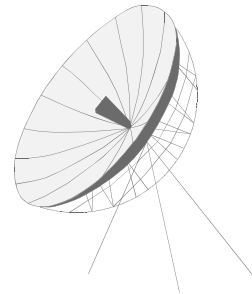
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Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Happy summer everyone! It's still spring when I'm writing this but soon it will be a hot summer. Isn't it wonderful, though, that no matter how the weather is, we still want to eat!

I just got back from Crookston, MN after attending my grandson's graduation from the University of Minnesota Crookston. He was expecting his Mom and a friend but five more of us went and surprised him. What fun! We surprised him at the restaurant where he is one of the chefs/cooks. Of course he sat us all down and prepared a great meal. I would love to share one of the recipes that he sent to me last month.

CRANBERRY TORTELLINI

- 1 ½ cups of sun dried cranberries (divided)
- 2 chicken breasts
- 15 ounce jar of Alfredo sauce of your choice
- Frozen tortellini-either chicken or cheese
- 1 tablespoon white wine
- Shredded Parmesan cheese

Mix cranberries in a container with hot water. Place in the refrigerator, covered, and let sit for at least 2 hours.

When ready, puree 1 cup of cranberries in blender.

Broil or bake chicken with desired seasoning. At the same time heat up noodles and Alfredo sauce separately. Add 1 tablespoon of wine to sauce. When the Alfredo is boiling, turn down the heat to low and mix in the

pureed cranberries, as well as the ½ cup of remaining cranberries.

Drain noodles and mix into sauce. When you are ready to serve, just place the chicken over the meal and garnish with shredded parmesan cheese. I loved this!

Now I'd like to share one that a friend sent me. I would love to share the name of the friend but due to my "fading memory" I can't remember who sent it. I'll probably remember after the paper is already printed.

CREAMY PESTO-STUFFED MINI PEPPERS

(Can be made ahead of time; when you are ready, pop them in the oven)

- Prep time: 20 minutes
 - Bake Time: 12 minutes (she forgot to tell me what temperature the oven should be but I'd try 325-350 degrees). You can yell at me if I'm wrong.
 - 1 package (2 pound) Sweet Mini Peppers—Safeway has them under their brand name
 - 8 ounce Lucerne (or your preferred brand) cream cheese, softened
 - 1- 7 ounce package Pesto Sauce, (the one with basil in it is good)
 - ¼ cup chopped sun dried tomatoes
 - 2 tablespoons finely shredded Parmesan cheese
 - 2 teaspoons olive oil
- Cut peppers in half, leaving stem end intact. Open peppers out and scoop out the seeds.

In a medium bowl with an electric mixer, mix cream cheese until creamy. Mix in Pesto sauce, tomatoes and Parmesan cheese until blended. Spread into peppers.

Arrange peppers on 1 or 2 baking dishes or sheets. Drizzle with oil. Bake for 12 minutes or until cheese is melted and peppers have softened slightly. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Makes about 39 peppers.

Doesn't this sound like a wonderful appetizer to serve during the summer!

Now, another friend, DuAnn, (I have wonderful friends!) from my Bible Study group shared these next two with me. They are so.....good.

PORK POZOLE

(slow cooker recipe)

- 2 cans (15 to 16 ounce each) hominy, drained
- 3 cans (10 ounce each) green enchilada sauce
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped (I usually use 3-4)
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- One 2 ½ pound boneless pork loin roast, well trimmed
- 1 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- Flour tortillas and salsa

Mix all the ingredients except pork, cilantro and lime in a 4 quart or larger slow cooker. Add pork; spoon hominy mixture over top. Cover and cook on low

7 to 9 hours or until pork is tender.

Remove pork to a cutting board. Stir cilantro and lime juice into the cooker. Shred pork into bite-size pieces; return to cooker.

Ladle into bowls, serve with flour tortillas and salsa.

DuAnn's note: Impossible to mess up. It's great for crowds, pot lucks at church, and family get-togethers.

I was lucky enough to receive two recipes from DuAnn. She loves to cook!

ENCHILADAS DE POLLO

(Makes 8 plump enchilladas)

2 whole chicken breasts
Water
½ small onion
1 bay leaf
8 peppercorns
Salt
½ medium onion, chopped
3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
4 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, shredded (1 cup)
1 (4 ounce) can green chiles
1 (13 ounce) can tomatillos, drained OR 1 ¾ cups drained canned tomatoes
¼ cup cilantro leaves
¾ cup whipping cream

1 egg
salt
¼ cup lard
8 corn tortillas
4 ounces Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, shredded (1 cup)
Guacamole
1 cup dairy sour cream
3 or 4 radishes, sliced
2 cups shredded lettuce
12 ripe olives

Place chicken breasts in a large pot or Dutch oven. Add water to cover, onion, bay leaf, peppercorns and salt to taste. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Cover and simmer 45 minutes or until tender.

Cool chicken in broth. Drain, reserving broth for another use. Shred chicken with 2 forks or with your fingers. Mix shredded chicken, chopped onion, Parmesan cheese and 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese. Taste and add salt if needed. Set aside.

In a blender or food processor, combine green chiles, tomatillos or tomatoes, cilantro, whipping cream and egg. Blend until smooth. Add salt to taste. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Heat lard in a small skillet.

With tongs, carefully place 1 tortilla at a time in hot lard. Hold in lard 3-5 seconds until softened. Quickly turn tortilla and soften other side, 3 to 5 seconds. Drain over skillet or on paper towels.

Place 1/8 of the chicken mixture on each tortilla, pressing the mixture to make it compact. Roll tightly and place seam-side down in a 12" x 7 1/2" baking dish. Pour chile-cream mixture over enchiladas and sprinkle evenly with 1 cup shredded Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese. Bake 20 minutes, or until heated through and bubbly. For each serving, place 2 enchiladas on a plate and top with about 3 tablespoons sour cream. Place a mound of Guacamole over sour cream, and garnish with radish slices. Place ½ cup shredded lettuce next to enchiladas, if desired. Place a mound of Guacamole on lettuce. Top Guacamole with 1 tablespoon sour cream and 2 ripe olives if desired.

This recipe is fantastic, folks. Give it a try. Well, better get packing. We'll get in the car and head for Alaska in about a week. Can't wait to get there and see everyone. Happy Eating.

A look at the weather

BY GEORGE CEBULA

April 2014 saw average temperatures and below average precipitation. The high temperature for the month was 58 on the 24th (48 on Apr. 8, '13, 59 on Apr. 26, '12, 57 on Apr. 23, '11, and 62 on Apr. 28, '10) The low was -5 on the 12th (-7 on Apr. 6, '13, 4

on Apr. 4, '12, 9 on Apr. 11, '11 and 5 on Apr. 10 '10). The average temperature for April was 32.4, compared to 26.6 in '13, 37.1 in '12, 34.6 in '11, 34.8 in '10, 34.0 in '09, 34.1 in '08, 34.4 in '07, 33.1 in '06 and 37.4 in '05. The lowest average temperatures for April were 22.4 in 1972 and 24.7 in 1986.

The precipitation for April 2014 was below average, with only 0.15 inches of liquid (1.02 in '13, 0.04 in '12, trace in '11, 0.11 in '10, 0.20 in '09, 0.50 in '08, 0.01 in '07, 1.14 in '06, 0.08 in '05 and 0.77 in '04). There was 1.8 inches of snow (6.9 in '13, 0.4 in '12, 0.3 in '11, 1.6 in '10, 2.9 in '09, 7.0 in '08, trace in '07, 10.2 in '06, no snow in '05 and 8.7 in '04).

McCarthy started April with 18 inches of snow on the ground and ended the month with 1 inch on the ground.

The temperatures were a bit above average for May 2014. The high temperature for May was 74 on the 16th, 17th & 18th (81 on May 28, '13, 71 on May 23, '12, 81 on May 29, '11 and 82 on May 28, '10). The low temperature was 24 on the 1st (20 on May 20, '13, 20 on May 17, '12, 20 on May 16, '11 and 20 on May 16, '10). The May average temperature was 49.1, this compares with 44.3 in '13, 43.6 in '12, 45.7 in '11, 47.6 in '10, 47.2 in '09, 44.8 in '08, 45.5 in '07, 45.0 in '06, 48.8 in '05, 49.3 in '04 and 44.4 in '03. There were 9 days with a high of 70 or above and 2 days with the low of 25 or lower.

The precipitation for May 2014 was well below average with 0.33 inches of liquid. This compares with 1.54 in '13, 2.19 inches in '12,

0.68 inches in '11, 0.25 inches in '10, 0.86 inches in '09, 0.12 inches in '08, 2.50 inches in '07, 0.47 inches in '06, 1.64 inches in '05 and 1.05 inches in '04. There was no snow observed in May. There was a trace of snow on the ground on the 1st and it disappear on the 2nd.

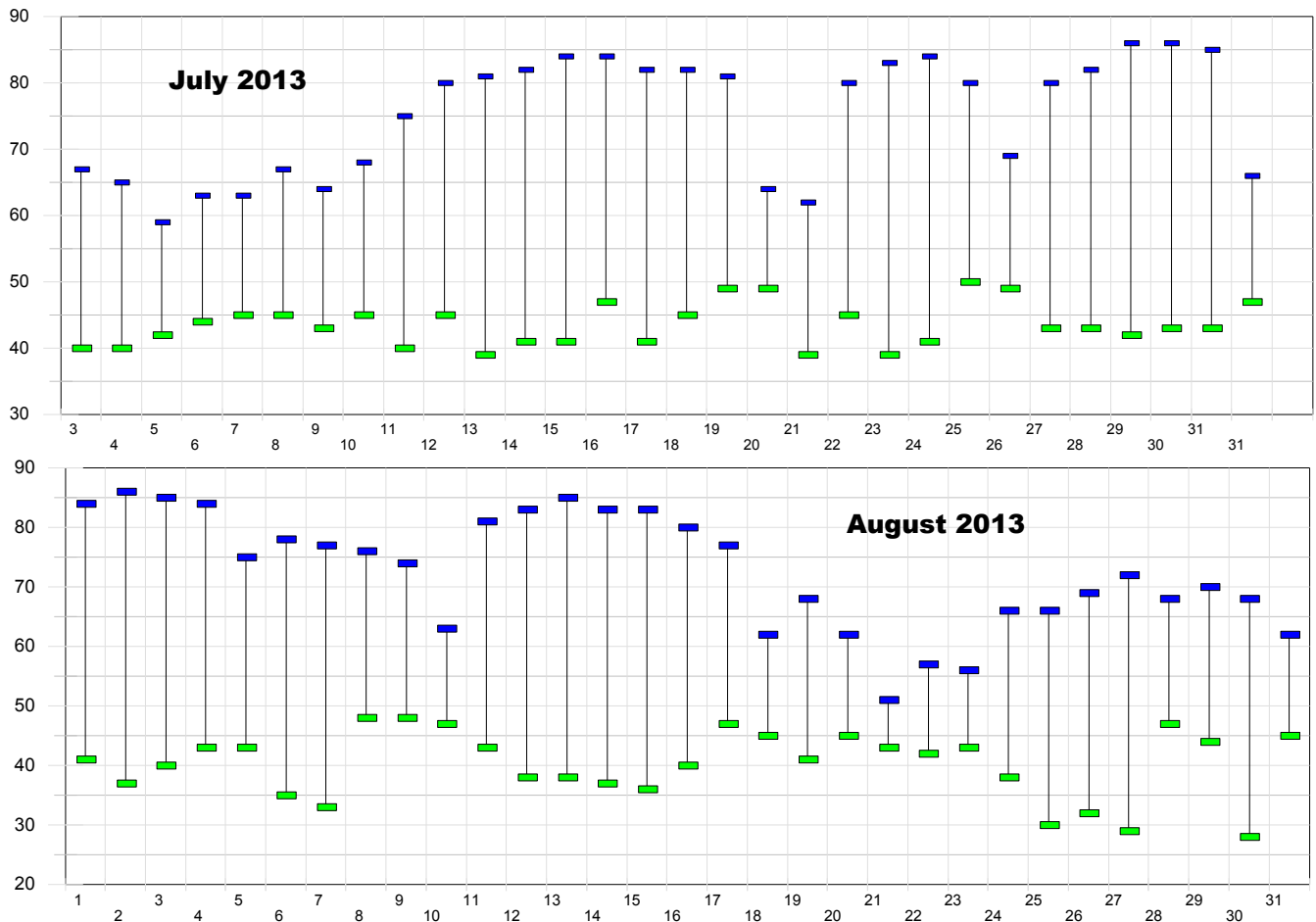
The total snowfall at McCarthy for '13-'14 was not observed (80.9 in '12-'13, 84.6 in '11-'12, 66.6 in '10-'11, 85.2 in '09-'10, 121.3 in '08-'09, 73.4 in '07-'08, 44.7 in '06-'07, 84.0 in '05-'06, 79.4, in '04-'05, 110.6 in '03-'04, 46.0 in '02-'03, 74.2 in '01-'02, 85.2 in '00-'01, 65.8 in '99-'00 and 38.9 in '98-'99).

The ice on the West Fork of the Kennicott River began to break apart around April 18th and water was moving over the top. The river was clear of moving ice by April 23rd and all the shore ice was gone by April 30th.

The first week of June was cloudy and cool with highs in the low to mid 60s. The lows were mostly in the upper 20s and low 30s. There was more than ½ inch of rain.

Summer should be in full swing by late June. June and July are the warmest months with the highs usually in the low 80s. The temperature begins to cool in August with highs only getting into the low 70s. The all time high recorded at McCarthy was 88 on July 8, 2009. Freezing temperatures should be back by the end of August, although they can be observed at any time. Average monthly rainfall is about 2 inches (June-August). Hidden Lake should empty sometime in July, with a rapid rise of the water level in the Kennicott River and some possible flooding. The first snow usually arrives sometime in late September.

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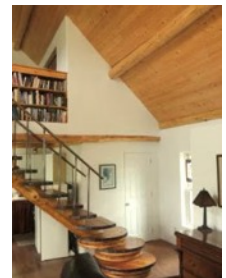
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