



Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce
Chamber POWER
“Working Together for Progress”
141 Members Strong

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1. Web Hits!

March's unique web hits (first time viewers) were 2073 visitors.
March's total visitors were 3021.
These visitors looked at a total of 10,979 pages in March, 2006.

2. Chamber POWER

First Bank – Craig / 907-826-3254 / fax 907-826-3910 / www.firstbankak.com / Jeanine Russell, Manager
A full service community bank offering checking, savings and time deposit accounts; consumer, commercial, construction, and home loans; and online banking services. Two ATM locations on Prince of Wales Island.

Prince of Wales Transportation – Craig / Taxi service, ferry shuttle and island wide shuttles, charter car rentals and other aspects of transportation on Prince of Wales Island. For large groups call ahead. John Harshbarger, owner-manager. Taxi service number 907-826-5555. Ferry Shuttle, charters, and other transportation call 907-957-2224. Dedicated to excellence, “Don’t cuss, leave the driving to us”. **Prince of Wales Transportation** appreciates your business.

Tongass Business Center – Ketchikan / 618 Dock St. / Ketchikan, AK 99901 / 1-800-478-9015 / 907-225-9015 / Fax 907-225-9014 / www.tbcenter.com / Call for Catalog. Office Equipment & Supply, Sharp Copiers & Faxes, Printing & Binding, Newsletters, Office Furniture.

3. Awards Ceremony for 2005

Each year the Chamber of Commerce honors people and businesses that deserve recognition for their outstanding services to their community and the Island at our annual Awards Presentation. This year, the Chamber hosted a wine tasting event with our Awards Ceremony. It was well received on Sunday March 26th at 2pm. About 100 people showed up to sample wine from Specialty Imports and Odom Corporation, fish from Phyllis Mueller's **Wildfish Co.**, cheese, crackers and chocolates from Marge Young's **A&M, Inc.**, dba Thompson House, and coffee from the **Voyageur Bookstore & Coffee Co.**

Those honored were: Outstanding Business of the Year – **W. R. Jones and Son Lumber Co.**; Business Person of the Year – Jim and Jeannie McFarland of **McFarland's Floatel**; President's Choice Award – Barbara A. Shelley of **Pacific Airways**; Youth Leader Award – Ralph Mackie of **A&M, Inc.**; Volunteer of the Year Award – Forest Andersen of Digging Bear Nursery; and Citizen of the Year went to Theresa Mackey. An AARP Volunteer Recognition Award was also presented to Vickie Sleasman by AARP's President, Jane Demmert.

This year's event was masterfully MC'd by Craig High School's Principal Doug Rhodes. Tammy Demmert, Jan Stevens and Jan Bush set it up, put it together and presented it to everyone's satisfaction. It was Tammy Demmert's wedding anniversary that day so thank you very much Tammy and Karl Demmert. The event was filled with good conversation, laughs and tears from participants and award winners making it a very special afternoon.

Introduced at this year's event were two raffle programs: The Dick Jones Raffle & Silent Auction Benefit and the PoW Chamber \$7,500 Last Draw Raffle, both directed by Jan Bush. The Dick Jones Raffle & Silent Auction concluded a week later at the Trade Show and the Last Draw Raffle will conclude at the Fair & Logging Show July 29th.



Pictured: Julie Isom, Jeannie and Jim McFarland, Doug Rhodes, Steven, Melissa and Katrina Peavey.

4. Chamber Welcome

The Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome and thank **Wilderness Car Rental LLC** for becoming our 141st 2006 member. Continued success, as always, to all members and thank you for your support.

5. Forest Products Expo Issues Forum a Great Success!

The Third Annual Prince of Wales Forest Product's Issues Forum was a great success. Held this year on Friday March 31st at the CCA Building in Craig and we had an excellent turnout - including a few mill operators from Montana in attendance. Kevin Curtis from the Ketchikan Wood Technology Center gave the Keynote Address, and he discussed the Forest Product's Market, and how it changes with time. Part of his discussion included a presentation on Red Alder, and how in Alaska it is perceived as a weed, while in Washington State a mill in Chehalis was processing alder down to a 4 inch top, and processing the waste and smaller wood for high value paper production. Cascade Hardwoods specializes exclusively in red alder, they employ 200 employees and process 85 million board feet of alder per year.

The morning Panel Discussion on Timber Supply included presentations from Charlie Streuli with the US Forest Service, Greg Staunton from the State of Alaska Division of Forestry, and Owen Graham from the Alaska Forest Association. All three panelists discussed the current volume of timber available to local mill operators. Charlie Streuli pointed out that while the Forest Service currently has a total of 114 MMBF under contract, they have another 258 MMBF under appeal or litigation. That is more than DOUBLE the amount under contract, and one of the major challenges facing the Forest Service in their effort to put up timber sales. Charlie presented FS Chief Dale Bosworth's Stewardship Initiative which will allow the Forest Service to trade goods for services in a contract. One of the first service contracts will be on Hecata Island with a thinning project that will allow the contractor to sell or use any merchantable lumber. Charlie also discussed the changes to the Microsale Program here on Prince of Wales Island. The Microsales will still be only dead or downed timber, but the size of the sale has been reduced, and they will use an open bid process. Greg Staunton from the State of Alaska reconfirmed the States commitment to putting out about 12MMBF per year. He said at that rate they could issue sales for quite a while into the future, although quite soon Alaskan Communities were going to see sales in their back yards, and that would not make some people happy. He said for Prince of Wales, upcoming sales would be in the Whale Pass area. Owen Graham gave an overview of the timber industry in Alaska, beginning with the early hand log, and cable log systems at the beginning of the last century. He discussed the challenges of logging in Alaska, including high costs of operation, and terrain. He also pointed out that the high cost of infrastructure and road building made a timber industry that had only small sales difficult to sustain. He noted that if you looked at all the mills in Southeast Alaska, they had a combined capacity of 200MMBF, yet there was only 92mmbf under contract, less than HALF the capacity.

After a nice lunch sponsored by the Nature Conservancy, the afternoon Panel Discussions on Value Added wood products, and Marketing began. Jon Bolling with the City of Craig gave an update on the Craig Biomass project. The City of Craig is installing a wood chip burner that will heat the pool, as well as the junior high, and the elementary schools nearby. The burner will use about 750 tons

of wood waste per year (about the waste generated by one small saw mill) and the City has selected a design manufactured by the Chiptec Company of Vermont. Wood waste burners such as this are quite common back east, but this will be one of the first in Alaska. The City of Craig hopes to begin construction this summer or fall, and hopes to have the burner on line by summer of 2007. Al Brackley from the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Sitka discussed the Dry Kiln program in Alaska. He gave a bit of the history with the Dry Kiln program, and mentioned that Southeast Alaska has more than doubled the output of dried lumber. The estimated value of dried lumber went from 120 thousand board feet with a value of \$34,000 in the year 2000 to 813 thousand board feet and a value of \$293,000 in 2004. Thomas Rojas from the PNW Station in Sitka gave an overview of Marketing, and how that area is often overlooked by businesses. Kevin Curtis returned to this panel with a presentation on Glulam Beam production. The Ketchikan Wood Technology Center has looked at the technology and markets for Glulam beams, and anyone interested in learning how to make them can contact the center at 247-5645. Basically Glulam beams can be made out of shop grade wood, and with a finger joiner they can be made with boards that have been pieced together. The technology is not difficult, and there is a huge demand for them in the lower '48. Dan Parrent rounded out the panel with a presentation on how to manufacture log homes. He discussed the different styles of log home construction, and how this market is expanding down south. Even the international market for log homes has grown, and for a value added product, local mill operators might consider expanding into this area. The Forum ended on a high note, and was followed by the opening of the Trade Show at the City Gym.

6. Trade Show Busy and Fun

There was a strong turn out coming to see the many fine products on display and try the grilled salmon cooked by Dennis Kuntz for the Prince of Wales Wrestling Club. Mike Cleary and the Klawock High School boys had some fine wood products on display as well as items being sold. Georgia's Salon put on a fantastic hair and fashion model display through out the afternoon. Other booths included Thorne Bay's Wood Products, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, **PoW Transportation, My Desire Flowers and Art Studio, PoW Island Cancer Coalition, and the US Forest Service**. There was live music being played by the Bear Mountain Bluegrass Band with Thorne Bay musicians Doug Black, Koseami, and Robert Cherney, and local musicians David Busy, John Bruns, Sally Burch and Serafin Lara all lending to a fun and pleasant Saturday afternoon Trade Show gathering.

The Dick Jones Benefit Raffle and Silent Auction were finalized late Saturday afternoon at the Trade Show. Jan Bush would like to thank Karen Cleary for inputting all the results of both the auction and raffle on the spot at the end of Saturday's doings, also thanks to Tammy Demmert for all the close-out assistance with the raffle items, which was a huge help.

Take down went smoothly with all the incredible help that stayed to break down the booths and clean up the gym. John Bruns was there with the mop 'til the very end, taking over from Karen Peterson when she had to take off. John Moots was a fireball of activity until the fire department got called out and he had to leave ...hopefully not for a real fireball.

7. DICK JONES BENEFIT YIELD

The value of contributions to the Chamber of Commerce sponsored benefit for Dick and Karen Jones were closely matched by the collection of bids from the auction and the revenue from the raffle tickets sold. The yield for the harvest of good will from community businesses and individuals who participated in the two week effort was approximately \$12,000, and will help the Jones family to move their new home toward completion.

The Chamber of Commerce is grateful to the Peavey family for all the legwork in collecting contributions from many donors. The Peavey children also helped with the raffle ticket sales at both the Awards event where the auction and raffle sales began and at the Trade Show where both auction and raffle terminated with awards.

The lists of donors to the Benefits are numerous. Please let the Chamber office know if a name has been omitted. Our apologies if that has occurred.

Thank you to all the following for the awesome treasury of items that yielded a generous harvest for the Jones Family: A & M Incorporated, Byron and Mary Ellen Skinna, Carolyn Coleman, Chickie James, Chuck Haydu, Corky Timpe, Debbie Head, Debbie Trozelle, Deneise Weyhmiller, First Bank, Fred and Jean Lambert, Grace Beckman, Kaylee Nelson, IFA, Jay Bruns, Joy Weber, JS Warehouse True Value, Kathy Peavey, Forest Anderson, Dolores Owen, Jackie Nelson, Kathy Graham, LAB Air, Log Cabin Sports, Mike and Nora Kampnich, NAPA Auto Parts, Norman Allen Designs, Northland Services, Pacific Airways, Paul and Karen Coffey, ProMech, Rick Cabe, Rick Seal, Shaub Ellison, Sharon and Tom Briggs, Stephanie Young, Sarah Jones, Studio Klawock Realty, The Clothes Company, Theresa Mackey, Thomas B. Carvings, Tyler Rental, B-3 Contractors, Virginia Demmert, Voyageur Bookstore, Frannie Weatherford, Wolfe Veterinary Services, Ruthann's Hotel and Restaurant.

Alaska Gifts, Arrowhead LP Gas, Bait Box, Barbi and Andy Armstrong, Jan and Mark Stevens, Bessie Demmert, Black Bear Store, Blondie's, Bobbie Permenter, Craig Aquatic Center, Dockside Café, Georgia's Salon, Hair of the Dog, JT Brown, Marie Blanc, MaryAnna Murphy, My Desire Flower, Papas Pizza, Petro Marine, POWHA, Radio Shack, Raven Hair Design, Betty's Hair and Nails, Perpetually Stoked Massage, Razz Ma Tazz, Rhonda Beckman, Savvy Wear, Terry Mackey, The Bay Company, The Harbor Store, Travis Latimer, Troy and Di Thain, Wanda Rice, Wanda Wilks, Whale Tail Pharmacy, Zat's Pizza.

In addition to all the contributors, we are grateful to all who bought raffle tickets and bid generously on the items in the silent auction. For those of you who need to pick up your raffle or auction items contact the Chamber office at 755-2626 or come by the office and pick them up there. Office hours are 10am to 3pm Monday through Friday.

8. Luncheon with Ketchikan Visitors Bureau & Alaska Airlines

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau invites you to attend their April luncheon Thursday the 20th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Guest speaker will be Scott Habberstad, District Manager Regional Sales Alaska

Airlines. It will be held at the Sunny Point Conference Center, at the Landing, call the KVB at 225-6166 to make your reservations by 5pm Tuesday, April 18th.

9. April Chamber Board Meeting

The April Board meeting will be Tuesday the 11th, 6pm, at the Chamber office in Klawock. There is no scheduled luncheon this month as of this writing.

10. QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS MEETS PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

The Queen Charlotte Islands Chamber of Commerce is hosting an all-islands forum April 8 at the Port Clements Community Hall with invited speakers from Prince of Wales Island. The forum is intended to foster an all-island community approach to our economic challenges. Both the Queen Charlotte Islands and Prince of Wales Island are within remote regions in the North Pacific, separated from the mainland and with similar transportation and economic gaps. All islanders with an interest in transportation, tourism, fishing, culture, and forestry issues are encouraged to attend, beginning at 10:00 AM. The event will be highlighted with an evening dinner and live auction celebrating our local businesses.

Forum Goals:

- To solicit information from successful business operators from Prince of Wales Island in order to develop new business strategies for QCI/Haida Gwaii.
- Making contacts for various business sectors and to create trade opportunities.

Major sponsors for the event are Northern Savings Credit Union, Coast Sustainability Trust, and Gwaii Trust. The Villages of Masset, Port Clements, and Queen Charlotte are sponsoring a 'Meet and Greet' dinner with local government officials and the Ministry of Forests is sponsoring the forum lunch. Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District is supplying additional funding to help with meal costs.

Sessions in the five areas of interest will be presented by the following speakers:

Transportation - Kent Miller; Tourism - Karen Petersen; Fisheries - John Bruns; Culture - Cheryl Holter; Forestry - John Bruns

Our transportation speaker, Kent Miller, is an industrial economist with extensive experience with ship building and designing ferry systems, including six years with the Inter-Island Ferry Authority in Alaska. Given our current ferry problems, this should be of particular interest to islanders.

Karen Peterson works for the University of Alaska and vice-chairs the Forest Products Task Force committee. She is a former employee of Alaska Sightseeing Cruise West and also owns businesses in Coffman Cove and Thorne Bay.

John Bruns manages the POWI Hatchery and chairs the Forest Products Task Force committee. He has been manager of the Prince of Wales Hatchery for the past 6 years. On the forestry side he has a Bachelor of Science in Timber Management from the University of Montana and has worked over 25 years in the private sector of the timber industry.

Cherilyn Holter is the Haida Language and Culture Specialist in Hydaburg and sits on the Haida Nation Tribal Council. She has worked with the people of Masset and Skidegate most of her adult life on numerous cultural events and gatherings.

The presentation for each topic will be followed with a forty minute question and discussion time, moderated by QCI Chamber directors. The forum, which is free of charge, will include a morning coffee break and lunch. Pre-registration with the chamber office as soon as possible is therefore strongly advised.

Tickets for the dinner and information are now available through the QCI Chamber of Commerce office or directors:

Area 1: Andrew Merilees, Brent Buell

Area 2: Jean Traplin, Gloria O'Brien, Dutes Duteil

Area 3: Joy La Fortune, Winston Shave, Skye Cantin

Tickets are also available the Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre and Northern Savings Credit Union. The auction should be lots of fun, with Dawn Geddie as the auctioneer. Come out and participate in this exciting event!

11. Board of Directors

President- Stu Vincent, *Individual* svincent@princeofwalescoc.org

Vice-President- John Moots, *Alaska Power and Telephone* john.m@aptalaska.net

Secretary- Jan Bush, *B-3 Contractors* belle@aptalaska.net

Treasurer- Karen Cleary, *Cleary Computer Services* kcleary@aptalaska.net

Past President- John Bruns, *Prince of Wales Hatchery Association* powha@aptalaska.net

Director- Tammy Demmert, *Inn of the Little Blue Heron* tammydemmert@hotmail.com

Director- Jan Stevens, *US Postal Service*

Director- Julie Isom, mayor, *City of Thorne Bay* jisom@sisd.org

Director- Wes Morrison, *Tlingit & Haida Technology Industries* wmorrison@ccthita.org

Office Manager & Newsletter Editor-Serafin Lara