



Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce

# Chamber POWER

178 Members strong

Volume 20, Issue 2, February 2009

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### Office Hours:

**8AM to 4PM weekdays**

Closed from 1 to 2PM for lunch



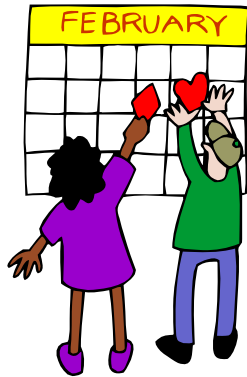
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### *From the President's Desk:*

**February hosts the National Acts of Random Kindness Week! This year's dates are February 9-15<sup>th</sup>. What a great time for all of us to respond to the President's call to action, and look for ways we can make a difference in our own neighborhoods.**

**The Chamber is undertaking some projects that need your willing hands and minds. Read on and consider**

**becoming involved in one of the committees that carry out the chamber's mission. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Marathon Committee is also in great need of volunteers from the Island community. If you want to see the Annual International Marathon have a long life, or even keep on with this year's event, please get involved now to make sure there can be a #10 and 11.**

**The Chamber and POWCAC together have issued invitations to our Governor, congressional and legislative delegations to visit Prince of Wales for events on May 1, 2 and 3. We are in need of personnel to begin planning and preparations..in earnest! Are you out there? Specific areas of need are outlined in the articles to follow!**

**Please come by the office and pick up a supply of the 2009 Island Guides to pass out to your clients, and potential clients and customers. If you are taking a trip to the outside....north to Wrangell and beyond, or to destinations in the lower 48, please take some Guides with you to leave behind. Maximize that suitcase at 50 pounds with Island Guides, and fill it with other treasures on the way back!**

**Most of the Board was present at the POWCAC marathon this past week. We hosted a great lunch at St. John's in Klawock and participated in a three hour session that set forth priorities for transportation needs, elected officers for the next year, and discussed a variety of topics. See the POWCAC report in this newsletter.**

**Who would you nominate in your community to receive the distinction of being named an EVERYDAY HERO? Read on....**



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## 1. Website factoids for the month of **JANUARY**

JANUARY's web hits through JANUARY 29TH were **270,999!** JANUARY'S total visits were **9,430.** Behind the **USA, Brazil, Germany, Canada and United Kingdom** were the countries with the most visitors. **Thursday** was the most active day, and noon to 1PM was the most active time of day. **Google** was the top search engine used to find us with about 82 percent!

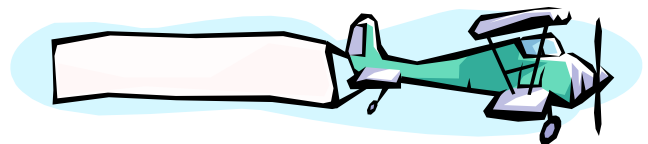
**2. Chamber **POWER** Sponsors for FEBRUARY Edition**—*The following businesses have paid for advertising in this spot and help the Chamber cover the costs of mailing and maintaining our email account and website. The editor shuffles the ad locations each month at random. To become a sponsor and have your information appear here each month or for certain months of the year, call the Chamber office. All of this month's sponsors are located here this month. We thank them for their support of this newsletter.*

**Clery Computer Services / Klawock / 907-755-2963 / cell 907-401-0200 / fax 907-755-2121**  
kclery@clerycomputerservices.com /  
www.clerycomputerservices.com /P.O. Box 109, Klawock AK 99925-- Repairs, installations, Internet, networks and servers, Windows XP & Vista, navigation software. Security software and most replacement parts in stock. Pick-up, drop-off, or on-site service available. 25 years' experience; work guaranteed.

**Tongass Business Center** – Ketchikan / 618 Dock St. / Ketchikan, AK 99901 / 1-800-478-9015 907-225-9015 / Fax 907-225-9014 / Catalog now on-line at [www.tbcenter.com](http://www.tbcenter.com). Office Equipment & Supply, Sharp Copiers & Faxes, Printing & Binding, Newsletters, Office Furniture.

**Black Bear Store**—Klawock/907-755-2292 / Tim and Melissa Lacour, Owners/ Basic groceries. Fuel. Hunting and Fishing licenses and tackle.

**Douglass Home Builders/** Coffman Cove / 907-329-2018 / fax 907-329-2019 / gwd2nd@yahoo.com / [www.douglasshomebuilders.com](http://www.douglasshomebuilders.com) -- General contractor specializing in remodeling, disaster restoration and new construction of both residential and commercial structures. 30 years-plus of experience with detail-focused approach to all aspects of work.



**Diversified Investments & Insurance –** Ketchikan/ 907-225-9805 / Angela C Salazar, CFP & Associates / Health & Life Insurance and Financial Advisory Services – Securities sold through KMS Financial Services, Inc. We have been serving Alaskan's needs since 1980.

**Arrowhead Transfer, Inc**—Craig/ 826-3419/MikeZellhuber,manager/www.shipaml.com / Local and Long distance hauling and moving.

Agent for Alaska Marine Lines weekly barge, heated mini storage. Packing cartons for sale.

**First Bank** – Craig / 907-826-3254 / fax 907-826-3910 / [www.firstbankak.com](http://www.firstbankak.com) / Lynnette Logan, manager. A full service community bank offering checking, savings and time deposit accounts; consumer, commercial, construction, and home loans; and online banking services. ATMs located at First Bank and at West Wind Plaza in Craig.

### **3. CHAMBER GOES TO WORK**

Now that the 2009 Island Guide is safely put to bed and delivered to the island, the chamber board and staff are getting to work on the rest of the 2009 Program of Work.

Earlier this month, the Chamber facilitated meetings of POW business owners with representatives from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Alaska Small Business Development Center. Business owners who need any kind of assistance with their business can still contact Isaac at 1-800-478-7232. He is available with continued assistance on a large list of business issues, including low-budget marketing, tax considerations, working with banks, or writing a business plan.

The Chamber wrote a support letter to the legislature for the IFA in regard to its efforts to maintain or increase the Northern run to Wrangell and Petersburg.

The Chamber hosted the latest meeting of POWCAC on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Board members and some of our Thorne Bay members provided a very nice spread for a full meal deal for the luncheon, and we thank member St. John's by the Sea for the use of their facility. The 30 people in attendance would never have made it in our chamber office!!

In concert with POWCAC, the Chamber has sent invitations to the Governor and all of our Alaska Delegation to come to Prince of Wales on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for an all-island event. The chamber highlights these events in a separate article. Preparation and planning for this event will take up the bulk of time and effort of the board from now until the completion.

Events that have been on the annual task list for many years will be carried out in 2009: the annual scholarship underwriting for Island Graduates, the Highway cleanup for the International Marathon, and the daily maintenance and updating of the Chamber website and community calendar by the office manager.

The Fair and Logging Show was dropped from the Chamber calendar after the 2008 event. Too few volunteers, diminishing interest among the communities and too many negative impacts to the faithful few remaining on the committee were the reasons for this decision. The Chamber saved the event after it was dropped by the previous sponsors for similar reasons. Any group that is willing to save the event, or parts of it, can contact the Chamber for information and the benefit of experience.

The 2009 Program of Work is a document in the process of review and the Board seeks its members' recommendations on actions that will help our members sustain or grow their business on Prince of Wales and deal with present economic challenges.

#### **4. FEBRUARY 2009 BOARD MEETING**

The Board of Directors of the Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce will meet in regular session at 6:00 PM at the Chamber office in Klawock, on a date to be determined. There are public comment periods at each meeting which allow time for your ideas, suggestions, etc. Please join us, and once we get around all the scheduling conflicts, we'll let you know the date!!!

#### **5. ISLAND GRIND ON FEBRUARY 7TH: "Lonely Hearts Club"**

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> is the day, 7PM is the time, and the Craig High School auditorium is the place.

Buy tickets in advance at the Voyageur Bookstore or at the door! Admission cost is Adults \$5, Students \$3, Children ages 6 & under \$1, and Seniors \$3 (ages 60+). Remember that your ticket proceeds will help fund scholarships to send local youth to next summer's Fine Arts Camp in Sitka.

Volunteers to support the show are welcome. Entertainers interested in performing should call John Bruns or Sally Burch at 755-8899 for more information.

March 7<sup>th</sup>: Emerald Grind

April 4<sup>th</sup>: Wizard of Oz

May 2<sup>nd</sup>: End of the Season Grind

#### **6. BUSINESS and COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS FROM THORNE BAY**

**In response to our plea for news, the following was provided by the City of Thorne Bay from their document "Moving Forward".**

The City of Thorne Bay has developed a proactive strategic plan to identify opportunities to increase its population and tax base, encourage and promote sustainable economic development projects and continue upgrading its infrastructure to move our community forward.

Our Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP) lists 20-25 economic and community development projects identified through the public process. During the last year, many of these projects have been completed; including construction of a new harbor shack and public restroom, installation of a dock hoist for commercial and residential harbor users, upgrades to our harbor electrical system, and construction of a medivac helipad landing site.

The City is currently moving forward on three major Capital Improvement Projects:

- Upgrades to the Thorne Bay Water Treatment System
- Construction of Davidson Landing Harbor in South Thorne Bay
- Upgrades to the South Thorne Bay Subdivision Roads

The City has set a benchmark for project completion and success over the previous 2 years by outlining realistic and sustainable goals, administratively and financially each project, and accurately fulfilling grant requirements.

#### **7. WHO ARE THE EVERYDAY HEROES IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**

The Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce is seeking the help of each of the 12 communities of our island to name the very first class of Prince of Wales Island Everyday Heroes.

The Chamber has traditionally chosen recipients for several annual awards, most notably a Citizen of the Year. Last year, there were few responses to the request for nominations which led the Board of Directors to consider changes and updates to the annual recognitions. The answer to those considerations is the initiation of the EVERYDAY HERO from each community on Prince of Wales, chosen by each community.

The month of February is identified as the period of nomination which will also give time to each community to organize a group of citizens to solicit nominations and select an individual to be recognized as their Everyday Hero.

The Chamber of Commerce has developed a nomination form which will be available locally and on the Chamber website. Citizens can return the form to their local City Hall or to the Chamber office, which will group the nomination forms and return them to their appropriate community for its selections.

The honorees will be recognized at a banquet which will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will hopefully be attended by the Governor or by members of the Alaska congressional and state delegation, who have been invited to Prince of Wales for a series of events.

So what is an EVERYDAY HERO? The Chamber has attempted to provide an answer to that question with a description that appears on the nomination form. There are numerous organizations around the country who use this title for community awards. A couple of them have been combined to form this definition for the public's consideration:

***“Each and every day, people in your community go out and do the things that need to be done, simply because they need to be done. They ask for nothing in return. They are the EVERYDAY HEROES in our society. More than 80 million Americans volunteer...compassionate men, women, and children who, bit by bit, earn quiet satisfaction from serving their neighbors and communities. Their names don't usually make the headlines, but they keep our community great. They reflect the diversity of our people and remind us that we can still be the folks next door who just happen to be outstanding citizens.”***

Until you can access a nomination form, please consider who your choice would be in your community!!

## **8. Island Guide is on the Website**

If you can't wait to see the 2009 Visitor's Guide in print, you can go to the Chamber website and view it online.

Boxes are now stacked in the office's infamous backroom. Each box contains 125 issues. 160 boxes were filled up, 8 found their way to members via UPS, and several have been distributed around the island, southeast Alaska, and into the offices of the Alaska delegation in Juneau and Washington DC.

Thanks to Jeannie McFarland of Thorne Bay who has volunteered to be a Chamber ambassador and get the new Guides out and about. Jeannie is transporting Guides to our Ketchikan locations during this coming week. If anyone else is making a trip to Ketchikan in the future, please check in at the chamber office to find out if any of our outlets have requested additional Guides for their racks.

See the last article of the newsletter for our gratitude to those who helped unload the pallets of Guides into our office.

## **9. POWCAC meeting on January 27th**

The Chamber hosted the January meeting of POWCAC, the Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council. Jon Bolling, who has successfully chaired this group for the last several years, was finally successful in filling the President's Chair with someone bearing a different name. Leslie Isaacs, Klawock City Administrator, agreed to serve POWCAC as its President for the 2009 term. Art King agreed to continue as Vice President and Coffman Cove member Elaine Price will continue as the Secretary/Treasurer.

The Chamber Board, with great help from Thorne Bay members Jim and Jeannie McFarland, Karen Peterson, and Bob Hartwell, served up a substantial lunch at noon. Moose Stew, Salmon and Halibut sandwiches, potato and pasta salad, assorted side dishes and some decadent desserts nourished the nearly 30 participants ahead of a three hour meeting.

The agenda contained items critical for the future economic development of POW. The participants set the POW Transportation priorities for 2009. Reports were heard from the US Forest Service about a new Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) that needs to be created in order to secure timber receipts for POW. Mike Kampnich, now working for the Nature Conservancy, listed the projects and dollars that have been invested on the island in the past two years, and reported on anticipated projects and agenda for the coming year.

Jon Bolling informed the audience and members about the formation of the Governor's Rural Subcabinet, and the need for a local presence on this group when it is formed. Jon also updated the group on the appeal process of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's intent to annex land that will have serious impact on Island school funding.

Greg Mickelson, of AP&T, reported on the projects contemplated for the electrical grid, and the available funding that has been secured, with more funding needed to start those projects critical to POW.

Participants will undertake a review of the POWCAC bylaws and consider amendments at the next meeting to be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Thorne Bay City Council chambers.

Chamber president Jan Bush outlined the plans for the Everyday Hero Awards and invitations sent out for a long awaited visit by the governor and other state officials.

## **10. GOVERNOR AND ALASKA DELEGATION INVITED TO POW**

The Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce and Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council have invited Governor Palin and both congressional and state delegation representatives to an Island event to take place on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

Invitations and copies of the 2009 Island Guide were sent out to Governor Palin, Senator Mark Begich, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Representative Don Young, in addition to State Senators Albert Kookesh and Bert Stedman, and Representatives Bill Thomas and Kyle Johansen.

Several events have been put forth as ideas for this visit: An Alaska 50 Years of Statehood presentation by island school children, a reception for those who lived on Prince of Wales at the time of Statehood in 1959, a banquet highlighted by the premiere of Everyday Hero awards from each of the Island communities, meetings and presentations by municipal and business officials to spotlight issues affecting POW's economy, and tours of what makes POW a unique place to live and work, and visit.

Planning and preparations will begin in earnest as soon as the needed volunteers are in place for the many components of the visit. The task list includes the following and needs the willing hands and minds of island citizens who will work for the success of this 3-day event:

- Everyday Hero Awards: decide on award and presentation
- Banquet: the theme is *Island of Enchantment* and decorations, menu, tickets, venue, and all the long list of details that go with it.
- 50 Years of Statehood: volunteers can contact board member Janice Lund, and also a staff member at Craig Schools if you want to be involved in this presentation
- Reception for islanders here in 1959: this will call for a method of identifying these people, invitations, funding and carrying out this reception
- Gathering photos of Prince of Wales from prior to 1959, coming to the present and arranging a power point presentation that demonstrates our history
- Municipal and business presentations to the delegation that will enlighten them on the critical issues and projects that will impact our economy and livelihood of our citizens
- Tours of Island
- Housing and Hospitality needs

The Chamber is seeking the able and willing citizens of Prince of Wales to be involved in this upcoming event in order to achieve its most fruitful impact for the Island. It is not anticipated that all of our Alaska delegation will be able to come to POW on those first three days of May, but even one positive response to this invitation will be treated as an opportunity to increase our island's potential for a more positive future.

Please call the Chamber office and leave your contact information for the work on any of the committees in formation.

## 11. Thanks for the perfect assist

Many thanks to the crew from Klawock School who showed up on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 1PM to help Denis Kuntz from Northland Services (Denis is a past Chamber President) and Jan Bush move 150 boxes of the 2009 Island Guide into the office.

Rob Steward (from member Klawock School and Changing Tides Inn) brought six pairs of hands with him: Jennifer Plumley, Rachel Busse, Ethan Fifield, Laura Steward, Noelle Demmert and Samantha Morgan.

A huge thanks to Northland for transporting the Guides from Seattle.





Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce  
**Chamber POWer**  
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**FEBRUARY  
NEWSLETTER  
WITHIN!**

