



The Council's Voice



This month's feature story was prepared by Tribal Council Member *Dale Williams*. Dale is the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's (STA) Liaison to the City and Borough (CBS) of Sitka's Assembly, STA's representative on the CBS's Historic Preservation Commission, sits on the STA Village Committee, and is the Council's representative to STA's Kayaani Commission (*kayaani* is a Tlingit word for plants). Dale's article focuses upon giving thanks and appreciation of the power of collaboration. Also featured in this month's edition of the *Council's Voice*: Summaries from November's regular Council meetings, announcement of a Council sponsored program to provide free "Yaktrax" for Tribal Elders, and dates/locations for upcoming meetings.

Hello Fellow Tribal Citizens:

November is over and I thought it would be nice to thank everyone who participated in events related to this year's recognition of Native American Heritage Month. Thus, on behalf of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA), we thank you and your family for participating in events designed to recognize and honor tribal heritage.

Also taking place in November was STA's annual Tribal Council election. Congratulations to Chairman Lawrence "Woody" Widmark, Clara Gray, and Mike Baines on their recent reelection . . . congratulations also go out to Rachel Moreno and Tom Gamble on their election to the Tribal Council. Thank you to Dennis Demmert and George Paul for your service on the Council. And, before I move on, I'd like to recognize all Tribal Citizens who went out to vote this year - in our Tribal, Local *and* National elections!

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the important activities that takes place involving the Tribe that the general public may not be aware of. Recently, officials from Sealaska, Inc. traveled to Sitka and met with the Sitka Tribal Council and with representatives from Shee Atika, Inc. During this meeting one of Sealaska's officials, Board Member Rosita Worl, stated she believes STA's government-to-government relationship with the City and Borough of Sitka to be "remarkable" . . . such a relationship can be mutually beneficial to all and below I provide examples.

Once example is STA's application for a land lease at the Sitka Economic Development Association managed Industrial Park. The Tribe came forward with a vision of constructing a free standing facility at the Park to house our Sitka Tribal Tannery. An expansion of STA's Sitka Tribal Tannery would provide a needed boost to Sitka's economy not only during construction of the facility but afterwards when the Tannery will provide additional employment as well as the processed materials (furs and skins) which other small businesses depend upon (artists, taxidermists, hunters).

When the Tribe was preparing a funding application for submission to the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) for funding to construct our the Tannery facility, the Tribe learned it needed to request that the State Historic Preservation Commission (SHPO) review the project and its anticipated location. Seeking concurrence that the intended lot had been previously disturbed and construction at the location would pose no harm to known or unknown archaeological materials or important cultural sites, the Tribe approached the Sitka Historical Commission.

When informed of the situation the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission had little time to spare, calling an emergency meeting to act on a letter to be addressed to SHPO relating the Commission's finding regarding STA's interest in construction at the Industrial Park. In addition to this collaboration regarding the Sitka Tribal Tannery, the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission and the City and Borough of Sitka have offered to assist the Tribe with our plans to nominate the Sitka Native Village for Historic District status with the National Park Service.

It is wonderful to be able to report that since the last edition of the Council's Voice the Tribe was made aware that it has received a funding award from EDA to construct the free standing facility to house our Sitka Tribal Tannery at the Industrial Park! We anticipate construction to begin next summer. Thank you to the City and Borough of Sitka, to the Sitka Economic Development Association, and to the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission with whom the Tribe collaborated during the development of the project.

As I close this article, I would like to add that the Tribe operates programs that provide benefits to our entire community such as the Sitka Boys & Girls Club and our community's Sitka Ride (public transportation). If you have any questions about this article or other tribal and/or community programs operated by the Tribe do not hesitate to contact STA by phoning 747-3207.

- Don't forget the upcoming STA Children's Party - Monday December 22, 2008 @ 5:30 at the Centennial Building.
- Thank you go the Alaska Native Sisterhood for the \$250 contribution to the STA Children's Christmas Party!


Finally, I want to wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS! And, a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Tribal Council Meeting Summaries: November 2008

November 5, 2008	November 19, 2008
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<p>Motion to adopt the second reading of the draft Ordinance Governing Committees. Motion to amend the Ordinance Governing Committees. Motions passed.</p> <p>Herring report provided to the Council by staff.</p> <p>Motions to approve purchases: two buses and a snow plow; a magnetometer; and, an outboard motor. Motions passed.</p> <p>Motion to approve correspondence to be sent to the City and Borough of Sitka. Motion passed.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Council sponsoring a community Herring Meeting with stakeholders and interested parties to provide education and outreach regarding STA's Board of Fish proposals. Motion passed.</p> <p>Motion to accept Board of Fish proposals 235, 217, 199, 200, 208, 209 and 219. Motion passed.</p> <p>Motion to send Mike Miller and George Ridley to Juneau for Tlingit and Haida's Energy Summit. Motion passed.</p>	<p>Government-to-Government presentations by: City and Borough of Sitka's Liaison; staff from the United States Forest Service; and, staff from the National Park Service.</p> <p>Persons to be Heard: Roby Littlefield, Amy Kane and Amelia Budd.</p> <p>Motion made to table the third reading of the Ordinance Governing Committees. Motion failed. Motion to postpone the third reading of the Ordinance Governing Committees. Motion passed.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to: Adopt resolution 180-2008 Authorizing the transfer of \$150,000 in funding from Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program to the City and Borough of Sitka for the purpose of paving Indian River Road; Accept and draw down the balance of the BIA Herring Grant as a working capital grant; Approval of the transfer of \$30,000 from enterprise funds to STA's Administration Budget; Authorization to allocate Direct Contract Support costs based on salary and to purchase new financial accounting software with freed compact funds; Adoption of contract for services with Jonathan Wunrow; Adoption of the Payment for Services Agreement with the City and Borough of Sitka; Certification of the results from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's November 11, 2008 Tribal Council election; Postponement on action on the Sitka Youth Group's Constitution and Bylaws; and, Approval of Baranof Island Housing Authority's (BIHA) Board of Directors' Chairperson appointment recommendation.</p> <p>Review of the STA Cultural Committee motions regarding the draft Ordinance on Committees. Review of STA Herring Committee's recommendation to submit resolutions of support to AFN related to STA's Board of Fish proposals 203, 204, and 205.</p> <p>Motion to adopt resolution 181-2008 Authorization for requesting support from partners for the Federal Subsistence Board Meeting and the Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting. Motion passed.</p> <p>Motions made and passed to approve Tribal Enrollment Resolutions 182-2008 through 196-2008 (resolutions concurrently numbered). Motion made and passed to adopt Resolution 197-2008 Authorizing Relinquishment.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. and the Tribal Council met in executive session from 9:30-10:30 p.m.</p>
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<p>STA Office Closures</p> <p><i>The Sitka Tribe wishes all of its citizens a safe and delightful holiday season! In recognition of the Holidays, all STA offices will be closed on December 25 & 26, 2008. STA will reopen at all locations on December 29, 2008. STA will also be closed on January 1, 2009 and will reopen on January 2, 2009.</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Tribal Council Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>12 p.m. - January 7, 2008 @ STA's Administration Building located @ 456 Katlian Street</u> • <u>6:30 p.m. - January 21, 2008 @ the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Community House located @ 200 Katlian Street</u> <p>Annual Children's Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>5:30 p.m. - December 22, 2008 @ the Centennial Building</u>
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<p>Tribal Council Sponsors FREE Yaktrax for Tribal Elders Program</p> <p>The Sitka Tribal Council & STA's Social Services Department have joined together to purchase numerous pairs of "Yaktrax" to be provided free of charge to Tribal Elders. If you are interested in receiving a pair or know of an Elder that STA should contact to offer a pair, please contact Paulette Moreno by calling 747-3207.</p> <p>Never heard of Yaktrax? Let us explain. Yaktrax are called "snow tires for your feet" but are actually more like tire chains. Yacktrax are a stretchy rubber/metal coil traction devices. Yaktrax fit over your ordinary shoes, securing a series of coiled metal "trax" (think of spring about the width of a pencil laying on its side) to the bottom of each shoe to "bite into" and grip ice and snow. Be safe, be sure - wear Yaktrax and take "steps" to prevent falls that can occur as a result of ice and snow.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*</p> <p>Save the date . . .</p> <p>Join STA for our Annual Meeting!</p> <p>The Sitka Tribal Council invites all Tribal Citizens & their families to attend STA's Annual Meeting on January 30, 2009.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions?</u></p> <p>Please contact Christine Paul by calling 747-3207.</p>
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