



Sitka Tribe of Alaska Presents . . .

January 2009

The Council's Voice

This month's feature story was prepared by Tribal Council Chairman *Woody Widmark*.

Mr. Widmark wishes to kick off the New Year with a "State of the Tribe" message which summarizes the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's meeting schedule and highlights key collaborative partnerships. Also featured in this month's edition of the *Council's Voice*: Summaries from December's regular Council meetings, a herring update, February office closure dates, a summary of the Council's distribution of "Yak Trax:" to Tribal Citizens, and dates/locations for upcoming Tribal Council meetings.



State of the Tribe

Featuring Woody Widmark, Tribal Chairman

Greetings!

Wishing you all a safe and healthy New Year! And, I hope that you had a joyous Merry (Russian) Christmas! With the New Year upon us, the Sitka Tribal Council would like to remind all Tribal Citizens that your presence at our Council meetings is welcomed. In fact, we invite you to share your views on any topic during our "Persons to be Heard" portion of the meeting.

Our Tribal Council meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend and to share your views on any topic under these meeting's "Person's to be Heard" portion of the agenda. Our meetings occur twice a month:

- (1) On the first Wednesday of each month at noon upstairs in the STA Tribal Administration Building located at 456 Katlian Street; and,
- (2) On the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Community House located at 200 Katlian Street.

The Tribe has been very busy collaborating with the following entities and looks forward to continuing our partnership efforts in 2009 and long into the future:

- City and Borough of Sitka's Assembly
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Southeast Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Annual Meeting will be held on January 30, 2009. The event will begin at 5 p.m. at the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Community House. Dinner will be served and we sincerely hope to see you all there!

NOTE: With Spring around the corner the Tribe has been busy with issues surrounding the protection of herring and our access to herring eggs. **The State of Alaska's Board of Fish will meet in Sitka February 17-26, 2009.** The Tribe has several proposals before the Board for its consideration. We really need our Tribal Citizens' involvement in our effort to explain to the members of the Board our use of herring eggs, experiences harvesting over the years, and any concerns regarding the availability of this important traditional food.

Tribal Council 2009 Public Service Appointments

At the Council's semi-annual retreat in January 2009, *Dale Williams* was appointed as the Liaison to the City and Borough (*Woody Widmark*, as Chair, is similarly authorized to act as a Liaison at any time). Additional appointments include:

- *Tom Gamble* and *Archie Nielsen* to submit application materials to the City's Historic Preservation Commission;
- *Clara Gray* appointed to the Sitka Tribal Works Committee;
- *Mike Miller* re-appointment to the SEARHC Board (*George Ridley*, alternate);
- *Mike Miller* reappointed to the UAS, Sitka Campus Citizens' Advisory Council;
- *George Ridley* appointed to the Sitka Economic Development Association; and,
- *Rachel Moreno* appointed to the City's Tourism Commission.

[NOTE: Each Council member sits on several STA Committees, please contact STA for a copy of those committee assignments.]

Tribal Council Meeting Summaries: December 2008

December 3, 2008	December 17, 2008
<p>A herring report was delivered by staff to the Council.</p> <p>Motion was made and passed to act on the Finance Committee recommendation to purchase two buses and a snow plow.</p>	<p>Government-to-Government presentations by: National Park Service and SEARHC.</p> <p>Persons to be Heard: John Littlefield and Doug Osborne,</p> <p>Meeting minutes from the November 5, 2008 and November 19, 2008 Council meetings were reviewed and accepted by motion.</p> <p>Staff provided a herring report to the Council. A motion made and passed to refer the Ordinance Governing Committees to the Legislative Affairs Committee.</p> <p>Motion made and passed to: Adopt resolutions 200-2008 through 208-2008 authorizing check signing for the Bingo account, savings account, general fund account, public transit account, payroll account, tribal tours account and repurchase account; motions were made and passed to adopt enrollment resolutions 209-2008 through 221-2008.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">STA's Winter 2009 Newsletter Available</p> <p>STA's Winter 2009 Newsletter is available. The focus of this quarter's newsletter is the STA's Resource Protection Department, its programs and projects.</p> <p>Your family didn't receive a copy in the mail? Contact Christine Paul @ 747-3207.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Tribal Council Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>12 p.m. - February 4, 2009 @ STA's Administration Building located @ 456 Katlian Street</u> • <u>6:30 p.m. - February 18, 2009 @ the Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Community House located @ 200 Katlian Street</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">STA Office</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HERRING ALERT: State of Alaska Board of Fish to Meet in Sitka</p> <p>The Board of Fisheries meetings will be held in Sitka, February 17-26, 2009. The 2008 season was another poor year for subsistence herring egg harvesting and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) has submitted 3 proposals to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries in order to continue working to protect Sitka's herring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Proposal 203- Changing the quotas and guideline harvest level (GHL): to cap the harvest rate percentage at 10% raise the conservation threshold and cap the GHL at 10,000 tons

**STA Office
Closure - February**

All STA offices will be closed Friday, February 13 and Monday, February 16, 2009 in honor of Elizabeth Peratrovich Day and in honor of President's Day.

- * **Proposal 203**- Changing the quotas and guideline harvest level (GHL): to cap the harvest rate percentage at 10%, raise the conservation threshold, and cap the GHL at 10,000 tons.
- * **Proposal 204**- Include herring taken in test fishery in the guideline harvest limit.
- * **Proposal 234**- Increase the Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) of herring eggs from 265,000 to 325,000 lbs (from 105,000 to 158,000).

If you care about herring, please know that we'll need you to testify at the Board of Fisheries meetings. Please, consider attending STA's Herring Committee meetings to assist us to prepare for the Board of Fish meetings. For more information contact council member Mike Baines, Chairman of STA's Herring Committee or staff members Heather Meuret-Woody or Breck Titus at 747-3207.

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**Save the date . . . join STA for our
Annual Meeting on January 30, 2009!**

**The Sitka Tribal Council
invites all Tribal Citizens & their families to attend
STA's Annual Meeting
on January 30, 2009 at the
Sheet'ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi, starting at 5 p.m.**

Questions?

**Please contact Christine Paul
by calling 747-3207.**

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Safety Outreach

Spurred by the winter weather, the Tribal Council worked with the staff to coordinate the purchase and distribution of 90 pairs of Yak Trax to interested Tribal Citizens.

Designed to prevent falls, the Yak Trax arrived during some of the winter's most icy weather. In all, 90 pairs were provided free of charge to our Citizens!

