



KODIAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 BARANOV MUSEUM  
 101 Marine Way  
 Kodiak, AK 99615

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# BARANOV QUARTERLY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KODIAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ♦ FALL 2008

## Kodiak Historical Society Annual Meeting

Ground-breaking of a inquisitive nature took place this summer with an archaeological excavation at the historic Baranov Museum. For eleven days in late June archaeologists and community volunteers explored and carefully excavated the historical resources on the grounds surrounding the Museum building. Following comprehensive research of the evolution of site use, Principal Investigator Dr.

productive these excavations would prove to be. The following day, on the southwest side of the property, between the Baranov Museum and Center Avenue, the volunteers' trowels ran into solid wood planks. Working steadily, the excavators revealed nine square feet of a perfectly intact floor of an earlier Russian building on



Mark Cassell of Territory Heritage Resource Consulting selected five sites around the property for excavation. The excavation units yielded landscape features, rare artifacts and much new information on how the property has been used over time.

On the first day of digging, Alutiiq Museum Curator Patrick Saltonstall, who directed volunteers through the Alutiiq's Community Archaeology program, announced a \$20 reward would go to the first person to find material with the Russian Imperial Crest - a double headed eagle frequently featured on Russian-American Company materials. A few hours later, student Karen Barnard unearthed a piece of ceramic marked with the distinctive emblem. It was perhaps an early clue as to how

## Renovations begin January 2009

A milestone anniversary calls for a big celebration. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and join us on Sunday, August 3rd for a good old-fashioned community *Praznik*\* on Sargent Park. Enjoy musical entertainment by local groups, as well as special guests Top Cover - a seven member ensemble from the Elmendorf Air Force Band of the Pacific. Kids young and old can enjoy potato sack races, face painting and the horseshoe toss. There will be fresh salmon on the grill thanks to donations from Western Alaska Seafoods and Alaska Pacific Seafoods. Look also for salmon piroshki made with Fields Wild Salmon and jam tarts made by the St. Herman's Sisterhood. Special thanks to our sponsors Horizon Lines, Twin Peaks Construction, CH2M Hill, and USKH.

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## Yes! I want to help preserve and share Kodiak history

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a gift membership from me to: \_\_\_\_\_ at the \$\_\_\_\_\_ level

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

My check made payable to the Baranov Museum is enclosed

Please charge my membership(s) to my credit card:

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to begin / renew my membership as a:*

- Supporter ..... \$ 50 - 99
- Sponsor ..... \$ 100 - 249
- Patron ..... \$ 250 - 999
- Benefactor ..... \$ 1000+
  
- Family ..... \$ 25
- Individual ..... \$ 20
- Senior 65+ ..... \$ 15



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Gusting autumn winds used to be a source of concern down here at the Baranov Museum. The volume of noise produced by the rattling of old wooden windows was audible over the phone lines. The cold air drafting through penetrations in the window units forced us to bundle up in coats and hats. The gable windows overlooking the channel required extra effort, and now and again we would jimmy the upper sash back into its frame. This windy season will be different, though. Historic mill work specialist Don Corwin worked with us for four months, restoring the window units and crafting historically accurate wooden storm windows to offer protection from Kodiak's maritime weather. After a summer of restoration work on the windows, I can sit in warmth and silence and watch the mountain ash trees - stripped clean of their green - bend in the ferocious winds coming up off the channel. The benefits of Don's work are not limited to human comfort, or improved energy efficiency. Sealing up the building helps create a better environment for the objects and artifacts in our collection, with less dramatic seasonal fluctuations in temperature and humidity.

And in news from the big city, I am pleased to report that the Alaska Historical Society, at their 2008 annual conference in Anchorage, conferred the Elva R. Scott Local Historical Society Newsletter Award to our "Baranov Quarterly." We have had a wonderful year, to be sure, and we certainly enjoy sending word of our programs and fundraising and special events out to our members through our newsletter. Each staff member contributes a bit of themselves and their work to the articles, and each edition reaches a few more households as our membership ranks continue to grow. I can't tell you how gratifying it is for us to know that folks are reading and enjoying the Quarterly.

Thank you!

Katie Oliver  
Executive Director

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KODIAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Pat Holmes, President  
Reed Oswalt, Vice President  
Nancy Kemp, Secretary  
Wally Johnson, Treasurer  
Charlie Davidson  
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Mary Monroe  
Mike Rostad

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Kodiak Historical Society is to collect, preserve, research and exhibit historically significant artifacts, documents, photographs and other data relative to the Kodiak and Aleutian Islands area; to evaluate and interpret the materials in the collections for educational purposes and presentation to the public; and to continue to develop and maintain a library of rare books about the Kodiak and Aleutian Islands area.

### MUSEUM STAFF

Katie Oliver, Executive Director  
Alice Ryser, Archivist  
Ellen Lester, Curator of Collections  
Ani Thomas, Education Coordinator  
Nancy Pierce, Gallery & Gift Shop

### MUSEUM HOURS

Winter Hours  
Tues - Sat: 10 - 3  
Closed Sunday & Monday  
Summer Hours  
Mon - Sat: 10 - 4, Sun: 12 - 4  
Admission \$3.00

## MEMBERSHIP

We would like to extend sincere thanks to all of our new and renewing members from July, August and September.. Your continuing support is truly appreciated.

### PATRONS

Pat Branson & Gordon Gould, Linda Freed & Alan Schmitt, Kodiak Island Medical Associates, Leo & Beth Kouremetis, Alexis Kwachka, Marcia & Reed Oswalt, Mary Monroe, Barbara Peterson, Michael & Peggy Rasmussen, Dick & Sue Rohrer

### SPONSORS

Afognak Native Corporation, Jim & Joy Arneson, Associated Island Brokers, Alan & Ginny Austerman, Skip Bolton, Dan & Randy Busch - Kodiak Island River Camps, Ludger & Stefani Dochtermann, Joe & Carolyn Floyd, Karl Gurcke, Sven & Balika Haakanson, Steve & Mary Ann Harvey, Henry's Great Alaskan Restaurant, Barb & Rob Hoedel, Beverly Horn, Vito & Anne Kalcic - Fuller Boatyard, Dave Kaplan, Nancy Kemp, Rick & Diane Langfitt, Ellen Lester, Tim & Mary Jane Longrich, Mack's Sport Shop, Abner & Betty Nelson, Paul Marolyn Pedersen, Amelia Oliver & Jason Pierce, Rob & Gail Otto & Family, Geneneiva Pearson, Nancy Pierce, Tom Martin & Sharon Martin, Paul & Marolyn Pedersen, Fran Powell, Gretchen Saupe, Jerome & Gloria Selby, Gary & Rita Stevens, Joe & Jenny Stevens, Norman Sutliff, Thomas & Nancy Sweeney, Szabo Office Services, Hester H. Whitcher

### SUPPORTERS

Jill Acheson, Joan Antonson, Frances Ashford, Mark Cassell, Frances R. Cater, Glenn & Beth Dick, Harry & Brigid Dodge, Peggy Dyson, Wallace & Beth Fields, Meriam Fox, Matt & Chris Jamin, Tim & Donna Hurley, Thelma Johnson, Kodiak Russian Balalaika Players, Gerald Markham, Mildred D. Muller, Neil Sargent, St. Innocent's Academy, Katrina & Ismail Tutar, Gregory Weissenberg

### FAMILY & INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Kate Ballenger, Meredith Ann Bear, Lance, Linda, Kodiak & Bruin Bear, Dawn & Joseph Black, Olivia Brisbane, Kathleen A. Carlsen, Scot & Leslie Cummings, Glenn H. Davenport, Jerry & Linn Ensley, Dale & Jan Finlay, Judy Fulp, Scott & Elaine Graber, Helen C. Hall, Margaret J. Hall, Suzanne Hancock, Lola Harvey, Michael Helbig, Harold & Marcy Jones, Nancy Jones, Nancy Kotula, Kate Loewen, Edward & Norma Nelson, Ruth-Anne & Joseph Brian O' Gorman, Marius & Sylvia Panzarella, Sue Ramaglia, Alice Ryser, Christine Salo, Betty L. Santos, Tim & Rita Schimetka- Tesch, Tom & Arlene Simpler, Darla Sluder, Everett & Ann Stone, Gene & Phyllis Sunberg, Dee Ann Valdivia, Carol & Martin Wandersee, Elana & Lonnie White, Evelyn Wiszinckas, Eric & Lisa Zeimer

To become a new or renewing member please call the Baranov Museum at 486-5920. If we have inadvertently left you, your spouse, or your business off the list, please call for corrections.

The Baranov Museum is operated in partnership between the Kodiak Historical Society and the City of Kodiak. The Kodiak Historical Society is funded in part by the City of Kodiak, Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska State Museum, Museums Alaska, the Rasmuson Foundation, and many private donors. We thank you all for your support!



First Friday Family Fun Nights

Family Fun Nights have been a great success! The museum has hosted hundreds of kids through this Bicentennial program celebrating the historic log structure that houses the Baranov Museum. Over the past nine months, kids have participated in fur guessing games, traditional Russian crafts, their own volcanic eruptions and scavenger hunts galore. They delved into traditional Russian folktales and learned about the many Russian traditions still practiced in Kodiak today from Russian tea at the samovar taken with a sweet, to balalaika music and Russian Orthodoxy. This experience was strengthened through handling touchable artifacts and viewing historic photographs. Family Fun Nights were designed to encourage kids and families to visit the museum often. Families enjoy extended hours, free admission and several children’s activities. Our goal is to give children the opportunity to have repeated, varied and rich experiences at the museum and to feel a connection to this place. If you haven’t made it to one of our First Friday Family Fun Nights, you still have two more opportunities!

**November 7th, 5pm-7pm** Built to Last! Children will construct their own Russian log building similar to the Baranov Museum using pretzel logs and sweet mud and moss. This activity will highlight some of the unique features of the building like the absence of structural nails, the notches and the original moss chinked in as insulation. While this building has survived 200 years of harsh wet climate and two of the worst natural disasters of the century, yours may be eaten after you leave. Pre-registration for this event is suggested, as materials and space are limited.



Pat Holmes and Myrtle Olsen, as Father Christmas and Babushka, will be hearing wish lists and spreading good cheer on Saturday, December 6.

**December 5th, 5pm-7pm** Discover meaningful Russian Christmas traditions through Patricia Polacco’s book Vova’s Tree. Kids will then partake in starrng their own tree outside the museum. Festivities continue inside with Russian sweets and a warm cup of tea from the samovar. Coloring sheets and scavenger hunts will also be on hand.

Holiday Celebration at the Baranov Museum!

Come celebrate an old fashioned holiday tradition in festive style at the Baranov Museum. On Saturday, December 6th, from 10am-12pm, Father Christmas and Babushka will be visiting with youngsters and spreading good cheer. Kids young and old can enjoy free pictures with Father Christmas in front of our Kodiak bears. (Your cameras are welcome too.) A children’s craft activity will take place on the porch to allow parents and guests time to enjoy free admission to the gallery and 10% off all merchandise in the museum store. Stop by and warm up around the samovar!



Elementary students display their flags, designed during a Musuem program.

Great programs for your students - plan now!

Last year education staff connected with over 700 children through classroom visits, and museum tours! Many children were fortunate to have multiple visits and a variety of learning experiences. Are you planning to bring your class to the Baranov Museum? We encourage you to plan ahead as we will be closed in January and February of 2009 to renovate our electrical and fire suppression systems. We have some great tours and arts programs available on a variety of historical topics from whaling to fur trading, and each can be adapted to many age groups. Please plan ahead and be sure to schedule your trips well in advance. Please contact Education Coordinator Ani Thomas at 486-5920 or ani@baranovmuseum.org to schedule a tour or classroom visit.

I journeyed to Alaska for the first time with my mother and brother when I was two years old on one of the ships of the Alaska Steamship Company. In later years my family and I would make many more trips crossing the Gulf of Alaska and traveling the Inside Passage. I especially remember the S.S. Aleutian, which was one of the largest of the Line. I was 11 years old and lost for two hours before finding my stateroom.

One of my favorite memories was of the steward who would make the rounds on all decks playing a Xylophone announcing one half hour till mealtime. I remember how elegant the dining area was with the linen tablecloths, crystal glasses and silver settings, not to mention the menus that promised a fare fit for a queen.

Leaving the Port of Seattle to return to my Alaska home was such a festive event. Passengers were given colorful streamers and as the ship pulled away from the pier we flung them into the air, bidding farewell to friends and loved ones left standing on the dock waving their good-byes.

The Alaska Steamship Company had its beginning in January 28, 1895. The ships traveled from Seattle to Nome with stops at towns and villages on their route. The first vessel on the Line was 136 ft. 245-ton steamship, Willapa . Two years after putting into service she was given up for lost after striking the Regatta Reef. Before the advent of radar, Alaskan waters took their toll, with the loss of eight ships in the first twenty years of service. Later, with all steamships fully equipped with radar, not one ship was lost. In 1948 only three ships would be in operation: The Aleutian, Baranof and Denali.

Air travel was becoming increasingly popular as a means for all Alaskan transportation. With the loss of revenue, passenger service was discontinued in 1954.

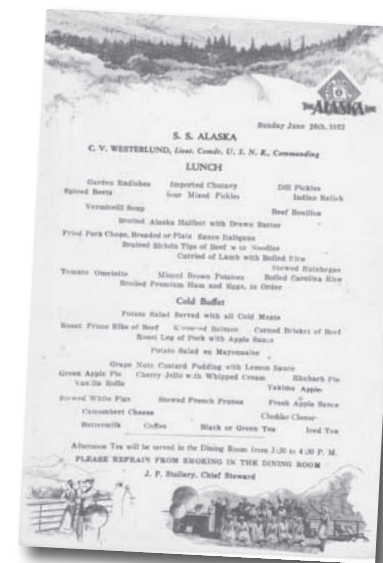
- Alice Ryser



The S.S. North Coast at Kodiak, early 1940s. Kodiak Historical Society collections, P-723-15-b.



Townpeople waiting on the Erskine Dock (now Pier One, the ferry terminal dock) to greet incoming passengers arriving on the S.S. Cordova. Kodiak Historical Society collections, P-467-22.



A June 26, 1932 menu from the S.S. Alaska (right) offers diners a choice between four lunch entrees including broiled Alaska halibut with drawn butter. Dessert could include rhubarb pie, or stewed white figs with camembert cheese.



During WWII the Baranof made a trip to Kiska and Attu to pick up an army engineer group that had been isolated for two years. Kodiak Historical Society collections, P-467-73.



October  
November  
December

Wednesday, October 29 at 7pm: Kodiak Historical Society Annual Meeting - Updates on our archaeological excavations, museum business, board member election, and fall raffle drawing.

Friday, October 31 from 3:30 to 4:15pm: Russian Folktales describe a terrible witch named Baba Yaga. A great start to a scary night. Sip cider and nibble Russian teacakes. Great for ages 4-9 with a parent. Afterwards enjoy Trick or Treat Down Town!

Friday, November 7 from 5 to 7pm: Friday Family Fun Night "Built to Last" Children recreate the oldest log building in Alaska. A fun lesson in construction and edible art.

Saturday, November 15 from 12 noon to 2 pm: Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon because we couldn't do it without you! Enjoy soups and a gathering with a great group of people.

Saturday, December 6 from 10 am to 12 pm Holiday Celebration: Free pictures with Father Christmas, 10% off Christmas Sale, & Children's craft.

December 25 until the end of February - Closed for the Holiday and Historic Preservation Work! Early March we will open the gallery with beautiful new lighting, hidden conduit and a safer fire suppression system. We will be in the building working during the preservation work. You can reach us by phone or email at that time.



Volunteer Leila Pyle ran the face painting station at our summer Praznik. Thank you Leila!

## Many ways to show your support...

We are always looking for new and innovative ways to harness the generosity of our supporters. We know you enjoyed the Kodiak Island Brewing Company's Baranov Bicentennial Russian Imperial Stout - all 400 gallons sold out in four weeks! And while the following ideas may not be quite as inventive (or tasty) we'd like to take the opportunity to share with you the myriad of ways to support the Baranov Museum:

### Give the gift of membership

Purchase a gift membership for a friend or neighbor. They will enjoy free admission for a year, plus advance notice of special events and a subscription to our newsletter. You will be supporting the preservation of local history.

### Share the Legacy book

Our 2008 publication *A Legacy Built to Last* by Sue Jeffrey will make the perfect gift for anyone with interest in the Emerald Isle. And a portion of all proceeds support preservation efforts on the historic Museum building.

### Buy a raffle ticket

The fall raffle is our biggest annual fundraiser! First prize, courtesy of Alaska Airlines, is two round-trip tickets from Kodiak to Seattle. Second prize is \$1,000 cash! Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. With prizes like these, tickets are selling fast. The drawing will be held at the Annual Meeting on Wed., October 24, at the Kodiak Senior Center. Stop by the Baranov Museum. to get your tickets!



### Donate airline miles

Help us stay connected with a gift of airline miles. Our AK Airlines mileage plan (44056456) helps us send staff to trainings, bring in guest speakers, or work with off-island specialists such as Objects Conservators.

### Honor a loved one

Make a donation in celebration of an anniversary, or honor the memory of a loved one with a memorial gift. We'll announce your gift with a special card to the honoree or their family. We'll send you a letter for tax purposes - all donations are deductible.

## Odd Tree Growths



Kodiak Historical Society, Eddie Opheim, Sr. collection, 36-1-1.

Collection objects at the Baranov Museum are extensive and varied. Two objects made from wood are interesting indeed. How could this intricate piece of wood sculpture be formed? Several years ago Eddie Opheim, Sr. donated this "rare relic", as he called it, to the Baranov Museum to share with the public. Ed has lived many years in Pleasant Harbor on Spruce Island. He said the growth came off a small spruce tree at Sunny Cove Lagoon on Spruce Island. During his many years of logging on Afognak, he saw many odd growths on trees, two of which look like this one. When I asked the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service about the piece, they replied, "There are different conditions

that may cause fasciations, or mutated growth. Fasciations appear in many forms from different causes including bacteria, genetics, chemical injury or contamination, growth hormones, insects and physical injury." Eddie's theory was, "It could be that the tree was damaged in a storm where the top of the tree was twisted in a storm and the sap leaked out like blood in animals. Blood leaked out and healed again?" If anyone has seen a similar growth or can help diagnose how it was formed, please call the Baranov Museum.



Kodiak Historical Society, Cecil Brown collection, 85-34-3.

Can you guess how this odd piece of wood was used in Kodiak? The rounded end is a burl, which is a rounded growth on trees or commonly beneath the ground on the tree roots. When a tree is stressed from insect or mold infestation, most commonly, the wood grain grows in a deformed manner. This formation was used to make a wooden burl club to use while fishing in Afognak Village.

## Спасибо to our Volunteers

"Soft gold" describes our volunteers at the Baranov Museum. They are as valuable as sea otter pelts. A small historic house museum, staffed with two full-time and three part-time employees, the Baranov Museum relies heavily on people who volunteer their time to fill in the gaps. Volunteers greet the public, serve as gallery hosts, and work as clerks in the store. Upstairs other volunteers complete office tasks, photograph collection objects, share their knowledge of Kodiak's vast history or identify individuals in historic photographs. Some people work in the gardens to make our grounds extremely beautiful for our visitors. Others help with educational programs, serve on the acquisition and endowment committees or the Kodiak Historical Society Board of Directors. Demographics of our volunteers show ages 14 to 82, women, men and children, serving an combined total of 1,000 hours a year.

Volunteers are always needed for handyman jobs, newsletter folding and labeling, helping out with Family Fun Nights, and much more. If your talent has not been identified and you are interested in Kodiak history, please call Ellen at the Baranov Museum, 486-5920.

### Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Saturday  
November 15, 2008  
12-2PM

Soup, Bread and Dessert  
Featuring Borsch soup

Volunteers are invited to attend, anytime during the two hour period, to be thanked for their generosity and ongoing efforts for the Kodiak Historical Society and Baranov Museum. You are great ambassadors for the Museum and we couldn't operate without you!