



FLASH!

Alaska Recreation & Park Association
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Anchorage, Auke Bay, Barrow, Bethel, Chugiak, Cordova, Craig, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Douglas, Eagle River, Elmendorf AFB, Fairbanks, Fort Richardson, Girdwood, Homer, Hoonah, Houston, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, King Salmon, Kodiak, Naknek, Nikiski, Nome, North Pole, Palmer, Petersburg, Point Hope, Seward, Sitka, Skagway, Soldotna, Tok, Unalaska, Valdez, Wasilla, Wrangell, Yakutat



September 1959 - October 2000

William J. Musson was born September 16, 1959 in Corvallis, Oregon, to Gerald and Jean Musson. His family lived in Corvallis and Eugene, Oregon during his growing up years. As a youth, he enjoyed playing the French horn and being in Boy Scouts. In 1981 he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation and Park management from the University of Oregon.

Bill moved to Soldotna, Alaska for a job as a Recreation Specialist. Here he met his wife Carol. They were married in June, 1982 at the home of Carol's parents in Tacoma, Washington. Bill soon adopted Carol's son Jonathan. The couple had three more children; Amelia, Benjamin and Andrew.

In 1987, Bill moved to Kenai to become the

assistant Parks & Recreation Director and Teen Center Manager. Later Bill became the Parks & Recreation Director in Petersburg, Alaska. In 1997, Bill accepted a position in Colchester, Vermont as Director of Parks & Recreation. In 1999, the Mussons moved west to Post Falls, Idaho where Bill served as the Director of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery.

Bill believed in being active in his community. He was involved with Rotary, Lions, and the Chamber of Commerce. He was an active member of his church, served on several community boards and worked with the Boy Scouts. Bill served on the Alaska Recreation & Parks Board from 1980-98 and was President from 1993 - 94. He was Pacific North-West Representative to the Board of Director of the American Park & Recreation Society 1996 - 97. Bill was on the Vermont Parks & Recreation Association Board and was active with the Idaho Parks & recreation Association an organization that he was recently installed as President - Elect.

William Jeffrey Musson at the age of 41, died Wednesday, October 4, 2000 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. His passing came less than a month after his visit to the ARPA Conference in Seward. Those of us attending the conference had been blessed with the pleasant opportunity to visit with Bill one more time.

Bill's family requests that memorials for Bill be made to the American cancer Society, Box 5386, Boise, Idaho or to the Calvary Lutheran Church.

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Property Tax Cap Fails Statewide!

**A special thanks to
 those who contributed
 to this effort.**

**Information
 for the next edition
 of the
 "FLASH"
 is due
 January 11, 2001**

Vice President of Citizen Board Member Branch NRPA

Bob Robertson retired Park and Recreation Director from Anchorage was recently elected vice president of the CBM branch of the National Recreation and Park Association.

The CBM branch currently has over 8000 members and is the largest branch of NRPA. The members currently are citizen volunteers, park and recreation board members, commissioners and elected officials who advocate for improved recreation, park and leisure opportunities for all Americans

Glenn Groome in Macedonia

Greetings fellow ARPA members and hello from the other side of the world. I have move into a new position in Macedonia. I am now doing tours and entertainment for KFOR, Kosovo Force. I get to work with various entertainment acts that come and perform for the soldiers. I travel with them while they are here which usually last about 6 days. Most of the acts are no names who are trying to make a name for themselves. We do get USO shows that are headliners. That has given us Tonic, Little Feat and the Bellamy Brothers. We should get some big names over the Xmas holidays season. Last year we had Mary Chapen Carpenter, Terry Bradshaw, Selma Hyake, and others. As planned, I am supposed to be here into March. The bosses in Germany want me to stay here for 3 years but I can't see doing that. Working 84-hour weeks with no days off is a pain in the butt. Unless I am offered a better job and much more pay they will be looking for a position for me out of the Balkans.

I must admit that it has been an eye opener. The facilities weren't as bad as I expected. We are building new facilities and will completely get out of tents by this time next month. It was fun getting involved with the design and making the facilities user and worker friendly. I just love dealing with design people who have not idea of recreation and what we need to work effectively.

I hope that all goes well at the convention and everyone is doing well. I see from the papers that fall has hit Alaska so it is hunting season. Have a beer for me and I will catch you all next time I'm in Alaska.
Later, Glenn

Sherman Selected National Trails Training Design Team

ARPA's At Large Board Member Dixon Sherman, the Recreation Specialist for the USFS Cordova Office, has been selected to the National Trails Training Design Team. The team consist of four people from the USFS and four people from BLM. Sherman was one of only four USFS employees nation wide to be selected to sit on the national interagency team.

The team was assembled to design training for trails management. The team will provide input into what items (construction, maintenance, funding, data recording, special features etc.), should be included in trails training, how training should be delivered (on site, on your site, video, distance learning, computers etc.), who training is directed towards (crews, line officers, etc.) and other related functions. The idea being that trails expertise has been down sized significantly in recent years and it would make sense to know what trails training sister agencies are putting on. Through some coordination on what's being offered, by whom, where and when we should maximize training opportunities and efficiency.

The first meetings will be held in Phoenix in November.

Michael Hecker says good-by!

I want all of you to know that I will miss you and the annual ARPA conference this year. I have accepted a new position in Mason, Ohio and resigned as the Unalaska Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, effective September 20. Alaska has been good to me, my family and my career. I will miss serving out my term as President of ARPA. I think President Karin Sturdy will do a terrific job in her second year as President.

My new position is the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Mason, Ohio. Mason is a bedroom community 20 minutes NW of Cincinnati. It is the second fastest growing community in Ohio (building over 600 new homes per year) and home to Proctor & Gamble Research and Kings Island Amusement Park. I will be responsible for the final design, construction and operation of a new 156,000 sq. ft. community center that was recently supported in a bond levy this past March. The center includes a 28,000 sq. ft. indoor water park.

I hope you will stay in touch. Many Thanks!! Michael Hecker, CPRP

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2001 "Benefits Calenders" Now Available

The 2001 "Recreation - The Benefits are Endless" calenders are now available with the Alaska Recreation and Park Association name on them. The calenders make great gifts to recognize your volunteers, commission members, staff and co-workers. And don't forget they make fantastic Christmas gifts too!!

The 2001 calenders feature beautiful pictures and information based on the "Benefits Movement". So impress your friends, make commission members happy and co-workers better informed by helping them keep track of those important dates, vacations and holidays while enjoying the great pictures and Benefits information.

You may order your calenders now by contacting Jeff Hawley, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Cordova, P. O. Box 1210, Cordova, Ak. 99574 or call (907) 424-7282, email recdept@ptialaska.net, Fax (907) 424-3277. The cost of the calenders vary by the number you purchase,

From one to three calenders the cost is \$7.00 each, four or more calenders are only \$6.00 each. Please make checks out to ARPA.

Order now!!!

Handbook Available on Establishing Legal Public Access For Alaskan Recreation Trails

The Rivers & Trails Program of the National Park Service and the State Citizen Advisory Board on Trails and Recreation Access for Alaska (TRAAK) have announced that a “citizens how-to” handbook on establishing legal trail access is now available.

Published by the Rivers & Trails Program of the NPS, the handbook is titled “Establishing Legal Public Access to Alaska’s Recreation Trails”. The 140 page handbook can be ordered by sending your mailing address via email to trailpro@nps.gov, by phoning NPS at (907) 257-2673, faxing (907) 257-2499, or writing to the NPS Rivers & Trails Program, 2525 Gambell St, Anchorage AK 99503-2892. The handbook will also be available later in August on the TRAAK Board’s website at www.dot.state.ak.us/traak.

The legal access handbook shows that changes in land ownership and land use in Alaska are on a collision course with skyrocketing trail use, and without an effort to legalize trail access, public trail access will be increasingly limited. Using existing studies, the handbook calculates that trail dependent spending in Alaska exceeds 200 million dollars per year, making trails one of the most important pieces of recreation infrastructure in the State. The handbook suggests that recreation trails are public infrastructure like a school or road, and legal public access is the key element.

Helen Nienhauser, chairperson for the TRAAK Board and author of the popular book “55 Ways to the Wilderness” says many people aren’t aware of the severity of the threat of trail closures. “If your favorite trail isn’t in a public park, forest, or refuge, its legal status is probably questionable. Even the Coastal Trail in Anchorage, which is used over a half-million times every year, doesn’t have a permanent public easement or ROW for the whole trail.”

In response to trail closure problems, the TRAAK Board in 1999 passed a resolution supporting a legal trail access handbook and endorsing a “trail protection campaign to increase awareness of the threats to Alaska’s trail systems and how those threats can be mitigated.”

The handbook is written in layperson’s terms so trail users, private landowners, and government authorities can have informed discussions on trail legislation. Respect of private property rights by trail users is advocated, along with the respect of public access rights by private landowners. The handbook encourages a cooperative approach to working with public and private landowners, focusing on trying to preserve the continuity of trail systems, rather than trying to get public access in an adversarial manner.

Ron Crenshaw, administrator of the State Recreational Trail Grant program with Alaska State Parks, calls the handbook a necessity for the successful improvement of a trail. “Many of our trail grant applicants assume that legal public access exists for the trail they want to improve, when in many cases it doesn’t.”

The handbook details 5 basic steps to establish legal public access on public and private lands throughout Alaska, and 12 “legal access tools” ranging from simple landowner agreements to the acquisition of easements. The handbook also contains extensive information on how to research land ownership information, land manager addresses, trail liability information, and examples of existing agreements and easements that successfully provide public access. The information provided is applicable to both non-motorized and motorized trails.

The legal access handbook is presented as a Public Review Draft. Interested parties are encouraged to get a copy now rather than wait for a final draft. Comments and suggestions on the handbook are due October 1, 2000 at the NPS addresses listed earlier in this article. For more information on the legal access handbook, contact the project manager Kevin Keeler at 271-1714.

The Rivers & Trails Program of the National Park Service provides staff assistance on a partnership basis to local citizen groups and other government agencies for the development of trail and greenway networks, and the conservation of natural areas and rivers. Recent partnership projects include a GPS public right of way mapping project of 500 miles of trails throughout the Railbelt, trail plans with the Kenai Peninsula Borough, City/Borough of Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka, reconstruction of the Iditarod Trail in Girdwood and Seward, and the Susitna Valley Recreation Rivers Plan. For information on the Rivers & Trails Program, see the nationwide website at www.ncrc.nps.gov/rta.

The State TRAAK Board provides a public forum for Alaskans and state agency representatives to discuss trail and recreation needs, opportunities and threats. The TRAAK Board provides input to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities on the allocation of funds for trails and pedestrian enhancements and the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation on the State Recreational Trails Grant program. Public meetings are held quarterly around Alaska; for more information call Judy Chapman at (907) 465-4070 or see www.dot.state.ak.us/traak.

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The Flash Pan!

The **deadline** for submission of articles will be **January 11, 2001**.

Please submit your information on disk or email in text format (.txt), or Microsoft Word for windows 95 or earlier. Graphic are preferred in JPEG or TIFF formats. Submit your items by email as an attachment and as part of the message (in case your program encodes attachments). You can submit articles in pencil, pen, magic marker, crayon, or on napkins (please use a clean napkins!).

At the Seward conference, I had a lengthy and private discussion with Bill Musson on terminal illness and mortality in general. One topic of our discussion that I would like to share with you is the importance of having your affairs in order at all times. You never really know how much time you have. I strongly encourage everyone to see to their affairs as frequently as possible.

During our conversation Bill spoke lovingly of his wife Carol and how she suffered the most during his treatment for cancer. The love and respect that Bill had for his wife and family will forever etched in my heart. Good-bye Bill!

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