



# NEWSLETTER

Feb  
2018

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[www.alaska-trails.org](http://www.alaska-trails.org)

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAIL TALES 5 TO SUPPORT ALASKA TRAILS, BIKE ANCHORAGE

Alaska Trails is excited to present the fifth installment of the Trail Tales storytelling series on Thursday, February 8, at 49th State Brewing Co in Anchorage. Doors open at 6:30pm, stories start at 7. Tickets are \$15.

We are starting a new format and will be partnering with a different community trail group each time. We will team up with Bike Anchorage during Winter Bike Fest for this Trail Tales event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Come enjoy this fun event and support both Alaska Trails and Bike Anchorage. Food and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

Among our storytellers will be Matthew (Birch) Block, who will share his tale "Community Caribou Hunting By Bicycle" and Tony Knowles, former Alaska governor and Anchorage mayor, who will talk about the origins of the Coastal Trail and the trail connections he continues to pursue.

New and renewing members who donate at the event will eligible for these great prizes! Thanks to Bosco's, REI, the Trek Store and Hoarding Marmot for donating.

Buy tickets at the door or order online at: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/trailtales.html>

*(Photo courtesy of Matthew "Birch" Block)*



### OUTGOING TRAIL LOVER NEEDED FOR TRAIL TECHNICIAN POSITION

Alaska Trails is seeking a Trails Technician who loves working with people and shares our commitment to trail stewardship and volunteerism. This new position will direct trail projects done by volunteers through the Alaska Trail Stewards program and paid youth crews through the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program. The Trails Technician will also help train volunteers, work with land managers to set up and conduct trail maintenance projects and work with other partners to increase the reach and effectiveness of the Alaska Trail Stewards program.

Full job posting and how to apply here: <http://tinyurl.com/y9hjocx6>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2018 STATEWIDE TRAILS CONFERENCE

The Alaska Trails 2018 Statewide Trails Conference will be held April 26-28 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

We will soon be posting information to our website, such as the agenda, keynote speakers, breakout descriptions, and registration information. The format will be similar to last year. There will be door prizes, vendor tables, poster sessions, the popular Trail Olympics, and a pre-conference session on Trail Design and Layout with Mike Shields (details to be determined).



If you've had success with a project or got a great idea you want to share, please consider creating a display for the poster session. Displays don't have to be complicated, but they should educate and spur discussion and more ideas.

Vendors, please contact us soon to reserve your table. We have a limited number of tables and they are in a prime spot—right next to the lunch buffet. (Contact information in the masthead.)

Hope to see you at the conference. Please email or call to share any ideas for topics or presentations that you would like to see. To see what was presented last year, see: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/trails-conference.html>

Updates on the 2018 conference will be posted on our Facebook Event page at : <https://www.facebook.com/events/358363531293740/>

*(Trail Olympics photo from 2017 by Steve Cleary)*

## USE “PICK. CLICK. GIVE.” TO DONATE TO ALASKA TRAILS



Alaska Trails is included in the Permanent Fund Dividend's "Pick. Click. Give" charitable contributions program. It's a secure and easy way to make a donation. When you file for your PFD online, you will be given an opportunity to donate using money from your PFD. If you do, please remember Alaska Trails.

If you use "Pick. Click. Give" you will be able to check a box that authorizes the state to send your name, contact information and the amount you give when it sends contributions to an organization. We want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way we will know it's you making the gift.

For more information on "Pick. Click. Give" see: [www.pickclickgive.org](http://www.pickclickgive.org)

To go directly to the Alaska Trails "Pick. Click. Give." page: <http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Alaska-Trails>

## EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE

Alaska Trails is interested in hearing from people who might want to serve as board members. The board currently has several openings. By serving on the board you help guide our group in its mission "to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education." If you would like to run for the board some time in the future please contact us (info on masthead).

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### PROJECT UPDATE FROM THE TRANS-ALASKA TRAIL PROJECT

Trans-Alaska Trail seeks to establish a world-class destination long trail that celebrates the living history of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the incredible lands it traverses. The project proposes to expand and promote permit-controlled access to the “service pad,” a gravel track that follows the pipeline from Valdez to Prudhoe Bay. More information is available at the website: [aktrail.org](http://aktrail.org).

The project team is currently revising a draft management plan that addresses concerns about trail design, costs, and operation of a 66-mile Chugach Traverse following the pipeline corridor out of Valdez.



A route analysis for this proposed pilot segment is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/yc2b6ubf>

Contact [transalaskatrail@gmail.com](mailto:transalaskatrail@gmail.com) for further information.

*(From Nate Sievert; photo of Ned Rozell during his 2017 thru-hike of the Alaska Trans-Alaska Pipeline by Eric Troyer)*

### STATE PARKS POSITIONS INCLUDE TRAIL DUTIES

Alaska State Parks is looking for seasonal employees and volunteers. Positions include trail crew and backcountry ranger assistant. Applicants must be at least 18 years old.

- For more information on the volunteer program see: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>
- For more information on Alaska State Parks seasonal jobs see: <http://tinyurl.com/7mog8q3>

### RIVER FORECAST SITE KEEPS TRACK OF SNOW DEPTH



The National Weather Service's River Forecast Center has a website that tracks snow depths at many locations across the state. In the spring, summer, and fall, the site also tracks several things regarding rivers, including how breakup is going and what river conditions are like. See the snow depth page for the website at: [http://www.weather.gov/aprfc/Snow\\_Depth](http://www.weather.gov/aprfc/Snow_Depth)

### STATEWIDE LINKS

- Eagle Watch (state parks newsletter): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive>
- Intro to fat biking: Tires churning, legs burning, miles away from my comfort zone: <http://tinyurl.com/y7je94lt>
- Winter road trip: Three places to ski along the Parks Highway: <http://tinyurl.com/y73lg6hy>
- Sturgeon says hovercraft case has national importance: <http://tinyurl.com/y7evomw5>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Outdoor Explorer radio show: National champion skiers & avalanche forecasting: <http://tinyurl.com/ya4o7gcu>
- States Where Most People Walk Or Bike To Work (Alaska ranks #1!): <http://tinyurl.com/y82457hc>
- Take the kids outside (and leave the phones inside): <http://tinyurl.com/y79mcqvc>
- Cold facts: You'll be warmer if you relax rather than resist: <http://tinyurl.com/y957f6rz>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### VALLEY FOUNDATION SPONSORS WINTER TRAILS DAY EVENT

The Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation is sponsoring a Winter Trails Day event in February. See the story below from the foundation's website (<http://tinyurl.com/ydew3gxp>):

*Join the Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation for winter trails day at Nancy Lake State Recreation Area on February 10th, 2018! Let's get out and enjoy all that winter has to offer here in the valley. We will be at the winter trailhead, with a warming fire and information on the local trails at Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. Whether you bring your snowmachine, skis or fat bike there is something for everyone.*

*Never tried out a fat bike, or need to get on a pair of skis? There will be a handful of demos to try out courtesy of Backcountry Bike and Ski of Palmer. They will be on hand to help you get started!*

*Check out the recently improved Parkway Ski Loop Trail that was completed with a grant from the Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation and learn about Phase II to improve the Rhein Lake Loop Trail. You can ski, bike or ride on out to get a sneak peak at the new Rhein Lake Public Use Cabin that will be coming online very soon! Beautiful location with a great view over Rhein Lake.*

*WHEN: Saturday February 10th 2018*

*TIME: 10am to 4pm*

*LOCATION: Nancy Lake State Recreation Area – Winter Trailhead.*

*Turn left off the Parks Highway on the Nancy Lake Parkway. Follow to the end of the plowed road at the trailhead parking lot. Need more information? Contact the Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation at 907-746-8757 or [info@matsutrails.org](mailto:info@matsutrails.org).*

### SKI 4 KIDS AIMS TO GET ANCHORAGE KIDS OUT ON WINTER TRAILS

Ski 4 Kids is a for-fun, for-kids afternoon at Kincaid Park on February 24. Children aged 0-14 may attempt an obstacle course, take aim in a mock biathlon, and try skiing, snowshoeing, and biking. The event is fun for hundreds of kids and raises \$7,000- \$15,000 each year for elementary school grants to help purchase ski equipment. Register participants at: [www.anchoragenordicski.com/events/ski-4-kids/](http://www.anchoragenordicski.com/events/ski-4-kids/). The event is a partnership between the Municipality of Anchorage, Healthy Futures and the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage and made possible by fantastic community sponsors and volunteers. Volunteers may register at: <https://goo.gl/MQafnC>.

*(From Lia Slemons; photo courtesy of Twisted Branch & NSAA)*



### ANCHORAGE TRANSPORTATION FAIR INCLUDES WALKING, BIKING

The public is invited to the 2018 Anchorage Transportation Fair, a "super open house" providing a showcase of walking, biking, and driving projects and plans within the Municipality of Anchorage.

The fair will be held on Thursday, February 8, from 3 to 7 p.m., at the Alaska Airlines Center on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus (3550 Providence Drive, Anchorage). The event is free and open to the public. Parking is free.

The fair is presented by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and partners, including the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska Railroad, and Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility.

For further information please visit website: [www.anchoragepofair.blogspot.com](http://www.anchoragepofair.blogspot.com)  
(From DOWL email)

## APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR ANCHORAGE YOUTH PARK JOBS

The Anchorage Park Foundation is partnering with the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department for another summer of the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program. This is a great opportunity for the young persons you work with or know, and those talented people you know who work with youth.



YEP Crew Members take part in a 10-week summer program designed to be the best first-job experience ever. Anchorage teens between the ages of 16-19 learn natural resource management skills by building trails and restoring stream banks, while engaging in education, civic engagement, environmental awareness, and leadership. Make lifelong friends, build your resume, and have an enjoyable, paid job outside in Anchorage's public park lands.

Application deadlines are in February and March, depending on the position.

Learn more at: <http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/programs/youth-employment-parks/yep-jobs/>  
(From Anchorage Park Foundation; 2015 photo of YEP employees from Anchorage Park Foundation)

## MAT-SU FOUNDATION CELEBRATES NEW TRAILS AT REC AREA

More trails were added to the Government Peak Recreation Area last year. This Facebook post from the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation has some of the details on how it was done.

*Perfect 20-degree-day of sunlight for a ribbon cutting at Government Peak Recreation Area for phase II trail development.*

*The project adds another 3.7 miles of competition trails. The Mat-Su Ski Club did the heavy lifting on fundraising this time with the Mat-Su Borough giving a grant of \$50,000; and Jr. Nordics of \$10,000, some \$30,000 from the Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation, an anonymous donor gave \$100,000, and MEA coop gave \$10,000. In kind labor contributed to the project greatly. Dr. Dave Werner cleared trails and dropped trees. Ski Coach Mark Strabel put in a lot of labor. Lucas Parker with Kuchar Construction managed the trail building project with generosity.*



*(Photo by Patty Sullivan/Public Affairs Mat-Su Borough)*

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Nordic skates plus a frozen creek equals pure bliss: <http://tinyurl.com/ybv6tlxl>
- APD gains traction on crime with new bikes: <http://tinyurl.com/yb4wptfj>
- Government Peak adds more cross country trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yayje2be>
- Kodiak Island Trails Network newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/yd2ay79t>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### BOROUGH SEEKING COMMENT ON SHOOTING AT TANANA LAKES

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is seeking public input on whether people should be able to shoot guns in the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area outside of the public shooting range.

While the borough has already held a couple of public meetings regarding this issue, it is still collecting public comments through Friday, February 16, at 5pm. An online survey will also remain active until that time. The recreation area has several trails so it's important for all trail users of the area to speak up.

- Here is the link to the survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/TLRAQuack](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TLRAQuack)
- Comments can be made by coming in to the Parks and Recreation office or by emailing [parks@fnsb.us](mailto:parks@fnsb.us)

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner did a story on one of the public meetings and it includes some background on the issues. See the story here: <http://tinyurl.com/yd5mxyI9>

### INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Fairbanks Winter Trails Challenge List 2017/18 (runs through April 15): <http://tinyurl.com/yc2yuobn>
- Delta Junction Trail Association's Walk Of Lights, Sat., Feb 3: <http://tinyurl.com/y87mettg>
- Despite some rough spots, snowmachine conditions are good in the Interior: <http://tinyurl.com/y8jx6uog>
- Warm weather, abundant rodents make for happy raptors: <http://tinyurl.com/y8tmb3wu>

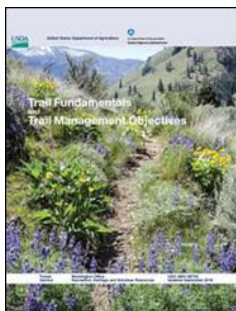
## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SOUTHEAST LINK

- Trail Mix is hiring for the 2018 season: <http://tinyurl.com/y76xw78b>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### UPDATED FOREST SERVICE TRAIL GUIDEBOOK NOW AVAILABLE



We are happy to announce that the Forest Service's recently updated Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) guidebook is now available as an official publication and in downloadable electronic format for use by Forest Service staff, as well as by other agencies and entities.

This publication provides comprehensive guidance and instructions for applying Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives, concepts originally developed by the Forest Service and since adopted by other Federal and State agencies and partners in the development of trail prescriptions and effective trail management. This recently published version includes the original 2008 content, along with updated photos and formatting. These materials, along with reference and instructional

materials, can be accessed via the new USDA Forest Service Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/y8mam8p8>

*(From email by Jaime Schmidt, National Trail Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service)*

## **SUSTAINABLE TRAILS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MARCH**

Some of the world's foremost trail experts will gather in West Virginia this spring to present hands-on instruction in trail construction, design, maintenance, development and management. The annual conference of the Professional Trail Builder's Association features multi-day workshops, classes, equipment, and construction demonstrations to provide attendees with practical tools to bring great trails to life. The core conference is March 26-28, 2018, with multi-day workshops before and after. More information may be obtained at <http://www.trailbuilders.org/training/sustainable-trails-conference-stonewall-2018>.

*(From Jon Underwood)*

## **NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

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### *WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.*

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: [www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

### *TRAIL GUIDES*

- Top Hikes Near Asheville, N.C.: <https://ashevilletrails.com/category/hiking-trails-near-asheville/>
- Ten Trails near Tacoma to Inspire a Year of Hiking and Getting Outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/ycyd6sbx>
- Washington Trails Association's interactive trail finder map: <http://www.wta.org/go-outside/map>
- Washington Trails Association's Trailblazer App for Android and iPhone: <http://tinyurl.com/yd7v43o5>
- 5 Scenic Coastal Bike Trails in the Bay Area: <http://tinyurl.com/yatf8ctg>

### *ADVOCACY/VOLUNTEER*

- 10 Threatened Hiking Trails That Need Your Help: <http://tinyurl.com/y9laz7ca>

### *GRANTS*

- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1, Sept 1): <http://tinyurl.com/zcz8u7a>

### *TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS*

- For the latest American Trails news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>

### *STUDIES/REPORTS*

- How Does Nature Impact Our Wellbeing?: <http://tinyurl.com/jexyoqr>
- How Going Outside Improves Our Mood and Health Even in Winter: <http://tinyurl.com/y8sacps8>

### *OPINION*

- Why You Should Care About Public Lands: <https://www.backpacker.com/stories/this-land-is-your-land>

#### *OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:*

- The US National Trails System celebrates 50 years of the outdoors in 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/y9rhbey8>
- Hiking 60 miles in 5 days to photograph 11 trails (near Phoenix): <http://tinyurl.com/y8hys8w9>
- Fat-Bike Grooming in Michigan (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gj4j09nZbjA>

#### *SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL*

- Interior Department plans to move thousands of workers in its biggest reorganization ever: <http://tinyurl.com/y7nfsc6>
- How To Keep Your Hands Warm: <http://tinyurl.com/y7q68wh7>
- Secretary Zinke Announces Changes in National Park Service Leadership: <http://tinyurl.com/ybqjxomh>

#### *INTERNATIONAL LINKS:*

- Long-distance hiking trails from around the world to tackle in 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/y8aynxuv>
- The Best Hiking Trails in the Picos de Europa, Spain: <http://tinyurl.com/ya3x8s7f>
- Four of South Africa's Highest 4x4 Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y8m3vyoe>
- Winter Walk Day (Canada): <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/winter-walk-day/>
- Turning Australia's old rails into new trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y9bl3wj8>
- Hidden Hong Kong: From nature trails to traditional eateries: <http://tinyurl.com/y949dj3e>
- Stairway to heaven: hiking ancient pilgrimage trails in southern Japan: <http://tinyurl.com/y8n3udz8>

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The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)