

# **NEWSLETTER**

Nov 2017

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

### **ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES**

### THANK YOU FOR ALL THE PICK, CLICK, GIVE, DONATIONS!

Many thanks for being one of our Pick. Click. Give. donors! We really appreciate your support and are looking forward to putting it to good use to build trails - and trail organizations – across our great state.

The 2017 Volunteer Stats for the Alaska Trail Stewards program was recently posted. (See story, next page.)

If you are in the Anchorage area on November 28, please join us at our next Trail Tales storytelling event: <a href="http://www.alaska-trails.org/trailtales.html">http://www.alaska-trails.org/trailtales.html</a>

Thanks again for your support and generosity.

### SUPPORTERS MAKE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER A BIG SUCCESS AGAIN!!!

Thanks to all the businesses and individuals who donated to make the Alaska Trails Fall Fundraiser such a success. More than 60 supporters gathered at the 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Company to see friends, hear an update on Alaska Trail's work this last year and to bid on wonderful trips, gear and prizes – all to raise money for Alaska Trails. More than \$5,000 was raised and we hope to make it even bigger and better in years to come.

Thanks to all the donors to the Alaska Trails Fall Fundraiser:

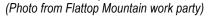
Skinny Raven / Anchorage Solar / REI
Chris Beck / The Hoarding Marmot / Harry Brod
Eagle River Nature Center / Surveyor's Exchange
Anchorage Yoga and Cycle / Mooses Tooth
McCarthy River Tours / Agnew::Beck
Borealis Massage Therapy / Aviator Hotel
Deb's Upcycled Designs / ShuzyQ
Great Harvest Bread Company / AK Rock Gym
Downtown Bicycle
Alaska Railroad

### **VOLUNTEERS IMPROVE TRAILS ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

Alaska Trails volunteers and tools were out in force on National Public Lands Day (Sept. 30).

More than 40 volunteers finished a trail on the backside of Flattop Mountain in the Anchorage area. Tools from our tool trailers were used on projects on the Kenai Peninsula and in Fairbanks with big volunteer turnouts.

Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a successful day: Chugach State Park, Alaska Geographic, REI, Interior Trails, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, Stray Dogs (trail consultants) and the many volunteers who represented many trail-user groups. Alaska is a better place because of you!





### **ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS MAKES BIG STRIDES IN 2017**

The 2017 Volunteer Stats for the Alaska Trail Stewards (ATS) program are on our website here: http://tinyurl.com/yb8lkev6.

We are excited about the accomplishments for 2017 and are already prepping for 2018! ATS recruited over 100 volunteers who contributed nearly 800 hours of donated labor to improve trails on Chugach State Park, Bureau of Land Management and Chugach National Forest lands – all by hand. This is more than \$25,000 of donated labor. ATS helped land managers reap the benefits of working with volunteers, and maintain strong partnerships with organizations like Alaska Geographic that provide enriching outdoor leadership and service opportunities for youth.

# ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

This newsletter is brought to you free by Alaska Trails. Our mission is to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education. We couldn't do this without support from our members. Please join or renew your membership here: <a href="http://www.alaska-trails.org/join.html">http://www.alaska-trails.org/join.html</a>

All year long we strive to:

- Promote the health, social and economic benefits of trails by educating users through forums, conferences, information materials, training and other activities.
- Preserve and improve public trail access by assisting public and private organizations in forming coordinated programs, policies, and standards.
- Promote sustainable trail systems for all users by developing and providing technical assistance for trail projects.

#### **ALASKA TRAILS LINKS**

Alaska Mountain Bike Summit Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/175610743001965/

### STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### CONFLUENCE FLOWS TO FOLLOWUP FORUM IN ANCHORAGE NOV. 28

A state office of outdoor recreation as well as funding mechanisms, allies and priorities for outdoor recreation infrastructure took center stage in conversations that unfolded during the Second Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors.

More than 40 government officials, non-profits, public land managers and business leaders engaged in a focused exploration about the future of the state's outdoor recreation economy during a solutions-oriented meeting in Valdez Sept. 22.

For those who tried to get to Valdez but couldn't, a half-day forum is being planned in Anchorage, Nov. 28, from 1 - 5 p.m. (http://www.levitation49.org/confluence-2017/) The goal of the Anchorage meeting is to reach consensus and hone policy objectives to present to legislators at an outdoor recreation lobby day in Juneau next spring.

To see outtakes and photos from the September event go to: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/y8jdthur">http://tinyurl.com/y8jdthur</a> (From Confluence report)

### 2017 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM PROJECTS ANNOUNCED

The Recreational Trails Program has awarded matching funds for 22 trail projects in Alaska this year, with many projects underway or already completed. These are reimbursable, grant-funded projects happening throughout the state between 2017 and 2019. The total allocated for these projects is nearly \$1.3 million.

The trails program is managed by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and receives its funding for trails projects from the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

For more information about the Recreational Trails Program, please visit the program's website at <a href="http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm">http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm</a>, or contact Darcy B. Harris, the Alaska State Trails Program Coordinator, (phone: 907/269-8699; email: darcy.harris@alaska.gov).

Below is a list of the award titles by region. For more details see the complete list at: http://dnr.alaska.gov/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/parks/grants/trailsgrantpage/rectr2017.pdf

#### ANCHORAGE AREA

- Anchorage Park Foundation, Russian Jack Springs Park, Single Track bike trail: \$49,962
- Anchorage Park Foundation, Improvements at Jodhpur Motocross Trail: \$96,002.

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA VALLEY

- Curry Ridge Riders, South Denali Trail Signs: \$83,226
- DPOR, Denali State Park, Curry Ridge Trail Phase III: \$77,505
- DPOR, Hatcher Pass Trail: \$47,488
- Upper Susitna Soil & Water Conservation District, Susitna Valley High School Trails, Talkeetna: \$48,661
- Willow Trails Committee, Willow Park Trail: \$38,382

#### INTERIOR ALASKA

- Delta Junction Trails Association, Liewer Trail Lighting: \$49,928
- Fairbanks North Star Borough, Skyline Ridge Park Trail Restoration Phase II: \$50,000

- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Olnes Pond ATV Trail hardening / Clearing: \$140,359
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Northern Area Training and Assessment: \$13,313
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Granite Tors: \$75,103

#### SOUTHEAST ALASKA

- DPOR, Southeast, Haines: Seduction Point Trail Rehabilitation: \$39,293
- Sitka Trail Works, Mosquito Cove Trail Repair Phase II: \$43,937

#### KENAI PENINSULA/ VALDEZ

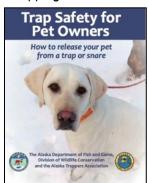
- DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Saddle Trail Re-Route Phase III: \$63,958
- DPOR, Caines Head SRA, Public Use Cabin: \$45,545
- DPOR, Caines Head SRA: Caines Head Trail Improvements: \$63,319
- USFS Chugach National Forest, Bartlett Glacier Trail: \$49,945
- Levitation 49, Shoup Trail Re-Opening: \$39573
- Ground Truth Trekking, Taylor Bay Trail, Kachemak Bay State Park: \$7,475

#### **STATEWIDE**

- DPOR, Interpretation and Education Section, Alaska State Park Trail Guide Videos: \$60,876
- DPOR, Alaska Trails Program Administrative Allowance: \$106,955

### RESOURCES HELP REDUCE PET/TRAPPING CONFLICTS

Trapping season is here, so trail users who let their dogs run loose should make sure they know some



basic information about traps and trap lines. A pamphlet and videos are available. <a href="PAMPHLET">PAMPHLET</a>: A pocket-sized pamphlet titled "Trap Safety for Pet Owners" describes the types of traps and snares that may be encountered and provides illustrated instructions on how to free pets swiftly and safely. It is produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA). Copies are available free of charge at department offices, or may be viewed on the website at: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/m6oulhk">http://tinyurl.com/m6oulhk</a>. More information, including video footage featuring trap removal instructions, is found on the department's website at <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov">www.adfg.alaska.gov</a> (see "Sharing the Trails" under the "Hunting > Trapping" dropdown menu), and on the ATA website

### (www.alaskatrappers.org).

<u>VIDEO</u>: The ATA also sells a 30-minute video, "Sharing Alaska's Trails," that includes information such as how to know if you are on a trap line, trap line safety, the physics of handling and opening traps and



snares, and tips for first-aid for pets accidentally caught in traps. The video doesn't promote trapping, but deals with the practicalities of sharing the trails. A three-minute excerpt of the DVD can be found on YouTube (<a href="www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk242jZwEAQ">www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk242jZwEAQ</a>). To order a copy of the DVD check the ATA store (<a href="www.alaskatrappers.org">www.alaskatrappers.org</a>).

Most trapping seasons run from November 1 to the end of February, but the season for a few species lasts longer. Wolf traps could be active well into April.

### STATEWIDE TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS RELATED NEWSLETTERS

 Eagle Watch, State Parks (several recent issues have had trail-related stories): http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive

#### STATEWIDE LINKS

• Running Alaska's Trails: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/y7kf9so8">http://tinyurl.com/y7kf9so8</a>

### SOUTHEAST

- Hikers barred from trail at the end of North Douglas Highway: http://tinyurl.com/y8g4jzdy
- Juneau's Trail Mix Dinner and Auction fundraiser, Nov 18, 6pm: https://trailmixinc.org
- Sitka's Trail Works newsletter (Fall 2017): http://tinyurl.com/yancsx33

#### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Appeals court backs NPS over Alaska moose hunter and his hovercraft: http://tinyurl.com/y6udhrnr
- Biking the Nulato Hills worth the considerable effort: http://tinyurl.com/yczzspuc
- Sharing your stories of misadventure in the outdoors: http://tinyurl.com/ybxp9p9x
- When struggling in the backcountry, friends will tell you sweet, sweet lies: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ybkx7tue">http://tinyurl.com/ybkx7tue</a>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Changing maps: http://tinyurl.com/yb57vofz
- Release a dog from a bodygrip trap (also known as a Conibear Trap): https://vimeo.com/84344143
- Park service considers \$30-per-person entrance fee at Denali: http://tinyurl.com/ybg2m5nw
- Alli Harvey: It's cold, dark, and the couch is comfy. Do I really have to run?: http://tinyurl.com/y9yb4fta
- Uncomfortably numb: If you like your fingers and toes, keep them warm: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ycect3av">http://tinyurl.com/ycect3av</a>
- Answers to the question: 'What is Alaska Avalanche Information Center?': http://tinyurl.com/ycojjgvm
- Ambler Road Project comment deadline extended to Jan 31: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/y8c7guhl">http://tinyurl.com/y8c7guhl</a> and <a href="http://www.ambleraccess.com">http://www.ambleraccess.com</a>

### **SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES**

### MOUNTAIN BIKE GROUP SEEKS DONATIONS TO BUILD TRAILS

Message from the Singletrack Advocates Facebook page:

New Hillside Singletrack Trails are APPROVED!!!

It's been a long road, but we successfully made it through the public process and now have 4.5 miles of new singletrack approved for construction in 2018 at Hillside. This summer we worked with the Muni and other stakeholders to create a project that will be fun for trail users and also reduces wildlife impacts.

We plan to build 3 intermediate downhill flow trails (that incorporate rock/root technical sections), 2 advanced downhill trails (think rocks/roots/technical/steeps/drops), and 1 up-track. All trails will be one-way. THANK YOU for your support on this project! Now its time to FUNDRAISE some more money!!! <a href="http://www.singletrackadvocates.org/take-action">http://www.singletrackadvocates.org/take-action</a>

### LAND PURCHASE COULD AFFECT POTTER MARSH BOARDWALK AREA



The Conservation Fund is raising funds to purchase a 2.2-acre undeveloped parcel adjacent to the Potter Marsh Boardwalk public facility in the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. The longtime Alaskan family that owns this parcel would like to see it added to the wildlife refuge and have generously agreed to a reduced sale.

The parcel contains cottonwood forest habitat as well as wetlands, which complement the habitats within Potter Marsh. This area supports a wide variety of bird and mammal life including waterfowl, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, moose, black and brown bears, 5 species of Pacific

salmon, and many others. The Potter boardwalk provides a wonderful opportunity for thousands of Anchorage residents and visitors to view wildlife in the marsh and learn about the area's natural and cultural history. It is Anchorage's most popular wildlife viewing area with approximately 150,000 annual visitors.

If this 2.2-acre parcel is not acquired and protected, it may be cleared, filled and developed which could significantly impact the natural setting and visitor experience at the boardwalk. The Conservation Fund is on track to secure a federal grant for this purchase but needs to generate matching funds of \$72,500. Your support is welcome and appreciated.

To donate go to: <a href="https://community.conservationfund.org/pottermarsh">https://community.conservationfund.org/pottermarsh</a>. For more information, contact Joe Meehan, refuge program coordinator, ADF&G (907/267-2281; <a href="joe.meehan@alaska.gov">joe.meehan@alaska.gov</a>). (From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; photo from Alaska.org)

# KENAI PENINSULA LAND, WATER TRAILS FEATURED IN PRESENTATION

At the upcoming Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition's annual meeting Bjorn Olson, adventure filmmaker, photographer and storyteller, will share slides, stories, reflections and a short film about his month-long, circumnavigation of the Kenai Peninsula with the program, Instruments Of Adventure: Around The Kenai Peninsula By Kayak, Packraft And Fat-Bike. The meeting at the Campbell Creek Science Center on November 2 from 7 to 9pm.



In summer of 2016 a team of five wilderness adventurers circumnavigated the Kenai Peninsula—beginning and ending in Homer—by human power. The team employed sea kayaks, fat-bikes and packrafts—the Instruments of Adventure. During the month-long journey, the adventurers encountered abundant wildlife, engaging challenges, and vast areas of untrammeled wilderness. Juxtaposed against the backdrop of Alaskan wilderness, are arterial roads, bustling towns, motorized traffic, industrial development, and areas of vigorous human impact. Bjørn will share slides, stories and reflections, as well as a short film from this atypical Alaskan adventure.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

### ANCHORAGE FOUNDATION STARTS 'HEALTH ON TRAILS' PROGRAM

The Anchorage Park Foundation has started a new initiative called Health on Trails, which it describes as "an interdisciplinary coalition connecting the outdoor recreation and health sectors. Partners include the Anchorage Park Foundation, National Park Service, Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska State Parks, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, Anchorage School District, local outdoor retailers and businesses, and physicians with many years of experience working in Anchorage hospitals."

Read about Health on Trails and other foundation efforts to get people out on trails, including Schools on Trails and Anchorage Trails Wayfinding, in its recent newsletter: http://tinyurl.com/y9wycbex

### SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage looks to use community-driven data to update trail plan: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/yb4tzujx">http://tinyurl.com/yb4tzujx</a>
- 6 of the Best State Parks in America (Chugach State Park is one): http://tinyurl.com/ycwlu9gn
- Volunteers work to rebuild damaged landscapes on Flattop Mountain: http://tinyurl.com/y758whoz
- Cruising the Trail of Blue Ice: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/y88cyzn9">http://tinyurl.com/y88cyzn9</a>
- Who Doesn't Love a New Latrine?: http://tinyurl.com/yabqb2lu
- Opinion: Chugach Park Fund aims to care for Anchorage's wild backyard: http://tinyurl.com/y7dul9wv

#### MAT-SU VALLEY

Valley Mountain Bikers And Hikers have a new website: <a href="https://vmbah.wildapricot.org">https://vmbah.wildapricot.org</a>

#### KENAI PENINSULA

- Biking the Resurrection Pass Trail: The memories are forever: http://tinyurl.com/y7lr57xc
- Trail-building project connects popular sites along the Alaska Railroad: http://tinyurl.com/yb48d263

#### **KODIAK**

 Whether you want history or nature, Kodiak's Fort Abercrombie is a 182-acre treasure: http://tinyurl.com/ybx7k3qc

### INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### MORE THAN 100 COMPLETE FAIRBANKS SUMMER TRAILS CHALLENGE

From FNSB Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page:

Congratulations to the 103 Trailblazers who completed the ENTIRE Summer Trails Challenge! Thank you for sharing your smiles and good times on the trails with family, friends, and the FNSB Parks and Rec Dept. Your Trailblazer Badges have arrived! Swing by the Parks and Recreation Department Offices during the work week 8:00-5:00 to pick up your hard-earned Trailblazer Badge. We are on the second floor of the Big Dipper Ice Arena at 1920 Lathrop Street. Friends and family can also pick up for you. Note: Our offices are occasionally closed from 12-1 for the lunch hour. Can't wait to see you for the Winter Trails Challenge, coming soon in December! ~Happy Trails~

### PIPELINE HIKER TO GIVE TALK FOR DELTA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Ned Rozell will share stories about his adventures while hiking along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline on November 3 at 6pm at the historic Sullivan Roadhouse in Delta Junction.

Rozell hiked the length of the pipeline from Valdez to Prudhoe Bay this summer, recreating a feat he accomplished 20 years previously. The presentation, sponsored by the Delta Junction Trails Association, is titled "Ned Rozell and his dog Cora." Cora also spent the summer walking with Ned. Chili, bread, veggies and sweet treats will also be available at the presentation.

Rozell is a science writer for the Geophysical Institute. He has also freelanced for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, the Anchorage Daily News, Mushing magazine, the Kenai Peninsula Clarion and others.

### NEW TRAIL IN GOLDSTREAM AREA ALLOWS CONTINUED ACCESS

A new connector trail has been built off of September Court to access Cranberry Trail in the hills north of Goldstream Valley.

The Cranberry Trail, a loop trail included in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Recreational Trails Plan, crosses land that sits between Skyflight Avenue (above the Vallata restaurant) and Green Leaf Road (accessed from Goldstream Road via Pandora Road). A jeep road currently gives access to Cranberry Trail and other trails off September Court that are not on the borough trails plan.

For years that jeep road led to a seismic array research facility run jointly by the University of Alaska and the U.S. Air Force, but the facility was decommissioned recently. The jeep road runs across three undeveloped residential lots, which the university has owned in order to allow access to the seismic facility. Now that the facility is being decommissioned the university plans to sell the lots. The jeep road has no easement, so the university plans to close it to public access next year.

Fortunately, a 20-foot-wide easement extending from the end of September Court exists between two of the university's residential lots. FNSB Trails Coordinator Bryant Wright worked with a crew from the U.S. Air Force to clear a path on that easement, which will give access to Cranberry Trail, the jeep trail and borough land beyond the residential lots.

This change illustrates the importance of having platted easements for trails even when another trail is being used nearby, but has no easement.

## BORO LAND IN MURPHY DOME AREA NOMINATED FOR RECREATION

A large piece of property north of Murphy Dome Road that includes trails has been nominated as part of the Fairbanks borough land nomination process by two people for different, though not incompatible uses. People can comment on the proposed uses (see below).

The 1,100-acre piece of borough land sits in an area bordered by Murphy Dome, Old Murphy Dome, and Spinach Creek roads. A trail off the end of Richard Berry Drive, off Murphy Dome Road, accesses the land.



One nominator said on the nomination form that the "top of the hill" is a "popular hiking spot."

"I would like the top of this hill and sufficient surrounding land set aside (exempt from development). It is a popular hiking spot (3 trails lead to the top) and someone has even carried a bench up there."

The other nominator would like the land to be used for a mix of recreation and residential.

"Proposed use would be a residential/recreational property where I would live and maintain a private sled dog kennel."

According to borough code the "mayor will at a minimum, biennially in August, present to the assembly a written summary of parcels for sale or retention, and a list of all other nominated land," according to Sandra Mota, manager of the borough's Division of Land Management. She expects the nominations affecting this piece of property to be addressed in August 2018.

"Public comment on nominations occurs when the ordinance for retention or for sale comes up for public hearing in the assembly chambers," Mota wrote in an email. "Any written comment received via email, or at our counter will be held in the file and presented to the assembly as part of their deliberation."

To comment on the nominations before the ordinance comes up for public hearing you can send an email (<u>land@fnsb.us</u>) or write a letter addressed to: Land Management / Sandra Mota – Manager / PO Box 71267 / Fairbanks AK 99709.

To read the nominations see "Nominations Under Review" at: <a href="http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/lm/Pages/Land-Nominations.aspx">http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/lm/Pages/Land-Nominations.aspx</a>

### INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Photos of the Skyline Ridge Park trail work party on National Public Lands Day: https://www.facebook.com/events/313820272354886/permalink/316618958741684/
- Public comments on the Yankovich/Miller Hill project have been posted (right side menu > Comments Received): http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/yankovich-miller/
- Annual Meeting and Potluck (November 10): http://tinyurl.com/yb8fe22r

### NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

# **AHS OFFERS 2018 VOLUNTEER VACATIONS SCHEDULE**



The American Hiking Society's 2018 Volunteer Vacations registration is now live. The group is offering many diverse trail maintenance projects across the country. The schedule provides both backpacking and day hiking options, a variety of difficulty levels, and indoor and outdoor accommodations to suit all experience levels and backgrounds. No prior trail maintenance experience is required, just the willingness to get a little dirty and give back to the hiking trails you love.

Find projects and register here: volunteervacations.americanhiking.org/em-volunteer-vacations/

### NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

### 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

#### TRAIL GUIDES

- Great Hiking Trails Around the World: http://tinyurl.com/y7ewpyo8
- 12 essential Seattle-area hiking trails: http://tinyurl.com/ybk9zp9j
- 7 amazing hiking trails near New Orleans: http://tinyurl.com/y9ash8y6
- 6 Fall Hikes and Trails Around Grand Rapids, MI: http://tinyurl.com/y9mgp44v
- 10 Family-Friendly Hiking Trails in Northern Michigan: http://tinyurl.com/yckvc2p9
- Hike the Olympic Peninsula by Bus: http://tinyurl.com/y6wpuf8r

### TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails newsletter (Oct 2017): <a href="http://tinyurl.com/yamj93uz">http://tinyurl.com/yamj93uz</a>
- Trails.com newsletter (Hiking Safety Hacks): http://email.trails.com/g/1437uLhFpmxS7NQbvjYFF/wv
- National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (Oct 2017): http://tinyurl.com/y8yd2c47

#### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Book Great Hiking Trails of the World: http://tinyurl.com/y8hoytp7
- Video Benefits of Family Camping: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7dnaAuMwN0
- How to go Hiking with Dogs: https://americanhiking.org/resources/hiking-with-dogs/
- 2017 National Recreation Trails photo contest (deadline Dec 15): http://tinyurl.com/p5ku38v
- Book review: Appalachian Odyssey: A 28-year Hike On America's Trail: http://tinyurl.com/y7lc64tx
- U.S. DOT envisions trails can be part of core transportation networks: http://tinyurl.com/yayuwudr

#### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- US considers higher entry fees at 17 popular national parks: http://tinyurl.com/ya8jx2au
- Walk desolate Mars trails with new NASA VR: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/y86knngf">http://tinyurl.com/y86knngf</a>
- More Americans Head Into The Wild Unprepared For ... The Wild: http://tinyurl.com/y73292f9
- Recreation Industry Reports Strong 2017, Strong Outlook: http://www.funoutdoors.com/2018Outlook
- Fund Makes \$400 Million for Public Lands, Waters in 2017: www.funoutdoors.com/node/view/3856
- Rec Leaders Talk Strategy on Infrastructure, Fees, Outreach: www.funoutdoors.com/node/view/3867

#### INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- A U.S. and Mexican city want to build a cross-border bike trail: http://tinyurl.com/y9e3p9kv
- Trail saboteur caught on camera in Belfast: http://tinyurl.com/yc66gk63

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.

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 <a href="mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com">fbxtrails@gmail.com</a>