



Up Ship Creek

News, Events, and Opportunities from the Sierra Club's Knik Group

EXXPOSE EXXON!

Letter from Carl Pope, national executive director of the Sierra Club.

Every year, the destruction caused by the drilling, production and use of oil and gasoline gets worse. Instead of advocating changes which will decrease our reliance on oil, the petroleum industry is looking instead to drill for more crude, no matter the location, no matter how damaging.

To add insult to injury, these same companies are reaping huge profits while Americans must cut deeper into their families' budgets to pay for the rapidly increasing price of gas.

Of all the Big Oil companies, Exxon is the worst. Let me tell you why:

- Exxon is leading the lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. to open the pristine Arctic Refuge in Alaska for drilling.
- After more than a decade, Exxon has still not kept its promise to pay for the extreme damage that resulted from the Exxon Valdez spill in Prince William

Sound.

- And while you and I are being gouged at the gas pump, Exxon is reaping record high profits...over \$25.3 BILLION in 2004...money that is paying for junk science designed to stop and stall action on global warming.

This needs to stop.

I'm asking you to join our boycott of the ExxonMobil Corporation by helping us to "Exxpose Exxon" -- our campaign to force ExxonMobil to reverse its anti-environmental policies -- policies which exploit our natural environment and the pocketbooks of the American public.

Please help us send a strong message to the executives at Exxon with this boycott: Keep your hands off the unspoiled Arctic Refuge and stop funding junk science with the profits you make gouging Americans at the pump!

While it is easy to feel hopeless during these difficult times, and unable to

fight back against a mighty behemoth such as the Exxon Corporation, you can do something about it -- work with us to EXXPOSE EXXON. We urge you to do the following right now:

Sign the petition to the Chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil, Lee Raymond, expressing your outrage at this company's irresponsible actions and pledge to participate in this boycott. (<http://www.sierraclub.org/exxposeexxon>)

Your action today is critical -- unless we "Exxpose" Exxon's disgraceful environmental record, we can not expect to achieve our goal -- to force Exxon to change its policies and practices and become a responsible business -- or even to admit that the problem exists!

Join us!

Exxpose Exxon Rally
Thursday October 6, 12-2pm
Downtown Anchorage

Get Involved with our Arctic Refuge Campaign today!

Now, more than ever, we need your voice! Contact Betsy Goll and find out what you can do here in Alaska to help protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. 907-276-4044 betsy@sierraclubalaska.org

- Join our Arctic Activist email for up-to-date information and action.
- Participate in Caribou Trots and other Outreach Activities.
- Attend a Movie/Speaker Night to learn more about what's at stake.
- Take our PFD Energy Innovation Pledge!



Outings Program Update: Adventures in Our Backyard!

Amy Murphy

The Alaska Chapter's first gourmet backpack trip this past June was so much fun, we decided to turn this into an annual event. Outing participants hiked five miles in to the stunningly beautiful Rabbit Lake, which is nestled at the base of North and South Suicide Peaks in the Chugach State Park. The lake was calm most of the weekend and provided spectacular reflections of the peaks that surrounded us!



Almost everybody that participated in the outing brought "formal" attire to wear to dinner, and around 5:30 or so we got dressed and ready for the fancy occasion. Most of the women wore long gowns and the two men who ate with us wore ties! We sure got some strange looks from people who passed by our camp, but we continued to act like it was perfectly normal to wear fancy clothes and eat delicious, smelly food out in bear country! One lady brought a white tablecloth, which was placed over a big rock that became our dinner table. Another woman brought a small stereo and we had delightful,

classical music softly playing in the background; mingling with the intermittent sounds of the wild birds.

The gourmet dinner started with a variety of hors d'oeuvres, including cheese cubes and sliced salami with crackers, salmon pate and artichoke dip with yummy bread. The main dishes were halibut, asparagus and Portobello mushrooms boiled in teriyaki sauce and three-cheese tortellini with salmon alfredo sauce.

Sliced vegetables and a salad were served and there was a wide variety of delectable desserts. We ate so much food we couldn't enjoy our desserts until after we went on an after-dinner hike, while still wearing our fancy attire, albeit with hiking boots on.

We will do this trip again next June to the same location – and we hope to have even more people participate next year!

Sept. 14, Wednesday: Campbell Creek Park Cleanup: 5:30-6:30pm

Please donate a little time to community service and help us pick up trash at this popular park that the Sierra Club adopted. Garbage bags will be provided. Location: Campbell Creek Park, near Lake Otis and Tudor. Trip leader: Nadine, 696-7625, nadine.dunbar@alaska.sierraclub.org

Sept. 18, Sunday: Mt. Magnificent Hike, 9am

Join the Sierra Club for a 6-mile hike to the top of Mt. Magnificent in Eagle River. This is a moderate hike with 2,300' elevation gain. Bring food, water, rain gear and sturdy boots. Meet at the post office end of Eagle River Carrs parking lot. Contact Outing leader: Jim, phone 694-9327.

Sept. 22, Thursday: - The Dome, 5:30pm

Join the Sierra Club for a moderate, 7-mile hike towards the summit of the Dome, located in the N. Fork of the Campbell Creek valley. We will hike for 90 minutes and turn around. Bring food, water, rain gear (if necessary) and sturdy boots. No dogs allowed. Meet at the Muldoon Carrs coffeeshop, or the Stuckagain Heights trailhead at 6:00 p.m. Trip leader: Amy, phone 338-3979 or amy.murphy@alaska.sierraclub.org

Saturday, September 24, Saturday: Cranberry Picking, 11am

Join the Sierra Club for a relaxing and fun afternoon picking low bush cranberries! The location is to be announced, so please contact leader to sign up. Bring food, water, rain gear (if necessary) and berry bucket. No dogs allowed. Outing leader: Marcy, phone 346-2589

Tuesday, September 27, Tuesday: - Bear Mountain, 5:45pm

Join the Sierra Club for a 5-mile hike up Bear Mountain in the Peters Creek valley. This is a moderate hike with 1,700' elevation gain. Bring food, water, rain gear (if necessary) and sturdy boots. No dogs allowed. Meet at the Eagle River Carrs coffeeshop, or 6:15 at the Peters Creek trailhead. Trip leader: Amy, phone 338-3979 or amy.murphy@alaska.sierraclub.org

October events to be determined, please see the web site for more information: www.alaska.sierraclub.org



Left: Outings participants enjoy Solstice potluck and hike at Rendezvous Peak..



Right: Volunteers help clean up your adopted park at Campbell Creek .

**** Save the Dates! ****

2nd Annual

BIONEERS in Alaska: Creating Sustainable Communities

October 13 - 16, 2005

University of Alaska Anchorage

BIONEERS promotes practical environmental solutions and innovative social strategies

for restoring the Earth and communities.

Come connect with other Alaskans doing amazing things!

15 plenary speakers beamed via satellite from California include:

Bill McKibben * Thom Hartmann * Janine Benyus * David Orr Omar Freilla *

Ohki Simine Forest * Bernice Johnson Reagon

22 local workshops! Topic areas include:

Restoring Ecosystems * Food & Farming * Ecological Design * Traditional Wisdom * Social Justice

Ecological Medicine Eco-nomics * Environmental Education * Youth Leadership * Nature, Culture & Spirit

Sustainable Energy Systems * The Arts

For more information: www.sustainak.org info@sustainak.org 907-334-9630

Knik Group Calendar of Events

September 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Caribou Trot
4	5	6 Phone Bank Night	7 Movies/Speakers Night	8 Sierra Summit, CA Conservation Comm. Meeting	9	10
11	12	13 Knik Group Meeting	14 Campbell Creek Park Cleanup	15	16	17 Caribou Trot
18 AK Wilderness Week, DC Mt. Magnificent Hike	19	20	21	22 The Dome Hike	23 Knik Group Monthly Social	24 Cranberry Pick- ing
25	26	27 Bear Moun- tain Hike	28	29 Conservation Comm. Meeting	30	

October 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8th World Wil- derness Congress
2	3	4 Phone Bank Night	5 Movie/Speaker night	6 Exxpose Exxon Rally	7	8 Energy Innovation Neighborhood Walk
9	10	11 Knik Group Meeting	12	13 BIONEERS in AK	14 BIONEERS in AK	15 BIONEERS in AK
16 BIONEERS in AK	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Conservation Comm. Meeting	28 Knik Group Social	29
30	31					

Volunteers are at the Heart of the Sierra Club

Save These Dates and Get Involved Today!

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities,
please contact Katherine Fuselier at 276-4060, katherine@sierraclubalaska.org

PHONE BANKING

We will have several phone banks this fall to let our members know of upcoming events and opportunities. Food and beverage provided. This is a GREAT first step in volunteering for the Sierra Club. Please join us!

Tuesday, September 6: 6-8pm

Tuesday, October 4: 6-8pm

*all phone banks are held at the Sierra Club office 333 West 4th Ave, Suite 307. Downtown Anchorage.

CARIBOU TROT!

Do you want to do something to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge but feel that one more letter to our senators is futile? How about getting the tourists (who are here to visit our wild places anyway) to care enough to write letters to their senators? Or maybe you just have a deep inner need to impersonate a caribou? Join us in front of the Ship Creek Center at 333 West 4th Ave. to walk downtown and hand out leaflets dressed as a caribou (don't worry...we will be in a herd :)

Contact Michelle Wilber, 770-6710

michelle.wilber@alaska.sierraclub.org

Saturdays, September 3 & 17: 2pm

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

Saturday, October 8

It is a great time to get out and enjoy fall in Alaska and meet your neighbors. Join us for a pleasant walk through your neighborhood as we distribute information on Sierra Club Energy Solutions and ask people to take action to EXXPOSE EXXON! For more information and to get involved, contact Katherine 276-4060.

ATTEND A LOCAL MEETING

All Sierra Club members are encouraged to attend or to conference call in. All meetings are at: 333 West 4th Ave, 3rd Floor in the Ship Creek Center.

Knik Group Excomm planning and organizing meetings will focus on fall outings, conservation priorities, and upcoming events. Contact: Will 688-5288
will.taygan@alaska.sierraclub.org

Tuesday, September 13: 6-7:30pm

Tuesday, October 11: 6-7:30pm

Knik Group Conservation Committee meetings in September and October will focus on Arctic Refuge and Energy awareness, please join us to get involved!! For more information contact Michelle, 770-6710,
michelle.wilber@alaska.sierraclub.org

Thursdays, September 8 & 29: 6:30-7:30pm

Thursday, October 27: 6:30-7:30pm

ATTEND A POTLUCK

We have a potluck every month! They're fun, informal, a great way to learn about the Sierra Club and our conservation issues, and mingle with other Knik Group members. Please join us!

Friday, September 23, 6-9pm

Will Taygan's house, 22207 Banner Circle, Chugiak

Friday, October 28, 6-9pm

Joan Galt's house, 6730 Lunar Dr., Anchorage.

For directions, please visit www.alaska.sierraclub.org

Seeking a Balance for Recreation on the Kenai

New recreation-based projects and planning efforts on Forest Service lands on the Kenai Peninsula have people talking about changes in recreational demand and use patterns, as well as what current and future recreational opportunities should be.

What level of use is appropriate in what areas?

What are the cumulative effects of the current and recently proposed actions associated with recreation?

What types of recreation, at what levels, do people want to see on the Kenai over the long-term?

Opportunities to Get Involved:

Go to the Chugach National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/> for information, updates, and opportunities to take action on these three projects:

Whistle Stop Project

Kenai Winter Access Management Plan

Mills Creek-Iditarod Hut to Hut System

Whistle Stop Project: The Alaska Railroad and the Chugach National Forest is proposing this project under the intent to accommodate dispersed recreational use and increased access of this area of the National Forest. Train service would be provided from Portage to Trail Creek (approximately 25 miles of railway). New facilities are proposed at each of six whistle stops (Luebner Lake, Spencer Lake, Bartlett Glacier, Grandview, Hunter, and Trail Creek) including loading/unloading platforms, boardwalks, restroom facilities, kiosks, and more. Also proposed are six public use cabins, a group campsite accommodating 150 people at Spencer Lake area, 34 hardened overnight sites, and an interconnected trail system of 44 miles of new trails. A draft environmental impact statement with proposed alternatives is expected this winter; the public will be encouraged to comment on this project at that time. USFS Project Contact: Adam McClory, 907-754-2352, amclory@fs.fed.us

Kenai Winter Access Plan: Great news! Over the last several months the Forest Service has been engaged in a community-based planning effort to determine long-term management direction for winter recreation access on the Kenai. This is an incredibly unique opportunity for citizens to get involved in an attempt to strike a better balance for motorized and non-motorized users. This past spring, through a series of collaborative workshops, a diverse group of skiers, snowshoers, snowmachiners, and other winter enthusiasts rolled up their sleeves at round tables over maps to work toward a balanced solution for all users. As a result, the Forest Service planning team took home 18 collective maps representing potential management scenarios, as well as stacks of public comments to guide the team in developing alternatives. A draft environmental impact statement with proposed alternatives is expected to come out this fall, followed by another round of collaborative workshops where recreationists can get engaged, be heard, and influence the final outcome for winter recreation management on the spectacular Kenai Peninsula. USFS Project Contact: Anne Davy, 209-532-3671 x246, adavy@fs.fed.us

Mills Creek-Iditarod Hut to Hut System: The Alaska Mountain and Wilderness Huts Association has proposed a system of huts and trails for skiing and hiking in the Mills Creek and Johnson Pass area. The project would traverse 28 miles of trails between Mills Creek via Stormy Pass to Johnson Pass to Center Creek, and east to Center Creek Pass. This would involve the construction of approximately 16 miles of new trails and 4 huts (5-8 miles apart). Each hut (2500 ft²) would accommodate approximately 20 guests per night. A draft environmental impact statement with proposed alternatives is expected this winter; the public will be encouraged to comment on this project at that time. USFS Project Contact: Karen Kromrey, 907-224-3374, kkromrey@fs.fed.us



Permanent Fund your own Energy Innovation!

Oil is a non-renewable resource that is nearing its end of dominance as an energy source for us. For reasons of planetary health, national security, the integrity of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and our children's future many of us realize that it is time to invest in clean, renewable energy sources and in ways to lower the energy we require. We can't think of a better thing to do with your Permanent Fund Dividend! Created to set aside a portion of Alaska's mineral and oil revenues for the future of all Alaskans, it seems perfect to use PFD money to fund your own glorious transformation out of the oil age. So use all or part of your dividend to decrease your use of fossil fuels by conservation or investment in renewables. For example: you could insulate your attic, build a passive solar greenhouse, plant a garden, put down money on a hybrid car, buy energy efficient appliances, put solar panels or a wind generator on your roof, donate money to an environmental organization or two, sign up for curbside recycling, buy a basket or trailer for your commuter bike etc. Whatever you do, fill out the form below to let us know about it and we will deliver them to our senators and representative to let them know that Alaskans want clean green energy and a healthy environment!

Name _____	Please place stamp here
Address _____	

I will use my PFD to help create a clean, green energy future and a healthy environment for my family and for Alaska!	To: Sierra Club Alaska Field Office 333 W 4th Ave Suite 307 Anchorage, AK 99501
I look forward to being less dependent on fossil fuels and plan to spend it on these creative <u>solutions to the energy</u> problems of today: _____ _____	
Signature _____	



Please cut out the attached post card and drop it in the mail!

Upcoming Movie/Speaker Nights Hosted by Knik Group

all events are free and open to the public

An Evening with the Arctic Refugees

The evening kicks off with the 15-minute film "Birthplace of the Caribou" followed by a presentation and discussion, "Pack Rafting the Hula Hula in the Arctic Refuge" with Matt Rafferty and Jeff Jessen.

Wednesday, September 7, 7pm

Anchorage Museum

121 West 7th Ave. downtown Anchorage

The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream

"We're literally stuck up a cul-de-sac in a cement SUV without a fill-up" - James Howard Kunstler - Since World War II North Americans have invested much of their newfound wealth in suburbia. It has promised a sense of space, affordability, family life and upward mobility. As the population of suburban sprawl has exploded in the past 50 years, so too the suburban way of life has become embedded in the American consciousness. Suburbia, and all it promises, has become the American Dream. (78 min)

Wednesday, October 5, 7pm

Anchorage Museum

121 West 7th Ave. downtown Anchorage



Alaska Field/Chapter Office

333 West 4th Ave. Suite 307

Anchorage, AK 99501

907-276-4048

We're on the web!
www.alaska.sierraclub.org