

Alaska Sea Adventures

Yacht Charters & Cruises



Alaska Sea Adventures Winter Newsletter 2006

Information to help you make the most of your Alaska adventure - Share with your friends!

January 2006

From Captain Dennis Rogers:

*Welcome to Alaska Sea Adventures' newsletter!
It would be our pleasure to hear from you, so please
feel free to call or email us with any questions!*

Enjoy, and I Wish you the Very Best for the New Year!

Christmas Lights at the
Sons of Norway Hall in Petersburg



Christmas in Petersburg

The last of the Humpback whales to make their departure to Hawaii are still in the near vicinity of Petersburg and Frederick Sound. It's an amazing sight to witness these magnificent creatures (which we enjoy observing so much during the summer months) in this Alaska winter setting. The warm tropical waters must be beckoning the last of these leviathans to the calving and mating grounds some 3000 miles distant. But, winter is here and so is the holiday season.

We enjoyed *The Festival of Lights Ceremony* the Friday after Thanksgiving with the lighting of the community tree, music, and benediction. This event kicks off the Christmas season in Petersburg which includes a schedule of special activities for residents and visiting family of this small, tight knit community - like the wonderful presentation of *The Nutcracker* put on by Steppin' Out Dancers and featuring a troupe consisting of more than 40 Petersburg youth. A truly remarkable performance!

The annual pickled herring and smoked salmon competition judging on December 14th at the Sons of Norway is always a fun local event not exactly

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witnessed by every town. We just need to have more entries to compete with Helmer (Bill) Olsen's fine pickled herring preparations that have dominated the contest longer than most care to remember.

Events wind down on Christ's Eve afternoon with the Norwegian tradition of Julebukking (pron: Yulabucking) where local merchants offer customers food and spirits in appreciation for the previous year's business. There's no finer way for merriment than wandering from store to store visiting with merchants and friends while enjoying delectable treats and excellent seasonal beverages while resisting the urge to splurge for those last gifts for under the tree.

The mild weather for December so far has pretty much been typical with a week of freezing temperatures along with a week the mercury in the mid 40s. The foot or so of snow that fell late November is pretty well gone from town, but the stunning mountain range across Fredrick Sound from Petersburg with Devils Thumb Peak towering above is shrouded with the year's new snowfall - it is the beginning of the annual accumulation of 100+ feet of snow that keeps the massive ice fields growing to force the glacial flow down through the steep valleys where we enjoy the thrilling sights of calving icebergs.

We wish you all health and happiness in the New Year and we hope to see you this coming season on the *Alaska Adventurer!*

2006 Available Dates

If you haven't made reservations yet with us for this coming summer, there are still a few open dates for an awesome custom charter, and a few cabins open on exciting guided adventures. Below is a current list of trips with space still available, *but they're filling up...*

For the latest schedule, please check the website often.

Note: We welcome groups and alumni travelers!

Guided Trips - By the Cabin

Eagles! I Photo Adventure with Rocky Mountain Photography Adventures

April 8th - 14th / **ONLY 2 cabins open**

Eagles! II Photo Adventure with Wildside Adventures

April 16th - 22nd / **ONLY 2 cabins open**

Spring Herring Spawn/Whales/Eagles with Jim Nahmens

April 28th - May 6th / 4 cabins open

Glacier Special

May 16th - 20th / **ONLY 2 cabins open**

Focus on Whales Photography with Jim Nahmens

July 7th - 14th / **ONLY 1 berth open**

Sea Kayaking Adventure with Explorers' Corner

July 15th - 23rd / **ONLY 1 cabin open**

Whales/Bears Photography Adventure with Wildside Adventures

August 2nd - 9th / **ONLY 1 cabin open**

Custom Charter Dates - Whole Yacht

May 8th - 14th / 7 days*

Glaciers/Birds/Photography/Kayaking/Adventure

May 23rd - 31ST / 9 days **RESERVED**

Petersburg Memorial Day weekend King Salmon Derby

June 3rd - June 7th / 5 days

Glaciers/Seal pupping/Photography/Adventure

June 18th - 25th / 8 days

Whales/Photography/Fishing/Adventure

August 29th - Sept 4th / 7 days

Whales/Salmon Fishing/Adventure

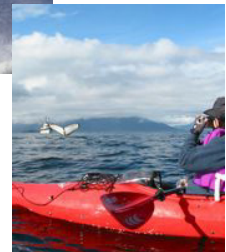
Sept 14th - 20th / 7 days*

Fantastic Silver Salmon Fishing!

*low season rate

May trips are a fantastic time to visit Southeast Alaska and are offered at a very attractive price.

September - We have **secret locations** that feature the **best Silver Salmon fishing to be found!**



Charter the Alaska Adventurer
for the Ultimate Family Vacation!

It's not too early to make your reservations for 2007!

If the best dates for your 2006 trip are already reserved or you've made other plans, it's a good time to consider dates for 2007 before they begin filling in. Right now you have a wide selection of spring summer and fall trips to choose from throughout the 2007 season. Plan now, because by summer, the dates will begin selling out. Now is the time to take advantage of the best selection of dates!

New! Pacific Herring Spawning Event Spring Photography Adventure for 2006

See Whales, Eagles, Sea Lions & Seals

Every year, as winter gives way to spring, a procession of Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) spawning events occurs. The herring spawning season begins in March in southern Southeast Alaska, continues northward with the advance of spring at the herrings' historically selected ideal locations, and culminates mid-July in the northern Bering Sea.



When this occurs, they become easy targets of prey to marine mammals and eagles. All of these unique components combine to set the stage for fantastic wildlife adventures and photo opportunities in this beautiful Alaska setting. The *Alaska Adventurer* will be there with a small group of fortunate guests to witness this remarkable drama

as it unfolds every single day on this nine-day adventure. As an added feature to top off your photo album, two days will be devoted to a scenic cruise through a sea of icebergs where we will catch the thrilling, close-up action of a tidewater glacier as massive building-size towers of ice calve into the sea. Spectacular!

Alaska Sea Adventures has planned a new *Spring Photography Adventure* (April 28th – May 6th) with Jim Nahmens where you will have a ring-side seat and witness once-a-year-only wildlife events in a very special location within Admiralty Island National Monument. In addition to being a vital food source for a large variety of Alaska fish species, oil-rich Pacific herring are an important dietary component for many of Alaska's other maritime inhabitants including harbor seals, Steller sea lions, humpback whales and bald eagles. During the annual spring spawning cycle, the normally deep-living herring gather in large schools near the sea's surface as they approach their intertidal and subtidal spawning areas.

Alaska is a magical place full of wildlife activity in springtime – it's exciting every year to welcome the heralding of nature's spring events in Southeast Alaska. This is a fantastic opportunity to capture rare images while witnessing a part of Alaska rarely observed by any non-Alaskan. Make your reservation today as this program is sure to fill up fast!



"Join me and we'll capture the images of whales rushing through shallow schools of herring, eagles diving with outstretched talons, and large groups of Steller sea lions performing skilled maneuvers through the abundant schools of fish."

–Jim Nahmens, Natural History Guide and Wildlife Photographer

**April 28th - May 6th, 2006
9 days/8 nights onboard
the Alaska Adventurer**

**From \$2,690 per person
All-inclusive from Petersburg Alaska
Call to reserve your space.**

Secret Recipe - Savory Alder Planked Salmon

Our guests always comment on the superior dining aboard the *Alaska Adventurer*! A highlight of every trip is the thrill of catching a variety of fish for the noon and evening meals.

When we catch salmon, we usually prepare a favorite on the stern grill – Alder Planked Alaska Salmon. Now, for the first time, we share with you our secret recipe.



Captain Dennis fires up the grill!

♦Fresh or frozen Wild Alaska Salmon ♦Your favorite Soy-Ginger Marinade ♦Olive Oil ♦Alder Cooking Planks

♦Cut the fresh or frozen Alaska salmon (red, silver or king) filleted and cut into 3x3 squares. ♦Marinate for 1-3 hours in soy-ginger marinade that has been cut half and half with olive oil. ♦Presoak alder roasting boards by submersing in water for at least an hour (your favorite beer or wine is a fun substitute for board soaking liquid and will impart another mild flavor). ♦Preheat boards on one side; when the board(s) begin to curl and very slightly char, flip them over being careful not to burn your fingers. ♦Liberally oil the top of boards with Pam and/or olive oil. Watch out for flare-ups!

♦When board starts to smoke and the oil on the surface of the plank is hot, put salmon skin-side down on boards. ♦With the grill cover closed, cook over medium heat until fish is done (approximately 20-30 minutes depending on thickness of fillets). ♦Do not turn the fish over while cooking. ♦By keeping the temperature medium high, but not so hot that the boards ignite, the fish will take on a very attractive smoky golden color. Yum!

Visit our website and learn where to find the best wild Alaska Seafood - delivered right to your door!

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Southeast Alaska Wakes Up In Springtime!

*Experience the remarkable awakening of
the amazing, Southeast Alaska!*

Springtime in Southeast Alaska is a cherished time – returning and nesting birds, spawning herring and smelt that draw spectacular numbers of natural predators including the arrival of the first the returning salmon, the emergence of wildlife and flora, warming longer days and uncrowded towns and sights – a literal paradise cherished by locals and largely unfamiliar and missed by most.

In fact, April and May present an excellent time to experience unique opportunities not available during the summer months in Southeast Alaska. Most non-locals are surprised to learn that these spring months have the least precipitation of the year (a welcome note to residents of this temperate rain forest and one of reasons that make this a favorite time of year for most locals). Plus, by May, the daylight has increased dramatically which is another welcome change from the short days of winter.

Springtime magic happens. Local fauna and wildlife are emerging from it's dormant winter lifestyle or hibernation as the migratory birds are making their way back to summer

feeding and nesting areas. Groggy bears browse on their main spring staple of newly sprouting beach sedges, making them highly visible to mariners plying shorelines by boat and kayak. Beach grasses, sedges and wildflowers are making their appearance with the promise of beautiful blossoms soon to be that will brilliantly color the floors and borders of this remarkable rainforest.

Glaciers are at the beginning their peak calving season as the strain from the winter's huge snowfall on the ice fields increases the pressure on these monumental flowing rivers of ice. The beautifully abundant floating ice, locally known as 'bergie bits', which can clog these stunningly scenic steep sided fjords, will soon become the birthing and nursing platforms for Harbor seals. For all living within this remote paradise, spring is a special time to witness the covenant of the cycle of life so essential to all existence within this remarkable archipelago. You are invited to join us and experience this precious season most visitors mistakenly overlook - the awakening of the amazing Southeast Alaska. See it this year!

Alaska Research Sponsorship Program

Are you interested in making a difference and having an experience of a lifetime?

ASA is dedicated to promoting a comprehensive understanding of Alaska's remarkable ecology. This knowledge provides the foundation to development of adequate preservation policies to ensure the long term health of imperiled wildlife populations.

While most Alaska marine mammal research programs rely explicitly on discretionary state and federal grant funding and limited organization and department budgets, many of these research programs are considerably under funded, some to the degree that continuation of the project is dependant on acquiring additional funding. Through our association with organizations and researchers engaged with specific programs, when you sponsor a program, ASA may be able to provide an unusual opportunity for you to

assist and become involved in one of these exciting scientific projects! Most research projects involve 1 to 2 weeks of field time, usually aboard the *Alaska Adventurer*. Funding required to fund a project range from \$20,000 – \$50,000. The major portion of contributions can be managed as a tax deductible donation. Go on our website and check out our available sponsorable programs. Please contact us if you are interested in sponsoring any of our research partners' projects: **Call 1-907-772-4700.** Thank you.



**Like to fish? Remember, we have
secret locations that feature the
best Silver Salmon fishing
to be found!**

**Captain Dennis welcomes you
aboard the *Alaska Adventurer*!**

