



Director's Report

Ports & Harbor

CITY OF VALDEZ

Winter/Spring 2017

Authored by: Jeremy Talbott, Ports & Harbors Director

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PORTS & HARBOR

HUMAN RESOURCES

DEPARTING:

- Steve Waller, Harbor Maintenance Technician II
 - Retiring after 30 Years of service to the City of Valdez
- Stephan Benda, Port Security & Maintenance Technician

WELCOMING:

- Jake Meadows, Port Maintenance Manager
- Jodie Fowler, Harbor Office Manager
- Ryan Lindemann

PROMOTING:

- Jeremy Talbott, Ports & Harbor Director
- Sarah VonBargen, Harbormaster
- AJ Keeton, Harbor Maintenance Tech. II

OPENINGS

- Harbor Marine Equipment Operator
- Seasonal Harbor/ Port, Maintenance and Office Technicians-Open until filled



Figure 1: Steve Waller, Silver Surfer

TRAINING:

- Jeremy Talbott
 - Certified Intermediate Marina Manager, Seattle WA.
 - Pacific Coast Congress of Harbormaster & Port Administrators, San Francisco CA.
- Sarah VonBargen
 - The Ultimate Supervisor, Anchorage
 - Facilities Management, Anchorage
 - 24 HAZWOPPER Operations Certification
 - ICS 100
- Andrew Keeton
 - Facility Electric Safety & Repair, Dallas TX.
 - Marine Travel Lift Re-Certification
 - University of Alaska South East- Marine Utilities: Electrical Systems, Online
 - University of Alaska South East- Facility Safety, Online
- Jenessa Ables
 - Certified Maritime Port Executive, Houston TX.
- Jake Meadows
 - Marine Travel Lift Certification
 - Airport Equipment Operator Safety
 - National Electrical Code Awareness
- Ryan Lindemann
 - Marine Travel Lift Certification
 - Aerial Boom Lift Operator Certification
 - Airport Equipment Operator Safety
 - Personnel with Security Duties
- Facility Security Training, (In-House)
 - VCT Security Training “Custodians of Freight”
 - Eric Reich (Sampson)
 - Curt Wilson (Wilson Brothers)
 - Q1 Security Drill, Cruise Ship Security
 - Jenessa Ables, FSO
 - Jeremy Talbott
 - Jake Meadows
 - Stephen Mitura
 - Andrew Keeton
 - Jacob Heeren
 - Q2 Security Drill, Cruise Ship Security & Annual 2017 Exercise
 - Jenessa Ables
 - Jeremy Talbott
 - Jake Meadows
 - Steve Mitura
 - Jacob Heeren
 - AJ Keeton
 - Ryan Lindemann

CITY EMPLOYEE SURVEY

- The Ports & Harbor department scored high as a department; we have a few things we can work on (Communications) and our employees report being generally very happy. We sat down to enjoy lunch together and discuss some of the areas we scored low on and came away with several ideas we can work towards in the future.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

Originator	Type	Comment/s	Staff Response
Harbor Customer	Concerns / Requests	Harbor office and shower are difficult to access and floors are slippery for limited mobility customers. Customer requests a token machine, wooden shower mats, grab rails, and an additional step be added to restrooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete step and grab bars installed two weeks post. Wooden Shower Mats installed. Considering a token Machine to be placed on the 2018 budget list.
Airport Lease Tenant	Compliment	Appreciative of how easy staff has been to work with at the airport.	
Container Dock Shipping Customer	Compliment	Out of all the facilities we operate out of in Alaska, Valdez has the nicest lay down yard.	
Commercial Vessel Operator	Concerns / Requests	The parking lines have faded along North Harbor Drive, requests new paint striping.	Added to the Spring Preparation list, will proceed weather permitting.
Vessel Captain	Safety Concern / Unsafe condition	The Ramp at the VCT Barge Landing is too low and has the potential to "Kick Out" from the landing during container off loading.	Agreed with the Vessel Captain and added to the Future 10 Year Capital Improvements Projects List

WHATS HAPPENING AT THE AIRPORT!

AIRPORT -OPERATIONS

- Port Operations Manager Jenessa Ables has been working with the City Clerk, finance department and Attorney to update and complete a new tenant lease agreement that includes state mandated concession fees.
- Staff worked with Arts Design to update the Airport sign that was destroyed during the heavy wind events in February.
- Staff has been collaborating with Imagination Library representative Yosselyn Gheen and Mollie Good to bring the "Read on the Fly" program to the Valdez Airport. This program



will align with our goal to make the Airport more “User Friendly”.

- A new Automated External Heart Defibrillator was purchased and installed across from the RAVN counter.

MAINTENANCE STAFF

- Completed cleaning and painting the airport tower interior.
- Cleaning and assisting with event set up and tear down.
- Replacing lighting electrical ballasts and bulbs.
- Staging equipment and materials for the May Fly-in
- Replaced & installing new Airport sign.
- Repaired/replaced a damaged structural beam that had been struck by a vehicle.
- Port Maintenance staff received “*Airport Safety for Equipment Operators*” training from Airport Manager Steve Searles. This training and testing are required to operate machinery around Alaska’s airports, and is provided at no charge by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation.
- New mechanical doors were installed at the front entrance and both service doors to the airfield side.
- Several windows that were broken and leaking have been replaced and repaired.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Administrative staff has been meeting with multiple parties interested in potential available lease space on the Whitney side of the Airport and long term planning is on the horizon.
- Additionally the space located next to H2O Guides was also shown as a potential retail space.
- Staff has remained accommodating with existing lease customers, by exploring opportunities for additional space needs.
- Seed Media has requested additional advertising space in the Airport waiting areas.
- Looking into updating “Directory” options, as we bring more ad space opportunities, we would like to ensure existing tenants feel equally represented.

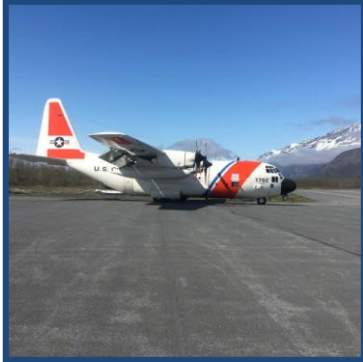
AIRPORT EVENTS

2017 Valdez Fly-In & Air Show May 12th, 13th, & 14th 2017



- Over 3,000 people attended the event this year.

- Over 17,000 people tuned in and watched the event live streamed over the internet with people checking in all over the planet.
- 76 total vendor booths were registered and paid to attend the three day event.



- 58 family members from USCG Station Kodiak were brought over to attend the event and spent additional time exploring the area.
- The World Record STOL record was broken by Frank Knapp in his "Lil Cub" with a recorded 10' 5" combined total.
- Lydia Jacobs from Old Town, Maine sold her car to have enough fuel money to get her Cessna 150 to Alaska and participate in the event. She will be working in Alaska over the summer and looks to become an Alaskan Bush pilot full-time and participate annually in the event.

AIRPORT PROJECTS

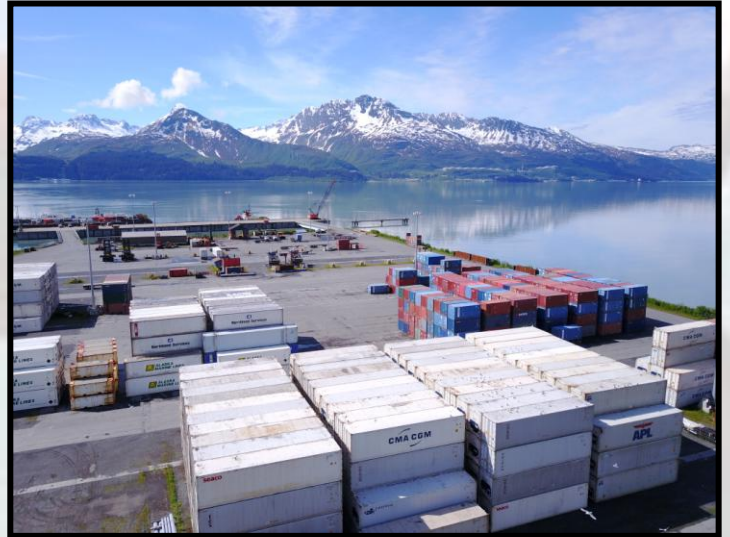
- The construction for the Airport ADA Restroom Remodel Project was postponed until the fall of 2017 to prevent construction during the Fly-in and to allow for a more competitive bidding process.
- Wi-Fi & streaming news monitors will be installed this summer

WHATS HAPPENING AT THE VALDEZ CONTAINER TERMINAL



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Port Operations Manager Jenessa Ables been working with the United States Coast Guard and Marine Exchange of Alaska to make some required changes to the Ports Facility Security Plan.
- Additionally Jenessa has been coordinating with multiple customers and stakeholders during the USCG Container Inspection program, and the process has been continually improving.
- Staff has worked to improve the process of tracking containers for the purpose of billing.
- Port Director Jeremy Talbott received a tour of the Cordova Provider and met with the Vessel Captain to discuss barge operations and safety concerns at the barge landing.
- A new Automated External Heart Defibrillator was purchased and installed at the North Star building.
- Port Director Jeremy Talbott and Operation Manager Jenessa Ables are coordinating efforts to expand additional lay down areas and future site improvements. The 2017 Commercial Salmon Season is shaping up to be one for the record books and we have requests for more space than ever before. There is an additional 800 containers on the way to Valdez for staging as of 6.13.17



MAINTENANCE STAFF



- Replaced and cleaned up a failed fuel tank for the emergency backup generator system.
- Facilitated the set up and teardown for the 2017 Spring Ammo move.
- Cleaned out RE-Staite Building and provided additional requested space for the Surface Deployment & Distribution Command staff during the Spring Ammo move.

- Installed new USCG required facility signage.
- Has teamed up with North Star Services to start clearing and cleaning the East end of the lay down yard to make room for additional containers.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Port Director Jeremy Talbott and Port Operations Manager Jenessa Ables met with Curt Wilson and Mike Hamm of Alaska Marine Lines to discuss ways to increase freight volumes, improve safety operations, and streamline freight logistics in and out of the Valdez Container Terminal.
- Jeremy Talbott and Jenessa Ables also met and toured the Valdez Waterfront facilities with Tote Maritime Alaska Representative Dale Westerlin to develop Emergency Contingency Plans for TOTE Maritimes operations in South Central Alaska.

PROJECTS AND EVENTS

- The Spring Ammo move was a success over 180 containers were moved in and out of the Port in 4 days and brought revenues in just shy of \$50,000 dollars.
 - Facility Security Officer/Port Operations Manager Jenessa Ables should be commended for her efforts to ensure a very successful operation.
 - Coast Guard Station Valdez XO Jason Smiley stated they were very pleased how well this particular move went, this was by far the best operation to date in Valdez.
 - Officers Esther Porter & Nicholas Johnston stated “This is the most prepared they have ever seen our team in regards to safety & Security.
- The Port Director has been working with the Capital facilities team to award the design services contact for the 2015 Underwater Inspection Repairs Project, construction repairs are slated to begin in 2018. Capital facilities are in negotiations with Moffat & Nichol for the design services and project permitting. Construction should begin early in the spring of 2018.
- After the severe winter wind storms the Security gate sustained major damage and is being held together with prayers and bubble gum. The replacement project was moved up a year and the gate should be replaced late in the fall of 2017.



Port & Harbor Maintenance Teams members Andrew Keeton, Jake Meadows, and Ryan Lindemann went through almost heroic measures during the brunt of the storm to replace the main bearings and get the gate back in operations saving several days worth of overtime and emergency 24 hour security shifting. They performed the repair in just under 6 hours through sustained 50-70mph winds and low temperatures hovering in the low teens. A JOB WELL DONE!

WHATS HAPPENING AT THE VALDEZ SMALL BOAT HARBOR



OPERATIONS STAFF

- Harbormaster Sarah Von Barga met with Elaine Nefzger and has been finalizing the Small Boat Harbor Storm Water Prevention Plan and should be submitted to the State by the end of June.
- The Travel Lift has been extremely busy splashing boats for the annual SERVS Oil Spill Response training and commercial seine season.
- Several new commercial vessels have jumped onto the waitlist and are looking forward to the opening of the New Boat Harbor.
- Parks & Recreation installed 3 Lending Library boxes in strategic locations in the harbor uplands. They will be managed by the Valdez City Library and compliment the harbor very nicely.
- Andrew Keeton developed training curriculum and materials to formalize the process our employees will go through to get trained and checked off to operate the City's 75 ton Travel lift.
- The maintenance pads and lay down yard continue to operate at maximum occupancy.



- Polar Sea Foods out of Seward Alaska is coordinating with Harbormaster Sarah VonBargen to use the fish pump and haul their fish overland by semi-trucks similar to the 2015 seine season.

MAINTENANCE STAFF

- Remodeled the Harbormaster's Office.
- Completed the annual Pedestal Crane Inspections and related repairs.
- Completed the annual Marine Travelift Inspection, certification, and maintenance.
- Launched the floating fish cleaning stations and restored water service to the Harbor after a cold winter.
- Repairs are still being made to the J-Float electrical system after the fire this winter in the float electrical boxes.
- The Fish Pump has been placed in service and is ready for the season.
- Replaced multiple sections of damaged / tripping hazard areas along areas of the boardwalks.

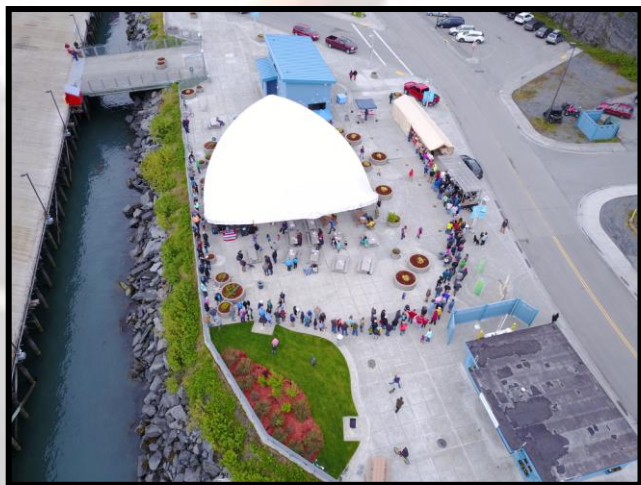


WHATS HAPPENING AT THE JOHN THOMAS KELSEY MUNICIPAL DOCK



OPERATIONS STAFF

- Staff is exhausted after getting the facilities ready for the 2017 summer season in just over two weeks between the VCT Ammo move and the successful cruise ship visit for the vessel Europa. The 650' vessel was secured to the Kelsey dock by North Star Stevedore Services just after 8am on Monday, May the 22nd. Passengers and Crew enjoyed their visit to Valdez and the company has placed Valdez as a "Company Port of Call" and will alternate visits every other year as they pass through on their Asia to Alaska Cruises.
- Bookings for summer events have been filling up fast. City of Valdez Events Coordinator Doug Desorsie has been keeping staff busy, and should be commended for the successful events this spring.



- City Manager Elke Doom has asked Administrative staff to expedite the relocation of the “Pipeline Workers Statue” from its location across the bay at the Alyeska Terminal. The statue is to be relocated for public access in the bus turn around at the Kelsey Dock.



MAINTENANCE STAFF

- Spent over 140 hours repairing and resurfacing the decorative fish off the plaza restrooms, the remaining 5 fish will be back up in the next couple weeks. Original cost for this artwork was \$14,000 in 2010 and they had almost completely rusted through in some places.
- The “Potato Chip” with the help of the Capital Facilities Team is ready for the season. We will be looking to replace the structure at the end of the season 2017 events season, it has come to the end of its life expectancy.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Jeremy Talbott and Jenessa Ables met with Andrew Mew from Cruise Ship Service of Alaska and discussed the visit of the vessel Europa and how the City and Port of Valdez could become more marketable to Cruise Lines operating in Alaska. Staff came away with several ideas and will be working to target the specific cruise lines discussed.
- Staff has been coordinating cruise activities with several key stake holders and will be meeting monthly in preparation for the arrival of Viking Cruise Lines in 2019.
- The Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau provided a new Cruise Ship welcoming sign on the Kelsey Dock; vessel names can be changed to match the anticipated vessel. THANK YOU VCVB!



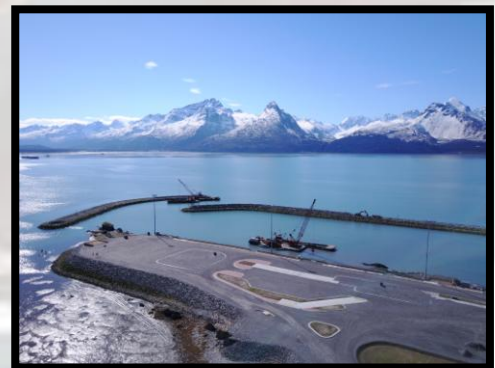
KELSEY DOCK EVENTS

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| • May 20 th | Community Clean Up Picnic. |
| • May 27 th & 28 th | Military Appreciation Weekend. |
| • June 2 nd & 3 rd | Relay for Life |
| • June 24 th | Rock Climbing Festival (Levitration 49 Sponsor) |
| • July 4 th | 4 th of July Picnic |
| • July 14 th – 16 th | Midway Carnival |
| • July 15 th | Pink Salmon Festival |
| • August 19 th | Richardson Highway Rendezvous |

WHATS GOING ON WITH THE NEW VALDEZ BOAT HARBOR PROJECT



- [Western Marine Construction](#) hit the ground running in April and has been bringing the breakwaters up to their final height of plus 25'. Western is ahead of schedule and should complete the [Alaska Army Corps. Of Engineers](#) portion of the project by July 1st 2017.
- [Pacific Pile & Marine](#) was awarded the phase II contract from the City of Valdez and should be onsite working in the New Harbor uplands in June of 17'. The floats and piles should arrive and begin to be installed early in the spring of 2018.
- Construction Management will be provided by Phase I Construction Manager Ron Rozak of [Arcadis](#). Design and inspection services will continue to be provided by [R & M Consultants](#) of Anchorage.



Jeremy M. Talbott MPE
Valdez Ports & Harbor Director