



# NSEDCC news

Spring 2008

## Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

420 L Street, Suite 310  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 1-800-650-2248  
Fax: (907) 274-2249  
Website: www.nsedc.com

## NSEDCC Mission Statement

"NSEDCC will participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities."

## NSEDCC Board Members & Member Communities

Reggie Barr • *Brevig Mission*  
Mary Menadelook • *Diomed*  
Charles Saccheus, Sr. • *Elim*  
Ramona Tungyan • *Gambell*  
Dean Peterson • *Golovin*  
Elvina Naranjo • *Koyuk*  
Don Stiles • *Nome*  
Truman Kava • *Savoonga*  
Victor Joe • *St. Michael*  
Harvey Sookiayak • *Shaktoolik*  
Wilfred Katcheak • *Stebbins*  
Joe Garnie • *Teller*  
Frank Katchatag • *Unalakleet*  
Frank Oxereok • *Wales*  
Dan Harrelson • *White Mountain*

## Bob Walsh named as new NSEDCC CEO

The Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC) is pleased and excited to announce that Robert "Bob" Walsh has assumed the position of Chief Executive Officer as of May 1st. The Board of Directors welcomes Bob to the organization and is optimistic and confident in his ability to lead the company as NSEDCC continues to grow and provide increased benefits to the communities and members of the Norton Sound region.

Bob graduated from Nome Beltz High School and continued to live in Nome until 1995. Prior to his new position, Bob was an Alaska Field Representative for United States Senator Lisa Murkowski. In past years, he's also worked as a Legislative Aide for Representative Richard Foster and as Director of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs for the State



of Alaska. His first-hand experience of living in the region coupled with his professional awareness makes him ideal for the NSEDCC Chief Executive Officer position.

Since he started, Bob has immersed himself in all aspects of the company to familiarize himself with NSEDCC staff, operations, and business. Bob looks forward to traveling to meet with residents and organizations in each community in an effort to be more aware and have a better understanding of issues facing the region.

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## NSEDC NEW HIRES



### A New Face in the Accounting Department



Heather Karmun joined our NSEDC Accounting team on April 21, 2008. The timing couldn't be better with the busy summer season coming soon. Heather is responsible for payroll and fish ticket settlements and will be assisting with the loan program.

Before starting at NSEDC, Heather worked for Cook Inlet Regional Inc., Harpoon Construction (UIC), and the Fairbanks Daily News Miner.

Heather was raised in Deering and spent time in Unalakleet where her mom, Marilyn Karmun (Nashalook), is from. Heather's first couple of weeks has been spent familiarizing herself with NSEDC accounting software and policies and procedures.

NSEDC Board and staff, especially the accounting department, welcome Heather Karmun to our team! If you have questions for Heather, please call the NSEDC Anchorage office or e-mail [heather@nsedc.com](mailto:heather@nsedc.com).

## NSEDC STAFF, LIAISONS & COMMITTEES



### NSEDC STAFF

**Daniel Harrelson**  
*President*

**Robert "Bob" Walsh**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Janis Ivanoff**  
*Vice President & Community Benefits Director*

**Tasha Huffman**  
*Controller*

**Kathy Whelehan**  
*Community Outreach Coordinator*

**Katie Peterson**  
*Community Project Coordinator*

**Paul Ivanoff III**  
*Community Development Coordinator*

**Camille Cruz**  
*Human Resources Director*

**Virginia Nashalook**  
*Senior Accountant*

**Hazel Sagoonick**, *Accountant*

**Heather Karmun**, *Accountant*

**Pearl Dotomain**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Yvonne "Galsy" Ashenfelter**  
*Administrative Intern*

**Chelsea Ryan**  
*Accountant Assistant*

### CDQ Harvest Department

**Simon Kinneen**  
*CDQ Manager*

### Norton Sound Investment Company

**Dick Tremaine**  
*NSIC Manager*

### Education, Employment and Training

**Jerry Ivanoff**  
*Secretary & EET Coordinator*

**Carol Charles**  
*Administrative Assistant*

### Norton Sound Fisheries Research & Development

**Charlie Lean**  
*NSFR&D Director*

**Wes Jones**  
*Fisheries Biologist*

**Jacob Ivanoff**  
*Fisheries Intern*

### Norton Sound Seafood Products

**Josh Osborne**  
*Northern NSSP Operations Manager*

**William "Middy" Johnson**  
*Southern NSSP Operations Manager*

**Richard Ferry**  
*Facilities Engineer*

**Crystal Taxac**  
*NSSC Office Manager*

**Mitch Demientieff**  
*NSSC Retail Manager*

### NSEDC COMMUNITY OUTREACH LIAISONS

**Johnee Seetot**  
*Brevig Mission*

**Frances Ozenna**  
*Diomedes*

**Emily Murray**  
*Elim*

**Shirley Antoghame**  
*Gambell*

**Sherri Lewis**  
*Golovin*

**Ruby Nassuk**  
*Koyuk*

**Shirley Martin**  
*St. Michael*

**Charlotte Kava**  
*Savoonga*

**Reuben Paniptchuk**  
*Shaktoolik*

**Atha Foxie**  
*Stebbins*

**Sarah Okbaok**  
*Teller*

**Paul Ivanoff, III**  
*Unalakleet*

**Joanne Keyes**  
*Wales*

**Davis Lincoln**  
*White Mountain*

# NSEDC COMMITTEES

## Executive Committee

- Dan Harrelson,  
*Chairman*
- Joe Garnie
- Don Stiles
- Dean Peterson
- Harvey Sookiayak

## Fisheries Development Committee

- Charles Saccheus, Sr.,  
*Chairman*
- Reggie Barr
- Joe Garnie
- Wilfred Katcheak
- Truman Kava
- Elvina Naranjo
- John Bundy (GFC, LLC)

## Rules & By-Laws Committee

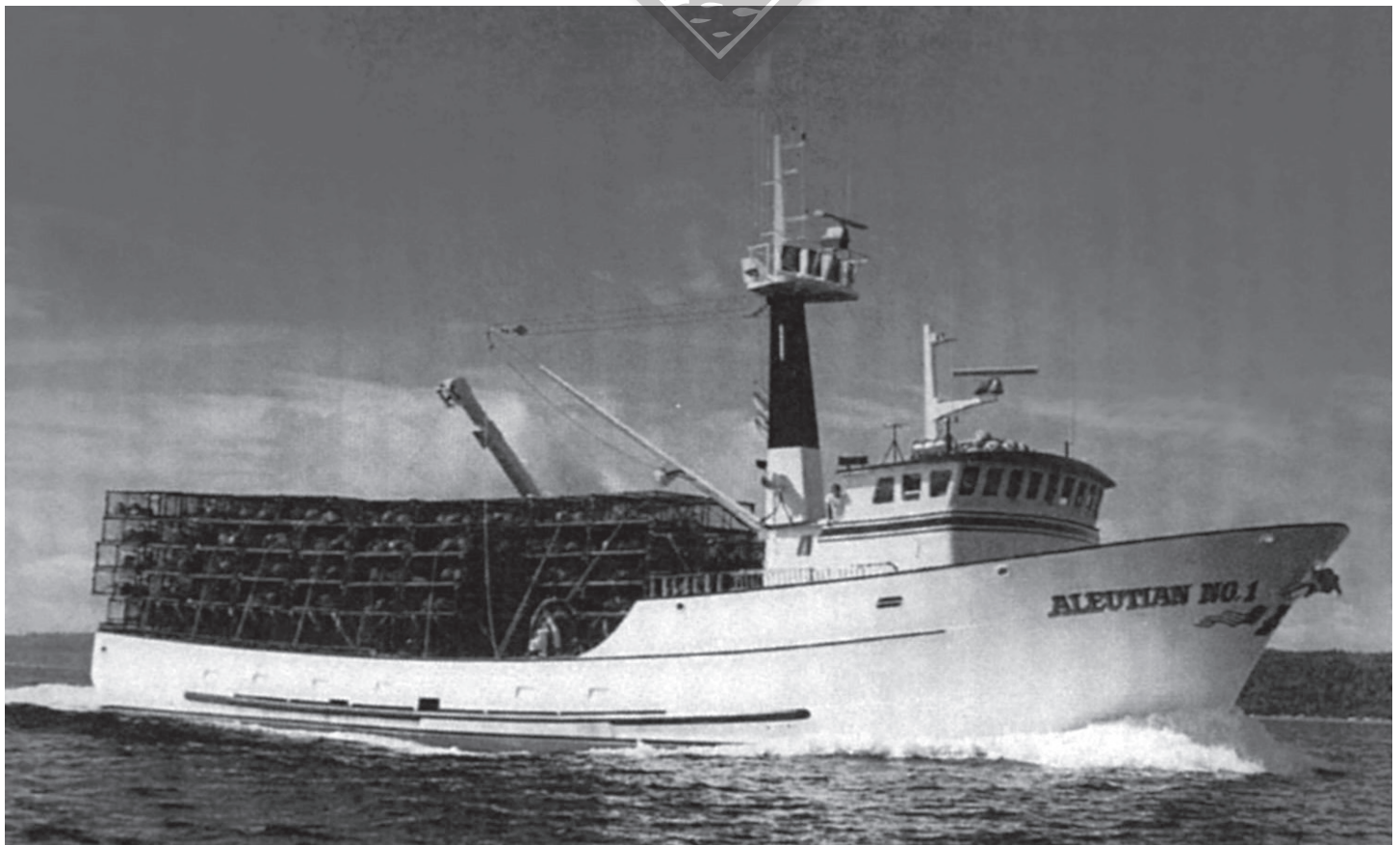
- Don Stiles, *Chairman*
- Joe Garnie
- Frank Katchatag
- Mary Menadelook
- Elvina Naranjo
- Charles Saccheus, Sr.
- Harvey Sookiayak

## Finance Committee

- Dan Harrelson,  
*Chairman*
- Frank Katchatag
- Wilfred Katcheak
- Frank Oxereok
- Dean Peterson
- Harvey Sookiayak
- Don Stiles
- Jack Carpenter, *At-Large*
- Henry Ivanoff, *At-Large*

## Scholarship Committee

- Victor Joe,  
*Chairman*
- Reggie Barr
- Truman Kava
- Elvina Naranjo
- Frank Oxereok
- Janice Dickens, *At-Large*
- Paul Ivanoff, III, *At-Large*



F/V Aleutian No. 1



# NSEDC hosts Community Dinner in Gambell in honor of Gilbert Ungott

On April 16, 2008 twenty-five NSEDC Board members and staff flew to Gambell to host a community dinner in honor of Gilbert Ungott and his family. The entire community was welcomed to attend and there was a great turn-out. Every seat and most of the bleachers were filled at the school gym.

Clement Ungott, Gilbert's dad, said a prayer before the dinner and several NSEDC Board members expressed their thoughts and prayers for Gilbert's family.

The main course consisted of reindeer stew, Norton Sound red king crab and homemade bread. Community members donated muktuk and fried bread. Homemade and beautifully decorated cakes from Judy Kotongan of Unalakleet were served for dessert.

One of the highlights of the evening was a PowerPoint presentation featuring photos of Gilbert throughout his life and with family and friends. Another

highlight and unexpected gift for NSEDC was Eskimo dancing after the dinner. We were delighted to see several Board and staff members join the dancers.

Many thanks to the staff at the Gambell School, the helpers recruited by NSEDC and community members that helped make this night special. We are glad to be part of the healing process for the Ungott family and the community of Gambell.



*There was great turn out in support and honor of Gilbert Ungott and his family.*



*Savoonga Board member, Truman Kava enjoying his visit to Gambell.*



*The little boy Davian Angi, was not very happy about the camera flash while he was concentrating on dancing.*



*Board member, Don Stiles and staff member, Paul Ivanoff, III (B\$) shown here taking dancing lessons from Melvin Apassingok*



*Nothing was going to break Eileen Koonooka's concentration. She took the dancing very seriously, even practicing in the bleachers between turns. We were impressed.*

# Ramona Tungiyon appointed as Gambell Member Representative



Ramona was sworn in as the NSEDC Gambell Member Representative at the 1st Quarter Board of Directors meeting in Nome on April 17, 2008. Ramona

has been sitting on the Board unofficially as a representative for Gambell since the disappearance of board member, Gilbert Ungott.

Ramona was born in Kotzebue, and raised in Nome for the first eight years of her life before her family moved to Gambell. This has been her home since. She is married to Wilfred Tungiyon and is the mother of six children: Bobby Ungwiluk, Trevor, Jordy, Hannah, Jerry and Hunter Tungiyon.

Ramona works for the Gambell Native Store and sits as the Secretary/Treasurer on the Gambell Common Council. When not

at work or attending meetings, Ramona enjoys riding ATVs and fishing.

An interesting fact about Ramona is that she is one of the students written about in the book, "Kids From Nowhere" by George Guthridge. A story he tells of his experience teaching in the remote village in 1982.

We are happy to officially welcome Ramona to the NSEDC Board of Directors.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS



### NSEDC Small Business Initiative

Applications for the NEW NSEDC Small Business Initiative are now available!

The NSEDC Small Business Initiative is an avenue for individuals to promote and develop business ventures in an effort to help alleviate social and economic issues facing the Norton Sound region. The NSEDC Small Business Initiative is aimed at identifying

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation



and funding business ideas that will stimulate and facilitate economic development in the Norton Sound region. Norton Sound region entrepreneurs are invited to submit an application for a business idea that demonstrates economic sustainability.

After a series of reviews and interviews by an independent panel of judges, finalists

will present their ideas to the same independent judges in person for the opportunity to be awarded a grant of up to \$35,000. NSEDC Small Business Initiative applications are currently available. The application period runs through July 31, 2008. The application evaluation and judging process will take place in August and September, with award recipients notified in early October 2008. Award recipients will present their business at the Bering Straits Regional Conference in February 2009.

For an application or additional information, please visit [www.nsedc.com](http://www.nsedc.com) or contact Paul Ivanoff at (800) 385-3190 or Katie Peterson at (800) 650-2248.

### 2008 Consolidated Bulk Fuel Program

Twenty-one participants signed up for this year's program, ordering 1,105,427 gallons of diesel #1 heating fuel and 348,031 gallons of unleaded gasoline. Communities were invited to participate in this year's program in November 2007, with a deadline to complete the necessary paperwork by December 15, 2007. NSEDC administers this program on behalf of the participants and acts as their agent in coordinating the fuel order; issuing

a Request for Proposals (RFP); evaluating the proposals and awarding a contract; and acting as a single point of contact for the supplier and communities. No interest or fees are charged to participants for administration of the program.

The 2008 RFPs were sent out to potential suppliers in February and the bidding period closed on March 14, 2008. NSEDC received timely and responsive bids from Crowley Marine Services, Inc. (Crowley) and Delta Western, Inc. (Delta). For the third year of the program, NSEDC has again accepted Delta's bid to deliver fuel to this year's participants. NSEDC is in the process of finalizing negotiations with Delta who not only offered the best overall value for the participating communities based on price, terms and conditions of the contract, but demonstrated a willingness to make this program a success now and in the future.

Fuel prices have risen significantly over the past year and from all indications they will continue to rise between now and the time the fuel is delivered to the participants. This is something neither NSEDC nor Delta has control over, but through this program, participants have historically received a lower fuel price than non-participating entities, and NSEDC believes that will continue through this fuel delivery season.





## Aleutian No 1 Snow Crab Fishery

The F/V *Aleutian No. 1* (see photo on page 11) completed the annual snow crab fishery (opilio crab) in late February. The boat caught most of our CDQ and IFQ crab, just over 1 million pounds in two months of hard work. Our captain, Rick Alvarez, reported some of the best catch rates he has seen in over twenty years of fishing. The boat and crew managed to avoid the unusually heavy sea ice and finished before it forced much of the rest of the fleet off the grounds. On board the F/V *Aleutian No. 1* this snow crab season was Phil Pryzmont of Nome. Phil came on as the “green horn” crew member. He is the first local person we have had on the F/V *Aleutian No. 1* since we took full ownership of the boat last year. He won praise from the

captain and crew as a hard worker. We would like to thank him for being such a good ambassador for the fishermen from the region.

## Pacific Glacier Fire

The factory trawler *Pacific Glacier* caught fire February 26 when it was 12 hours north of Dutch Harbor beginning its last trip of the pollock “A” season this year. The fire seems to have begun in the laundry room but quickly spread to other parts of the quarters. The crew was forced to abandon ship while fire teams fought the blaze for twelve hours. Miraculously, no one was injured during the entire course of evacuation and fire suppression. This speaks to the professionalism of the officers, fire team and the training of the crew. A number of boats fishing in the area steamed to the *Pacific Glacier's* aid. They assisted in evacuating the crew, provided firefighting

assistance and stood by in case of further need. The Coast Guard responded but, thankfully, were only needed to coordinate assistance efforts. Trident and the Highland Light caught and custom-processed our surplus pollock which allowed us to continue to supply our customers. The response from the entire industry was overwhelming in its generosity and magnitude. The fire destroyed two decks, burning hot enough to warp floors and walls. However, the fire was contained so that it did not damage the hull, machinery, factory, or wheelhouse. The boat suffered an estimated \$15 million in damage but was able to return to Dutch Harbor under its own power. It is now in the Todd Shipyard in Seattle undergoing a thorough inspection and cleaning in preparation for repairs. We are hopeful to have it fishing again for the 2009 pollock “A” season.

## Working Aboard the Aleutian No 1

by Phil Pryzmont

After seven years of fishing in Norton Sound I was interested in working with another fishery in another part of the State. I became interested in working aboard the F/V *Aleutian No. 1* (A1) after talking with Eugene Asicksik about the fishing boats NSEDC owns. I applied to Rip Carlton, the Operations Manager for the A1 and was accepted as a deckhand. The Bering Sea crab fishery was, of course, completely different from anything I had ever done before. We would initially work a 36 hour shift, sleep a few hours, and then move to a 20-24 hour shift, with a three to five hour nap in between. Surprisingly, after about five weeks my body adjusted to the schedule and I could function just fine with no tiredness or soreness between naps.

Three times a day (“day” being 24 hours, not the morning-to-night ‘day’ most people are used to) the cook, Bob, would leave the deck early to begin cooking. By the time we were done with a string of 25-35 pots, a huge feast

would be laid out in the galley. Bob, now 49 years old, has been working on crab boats since he was a teenager and was probably the most experienced, knowledgeable person on the deck and was the oldest person on the boat.

After seven to ten days of fishing, the tanks had 230-240,000 pounds of opilio crab and it was difficult to fit more down the hatches. At this point we’d start the 30-40 hour run back to Dutch Harbor, of which the deckhands would sleep about 20 hours. Twice we made deliveries to St. Paul, a barren rock island sticking up out of the water in the middle of nowhere. At the dock, five to seven cannery workers would take three or four days to offload the live crab from the boat. Then we’d take on fuel supplies and groceries and head back out to sea.

The work was extremely tough, cold and wet. Long shifts, sometimes slow fishing and the inevitable aches and pains led to short tempers on deck. Small storms were common, but for winds over 50 knots we’d usually stop fishing and ride it out. Through careful planning, the captain was able to

avoid heavy icing, but we still had to stay on top of the boat to keep the icing from getting out of hand. As a new hand on deck, I was handed job after job as the more experienced crew tried to see what it would take to break me. Eventually, they’d get bored with that game and leave me to do a certain set of jobs. Even so, I missed many breaks and a few meals trying not to fall behind in preparing bait.

I know now what to expect from the job and that I can actually do the work. I’m very happy to have the experience that I have now, but I don’t know yet if I’ll do it again. There are not very many people I’d recommend the job to. It is hard to be gone from home for two months straight and miss all the normal winter activities. As one of my deckhands is fond of saying, “It takes a SPECIAL kind of person to do this bleep.” However, I think the *Aleutian No. 1* is a great boat with an excellent captain and crew. The crew gets along most of the time and works well together, and they show pride for their captain and boat – extremely important factors when everyone has to work together in close proximity for so long.



## Summer is Almost Here

by Charlie Lean

Summer is almost here. This is the season where things done in the dark of winter come to the surface. Like in the old song ... "When it's spring time in Alaska, stay out of the dog lot!" What I am getting to is we have a problem. All too often people do not pick up their trash, especially out in the country. This is an old habit for many. One could argue or rationalize with themselves that when trash consisted entirely of organic materials it was just recycling.

There are plenty of examples of reusing. Dad and I were hiking once and he took a can we had just finished, carefully bent the lid then hung it from a bush to mark where our path crossed a stream. I have seen other people cut a Clorox bottle down for a boat bailing device. Cool Whip tubs are our "Tupperware". These are examples of putting what could be trash to use. What I have a problem with, and see evidence of too often, is throwing that same sort of trash to the ground or in our water.

Every year NSFR&D receives calls about a fish with something stuck on it or in it. Moose with Christmas lights make the Anchorage paper each year. I can take you to a caribou



*An example of the results of littering*

skeleton hung up on an old telegraph wire. I have included a picture of the most recent example of a fish with a plastic item choking it.

There seems to be a total disconnect with this fling and forget mindset. The people who spoil the countryside are the same people making their living off of wild resources. Did you ever go berry picking and just get set up then find a used diaper in the bushes or have you pulled one out of your net? Did you ever go down to the river mouth to fish and slip on a plastic bag full of what you don't want to see? What are people thinking? We keep dumping chemicals into the rivers supporting our fisheries and wonder why there are not as many fish as there once were. Boat landings are also prime habitat for juvenile fish and how often is there an oil sheen surrounding those areas. The aquatic bugs breathe right

at the water's surface. That oil clogs their breathing orifices and they drown or have aspiration issues. The small fish eat contaminated bugs or just have less to eat. It is a chain reaction.

The NSEDC Clean Waters Program is really gaining support. Garbage build-up happens gradually and when it is corrected people are amazed at what a difference there is. Each community that has had the Clean Waters Program work its beach has sent thank-you notes. Let's keep this progress moving.

Most people reading this have already made the connection that their favorite places won't stay that way if they don't take care of them. For those that have not made the connection - let's pass a spring time resolution to clean up our act.

## Norton Sound Red King Crab

There is a lot going on this summer with Norton Sound red king crab. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game recently announced that the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for this summer's commercial Norton Sound Red King Crab fishery will be 412,000 pounds. Of this, 7.5% or 30,900 pounds is allocated to the CDQ which is split 50:50 between Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA) and NSEDC. The GHL was increased due to a strong recruitment in to the legal male population. It appears that there should be good recruitment into the fishery over the

next couple years. The Triennial Norton Sound Red King Crab Trawl survey is scheduled for this summer. The survey will be used to assess that health of the Norton Sound crab stock. In March, the Alaska Board of Fish (BOF) met in Anchorage to review the stock status and proposed changes to the king crab fisheries around the State. Five proposals were before the BOF that dealt with Norton Sound king crab. The BOF made four changes to the Norton Sound red king crab fishery. The first change is that ADF&G can open the open access crab fishery as early as June 15th and the CDQ fishery now can take place at anytime. ADF&G, YDFDA and NSEDC will work together to set the CDQ fishery opening. The CDQ will likely happen

after the open access fishery. The second change removes a 72 hour closure requirement between the Norton Sound herring and crab fisheries. The openings can now happen simultaneously. The third change reduced the size limit for blue king crab from 5.5 inches to 5 inches. The fourth and final change requires additional escapement mechanisms on commercial crab pots. Commercial crab pots are now required to either have four 4.5-inch rings within one mesh of the bottom of the pot or 6.5-inch mesh on half of one side of the pot. This will allow female and sublegal male crab to escape the pots before they are brought to the surface. For more information contact Wes Jones at (907) 624-3183 or Charlie Lean at (888) 650-2477.



# NSEDC 2008 Outside Entity Funding Program Highlights

The NSEDC Board of Directors approved sixteen Outside Entity Funding Requests for 2008. The Board feels fortunate to be able to provide this program this year and appreciates all the applicants' participation. In each tri-annual newsletter in 2008, NSEDC will highlight a few of those approved projects or programs. In this newsletter, NSEDC highlights the Native Village of Koyuk Elders Meals & Activities Program and the Bering Straits School District State Championship Broadcasting.

## Brought to you by the BSSD Student Broadcasting Team

*by Damon Hargraves*

For the last few years, the BSSD Student Broadcasting Team (SBT) has used cameras, computers, and the internet to broadcast regional events to a world-wide audience. April 24-26, 2008 marked another successful State Native Youth Olympics, and the Broadcasting Team was there to deliver the tournament live for viewers in schools across the State and anyone on the internet.

Six students from Golovin, Unalakleet, Stebbins, and two chaperones acted as the core broadcasting team during the tournament. These students delivered the broadcast

during all hours of the tournament, meaning that they sometimes worked from 7:30 in the morning to 8:00 at night with few breaks. "It's kind of hard, but really, really fun," says Jonisha Wilson, one of the core broadcasters during NYO. "I get to meet lots of new people, and use cool technology, and interview interesting people."

As the core team for NYO, this group of students shared the broadcasting duties of working the video cameras, mixing the different camera angles, managing the internet feeds, taking still photos, and updating statistics provided by the NYO officials. "By the

second day of the tournament, every student was an expert in at least two of these jobs. We were then able to focus on interviewing athletes, judges, coaches, and spectators."

This tournament is not the only event that was broadcast this year. Every other major sporting event that involved BSSD students, including volleyball and basketball, was broadcast during both the regional and state tournaments.

"Who are these students and how do you get on the team?" is a question frequently heard. "All it takes to be part of our team is to help produce content; any student in our



*Several members of the BSSD Student Broadcasting team.*





*Damon Hargraves, Austin Erickson and Katie Olson editing and providing commentary for the NYO broadcast.*

district, at any moment, could take a project that they are already working on in class and develop it into something that the Team could use." SBT isn't just about broadcasting sporting events, the team also produces a news broadcast, which can be viewed live on the BSSD video conferencing network or downloaded from the iTunes Music store as a free podcast.

The StraitTalk Blog (<http://blog.bssd.org>), is another outlet. Whether it's through a sports broadcast, a news broadcast, or a blog article, students in BSSD are producing for the world to see.

This ability to share their classrooms, sporting events, and all other important elements of their lives with authentic audiences is an incredible educational opportunity. Look for more sharing experiences with the BSSD SBT

and students from across our district. Go to <http://sbt.bssd.org> & <http://blog.bssd.org> for more information. *(continued on page 8)*



*Victoria Sinnok providing some of the video for the live NYO broadcast.*



*Coach Jeff Erickson takes time out during NYO to participate in an interview with a member of the BSSD Student Broadcasting team.*



# Koyuk Elders' Meals and Activities Program

(continued from page 7)

The Native Village of Koyuk (IRA) received \$29,402 from NSEDC's 2008 Outside Entity Funding Program for the continuation of their Elder's Meals and Activities Program. The program is run in cooperation between the Bering Strait School District, Koyuk Mal-emute School and the IRA.

Elders are served lunch at the school each day so they benefit from socializing with the students and school staff while enjoying a hot and nutritious meal. Part of the funding re-

ceived from NSEDC is allocated to a coordinator who notifies elders of the menu for the day, assists in serving meals, helps with cleaning, submits requests to the IRA for supplies, and packages to-go containers for elders who are unable to make it to lunch that day.

Another part of the Elder's Meals and Activities Program is designed to encourage exercise and socializing by holding several fishing derbies for people of all ages to attend. The Native Village of Koyuk plans to host two derbies, one in the fall and one in the spring.

They will be held on the ice in front of Koyuk to provide easy access allowing elders and the young to participate. Prizes for the biggest, smallest, and most fish caught will be awarded.

NSEDC is glad to be able to support a program that provides such great benefits not only to our elders but to their entire community. Thank you for your efforts.

*Koyuk sends thanks to Toni Kimoktoak, Nathan Charles, Laverne Kimoktoak, Arlene Charles and all of the volunteers.*



*Fishing Derby on the ice in front of Koyuk.*



*Gary Kavairlook is shown here with a lot of caught fish in the background.*



*The start of the day was gorgeous. Danny Adams is on the snow-machine. Mary Apok and Edward Charles are getting serious about catching some fish.*



*Jamie Nassuk, Jr. is hanging in there – it looks like his arm is getting tired.*

## NSEDC EET 2008 First Quarter Report



### Education

During the first quarter of 2008, the NSEDC Scholarship Committee, on behalf of the NSEDC Board of Directors, awarded eighty-eight Norton Sound post-secondary students scholarships for the spring semester of 2008 to the tune of \$166,901. Sixteen students received the NSEDC Vocational Education Scholarship for a total of \$32,000.

With the NSEDC Scholarship Fund of 2008 at \$464,000, the first quarter awards of \$198,901 left \$265,099 in the fund.

Any seniors that missed the April 30th application deadline will be eligible for the fall semester scholarship with an application

deadline of June 30, 2008. Please make sure your application is complete with all the supporting documents, as incomplete applications are not funded. The NSEDC or Seward Peninsula Application Network Scholarship Application must be completed, with two letters of recommendation, a letter of acceptance from the institution they are attending, official transcripts from high school, college, or vocational institution, and a current photograph.

### Employment

Eleven Norton Sound residents worked on the *F/T Pacific Glacier* bringing home \$133,407.57 in crew share wages, ten worked on the *F/T Northern Glacier* bringing home

\$50,786.86 in crew share wages, and one resident worked on the *F/V Norton Sound* bringing home \$5906.02 for a total of \$190,100.45 in crew share wages for the quarter.

At a meeting in Nome on Seward's Day, David Hatton of Westward Seafoods gave a presentation on employment with Westward Seafoods in Dutch Harbor. Orpha Oozevassek of Gambell was the only trainee who expressed an interest in employment with a shore-based processing plant. There are also land based jobs available with Icicle Seafoods.

### Training

On February 17-27, 2008, a fisheries safety



orientation class was held at AVTEC, with six trainees making it through the training session with a total cost of \$28,563.24.

Orpha Oozevaseuk of Gambell, Mossadeque Reza and Charlie Pehle of Unalakleet, Warren Daniels of Elim, Maggie Lou Akaran of St. Michael, and Jerraine Raymond of Stebbins

received their certificates to complete their employment documentation for Glacier Fish Company.

Another fisheries safety orientation class was scheduled for April 27 to May 7, 2008 at AVTEC in Seward. This seafood processing class was cancelled due to a low number

of applicants.

Brian Johnson and Frank Doty completed their refrigeration training at Refrigeration School Incorporated in Phoenix, Arizona on April 22, 2008. We have two more certified refrigeration people to help with our refrigeration needs!

## NSEDC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHT



### Victoria Kotongan

*Unalakleet, Alaska*

My name is Victoria Kotongan and I was born in Anchorage, AK. My friends and family call me Sissy. Patrick, my brother, who is a year and a half older than me, couldn't pronounce sister when I was born and thus I was dubbed Sissy. The first few years of my life were spent with just my mother Judie, my father Victor, my brother, and my grandmother Hazel at Egavik. We lived off the land and when my brother had to start school we all moved to Unalakleet, which is where I spent the rest of my grade and high school years.

When Patrick started school and began learning, I imitated him even though I hadn't started school yet. He would bring home note cards with his vocabulary words and I would go through them and learn just like my big brother. This fostered a lifelong desire for and love of learning in me. My Mom was the cook for our preschool

and when Patrick started Kindergarten she got a job at Unalakleet Schools as a cook. I graduated from preschool in mukluks and moved to the big school where my mother and brother were. In grade school I was put into the gifted and talented program. This gave me opportunities to advance in Art, Computers, Math and Science.

I promoted from eighth grade in Laplander boots that my grandmother made me, and entered high school. Academic Decathlon and Future Problem Solving were my after school activity choices, in addition to playing the bass and playing with my friends. High school was a wonderful time in my life. I hung out with my friends, did my schoolwork, and enjoyed growing up in a small town. My cousin Doris's husband Pete gave me the books *A History of Pi*, *The Story of the Number E*, and *Trigonometric Delights* when I graduated from high school.

These books stayed at home my first year of college because I spent this year in La Merced, Ecuador at Covenant Bible College, a one year school. During this year I grew enormously as a person and was the farthest away from Alaska that I had ever been. I decided to move back to Alaska, specifically Anchorage, and attend UAA for my second year of college. I enrolled as an Art Major and had a successful

fall semester and a distracted spring semester. Instead of going to class, I went camping and fishing on road trips all over the Kenai Peninsula. After dropping two classes I realized I needed a change. So I applied to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Following my acceptance, I packed up and drove to Colorado.

Moving to Durango was one of the hardest and best things I've ever done. I was able to refocus on my studies, but more importantly I discovered a love and passion for Mathematics. After two more years of being an Art Major, taking Math classes on the side, I switched to being a Math major. Three years later I find myself graduating with a Bachelor in Mathematics. I did not begin college knowing what I wanted to do or what I wanted to study. It was only after taking a variety of classes that I found what I wanted to study. I am still uncertain of what I would like to do with my life, but for now I am planning on going on to graduate school after a semester or a year-long break from school.

Before I return to Alaska, I want to see more of the world and travel. However, Alaska is my home, it has my heart and I know that someday I will move back there to live.

The Fall Semester NSEDC Scholarship Deadline is June 30th, 2008.



# **Congratulations And Best Wishes To The Graduating Class Of 2009 From NSEDC!**

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