

2016 CONFERENCE

See you all next year in



Welcome to Homer!



Happy 40th ARPA!

MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Welcome to Homer!

Homer goes by many names: “The End of the Road”, “The Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea”, “The Halibut Capital of the World”...it is a beautiful place inhabited by amazing people. Regardless of the many distinctions, our community collectively and warmly welcomes you all to Homer for this year’s Alaska Recreation & Parks Association Conference. As you may know this is ARPA’s 40th anniversary as an organization we are honored to celebrate this momentous occasion here in our community. We have many great presenters, sessions and social events I know you will all enjoy. Many thanks to our sponsors, vendors, presenters, Land’s End and the City of Homer for their support in making the conference possible.

I have heard from many Alaskan parks and recreation professionals over the years that “we loove Homer” and that Homer is synonymous with the definition of “recreation”...fishing, hiking, kayaking, running, music, art, trails, camping, biking, surfing, shopping, sports, paddle boarding, pickleball, beach combing, coffee...the list goes on. Whatever your definition of fun is, you can probably find it right here in Homer. And with that we hope you enjoy your time here and to see you all here soon again.

Cheers,

Mike Illg

HOMER MAP



- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Alice's Champagne Palace
195 E Pioneer Ave | ★ | <i>Thursday Night!</i> |
| HERC Building
450 Sterling Highway | ★ | <i>Friday Pickleball</i> |
| Land's End
4.5 Mi Homer Spit Road
4786 Homer Spit Road
Homer, AK 99603 | ★ | <i>Conference Venue</i> |
| Second Star
5260 Kachemak Drive
3.2 miles east on Kachemak Drive | ★ | <i>Wednesday Night!</i> |

Welcome to Homer!

TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS



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We Make Playgrounds *MORE* Fun!



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**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR
CONFERENCE SPONSORS!**

ARPA WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

October 9, 2015

Cocktails @ 6:00 p.m.

Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting to follow dinner

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| I. | Introduction and Opening | Michael Bork, ARPA President
Mike Illg, Conference Co-Chair |
| II. | 40th Anniversary Welcome Speech | Governor Bill Walker
First Lady Donna Walker |
| III. | City of Homer Proclamation | Mayor Beth Wythe |
| IV. | NRPA Park Champions | Jason Avery |
| V. | Annual Meeting Call to Order | |
| VI. | Approval of Minutes of Last Year's Annual Meeting
(Look for a motion to waive actual reading and approve as presented) | |
| VII. | Reports to the Membership | A. Board reports, as needed
B. Section reports, as needed
C. Committee reports, as needed |
| VIII. | Installation of Existing Officers for the New Term – Michael Bork
Swearing-In of New Officers | A. President-Elect – D. Tyrell McGirt
B. Vice President – Tom Martin
C. Member At-Large – Jason Avery |
| IX. | Presentation of Awards - Assisted by Governor and First Lady Walker | |
| X. | Next Conference Preview – Petersburg, Alaska 2016 | |
| XI. | ARPA Proclamations – John McCleary | |
| XII. | Open Forum to Member Comments | |
| XIII. | Adjourn | |

ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET

- 6:00 p.m. - Cocktail Hour, Silent Auction Begins
- 7:00 p.m. - Dinner Begins
- 7:20 p.m. - Annual Meeting and Awards
- 8:15 p.m. - Silent Auction Ends

Schedule At-A-Glance October 7-11, 2015

Wednesday, October 7th		Location
11AM-1PM	Parent /Tot Instructor Course	Land's End Harbor Room
3-6PM	Vendor Move-In	Land's End Foyer
4-5:30PM	ARPA Board Meeting	2nd Star Mansion
4:30-6PM	Check-In & Registration	Land's End Lobby
5:30PM	Transportation to 2nd Star Social starts	Land's End Main Entrance
6-8PM	Welcome Reception & Conf. Kick Off	2nd Star Mansion
Thursday, October 8th		Location
8:30-10AM	Check-In & Registration	Land's End
9AM-5PM	Expo Open	Land's End
9:30-10:30AM	Keynote Speaker: Christine Byl	Land's End (Quarterdeck)
10:30-10:45AM	Break	
10:45-11:45AM	Educational Session #1	Land's End (Various)
11:45AM-1:30PM	Lunch & Conversations w/Christine Byl	Land's End Quarterdeck
1:30-2:30PM	Educational Session #2	Land's End (Various)
2:45-3:15PM	Speed Session: What's Happening Across AK	Land's End (Quarterdeck)
	w/Challenge AK, Fairbanks, Homer & Nikiski	
3:15-3:30PM	Break	
3:30-4:30PM	Educational Session #3	Land's End
5:30PM	Transportation to Alice's Social	Land's End Main Entrance
6-9PM	All Conference Social Event	Alice's Palace
Friday, October 9th		Location
9AM-2PM	Expo Open	Land's End Foyer
9:30-10:30AM	Educational Session #4	Land's End (Various)
10:30-10:45AM	Break	
10:45-11:45AM	Educational Session #5	Land's End & Off Site
11:45AM-1:30PM	Section Lunch: Meet & Eat w/your section	Land's End
1:30-2:30PM	Educational Session #6	Land's End
2-3PM	Vendor Move-Out	Land's End
2:30-2:45PM	Break	
2:45-3:15PM	Speed Session: What's Happening Across AK	Land's End (Quarterdeck)
	W/Seward, Unalaska & Valdez	
3:15-3:30PM	Break	
3:30-4:30PM	Educational Session #7	Land's End
6-7PM	Cocktails & Silent Auction Start	Land's End (Quarterdeck)
6-10PM	Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet	Land's End (Quarterdeck)
Saturday, October 10th		Location
9-10AM	ARPA "FUN RUN/WALK 5K"	Land's End
10AM-3PM	"Did You Know?" Training	Land's End (Harbor Room)
9AM-12PM	Including Athletes with Physical & Visual Disabilities in After School Sports	Homer High

Saturday, October 10th, 10am-4pm



Did You Know?
is the time
lets tell our story

Parks and recreation professionals know best about the work we do, and the impact it makes in the community. But we can't be the only voice when fighting for limited resources. What if we are backed up by citizens and voters, especially when they include influential residents and groups? That's when we can "move the needle." The Did You Know/Friends of the Park Initiative includes proven plans to attract and inform citizens, then nurture relationships with them. Then – perhaps sooner, perhaps later – they will be our advocates if and when challenges come along.

What's a DYK/FOP Training Like?
WHAT? - SO WHAT? - NOW WHAT?

- We'll briefly cover the history of "Did You Know/ Friends of the Park," including what factors prompted the development of the program.
- Available resources are described - what's available to help determine the metric-based value of parks and recreation (national, state, local)?
- Techniques are provided to translate the data into something that people care about.
- Also learn quickly what we've learned over 3 years - how to keep the data organized, relevant and visible.
- Attendees apply these techniques to their local situation - this is the portion of the training that is the most valuable AND requires the most practice to feel comfortable with.
- Recognizing that knowing our own value isn't what makes a difference on a larger scale - describe the entire process of forming and sustaining a "friends" group.
- Discuss how to deploy that group when it matters.
- Gain access to all other "Did You Know/ Friends of the Park" examples, templates and stories.
- Local trainers cover adult education principles and become experts on how to deliver the "Did You Know/ Friends of the Park" information to their audiences.

No matter how impressive a fact is to you, it won't do any good if it doesn't mean something to your citizens. MPRAs training teaches you how to take national statistics and relate them to your community for the biggest impact.

Contact us if you have any questions:
Missouri Park & Recreation Association
Call Jan at 573-635-3828 or email jan@moperk.org
www.moperk.org





KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

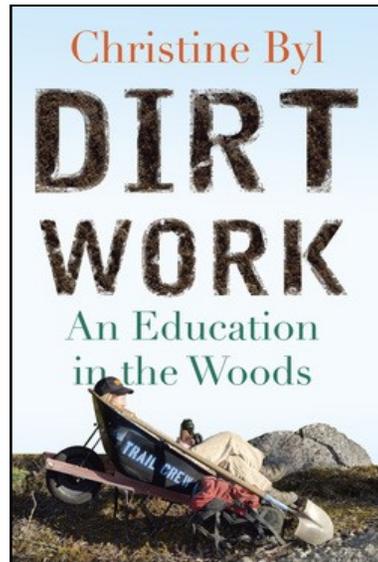
**Christine Byl
Author/Trail Crew**

The author of the highly acclaimed “Dirt Work:” a lively and lyrical account of one woman’s unlikely

apprenticeship on a National Park trail crew and what she discovers about nature, gender, and the value of hard work Christine is a gifted writer and public speaker with a passion for growth of character that comes from the time spent developing trails in challenging environments. With a spirit of drive and interpretation, she is an ideal spokeswoman for an industry that want to “Be the Difference.”

Visit her website at www.christinebyl.com for links to many of her online articles and interviews, than join us October 8-9 in Homer, Alaska for a great conference!

Her book will be available for purchase.



A HUGE “Thank You” to those who have helped large or small with the 2015 Conference!

Michael Bork

Jason Avery

Melanie Hauze

D. Tyrell McGirt

Matt Steffy

Mike Illg

Julie Engebretsen

Renee Krause

Ginny Espenshade

Nina Cunningham

Sandra Hudson

Jennifer Booz

Angie Otteson

Homer High School

And ALL those of you who we forgot...

Education Session 7

Friday, October 9

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Quarter Deck "A" (upstairs)

Playground Design: Getting It Right the First Time

Speaker: Gary Max, President, Sitelines Park & Play Products,

Learn how to design playgrounds that meet all safety guidelines and incorporate the latest in the best practices for inclusion, circulation and helping generate local funding. Emphasis on designing playgrounds in Alaska by making them both fun and safe.

Quarter Deck "B" (upstairs)

Masterminding and the Excellence List

Speakers: Joe Miner, Ice Arena Manager, Mat-Su Borough

Learn to mastermind your program planning and long range planning most effectively. Implement your excellence to maximize your organization performance. Make decision making easier! Participants will learn to initiate a Masterminding process for high degree success planning and to continually evaluate/improve Masterminding and how it helps maximize success plus minimize and prevent problems. Learn to compose a detailed, highly effective Excellence List to establish a framework for high level organizational performance.

Harbor Room (downstairs)

Water Balance and Testing

Speaker: Kate Cunha, TMI Sustainable Aquatics

Participants will learn the general concepts of proper water balance, the how and why of the Langier Saturation Index (LSI) and proper testing with various test kits available. Participants will be able to calculate the current LSI of a pool, determine if it's balanced/corrosive/scaling and will understand what changes to make to bring back into balance.

Terrace (downstairs)

Reality, Orientation and Validation Therapy: The What, When, and How to Use Them

Speaker: Jeff Dick, CTRS, Challenge Alaska

Learn about these therapeutic tools that can be used across many disciplines, but how and when to use them effectively will be the focus of this session. These techniques are also beneficial to know for those who work with the general public. Participants will:

- Understand the difference between reality orientation and validation therapy.
- Know which intervention is appropriate based on the situation.
- Use these interventions successfully to redirect or validate clients/participants/persons' reality.

GUEST SPEAKER: Jan Neitzert, CPRP, CAE

**Executive Director,
Missouri Parks and
Recreation Association**



Since obtaining her B.S. in Recreation and Parks Administration from the University of Missouri, Jan has ventured into general Association Management, serving as the General Manager of several large-scale retirement communities in Las Vegas.

Seven years ago, she returned to her home state to become Executive Director of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association. Jan has been directly involved in the dynamic "Did You Know/Friends of the Park" initiative in Missouri, which has been adopted by the Kansas Recreation & Parks Association, the Oklahoma Recreation and Parks Society, and is under consideration by several other associations as well.

She has delivered information on this opportunity on the Keynote level, at NRPA and before a number of other groups. Jan is both a CPRP and CAE (Certified Association Executive).

Alaska Recreation and Park Association

First Board of Directors - 1975

Education Session 6

Friday, October 9

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Bill Creighton, Fairbanks; David Blanchett, Bethel; Bob Robertson, Anchorage; Russ Cahill, Anchorage; Jamie Parsons, Juneau



Jamie Parsons, Juneau; Russ Cahill, Anchorage; Bob Robertson, Anchorage; David Blanchett, Bethel; Bill Creighton, Fairbanks.

Quarter Deck "A" (upstairs)

Round Table: Teen programming, Behavior Policy & Mentoring

Speaker: Maggie Wilkins, ARPA Recreation Services Chair

It's an ever changing world and our teen's needs are changing along with it. How do we best serve them? How do we provide a safe and positive place for them to be while allowing them the freedoms they seek? How do we protect ourselves? What policies should be in place? How do you keep them coming through your doors? What new opportunities for teen to adult mentoring are out there? Please come to discuss this and more at the Teen Programming and Mentoring Roundtable.

- Learn new teen programming ideas.
- Discover potential improvements for policy
- Learn how to better serve teens in their communities.

Quarter Deck "B" (upstairs)

Round Table: Aquatics Section

Speaker: Section Chair to Facilitate

Harbor Room (downstairs)

Round Table: Park Maintenance Section

Speaker: Section Chair to Facilitate

Terrace (downstairs)

Round Table: TR/AD Section

Speaker: Section Chair to Facilitate

Main Entrance Lobby (downstairs)

Round Table: Administration Section

Speaker: Section Chair to Facilitate

A very big THANK YOU to



for sponsoring our super cool conference backpacks!

Section Lunch

Friday, October 9
11:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Quarterdeck A&B

Graciously Sponsored by:



We Make Playgrounds *MORE* Fun!
Thanks Gary Max!

All-Conference Social

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
SECOND STAR SOCIAL
Hor d'ourves & Cash Bar



Alaska Parks & Rec Fun Run/Walk!



WHERE: Land's End
WHEN: Saturday, October 10, 9AM
FEE: \$15

Includes a T-Shirt*!

Limited sizes, first come, first serve.
Day of race registration starts at 8:30am

Contact Mike at 206-6485 or mjd@cf.honmac.ak.us

A special THANK YOU to

Land's End 


Denali North
Events

Education Session 1

Thursday, October 8

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

[Quarter Deck "A" \(upstairs\)](#)

A Recreation Needs Assessment: What You Need to Know!

Speakers: *Heather Stewart, AICP, Agnew::Beck
Andrew Carmichael, Parks & Recreation Director, City of Soldotna
Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner, City of Homer
Nancy Casey, Casey Planning & Design*

This is a panel discussion on recreation needs assessments. Both the City of Soldotna and Homer have recently completed needs assessments and participants will learn about two different methods of conducting them, successful public engagement and why a needs assessment may be helpful for your community.

[Quarter Deck "B" \(upstairs\)](#)

Program Access: The ADA Beyond Bricks and Mortar in Recreational Opportunities

Speaker: *David Barton, Northwest ADA Information Center ALASKA Coordinator*
The presenter will discuss Program Access as a beneficial and necessary concept in providing a meaningful experience to people with disabilities seeking to participate in recreational opportunities. The participant will be introduced to the concepts and principals of Program Access, examples of integrated services and methods of Program Access implementation.

[Harbor Room \(downstairs\)](#)

The Balloon Animal: The Most Stressed Creature in the World

Speaker: *Mike Bork, Parks & Recreation Director, Fairbanks North Star Borough*
Using humor, music and a few balloon animals, participants will learn to identify stress, and develop strategies to effectively handle stress. Participants will learn to perform regular "stress maintenance" activities that will make them a healthier, happier and more productive person.

[Terrace \(downstairs\)](#)

Connecting People, Parks and Poetry: Putting Poems in Unusual Places

Speaker: *Wendy Erd, Poems in Place Coordinator/Director
Claire LeClair, Deputy Director of Alaska State Parks*
Celebrate the unexpected...what can happen when poems are published outside, set on permanent signs and read in unlikely places? Learn about two projects that invited writers, readers and park visitors to think about themselves and the place where they live in new ways.

Education Session 5

Friday, September 26

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.

[Quarter Deck "A" \(upstairs\)](#)

Courageous Conversations

Speaker: *Janet Bartnik, Director, City of Liberty Parks & Recreation*

We all dread certain conversations that we have to have with staff, board members, customers and others. This session outlines strategies to give you confidence in your approach to difficult conversations through theory and practice. Participants will learn:

- To identify the different types of difficult conversations
- List physical and verbal techniques used to approach difficult subjects
- Analyze situations and match techniques to be used in those situations
- Practice learned techniques in a group setting.

[Quarter Deck "B" \(upstairs\)](#)

Swim 101

Speaker: *James L. Reiser, M.S Founder and Executive Director of Swim Lessons University*

Topics include Class Management, Choral Responding, Check for Understanding, Instructions, Practice, the Progression Principle, Six Types of Feedback, the best kind of Demonstrations, secrets to Dynamic Presentations, and MORE! The lessons plans are designed so that your students learn to swim through practical skill progressions, and if you follow them, they all but guarantee that you will have amazing success while teaching the following skills:

Water Acclimation, Flutter Kick, Breath Control, Breath Holding, Back Kicking Introduction, In-line Kick and Surface Swim with Pop-up Style Breathing

[Harbor Room \(downstairs\)](#)

Marys River Natural Area: Navigating Multiple Environmental Agencies

Speaker: *Jacqueline Rochefort, Park Planner, City of Corvallis*

This session will discuss the challenges of reconstructing an elevated boardwalk in a jurisdictional wetland. The project is being funded by FEMA and includes partnerships with multiple local, state, federal and tribal agencies. Learn how to balance the competing requirements of multiple agencies. Learn about natural resource management for multiple species including humans. Learn innovative design techniques for working in sensitive areas.

[HERC Building \(Offsite: Meet at main entrance van leaves at 10:35 am sharp\)](#)

Introduction to Pickleball: Fastest Growing Sport in the U.S.

Speaker: *Kathy Hill, Homer Pickle Ball Club*

Learn about the fastest growing sport in the country and see for yourself why it is so popular! Learn about the rules, the equipment and the fun! Must sign a release form prior to participating. Please sign your release form before participating (in your packet).

Education Session 4

Friday, October 9
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Quarter Deck "A" (upstairs)

Model Aquatic Health Code Compliance & The Safety Plan

Speaker: Joe Stefanyak Jeff Ellis & Associates, Director

This session will provide an overview of the Model Aquatic Health Code and more specifically the facility Safety Plan and is presented by individuals that have been on the front line of MAHC development since the onset. Attendees will gain: an understanding of the specific guidelines/requirements laid out by the MAHC as it relates to the facility safety plan, knowledge of best practices that will help them attain compliance with the code and insight as to how the development of their facility specific Safety Plan will improve overall facility safety for their organization.

Quarter Deck "B" (upstairs)

Marijuana, Marijuana Everywhere!

Speaker: Sean DeWalt, Risk Management Specialist

A discussion on the impacts to parks and recreation departments now that marijuana is legal in Alaska. Learn about marijuana and where we stand to legally require risk prevention methods for marijuana related issues.

Harbor Room (downstairs)

Quantifying Water Use in the Landscape

Speaker: Daniel Motylewski, Conservation Manager W.U.S., Hunter Industries

A comprehensive look at how much water it takes to sustain a conventional Western U.S. landscape (20,000 turf & 5,000 shrubs) and how the familiar scale of home landscape influences change at the public agency level (parks and schools). Participants will learn:

- Quantifying water use in the landscape
- Better understand why water rich communities (Alaska, PNW states) are adopting standards & codes that affect landscape/irrigation design
- Simplicity and cost effectiveness of designing and maintaining landscapes/irrigation that only uses what it needs.

Terrace (downstairs)

Employee Wellness Program

Speaker: Albert Burnham, CPRP, Recreation Manager, City of Unalaska

This session will provide an overview of Unalaska's employee wellness program, the benefits for municipalities of employee programs and idea on how to increase participation in your employee wellness program. Participants will also take away three ideas that can be used in their own programs.

Education Session 2

Thursday, October 8
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Quarter Deck "A" (upstairs)

Sitting Volleyball: A Practical Inclusive Sport

Speaker: Jeff Dick, CTRS, Challenge Alaska

Sport, activity, team builder, cooperative, competitive, elite, inclusive, recreational, multigenerational... all of these keywords can apply to sitting volleyball. This is truly an infinitely inclusive sport that is shaped by the facilitator and their leadership skills.

Quarter Deck "B" (upstairs)

CPRP Exam Overview

Speaker: Albert Burnham, CPRP, Recreation Manager, City of Unalaska

The Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) credential is offered through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). Participants will learn about the 4 major sections of the CPRP exam and sample questions from each. Participants will also learn some handy tips and tricks for preparing for the CPRP exam.

Harbor Room (downstairs)

Campground Automation: City of Seward Parks Experience

Speaker: Brennan Hickok, Park Technician, City of Seward Parks & Recreation

In this session, participants will:

- Learn the benefits of automation
- Learn the challenges of automation
- Learn the overall impact of automation

Terrace (downstairs)

Foundations for Teaching: Teach like A Pro

Speaker: James L. Reiser, M.S Founder and Executive Director of Swim Lessons University

In the Foundations of Teaching, *YOU CAN TEACH LIKE A PRO*, the Swim Professor shares with you all his secrets to more effective teaching and how to achieve amazing results! And not only will he tell you about them, he will show you REAL LIFE EXAMPLES! In his DVD video, you see exactly how to do it!

- You will learn easy-to-use strategies that:
- Create a class full of good listeners
- Cause your students to hang on your every word
- Makes complex skills easy to learn and understand
- Increase your students' self-confidence
- Develop a love for learning in every one of your students
- Have your swimmer's parents signing them up again and again

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA
MAYOR'S RECOGNITION

“Alaska Recreation & Parks Association Day”
and ARPA’s 40th Anniversary

WHEREAS, On October 29, 1975, the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association was officially formed in Anchorage, Alaska, at the Woodshed Restaurant; and

WHEREAS, ARPA has hosted State, Regional, National and International Conferences and Trainings for Park and Recreational professionals over the last 40 years; and

WHEREAS, ARPA is recognized as the state affiliate of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and currently has over 150 members throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, ARPA’s mission is to support agencies, institutions, businesses, organizations and individuals who provide or advocate for parks, recreation, wildland, therapeutic and adaptive programs and facilities; and

WHEREAS, This mission is pursued by providing a forum for interchange of ideas and information among parks, recreation, wildland and therapeutic and adaptive professionals and supporters; promoting the personal, environmental, social and economic benefits of parks, recreation, wildlands, therapeutic and adaptive programs; coordinating, organizing and promoting quality educational opportunities; and prepares and provides educational information relating to parks, recreation, wildlands and therapeutic and adaptive programs; and

WHEREAS, ARPA has worked with State and Regional Colleges and Universities to enhance educational opportunities for Alaska students and professionals; and

WHEREAS, Our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of our community and state; and

WHEREAS, Parks and recreation programs increase a community’s economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS, October 9, 2015 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary E. Wythe, Mayor of the City of Homer, do hereby recognize Friday, October 9, 2015 as

“ALASKA RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION DAY”

All-Conference Social

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

ALICE’S CHAMPAGNE PALACE

Graciously sponsored by:



Thanks Bob McGarvey!

Thanks to all of the organizations and businesses that donated to the Silent Auction!

Homer Jeans

Saw & Cycle

NOMAR

Homer Book Store

Down East Saloon

State Farms Insurance –Mike Barth

REI

Homer Art Shop Gallery

City of Homer Parks & Rec

Alaska Recreational Management

Cook Inlet Keeper

ARPA members & organizations...you know who you are!

Proceeds from scholarships are used for scholarships for professional development , training and conference opportunities.

Alaska Recreation and Park Association

First Annual Conference - 1976

ALASKA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION
1975-76



BOB ROBERTSON, PRESIDENT

The Alaska Recreation and Park Association is made up of professional and lay members working in the field of parks and recreation in Alaska. The Association was formed on October 29, 1975 in Anchorage at the Woodshed Restaurant. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Alaska Municipal League meeting that was in progress at that time.

It was a spirited group of 40 people that took part in this organizational meeting as they voted to form the Association. The official name for the organization was adopted as Alaska Recreation and Park Association. They elected Bob Robertson of Anchorage as president, Jamie Parsons of Juneau, vice president and Russ Cahill of Anchorage as secretary-treasurer. Bill Creighton of Fairbanks and David Blanchett of Bethel were elected to the board of directors.



Creighton Blanchett Robertson Cahill Parsons

A membership fee of \$15.00 per person was approved and a constitution and by-laws committee was named. Twenty-five members signed up that first session and the new Association had a treasury and was off and running.

Charles Reitz, Pacific Northwest Representative for the National Recreation and Park Association was the featured speaker. It was noted the speaker that Alaska was the 50th state to join NRPA as an affiliate. Representative Mike Miller of Juneau and Representative Ted Smith of Anchorage both spoke on the value of forming the Association.

The first official board meeting was held at the 1976 regional conference in Spokane Washington. Previous board work was accomplished by mail or tele-conference.

The Constitution and By-laws committee under the leadership of Louis Penna and Don Clark began work on the document immediately following the organizational meeting. Contacts were made with each state association in the northwest to request a copy of their constitutions and by-laws to guide them in their work. An excellent document was prepared and sent out to all members for review and for the directors to comment on in Spokane. The final reading of the document and passed at the 1976 annual meeting held in Anchorage.

The first annual ARPA conference was held at the Ramada Inn in Anchorage Nov 18, 1976. One of the featured speakers for the conference was Dr. Effie Fairchild from the University of Oregon, Dept. of Recreation Administration. Dr. Fairchild was a member of the national committee that held a high level meeting to discuss cooperative programs between the National Recreation and Park Association and the National Community Education Association. She also conducted sessions in the New Games program and was the key note speaker at the opening general session.

The banquet speaker at the Association's Annual Meeting was Lt. Governor Lowell Thomas Jr. There were 50 members in the 1975-76 year.

Education Session 3

Thursday, October 8

3:30p.m. - 4:30p.m.

Quarter Deck "A" (upstairs)

A Healthier You: A Whole Community Wellness Program

Speaker: Sarah Owen, Activities Coordinator, City of Valdez Parks and Recreation
Wendy Club, Recreation Manager, City of Valdez Parks and Recreation

A Whole Community Wellness Program developed by the City of Valdez Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department, now having completed 6 successful years. We will demonstrate the program, highlight lessons learned through the process, how to engage the community and the measurable outcomes we have seen successes and areas to improve.

Quarter Deck "B" (upstairs)

Invasive Plants, Getting Slightly Better by Not Making It Worse

Speaker: Matt Steffy, Natural Resource Specialist, Homer Soil & Water Conservation District

Invasive plants are becoming more common on the heavily trafficked and frequently disturbed areas of our parks facilities. This will cover some basic best management practices for preventing the spread of invasives during regular maintenance. Session will also cover some basic weed identification, invasive theory and statewide regional trends.

Harbor Room (downstairs)

It Takes more than Education to Prevent Drowning

Speaker: Nigel La Riccia

Introduction of Association of Aquatic Professionals R.E.S.E.P.C.T. the Water Drowning Prevention and Education Campaign. Putting drowning prevention to work at your facility through rules, staff training and policies.

Terrace (downstairs)

Accessible Outdoor Recreation Trails, Camping & Picnic Area

Speaker: David Barton, Northwest ADA Information Center ALASKA Coordinator

Effective November 25, 2013, the US Access Board issued a final rule that amends the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ABA) by adding scoping and technical requirements for Outdoor Developed Areas including camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails and beach access routes.

- Understand the major provisions of the ABA Accessibility
- Guidelines and details of trails, camping and picnic areas
- Discuss the general scoping and technical provisions including the application of the conditions for exceptions
- Learn how federal agencies will apply the trail and recreational facility guideline for accessibility
- Understand how recreational facilities on non-federal lands can benefit using the guidelines
- Learn about resources and best practices for accessible trails and other outdoor recreation facilities

DAY 1	Education	Upstairs	Upstairs	Downstairs	Down Stairs	
Thursday, October 08th	Sessions	Quarter Deck "A"	Quarter Deck "B"	Habor Room	Terrace	
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.		Keynote Speaker: Christine Byl, Author of Dirt Work				
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.		Break				
10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	Sessions 1	A Recreation Needs Assessment: What You Need To Know!	Program Access: The ADA Beyond Bricks and Mortar in Recreational Opportunities	The Balloon Animal: The Most Stressed Creature in the World!	Connecting People, Parks, and Poetry: Putting Poems in Unusual Places	
11:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.		Lunch: Conversations with Christine				
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Sessions 2	Sitting Volleyball: A Practical Inclusive Sport	CPRP Exam Overview	Campground Automation	Foundations for Teaching - Teach Like A Pro!	
2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.		Break				
2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.		Speed Session: Challenge Alaska, Fairbanks, Homer, & Nikiski				
3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.		Break				
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Sessions 3	A Healthier You: A Whole Community Wellness Program	Invasive Plants, Getting Slightly Better by Not Making it Worse	It Takes More Than Education to Prevent Drowning	Accessible Outdoor Recreation Trails, Camping, and Picnic Areas	
DAY 2	Education	Upstairs	Upstairs	Downstairs	Down Stairs	OFF SITE
Friday, October 09th	Sessions	Quarter Deck "A"	Quarter Deck "B"	Habor Room	Terrace	
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Sessions 4	Model Aquatic Health Code Compliance and the Safety Plan: How MAHC Compliance and Creating a Safety Plan can Improve Facility Safety	Marijuana, Marijuana Everywhere	Quantifying Water Use in the Landscape	Employee Wellness Programs	
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.		Break				
10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	Sessions 5	Courageous Conversations	Swim 101	Marys River Natural Area, Navigating Multiple Environmental Agencies		Introduction to Pickleball: The Fastest Growing Sport in the United States! (OFFSITE AT HERC)
11:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.		Section Lunch: Lunch space will be designated for each section - Administration Aquatics Park Maintenance Recreation Services TR / AD Recreation Wildlands				
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Sessions 6	Round Table: Teen Programming, Behavior, Policy, Mentoring...	Round Table	Round Table	Round Table	Round Table (MEET IN MAIN LOBBY)
2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.		Break				
2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.		Speed Session: What's Happening in Recreation Across Alaska - Seward, Unalaska, & Valdez				
3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.		Break				
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Sessions 7	Playground Design: Getting It Right The First Time	Masterminding and the Excellence List	Water Balance and Testing	Reality, Orientation, and Validation Therapy: The What, When, and How to Use Them	
		Administration		Aquatics		Park Maint.
		Wildlands		Rec Services		TR/AD

Speed Session 1

Thursday 2:45-3:15PM

What's Happening Across Alaska?

A 6 Minute Slideshow presentation of each organization.

Featuring: Challenge Alaska, Fairbanks, Homer & Nikiski

Quarterdeck A & B

Speed Session 2

Friday 2:45-3:15PM

What's Happening Across Alaska?

A 6 Minute Slideshow presentation of each organization.

Featuring: Seward, Unalaska & Valdez

Quarterdeck A & B