

# Seldovia Village Tribe

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## A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 16: Number 4 July 2009

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## Kachemak Voyager

*M/V Kachemak Voyager approaching Pier 66 Marina in Seattle Washington.*



Michael Beal, Seldovia Ferry Project Manager and Matt Mullet, President CEO of All American Marine.

SVT is proud to announce on June 2009 Mr. Michael Beal, Director of Marine Operations accepted delivery of the Kachemak Voyager, Seldovia Bay Ferry from All American Marine on behalf of the Seldovia Village Tribe, IRA.



Monday July 27, 2009 SVT's Kachemak Voyager celebrated its official blessing of the high-speed passenger ferry. The celebration began at 12PM with arrivals of SNA Shareholders, SVT Tribal Members from the Washington area, along with folks from tourist industry. Refreshments and light appetizers were shared with all visitors. During this time attendees toured the vessel, visited with each other catching up on Seldovia. It was a great pleasure to meet and greet Shareholders, along with Tribal Members from days past. During the open boat there were about 46 visitors aboard.

SVT's President/CEO Crystal Collier, SVT Vice President: Lillian Elvsas SVT Council Members: Suzanne Collier, Kim Collier, Trinket Gallien, SNA CEO Leo Barlow, SNA Board Member: Chancelan Collier, Director of Marine Operations Michael Beal, Hornblower Marine Services: Greg Dronkert, and All American Marine President/CEO: Matt Mullet gathered

on the Kachemak Voyager bow to receive the blessing. Water from Seldovia's Old Village Site at the head of Seldovia bay was blessed, then poured over the hands of the people present who worked to create the vessel, the remainder of the blessed water was then poured over the bow by Crystal Collier SVT's President/CEO.



Following the Christening, visitors that were not remaining on board for Bay Cruise disembarked. Captain John "Jay" Mooney, of Hornblower Marine Services took the helm and proceeded to maneuver the Kachemak Voyager out to the bay where a cruise demonstrating the capabilities of our new vessel began. Captain Mooney stated "the Kachemak Voyager is an outstanding vessel and ideally suited for ferry and excursion operations in Alaska. It was a real treat to be able to participate in the christening and pilot the vessel on the Puget Sound maiden voyage."

The Kachemak Voyager is scheduled to begin service in May 2010. The vessel will operate from May through September, providing a minimum two arrivals and departures daily.



*Seldovia Village Tribes M/V Kachemak Voyager*



Seldovia Conference Center~Alaska Tribal Cache 1-800-270-7810



## 2009 Open Enrollment

Enrollment for 2009 opened July 1, 2009 and will remain open through September 1, 2009.

Are all your family members enrolled?

Do you know the answer to this question? If not please feel free to contact the Tribal Offices for information regarding Enrollment. Below is the definition of eligible membership from SVT's Tribal Enrollment Ordinance

*Section 6 ~ SVT Enrollment Ordinance: Any blood descendent of any person who was originally enrolled to the Native Village of Seldovia -under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.*

Time is a ticking please call Trinket Gallien @ (907) 234-7898 ext. 223 if you have questions, concerns or want an application.

## SVT to Issue New Tribal Identification Cards

The Seldovia Village Tribe will be issuing enhanced tribal identification cards to get in line with the new Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. The initiative, which went into effect June 1, requires people crossing the

U.S.-Canada border by land or by sea to show a passport or other valid travel documents when re-entering the United States. Homeland Security officials are temporarily allowing Native Americans to continue using their tribal-issued photo ID cards to cross the border while tribes develop and distribute their own enhanced cards.

## Visitor Center / Museum



SVT unveiled a new permanent exhibit depicting the culture and history of the Dena'ina, Aleut and Sugpiaq peoples who inhabited the area for millennia.



The Project was built by Tom Keesecker under the supervision of Michael Opheim, the exhibit at the SVT Museum in Seldovia tells of the

origins, lifeways and the traditional and contemporary subsistence activities of the Native tribes that called the area home. It also speaks of the later Russian influence and how that shaped Seldovia as we know it today.



Specimens of local flora and fauna from the area are displayed to give visitors from afar a glimpse at



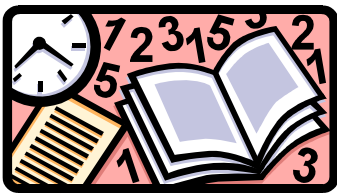
Seldovia's natural abundance.

Visitors will find the new Seldovia Village Tribe exhibit at the SVT Visitor Center at 206 Main Street. The Museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.





## SVT 2009 May Scholarship Awards



### Jennifer Giles,

Achievement Scholarship \$1,500.00  
Jennifer will be attending University of Alaska Fairbanks, Accounting

### Kellie Nelsen,

Achievement Scholarship \$1,500.00  
Western Washington University,  
Elementary Education/Art Education

### Esther Grosdidier,

Achievement Scholarship \$1,500.00  
Alaska Pacific University,  
Business Management

Congratulations!!! SVT is very proud of all the applicants and wish each and everyone of you the best of luck in your education.

*Mark your calendars for General Scholarships, due September 1st, 2009. This scholarship is to be used towards Voc-Tech training. Applications available [www.svt.org](http://www.svt.org) or call 907-234-7898 x223.*

## Relay for Life

Congratulations to Jill Nicolini, SVT's hygienist and Sonya Montgomery, SVT's Dental Assistant who helped put on Homer's first Relay for Life. This year's event raised more than \$61,000 for the fight against cancer (40% of the money raised in Alaska will stay in Alaska). SVT contributed about \$1,000 in donations.



The event ran from 6 p.m. on Friday June 12th to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 13th. SVT appreciates all the employees and families who participated in the walk and helped make the first event successful. Plans are already underway for next year's Relay.

## Biathlon~Seldovia Style

SVT sponsored the 2009 Biathlon on Friday July 3rd, 2009. The weather was sunny and warm. Racers gathered at the Visitor Center/Museum entrance to register at 9:30AM with the race beginning at 10AM. Racers ran to SNA's gravel pit at Mile two

Jakalof Bay Rd turning around continuing running to return to SVT's parking lot, biking four miles to Sea Otter View Lodge head road, then returning to SVT. 1<sup>st</sup> place Gary Burleson of Anchorage AK, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Greg Wilt of Hailey Idaho, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Bree Murphy of Homer AK, and the red lantern prize went to Byron McCord of Seldovia. Fun was had by all.

## Job Opportunities

### Chief Financial Officer

*This position is full time.*

### SVT Prevention Coordinator

*Full time position*

### SVT Prevention Activity Assistant

*Full time position, must be 18 yrs or older.*

### Senior Meals Coordinator

*Part time position*

### Seldovia Conference Center

#### Director

*Part time/Seasonal*

### Grant Writer

*Full time position*

### IT Person

*Full time position*

### SVTHC Directors Assistant

*Full time position/Homer AK*

To receive a full job description and/or submit a resume contact Shirley Hurley, Human Resources @ (907) 435-3248 email: [shurley@svt.org](mailto:shurley@svt.org)

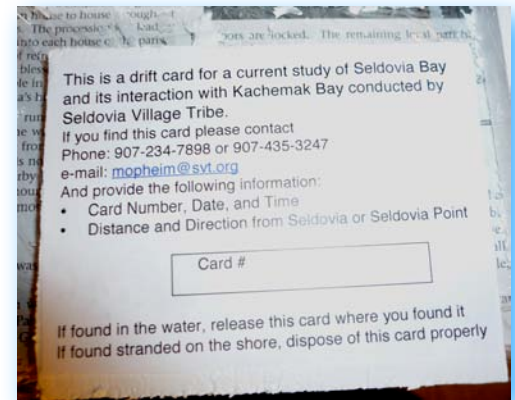
## Environmental Protection Office



Skittle the baby Sea Otter SVT's EPA department rescued from the airplane float here in Seldovia has passed away. Skittle was rescued on March 16<sup>th</sup> after SVT was called by Susan Carlough, Seldovia's Harbor Master letting us know there was a baby otter frozen to the ice still alive. Michael Opheim (Environmental Coordinator), Tracie Merrill (Environmental Assistant), and Rachel Payton (Senior Meals) went to the otter rescue at 1:00 pm. An assessment of the otters condition was made quickly when after it freed itself from the ice and could barely walk without falling over. The otter was wrapped in Rachel's sweat-shirt, Michael with Tracie's help carried it off the float to Michael's truck where Michael held the otter while Tracie went to get a kennel to ship the otter to Homer. Michael called Fish & Wildlife Service after arrangements were made with Smokey Bay Air to get the otter to Homer. The otter was taken to Homer Vet Clinic, was checked over and given fluids before being sent to Seward the next day. After the otters arrival in Seward at the Seward Sealife Center it went on 24 hour care and was given the name Skittle. Skittle had gone from 6.5 kg to almost 18 kg and was do to be shipped to New York after trainers

were to come up and train with him for a while so they could properly care for him. Skittle was doing his own grooming, was able to be placed in a seal viewing tank at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward. News of Skittle appeared in the Associated Press, Homer Tribune, KTUU Channel 2 news, The Seward Phoenix Log, and on a local radio station. Skittle was not able to be set free back into the wild do to the human contact he had during his first weeks of care. Michael Opheim traveled to Seward one time to see Skittle and see how he had grown. He had grown large enough you couldn't tell him from any other otter until he screamed and then you knew it was him. He had a scream that once you heard it you knew it was him. Michael received a phone call from Tim Lebling at the Sealife Center on July 22<sup>nd</sup> about Skittle passing away. The Otter had gotten into a drain at the bottom of his pool by removing a grate and drowned. Sea Otters are very curious little critters so if there is something they can play with they will. A full investigation into his death is underway. His remains were sent to Anchorage where he will be cremated. Skittle's remains will then be sent back to Seward where a small ceremony will be held and his ashes will be scattered back to sea.

*By Michael Opheim, EPA*



## Drift Card Research

The Environmental Office for Seldovia Village Tribe is conducting current flow research in Seldovia Bay this summer. We are trying to learn the current patterns in the bay as well as the interaction of Seldovia Bay with Kachemak Bay. There are 3 different sites where approximately 135 cards will be put into the water at each site. These cards are 3"x4" squares with information about location sealed on them. (see photo below) We are seeking your assistance if you find a card in the water or land. If you could please note the card number, date, time, distance and direction from Seldovia or Seldovia Point, and report it to Michael Opheim 234-7898 ext. 222 or Tracie Merrill at 234-7898 ext.236

Clams are broadcast spawners and in their larval state drift on the currents eating and growing. At a point larval clams can no longer float and they settle to the bottom. We would also like to see if the current has any effect on the salmon in the bay or as they enter the bay.

We have released one batch of drift cards at the head of the bay and in the next couple weeks hope to have the rest released. We would appreciate your help in collecting this data.

Thank you,  
Michael Opheim, EPA



## Culture Camp 2009

SVT Culture Camp was a huge success this year. Literally, measured both by the amounts of fun had, and the number of participants. This years Culture Camp was the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of July. The theme for this summer's camp was Bears.

On Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> the first day of camp, we had total of 47 participants. Michael Opheim summed it up, "We all were really surprised be the large number of participants. This is the biggest Culture Camp ever!" The activities on the first day included Set-net set up with Michael Opheim, Camp Gathering Circle, Tide Walk,



Fish Dissection with Mike Booz from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Salmon preparation for dinner with Helen Josefsen. The participants got to experience cleaning salmon and preparing it with Petrushki (known as wild parsley) and bull kelp ribbons. It made for a tasty dinner!



*Tribal Members Helen Josefsen and Ariana Waterbury prepare salmon for dinner.*

After dinner that evening the vehicles were packed up and our hardy group headed for Red Mountain. At the base of the bridge that crosses Windy River we set up our camp. 11 tents, 5 staff members, 22 kids, and 1 Tydus dog later we closed the book on day one, and began to prepare for day two.

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> we met up with our West Coast Connection Group and went on a long hike up one side of Red Mountain to get to the last remaining patches of snow. This was very exciting for two of the kids that had only seen snow twice in their lives! When we got back to camp, Alisha Sughrue our great camp cook made a tasty lunch.



A group from the Pratt Museum that included Holly Cusack-McVeigh, Ryjil Christensen, and summer intern Emily came over for the day to share with us about Bear Safety, and the differences in the three types of bears that live in Alaska. They brought along claws, skulls, and hides from the museum collection for the kids to examine. The Pratt group stayed for our Gathering and conversation with our honorary elder from Port Graham, Peter Anahonak Sr.. Peter shared with us a great message of sharing the harvest with friends and family; bear stories, visiting Red Mountain in the 1950s, and an entertaining story about Big Foot in Nanwalek.

Sevea Kroll taught a grass basket weaving to the kids, than talked about the importance of baskets to earlier people of this area, and what they might put in there special baskets. One boy added that he would like to put "my arrowheads in it", and another insisted that he would use his for diamonds. A handful of eager weavers finished their baskets that night! Jimmie Payton wrapped up that night with a wonderful talk about Hunting and Skinning, and his experiences with Bears.



Blessed with fantastic sunny weather the third and final day of camp begun. Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> held many great activities that included a DNA game with SVT's Tracie Merrill, a plant walk with Bridgette Cuffee from Center of Alaskan Coastal Studies, Zack Tappan the chief pilot from Homer Air talked about Bear Guiding in Katmai National Park, and Lee Post the "Boneman" came to assist the group in assembling a Brown Bear skeleton.

Many thanks to all that presented and helped out in developing and implementing Culture Camp this year! A special thank you goes to Bree Murphy for bringing her great enthusiasm and knowledge to Culture Camp, and also for providing Seldovia teens an opportunity to work as teen researchers that helped in the interview and photo documentation of this years Culture Camp 2009.

*By Sevea Kroll*



## Seal Camp



*Tribal Member, Alfred Quijance demonstrating Harbor Seal skinning, during bio-sampling a seal.*

Seal Camp was the result of the cooperation of two entities that embraced the science of the western world and married it to Native Alaskan traditions. The Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission and the Seldovia Village Tribe, IRA intertwined many elders and youth together to participate in such a special and important event. Members of Seldovia, Port Graham, and Nanwalek of Alaska Native and American Indian decent were given access to fully participating in Seal and Sea Otter harvesting and the Skin Sewing workshop. Many events were open to the non-native community members.

The Harbor Seal Commission brought Marine Biologist and long-time Alaskan resident Ann Hoover Miller who works for the Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward as the resident biologist during the event. She presented an informational talk about the status of Seals and Sea Lions in Alaska. It was a beneficial part of Seal Camp to have someone with a scientific background to watch our efforts as we harvest the Seal and Sea Otter. It was great to have a verbal contrast in with the elders and the traditional way and the scientific way and how closely they are connected. It is great to have an understanding like this when it comes to subsistence harvest.



*Tribal Member Michael Opheim demonstrating Sea Otter skinning.*

The Seal and the Sea Otter used for this Seal Camp were hunted by Alfred Quijance, Michael Opheim, and Alfred's grandson David. Michael Opheim had some great things to say about the passing of traditional hunting techniques on down to younger generations. "It is something to think about how we hunt today to how our ancestors hunted in the past. How would they have handled having such a powerful thing as a hunting rifle? Would it have made a difference in how they hunted or how many seals or Sea Otters they would have harvested? Would they have prospered more as a people? How much do we take for granted the ability to get in a skiff and use a rifle as opposed to getting in our Bidarka and using a spear. Have we become disconnected from our roots by doing things this way or have we just made it better for us to be able to go out and hunt more efficiently and provide for our village and our families easier? It is still important to learn from our elders who taught us to only hunt what we needed and to not let those that we hunt suffer. We do not want their spirits to go back and tell the others how we let them suffer and were cruel to them. We move forward with our traditions intertwined with technology and though we may not use all of what the western culture has to offer but we can use what we need that makes our lives easier."



*Vice-Chair Alaskan Native Harbor Seal*

*Commission, Lillian Elvsaas preparing seal fat.*

The activities during Seal Camp included Seal and Sea Otter bio-sampling with Alfred Quijance, Ann Hoover Miller, Michael Opheim, and volunteer youth. Lillian Elvsaas, a Seldovia tribal member shared how to process the meats for cooking and canning and making Seal Oil. Monica Riedel and her niece taught the Skin Sewing class. The participants made Sea Otter scarves, and Seal toys. Her many stories and bubbly personality was uplifting during special event. The Sharing of the Harvest Potluck was satisfying and a great way to close camp with good food and friendship.



*Tribal Member Ann Anderson Sewing Sea Otter head band.*

Thank you to all the participants and facilitators that shared in the traditional harvest of Harbor Seal and Sea Otter for Seal Camp 2009.

*By Sevea Kroll*

## SVT Health Center Seldovia Side

*Providers:*

**Donna Fenske, APRN-C**  
*Family Nurse Practitioner*

**Sue Christensen, PA-C**  
*Physician Assistant*

**Mary Anne Wilson ANP**  
*Family Nurse Practitioner*

**Dates available for patient  
appointments:**

**August 3rd & 4th**

**August 10th & 11th**

**August 18 & 19th**

**August 31st**

**September 1st**

**Phone: (907) 435-3262**

**206 Main Street  
Seldovia, Alaska 99663**

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## SVT Health Center Homer Side

*Providers:*

**Dr. Steiger**  
*Primary Care*

**Mary Anne Wilson ANP**  
*Family Nurse Practitioner*

**Health Center Hours  
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm**

**Phone: (907) 226-2228**

**880 East End Road  
Homer, Alaska 99603**

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## SVT Health Center Dental Services

*Providers:*

**Dr. Richardson**  
*Dentist*

**Jill Nicolini**  
*Dental Hygienist*

**Children's Appointments Given Priority**

**Dental Department Hours  
Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5:30pm  
Friday 8:30am-12pm**

**Phone: (907) 226-2228**

**880 East End Road  
Homer, Alaska 99603**



**Berries  
Wanted!**

**Berry Prices for  
2009**

**Red Salmonberry...\$2.50 lbs**

**Blueberry...\$4.00 lbs**

**All Salmonberries & Blueberries  
MUST be CLEAN & RIPE!**

**Buying hours: M-F 10am-3pm,  
bring berries to the ATC office en-  
trance.**

**Berry Permits are available at the  
Alaska Tribal Cache Gift Store on  
328 Main Street open daily from  
11am-6pm.**



*Leo Barlow SNA CEO, Kim Collier, Lillian Elvsaas SVT Vice President, Michael Beal Crystal Collier SVT President/CEO, Trinket Gallien, Greg Dronkert VP Hornblower Marine Services.*



*Blagg Brothers, SVT Tribal Members*



*Pauline Melton and Alice Beighley*



*Carol Ann Nelson*



**Seldovia Village Tribe IRA**  
**Drawer L**  
**Seldovia, Alaska 99663**