

Spring Mantras



By Jens Laipenieks
CEO & General Manager



As the days grow longer and we transition into a new season, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable phenomenon about to unfold in the far reaches of Alaska: the arrival of spring. Much like the dynamic business and regulatory landscape we navigate, the Arctic undergoes profound transformations, offering valuable lessons of resilience, adaptation, and opportunities for new growth.

Spring in the Arctic is not merely a change in weather; it's a symphony of nature's resilience and adaptation. The once impenetrable ice begins to recede, revealing vast expanses of open water. This melting ice unlocks new pathways for exploration and commerce, mirroring ASTAC's quest for innovation and growth in ever-evolving markets.

Just as the Arctic awakens from its icy slumber, so too do the communities that call this region home. The residents of the North Slope, with their deep-rooted wisdom and connection to the land and wildlife, embrace the changing seasons with

reverence and resourcefulness. As hunting and whaling seasons approach, these sustainable practices remind us of the importance of respecting our environment and nurturing and sharing with the communities we serve.

At ASTAC, we approach each season with a similar spirit of agility and forward-thinking. Just as the Arctic landscape transforms, we adapt our strategies to meet the evolving needs of our customers. Whether it's developing more affordable and faster internet products, building new middle-mile connections for future generations, or forging new partnerships, we remain committed to delivering excellence to our members/owners in everything we do.

One of my favorite business mantras comes from Jack Welch, the former CEO of GE: "Change before you have to." We strive to anticipate shifts in the market, embrace innovation, and lead with unwavering determination. Just as spring breathes new life into the Arctic, let us harness the power of renewal to propel ASTAC and you, its members, to greater heights.

As always, I am grateful for your continued partnership and trust in our cooperative. Together, we will navigate the changing seasons and emerge stronger and more resilient than ever before.

Cooperatively yours,
Jens Laipenieks

OPERATIONS TEAM UPDATES

Ben has served as our Service Order & Interconnect Coordinator for eight years, demonstrating thoroughness and a joyful attitude in his work. He's a true asset to our team, ensuring tasks are carefully completed. Ben's commitment and his delightful demeanor have left a lasting impression on all of us.

We reflect on his many accomplishments as Ben approaches his retirement date in mid-April. Ben played a pivotal role in the success of ASTAC projects, including the deployment of Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) networks in Kaktovik and Atkasuk, providing high-speed internet access to community members. Additionally, his contributions to the RINA wireless project have significantly enhanced connectivity and communication across our region.

We're grateful for Ben's hard work and wish him continued success in his future endeavors. In retirement, Ben looks forward to traveling and spending time with family. Ben plans to embark on exciting adventures, including watching the College Softball World Series with his family in Oklahoma, visiting his family in Kotzebue, and supporting his son's fights in Texas. His son, a UFC Ultimate Fighter series participant, is currently in Dallas fighting to secure a roster spot in the UFC. We're cheering for Ben and his family every step of the way! Cheers to Ben and his remarkable journey with ASTAC!



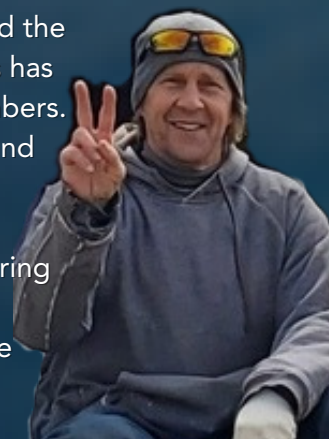
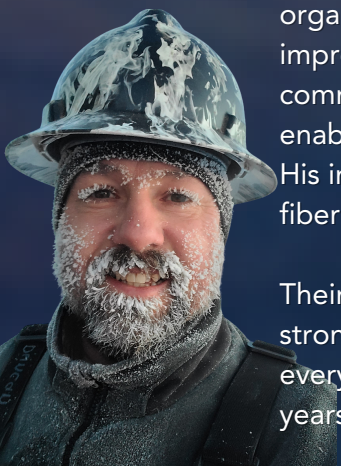
Celebrating Years of Dedication: Randy Duncan and Gregg Anderson

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we come together to celebrate the remarkable milestones achieved by two of our esteemed colleagues, Randy Duncan and Gregg Anderson. With a combined service of 48 years, their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment have significantly contributed to ASTAC's success and the betterment of our North Slope communities.

Randy Duncan, who is always eager to share and appreciate a good joke, has served ASTAC for 20 years and embodies the spirit of diligence and reliability. His readiness to tackle any task and unwavering work ethic have proven invaluable to our team. We are genuinely fortunate to count him as part of our ASTAC family. Away from the slope, Randy epitomizes the Alaskan spirit, engaging in activities such as operating his home wood mill, pursuing gold mining, or caring for his animals on his Homestead.

Gregg, an avid Green Bay Packers fan, brings that same passion to our organization and the communities we serve. His journey with ASTAC spans an impressive 28 years, during which he has left an indelible mark on his team and the community. "Mayor" Gregg's exceptional ability to foster strong relationships has enabled ASTAC to understand and address the needs of our community members. His insight has been instrumental in implementing improvements to wireless and fiber upgrades, significantly enhancing the experiences of our members.

Their dedication has made a real impact, from enhancing our services to fostering strong relationships in our communities. Randy and Gregg, thank you for everything you've done for ASTAC and our communities. Here's to many more years of success together!



INUPIAQ WORD OF THE DAY SPONSORSHIP

ASTAC is thrilled to announce that we are the sole telco sponsor of the Inupiaq Word of the Day. The social media moderators and community are paving the way and making language accessible to all. The postings cover words and short phrases that help others to learn Inupiaq by not only reading but hearing the translations through video.

The page aims to cover all dialects, if not in the video, they welcome other translations on the page and in comments. The hope is to further educate, extend the reach and share the importance of our language for all. Open dialogue and an engaged community are key to the success of the language revitalization efforts.

Moving forward we will feature a word in each issue, and since this is our Spring newsletter, this issues word is:

Spring Upingaksraq

If you have a different word in your dialect please share and take part in the conversations on Facebook, TikTok and Instagram. Don't forget to like, follow all social media pages as well!



GREAT GAMES

*NUNAMIUT BOYS & GIRLS
TIKIGAQ GIRLS*

**JOIN US IN CHEERING FOR
BARROW BOYS & GIRLS**

**AT THE ALASKA AIRLINES CENTER
SEE YOU ON THE COURT!**



CUSTOMER APPRECIATION BBQ

WHEN Friday, April 12th 11am-2pm

WHERE ASTAC Nunavaaq Tent

WHAT Food, Prizes, Tours & More



It's Pimradgiagta time!

Sunday, April 14th 12-3pm

WHEN

Middle Lagoon

WHERE

9-Hole Golf Tournament

WHAT



ARCTIC GOLF TOURNAMENT





APRIL 2024

WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS

4/6
4/7 **FORTNITE**

4/20
4/21 **SUPER SMASH BROS. ULTIMATE**

COMMUNITY NIGHTS

4/2 MINECRAFT

4/4 MARIOKART 8

4/9 MINECRAFT

4/11 LEAGUE OF LEGENDS

4/16 MINECRAFT

4/18 APEX

4/23 MINECRAFT

4/25 Kahoot! Trivia Night!

4/30 MINECRAFT



The 2024 ATA
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
period is open



DEADLINE IS APRIL 12, 2024

Scholarship opportunity is open
to all ASTAC member
households.

APPLY AT
alaskatel.org/scholarships

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