

# ARWA goes to DC!

## Alaska Rural Water Association seeks support from Washington DC

A letter from the Manager, Hilary J Currey

Recently, Alaska Rural Water Association (ARWA) had the opportunity to take three system members to Washington DC in order to seek support for continued Rural Water funding.

National Rural Water Association (NRWA) provided funding for ARWA to bring system members to DC for an experience of a lifetime. Through careful consideration, we chose three diverse regions of Alaska to bring on our adventure to DC: Klawock, Bethel, and Palmer.

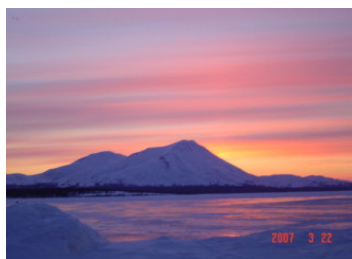
While in DC we joined four other regional rural water associations to seek support from our state delegates to continue funding rural water associations.

The outcome was successful

with the Alaskan delegates in continuing support for the impact that ARWA has throughout rural Alaska. Convincing was not a hard sell once looking at the numbers. They spoke for themselves.

Last year, through the Technical Training and Assistance Program, ARWA was able to provide 818 water system employees, from administrative staff to water and wastewater operators with up to date training and help to comply with state and federal regulations to better serve the communities of rural Alaska.

The EPA funding for this program has been a particular concern because of the decision to end funding through earmarks, our mission was to call upon the State of Alaska



Aleknagik Lake out by Dillingham AK

delegates, ARWA members and others who support our mission, to convey their support for funding to such a valuable resource to the State of Alaska.

Overall, this experience was well received by all that attended. We were able to meet with Senators Stevens and Murkowski and House Representative Young. While there, we were able to visit the Smithsonian, National Treasury, many of the various monuments and a few fine dining establishments.

### Inside this issue: Big Changes Ahead for 07'

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### Special points of interest:

- **Big Changes Ahead for 2007!**
- **More Trainings Available**
- **Extended areas of Training**
- **More Community Outreach for Educating the Next Generation.**
- **More Circuit Rider Services to our members**
- **Emergency Response Plans**

## Focus on Educational Outreach for Communities

Alaska Rural Water is planning on focusing further attention on prevention and education for not only operators but the entire community.

The focus of the educational outreach is brought to rural

Alaska through the Source Water Protection Specialist Program. (SWP)

Currently one of the major focus points this year is educational outreach for communities, through the use of public forums, workshops, Health Fair booths, and through the school districts.

Source Water Protection is recently starting to come more into public concern because of the higher concerns for environmental protection.

The Source Water Protection Program is the only program of it's kind within the state of Alaska that provides direct concentration to protection to your community water source.

For information on Educational Outreach Programs, please contact Carrie Godden at (907)357-1155 or (907) 360-3160.



## Source Water News

During the month of March, it was Water Day, bringing water awareness to the forefront. Carrie Godden, Source Water Specialist for ARWA, has decided to concentrate on more educational outreach for this year to ensure water protection is a priority every month.

Working hand in hand with the communities, schools, watershed councils, and city councils to further implement Water Protection Plans. These types of concentration efforts to help distributing knowledge of source protec-

tion throughout the communities of rural Alaska is a major focus for the Source Water Program.

Carrie has an ambitious list of communities that she is focusing on for this new fiscal year.

### Community follow ups

**include:** Nenana, Hoonah, Valdez, Cordova, Bethel, Dillingham, Whittier, Talkeetna, Skagway. Primary focus communities include: Unalaska, Palmer, North Pole, Barrow, & Soldotna.

### On-site technical assistance communities in-

**clude:** Kotzebue, Pedro Bay, Iliamna, Cordova, Kodiak, Klawock, Craig, Hydaburg, Coffman Cove, Home, Kuskokwim Delta, Kobuk River Communities, Gulkana, Haines, Port Graham & Nanwalek

### Future planned communities

**include:** Wrangell, Yakutat, Wasilla, & Nome.

*Drinking Water Protection Signs are in please contact Carrie Godden for your free sign.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

*I shall be telling this with a*

*sigh*

*Somewhere ages and ages*

*hence;*

*Two roads diverged in a*

*wood, and I ~*

*I took the one less traveled by,*

*And that has made all the*

*difference.*

*~ Robert Frost*

## TAT News

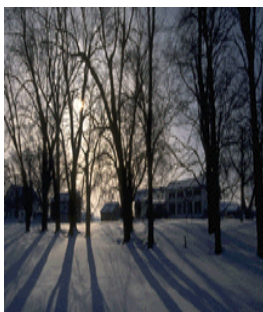
The TAT Program has been busy during the months of February and March, making head way on alternative sources for funding to ensure that ARWA has the ability to continue this valuable membership service this has been the primary focus of the TAT program and staff for the last two months.

With more and more funding being cut from the congressional budget in order to free up funding for more pressing issues, the EPA TAT program funding has been compromised .

Alternative methods for funding have been sought from many different sources to

ensure that this program will remain one of the services that ARWA is able to provide to Rural Alaska.

Continue to believe that ARWA and NRWA will seek every option before complying with defeat. We will keep you updated on this program and any changes that may occur.



**Making a difference  
One water system at a  
time**

## Managers Corner-Training Opportunities for Rural Alaska

Times are changing fast in the water industry, and it is our goal here at Alaska Rural Water Association to bring the water/ wastewater operators and systems of Rural Alaska the most up to date trainings and technical assistance.

At ARWA, we feel it is imperative to provide informa-

tion on outside agency's upcoming educational opportunities as well as our own.

Here's a look at what is happening throughout rural Alaska.

~ **April 30-May 4 Provisional Operator Instruction Level I Training Course** (formally known as OIT) brought to you by Bristol Bay Health Corporation . Please

Contact Bill Justice at (907) 842-3396 ext. 310

**May 15 -17**

Confined Space Entry Training Nome brought to you by ARWA

**May 22-23**

ANTHC/NTL Water Treatment Seminar: ESWT, DBP, & Arsenic

## Circuit Rider News

DON'T FORGET THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR UPGRADE FROM PROVISIONAL TO LEVEL I CERTIFICATION CONTACT ADEC- MARTIN SUZUKI-907-465-5140 OR  
KEN SMITH 907-465-5136

## Circuit Rider II News

The Circuit riders have been traveling far and wide the last couple of months. Visiting many areas to ensure water quality during the time of break up, when water quality is usually at it's worst. Please remember that if you are in need of a Sanitary Survey, CCR or Back flow testing contact the office or one of the Circuit Riders early to ensure that there is time for scheduling.

### **Important Note Regarding Sanitary Surveys, CCR Reports, Bact Flow testing or any other special services**

REQUEST FROM CIRCUIT RIDERS IN REGARDS TO SANITATION SURVEYS, CCR REPORTS AND BACK FLOW TESTING Please allow 2 to 3 months advanced notice when scheduling for these wonderful membership services. We are growing so much we are beginning to fill up quite a bit in advance and while we attempt to meet everyone's request services are based on a first come first serve basis. Membership alone does not guarantee availability of all services without prior appointment. Dates & Services are subject to change due to weather and travel restrictions.



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Our Mission here at Alaska Rural Water Association is to provide the most innovative and up to date training and technical assistance to every level of Alaskan Water and Wastewater System Employees. Passing knowledge onto systems in order for the system to pass it on to the communities. If for any reason you have questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact us.

## On the Board Level.....

Our Board is actively involved in making sure that ARWA is on the forefront of growth. The Board is planning an annual retreat to come up with new vision and directions for Alaska Rural Water to travel. ARWA is supported greatly by the Board of Directors and their visionary wisdom in the water industry.

*Quality on Tap!*



## Things to look forward to in the new year!

- Don't forget to check your mail for upcoming information regarding the 9th Annual Alaska Rural Water Association Conference.
- Further Development of Trainings to include various essential operator subjects.
- Further Development of Training opportunities coming to your area.
- More Member services offered by each program
- Outreach opportunities including possible internship opportunities.