

# WINTER GUIDE 2008

## Ski Relay Competition added to Bachelors' Events



Rushing a pail full of water to the finish line isn't easy while negotiating slippery ice in bunny boots.

FILE PHOTO BY JOHN R. MOSES

## Auction and Ball Both in Sheldon Community Arts Hangar this Year

By John R. Moses  
ALASKA PIONEER PRESS

**TALKEETNA** – Organizers of the 28th Annual Talkeetna Bachelor Society Auction say they were hard-hit by an outbreak of marriages this year, but have rounded-up at least 30 men in various states of youth. Their mission: to raise money for local charities while throwing one of the biggest winter parties in the area.

The 23rd Annual Wilderness Woman Contest and the bachelor's auction are both happening on Dec. 6 in Downtown Talkeetna. The Annual Bachelor Ball in the Sheldon Arts Hangar caps off a day of festivities that includes a new ski race and a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored chili cook-off outdoors (yes, we said outdoors) behind the Historic Fairview Inn.

The one-day party traditionally draws hundreds of visitors and many female contestants from Anchorage and beyond who use their superior wilderness (and water-bucket-carrying) skills to vie for prizes such as gold nuggets

See *BACHELOR BALL*, Page 8

## WINTERFEST EVENTS

### Town Tree Decorating & Lighting

Dec. 1 Beginning after school (around 3 p.m.) all are invited to help decorate the Talkeetna town tree and string lights on the Village Park pavilion. At 6 p.m. there will be an official "flip of the switch" commencing all things Winterfest!

**Parade of Lights** — Friday, Dec. 5, starting 7 p.m. at the Swiss Alaska Inn and winding through East Talkeetna and down Veteran's Way and D Street to Main Street by about 7:45 p.m.

**Bonfire** — Saturday, Dec. 6, all day, next to Village Park, Downtown Talkeetna

**Chili Contest** — Dec. 6, Noon to 5 p.m. behind the Historic Fairview Inn. Just \$5 gets you all you can taste. Proceeds benefit the Talkeetna Chamber

of Commerce youth scholarship program.

**Wilderness Woman Contest** — Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m., Main Street, Talkeetna

**28th Annual Bachelor's Society Auction & Bachelor Ball** — Saturday, Dec. 6, in the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar. Single females only — grab your official Male Order Catalogue, bring a checkbook and pick from the best of Talkeetna's eligible bachelors. Doors open at 6 p.m. The auction begins at 7 p.m. The Bachelor Ball starts at approximately 10 p.m., following the Auction. The high energy dancing band, Nervis Rex, will headline the Bachelor Ball.

**Santa!** — Dec. 14, Noon. Santa and his dog team will be at Tanner's Coffee Cabin taking children's lists and letting them test drive the sled!



### BUNDLE UP FOR THE PARADE!

Colorful floats and vehicles of many kinds festooned with holiday lights are the tradition in Downtown Talkeetna the first Friday of December.

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# Chili In the Chilly Weather

By John R. Moses  
ALASKA PIONEER PRESS

**TALKEETNA** — Last year it was so cold the condiments froze, but that didn't stop happy tasters and discerning judges from chipping off a few chopped onions to top 11 entries in the Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce Chili Contest.

Revived in 2007, the contest enters its second year with a promise from organizer Gale Moses that the sour cream, shredded cheese and other toppers will be well protected, whatever the weather.

The Historic Fairview Inn is again donating space in the covered area behind the main building for the cookoff. The event benefits the Chamber of Commerce Scholarship fund.

"We're looking forward to a great event" said Moses.

Last year's winner was Vern Rauchenstein, whose excellent fare always graces the Swiss Alaska Inn. Upon winning last year's contest he modestly said he hadn't expected the honor.

"They have to spread it out. Let's hope somebody else wins," said Rauchenstein, who will be back this year to help out the Chamber's scholarship fund.

Moses said she's hoping some newcomers will join the ranks of last year's veterans.

This year restaurants that already serve chili as a part of their menu are invited to highlight the chilis one can find every day in the Talkeetna area. If you have a local favorite, call them up and let them know about the contest.

Call 733-6397 to sign up.



**BUNDLE UP AND DIG IN:** A little -0 weather didn't stop brave chili tasters (ABOVE LEFT) who took a break from watching the Wilderness Woman Contest. (ABOVE) Winner Vern Rauchenstein, center, samples the competition as wife RenaMary surveys the scene.

FILE PHOTOS BY JOHN R. MOSES



PIZZA FLATBREAD SANDWICHES  
SALADS GYROS, HUMMUS & MORE  
**733-1234**  
MAIN STREET, TALKEETNA

## Artisans Return to Co-op on Main Street

**TALKEETNA** — They're back above the Tanner's Coffee Cabin building, that group of local artists and artisans that comprises the Talkeetna Artist's Co-Op. Their annual "Holiday Gift & Art Sale" opening Friday, Nov.28 till Dec. 24, every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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# Local Events Calendar

## Denali Arts Council

### Hangar Door Cinema Film: Opera Jawa (Indonesia)

Tickets will be sold at the door, starting 7:30 p.m. \$6 for DAC members/\$8 for non-members. Mark your calendars! Hangar Door Cinema and Denali Arts Council present the remaining films in the Global Lens series:

**Saturday Nov.29, 7:30 p.m.** Luxury Car ( China ) Luxury Car is a film from China. A man travels to the city to visit his daughter — a karaoke bar escort — hoping to fulfill his wife’s last wish of finding their missing son. All films will be presented with English subtitles. Tickets sold at the door starting at 7 p.m.

### Sunday Dec. 14, 4 p.m. All For Free ( Croatia ) Violin Lessons at the Hangar

Lessons take place in the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons all school year. Suggested fee is \$40 per month for two lessons. Rentals are additional. Local musician and teacher, Sandy Shoulders, offers private violin lessons to youth and adults. Contact Sandy for more information or to arrange lessons at 733-3050. All levels of musicians welcome. Instruments available for rent. All of her fees are donated to Denali Arts Council’s Music Academy whose mission is to provide music learning and performing opportunities for local people and sponsor high quality performance groups visiting Talkeetna. The Music Academy raises funds to underwrite instrumental music lessons, buy and repair instruments available for rental, purchase sheet music, augment the Talkeetna Elementary

music program with professional instruction on band instruments, maintain the piano, and support workshops and concerts.

## Art Shows

On display through the month of November in the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar, the Talkeetna Artists Guild continues to show the free October art show, ‘Alaska Classics.’ Two living legends of Talkeetna share their interpretations of Alaska’s beauty. Photography by Brian Okonek and paintings by Curt Wagner.

**December 13, 4-7pm.** Second Saturday Art Show & Reception at the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar. This month’s show features the work of local youth, Teslin Matthews.

## Talkeetna Chamber Meets

Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce General Membership Meeting at Tanner’s Coffee Cabin. Featured speaker will be Matanuska Susitna Federal Credit Union. Have a question or comment about money or local banking? Here’s your shot. All are welcome. More information is available at [www.talkeetnachamber.org](http://www.talkeetnachamber.org)

## At the Talkeetna Roadhouse

**Turkey Day Family-Style Supper:** On Nov. 27 The Roadhouse will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Family-Style supper beginning at 2 p.m. We still have space at this year’s table...supper is \$28 per person and includes appetizers. We’ll have the parade on then the game before the big sit-down. Beer, wine and gratuity not included but encouraged...you won’t have to do the dishes.

• **Monday Night Dice:** According to Wikipedia, “Farkle or Farkel is a dice game that has

also been called Zonk, Zilch, 5000, 10000, Wimp Out, Hot Dice, Buzzball, Oh Crap, Quack, Sand, and Greed[1]. Its origins as a folk game are unknown...” And now, you can join your neighbors here at the Roadhouse on Monday evenings for a great game of Farkel! Please, no betting, beating or blubbing, just lots of laughs ‘cause happy days are here again!

• **Knitting Nights:** Wednesdays, 6pm - ‘til 9pm. Knitters, Beaders, Scrappers, Hookers, Quilters and all Crafters are invited to bring their projects to work on and share beginning around 6pm.

## Talkeetna Community Council

Talkeetna Community Council, Inc. Meets the first Monday of each month at 7p.m. To get on their list to receive agendas and minutes, email the secretary at <[tccsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:tccsecretary@yahoo.com)>. Agendas are also posted at the U.S. Post Office and online at [www.akpioneerpress.com](http://www.akpioneerpress.com) under “Local Government Links.”

## Denali Arts Council Board

The Denali Arts Council Board of Directors meets at the Roadhouse in the winter, the second Monday of the month, at 6 p.m. For information e-mail [denaliartscouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:denaliartscouncil@hotmail.com)

## Hurricane Turn Runs Each Thursday

Hurricane Turn train runs Northbound the first Thursday of the month, departing Anchorage at 8:30am and Talkeetna at 11:35 a.m. It returns to Talkeetna that afternoon at 3:40 p.m. and gets back into Anchorage at 7 p.m. For all the Railroad details: [www.AlaskaRailroad.com/passenger](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com/passenger).

(The Alaska Pioneer Press thanks Trisha Costello for compiling several of these digest briefs.)

[denali-thealaskagaspipeline.com](http://denali-thealaskagaspipeline.com)



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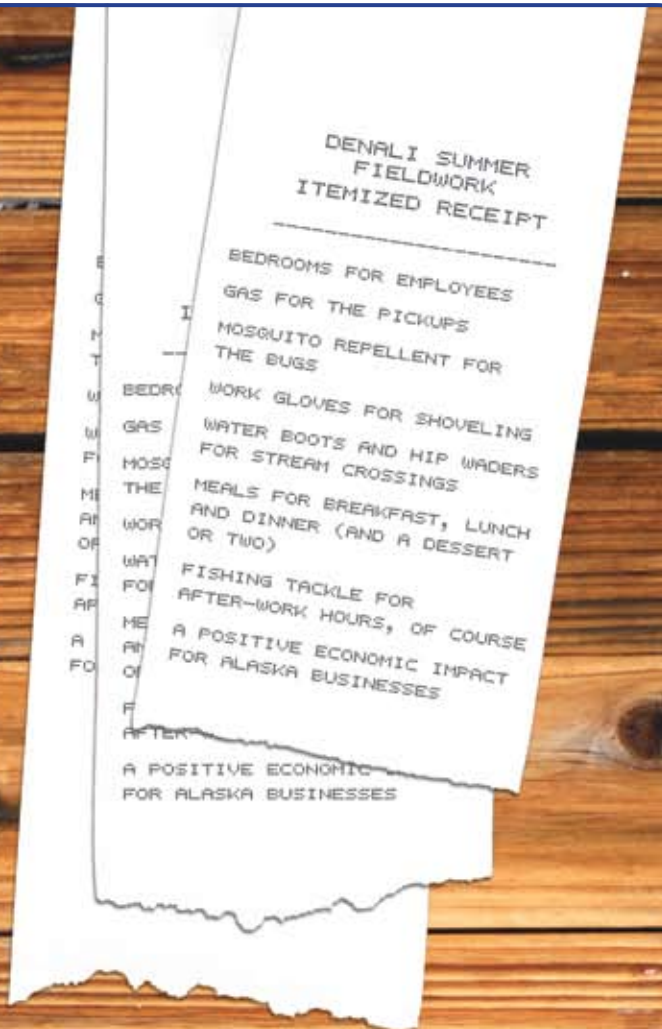
**TISH JENKIN**  
Owner, The Golden Bear Motel



**JIM JENKIN**  
Owner, The Golden Bear Motel



**FRANCINE LEE**  
Owner, Tok General Store



## BACHELOR AUCTION

From Page 5

and air miles. The auction raises cash for women and children in crisis and also has benefited local sports and other non-profit groups.

It's also a great reason to build an all-day bonfire next to the Village Park.

Organizer Loudon Wilson, who is in his second year of running the auction and contest, said planning is going well and an updated Web site ([www.bachelorsoftalkeetna.org](http://www.bachelorsoftalkeetna.org)) has all the details and updates attendees will need.

Wilson said the Denali Nordic Ski Club is selecting the route. The details were still fluid at press time. The race will start with contestants telling race judges a joke that must make them laugh. "You're judged on your joke. If you try to do a one-liner and away you go, you're going to get heavily penalized," Wilson said.

The 11 a.m. cross-country ski event, held at the Ski Hill trail near the overlook at about Mile 14 of the Talkeetna Spur Road, is a seriously non-serious (and non-competitive) event for single men and women. Organizer Chris Mannix said there may be separate section for married people.

"The winners will get an ovation of boos," Wilson added.

So, who puts on this collection of events that poke fun at Alaskan stereotypes and tread heavily on the wrong side of political correctness? Why, a group with a sense of humor that invites others who enjoy good, clean winter fun to get down and dirty competing for very real Wilderness Woman prizes — and very genuine "bachelors."

The society "is a loosely organized non-profit social club whose members are single men of all ages living in Talkeetna and the surrounding area. As a non-profit organization, all proceeds from our various fund-raising activities go to worthy community needs," organizers state.

All proceeds from the auction and programs — \$9,630 last year — benefit the Talkeetna Bachelor Society Fund for Women & Children in Crisis (administered by Sunshine Community Health Center), Sunshine Station Child Care Center, the Denali Arts Council, KTNA Community Radio, the Talkeetna Youth Hockey Association and Talkeetna Elementary School as well as other community needs and projects.

The cream of Talkeetna's bachelor crop has been meeting for weeks, first at the Fairview Inn and later at the Latitude 62 when the Fairview shut down briefly for renovations.

Group and individual photos were taken and somewhat fictional biographies written for the "Male Order Catalog," a glossy booklet that is sold in businesses around town and at the auction also to raise cash for the benefiting charities. This is the book bidders may use when picking which man to bid on. The winning bidder gets one dance at the Bachelor's Ball, along with a drink and what organizers say are "honorable intentions."

Contestants must be 21 years or older to compete in the Wilderness Woman Contest. Sign-ups are the morning of the event inside the West Rib Pub and Grill. The ski event starts at — p.m. at Ski Hill and at 2 p.m. the Wilderness Woman Contest begins on Main

Street.

Unmarried contestants must demonstrate their skills at a variety of vital tasks necessary for daily living here:

- The preparation and delivery of a sandwich and a beer to a bachelor
- Gathering firewood and depositing it near a bonfire
- Making a 100-yard dash to a simulated creek to fill water buckets, and returning with them full
- Driving a snow machine around a small, pre-designed course
- Catching a salmon, shooting a latex ptarmigan and sawing a birch round
- Evading, then dispatching, a moose which is behaving like a lonely bachelor

The auction starts at 7 p.m. in the V.F.W. Hall on Veteran's Way in Talkeetna, where everything Downtown is within walking distance. The Bachelor's Ball starts at 10 p.m. just down D Street in the arts hangar.

Contact Loudon Wilson at 733-4709 for more information or to find out where to buy a Male Order Catalog in advance of the event.

### CRAFT SHOWS: Support Local Artisans & Artists

#### St. Bernard's Church Hosts Holiday Bazaar

TALKEETNA — Booths are available for \$30 at the St. Bernard's Catholic Church Holiday Bazaar, which takes place Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. There will be local crafts, beads, pottery and more unique creations. Lunch and baked goods will be for sale at the nearby Swiss Alaska Inn. Call Anita Pickielnok at 733-2884 for more information.

#### Bazaar at Talkeetna Elementary

TALKEETNA — Talkeetna Elementary School's PTA holds its Holiday Craft Bazaar on Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will also be a bake sale, food for sale, a Kid's Craft Area and music. Booths are still available. The application date is Dec. 1 An 8-foot by 8-foot space costs \$25. Call Christie Seay at 733-7854 for more information.

#### Craft Fair at Senior Center

SUNSHINE — Mark Nov. 15 on your calendars. The Seniors Holiday Bazaar opens inside the Upper Susitna Seniors Inc. Senior Center building (temporary home of Susitna Valley Jr./Sr. High School). It starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. in the Su Valley Cafeteria/Upper Susitna Seniors building.

#### Willow Holiday Bazaar

WILLOW — A holiday Bazaar in the Willow Community Center takes place Nov. 15 starting at 10 a.m. Contact Shirley Wakeman at 495-5267 or e-mail [swakeman@mtaonline.net](mailto:swakeman@mtaonline.net) for more information.

#### Colony Christmas Celebration

PALMER — A three-day holiday celebration and 70-year tradition, held annually the second weekend in December. Enjoy horse-drawn and reindeer sleigh rides, light tours, gingerbread houses, tubas, fireworks, Christmas carolers and more. Got to [www.palmerchamber.org](http://www.palmerchamber.org)

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

#### Dec. 1 Holiday Tree Lighting

Village Park, Downtown Talkeetna., 6 p.m.

#### Dec. 5, Lighting at 6 p.m. Holiday Motorized Parade of Lights

Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce presents the annual parade. Decorate your vehicle or a float and come join the fun! Sign in and line up starts at 6 p.m. at the Swiss Alaska Inn parking lot. Come on in and enjoy complimentary cocoa and cookies while you get ready. Parade begins at 7 p.m. and goes through east Talkeetna, down Main Street about 7:30 p.m. and ends at the Village Park. This year's theme is "Let it Snow, Let It Snow!" If you are not in the parade, come downtown to watch it go by... twice as is the Talkeetna custom! Call 733-2710 for more information.

#### Opening Dec. 11 Home for the Hostilities — A Steaming Pile of Christmas Cheer

Denali Drama presents Home for the Hostilities, another improv. comedy production brought to you by Nick Condon, the producer of Flanagan's Wake. This entertaining show has fun with all the things we love and love to hate about the holidays. Some adult content. In the Community Arts Hangar Dec. 11, 12 & 13, 18, 19 & 20 and Dec. 25, 26 & 27, all at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for members / \$15 non-members

#### Dec. 14 Kids Cookie Decorating

From 1p.m.-4 p.m. Kids Cookie Decorating After families have been over to see Santa and his dog team at Tanner's across the street, they are invited to the Roadhouse to decorate cookies to

either eat on the spot, or save for Santa. There is a suggested \$3 donation per one dozen sugar cookies. This is a great event for the entire family!

#### Dec. 14 Cookie Exchange

Great Annual Bake-n-Take Cookie Exchange Beginning at 3pm you are invited to roll up your sleeves, don an apron and step into the bakery for a marathon of cookie making madness. Participants are encouraged to bring a couple dozen cookies already made and recipes for cookies to make throughout the afternoon. At the end of the evening all cookies will be gathered on the big table and we'll all be able to assemble gift cookie tins to promptly mail off to friends and families (won't they be impressed!). Suggested \$10 donation covers ingredients and tins as well as a soup-n-bread light supper.

#### Dec. 22 Festival of Lights Reader's Theater

Festival of Lights Readers Theatre This annual community event is a non-denominational celebration of the holiday season with music, stories, carols refreshments and more. Cans of food are accepted for the food bank. Free, 7 p.m., at the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar.

#### Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Family-style Supper

What better way to begin a festive evening in Talkeetna than our 8 p.m. hearty Roadhouse supper? Reservations are required. Folks may book room and supper or just the supper... or just the room!