



UNITE FOR GOOD



Club Meeting

Susitna
Meets at Everett's Restaurant
at the Mat-Su Resort
1850 East Bogard Road
Wasilla, AK 99654
Time: Wednesday at 06:00
PM

Speakers

July 23, 2025

Rachel Pugh and Mary
Yanagawa
Midwifery Care and Out of
Hospital Birth in Alaska

July 30, 2025

Club Assembly
Update and signup for
2025-26 projects

July 31, 2025

\$25 per person
RSVP by July 24th:
<https://evite.me/x2pSt7XaF8>

August 06, 2025

Kevin Kehoz, President
Alaska Wild Sheep
Foundation

August 13, 2025

Jeff Curtis, CEO
2025 Alaska State Fair

July 23 Weekly Meeting: Midwifery Care

Mary Yanagawa, CDM, is a direct-entry midwife and former president of the [Midwives Association of Alaska](#)

Rachel Ann Pugh, CPM, CDM is a licensed midwife and the former vice chair on the Alaska State Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives.

Wednesday, 6:00pm

Meet in Person at
[Everett's at The Mat-Su Resort](#)

Via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5415605940?pwd=ZFJWVK1lZbnJSTHpaOGY1KzErbTlVdz09>



Events

No Events found

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Midwifery Care](#)

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Frequency of Change

This is the documentary filmed featuring Rotarian Erin. Seats are free but limited. Remember the Rotary's theme this year: *United for Good*. Sign up soon so we can make a big Rotary presence at the showing, and be united in our support for the efforts of so many people in recovery.

This is an award-winning documentarian teamed with local community members and Set Free Alaska staff debut, *The Frequency of Hope*, a very special documentary celebrating the stories and journey of Set Free Alaska. This special showing will be hosted in our new Bryce Ray Community Center. Limited seating, so grab your seat today!

Thursday, August 21, 2025 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

[Day](#)

[Hensens Come to Alaska.
Courtesy Susitna Rotary](#)

[Project Update: Rotary Park
Playground](#)

[Member Spotlight: Michelle
Lackey](#)

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Out](#)

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Birthdays

Hally L Marshall
July 23rd

Kathleen Frederick
July 27th

Andrew W Alldredge
July 29th

Amber A Glasser
August 15th

Robert Allan Grogan
August 17th

Wedding Anniversaries

Christian M Hartley
July 23rd

Cindy Wellman
July 29th

Eric Wellman
July 29th

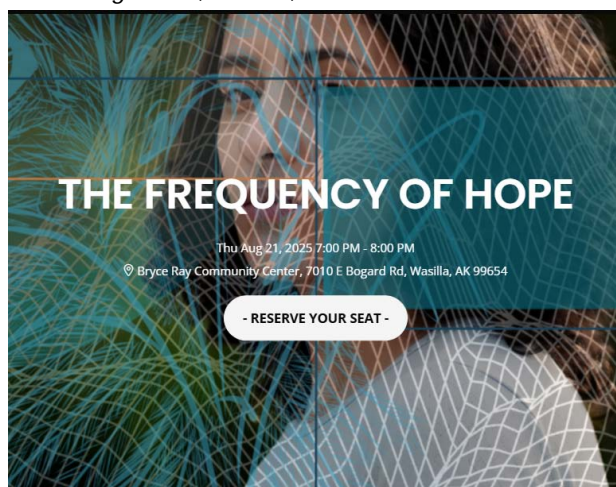
Joe Llewellyn
August 11th

Michelle Dawn Lackey
August 12th

Eddie Ezelle
August 14th

Adam Rein
August 17th

The Frequency of Hope
Bryce Ray Community Center
7010 E Bogard Rd, Wasilla, AK 99654



Looking Back to Hot Dog Day

President Kim was able to collect some photos from last week's service project for National Hot Dog Day. She added that it was a nice turnout for the first annual Rotary Dog Days of Summer event. A huge amount of thanks to everybody who participated with the setup, execution, and cleanup of this first annual event. Special shout out to Brenda Hewitt, Hally Marshall, Lanissa Grogan, and Adam Rein for the heaviest lifting, according to multiple people.

228 hot dogs were handed out; hot dogs that had been donated by Franz Bakery! Several people expressed interest in membership and helping the club out.





Hensens Come to Alaska, Courtesy Susitna Rotary

Susitna Rotary supported the [Josh the Otter](#) program by donating an Alaskan trip to the Josh Collingsworth Foundation's annual auction last year. The lucky bidders were Jeff and Kris Swenson of Lincoln, Nebraska. Together with their 17-year-old daughter, Desi, they had a whirlwind 6 days in Alaska last week.

Thank you to Rob Grogan for coordinating the trip and the four families that hosted and took them on various outings: Locations visited included Hatcher Pass, Talkeetna, Anchorage, Seward, and Wasilla. Activities included flying, 4-wheeling, jet skiing, kayaking, a Kenai Fjords tour, and a train trip!

Hosts: Marty and Cheryl Metiva, Rob and Lanissa Grogan, Phil and Claire Horton, Tryg and Kim Erickson.





[Read More](#)

Project Update: Rotary Park Playground

We cannot express how appreciative we are to Rotarian Jack for his support and help with the kid's play set for Little Susitna Rotary Park. After the club purchased the play set for a very good price, Jack disassembled it, cleaned every single component, and reassembled it in a newer, safer layout. We are waiting for some items such as engineered wood chips and some border prep, after which this will be installed at the park near Rosemary's Garden.



Member Spotlight: Michelle Lackey

Rotarian Michelle "Lady Track Boss" Lackey has a reason to be proud, and we all have a reason to remind her of this when we see her next! She was included in the 2025 Women of Power issue of Drag Illustrated Magazine. Michelle mentioned that, for her, sharing pages with so many strong, fearless, and passionate women in motorsports is truly humbling. She expressed gratitude to [Drag Illustrated](#), Jessica Hicks Spears, and Morgy Carter for shining a light on her story and [Alaska Raceway Park](#) — and for reminding everyone that when you chase your dreams wide open, anything is possible.

"To every woman out there working hard, racing harder, and lifting each other up — this one's for you," Michelle added at the end of her post sharing the information.

You can read it all at dragillustrated.com.

WOMEN OF POWER • 2025

MICHELLE LACKEY

LADY TRACK BOSS

BY JESSICA HICKS SPEARS | PHOTOGRAPH BY MORGAN CARTER



POSITIONED At the base of Pioneer Peak is a picturesque facility that is etched onto the bucket list of racers across the country, Alaska Raceway Park. It is a scenic destination that promises to showcase nature's quiet beauty alongside the thunderous thrill of motorsports, one that many only dream of experiencing once in their lifetime. However, for Michelle Lackey, this has become home.

Michelle's parents, Earl and Karen Lackey, relocated from Wisconsin to Alaska when she was only eight years old, originally as farmers. Although, as motorsports hobbyists, the Lackey family soon found themselves members of the

operating the facility. In 2020, Michelle officially inherited the reins from her father full-time with an unmatched determination to continue her family's legacy and push the boundaries of Alaska Raceway Park to new heights. She now proudly wears the "Lady Track Boss" moniker.

"I feel like our track is very integral to motorsports in Alaska, so keeping it functioning, growing, and keeping motorsports alive is not just central to what we do, it's central to what happens across Alaska," Lackey elaborates. "It's a lot of responsibility, but I feel like we are doing a really good job of growing the sport. We've got more people building more cars at both tracks [dragway and oval] every season."

understands how their role is very important to our motorsport community."

Residing in the Last Frontier also instills a sense of exploration and innovation that is readily apparent when Lackey speaks about the future. She is fueled by passion, not only for her extended family of racers and motorsports as a whole, but also to become one percent better each day. In what is considered the offseason, Lackey continues working by attending conferences and trade shows to learn from other facility operators and industry leaders throughout the country.

As for offering her own words of advice, Lackey says, "This can get tough sometimes, and you put your all into this, but you have to remember why you're doing it. Many track owners become burned out, complacent, or stop trying to innovate, but you have to keep your batteries recharged and put forth the effort to make it better."

Shifting Alaska Raceway Park into a more self-sustaining and diverse facility is a long-term goal, and one where Lackey's creativity starts to peak. She envisions car condos and short-term rentals on site, where out-of-state visitors can enjoy a vacation overlooking the mountain and perhaps rent a race car for the weekend. The ability to produce residual income on a year-round basis would become a valuable asset to the facility that features a short one-track season from Mother's Day to Labor Day.

Forever a racer at heart, Lackey still has personal aspirations of becoming a member of the 200-mph club one day. In the meantime, she mentions enjoying orchestrating the circus and spending time with her parents, brother, and children at the racetrack that has meant so much to them.

"One of my best experiences was being able to tell my dad that people were driving up from out of state for the first Alaska Speed Week drag-and-drive event," Lackey says. "Being able to share these moments with my parents and have them enjoy it after all the work they have put into the track has been so rewarding for me."

As for final words of encouragement, Lackey shares, "I know I'm far away from a lot of racetracks, but I would like to be a resource for others if they have any questions or ideas. No matter how much experience we have, there's always so much more we can learn. Maybe I can help another racetrack in some way, and in turn, they help someone else. If we can all help each other keep racing going and keep tracks alive, then we have all succeeded." ■

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ISSUE 193

Big Beaver Lake Needs a Big Hero

Jack Timm brought the status of a life jacket loaner board in Big Lake to our attention. This board, at Big Beaver Lake, has been neglected and is in dire need of rescuing, repair, and restock - and then careful and consistent monitoring. We are looking for a volunteer to take over and adopt this board in the club name, but it has to be someone who can routinely check on it.

If you are interested, please let President Kim know as soon as possible so we can move forward.



Susitna Rotary Ladies Afternoon In



Join us for a spot of tea

*Thursday, July 31st from 12pm-2pm
3318 S Charming Valley Loop
\$25 per person*

SUSITNA ROTARY LADIES First Annual Afternoon Tea

*Call/Text 423-827-3787 to RSVP
by July 24th to save your spot*



Sommer Miller has organized the First Annual Susitna Rotary Ladies Tea!

*July 31, 2025
12pm - 2pm
\$25 per person*

You must RSVP by July 24th: <https://evite.me/x2pSt7XaF8>

You are welcome to dress up, wear a hat, gloves, etc. . However, it is not necessary. Seating is limited to 25. You can pay Sommer with cash or Venmo @Sommer-Miller-1 call/text 423-827-3787

Why You Otta Lotto

[Lotto Alaska](#) funds a large variety of nonprofits in Alaska with the net proceeds from the weekly lottery.

Susitna Rotary was thrilled to received \$58,168 from them to support our local community service projects this year!



Show & Tell

Susitna Rotarians and friends are involved in many community activities.

If you have a community event you would like to promote, please email Erin Cruz and Christian Hartley so that we can publicize it in the weekly slideshow (Erin) and weekly bulletin (Christian).

Date	Event	Location	Contact for more info:
Sat, Aug 9, 2025	Texas Hold'Em Alzheimer's Assoc Fundraiser \$100 Buy-in Per Person	Palmer Moose Lodge	Kevin Miller kevin.miller@edwardjones.com 423-2531
Sat, Aug 16, 2025	Houston Founders Day	Fire Station 9-1 Mile 57 Parks Hwy	Christian Hartley
Sat, Sep 27, 2025	Mat-Su Safety Fair	Curtis Menard Sports Center	Christian Hartley

[Read More](#)

Save the Dates!






















Susitna Rotarians have lots of opportunities in the upcoming months to serve the community and have some fun. Mark your calendars and stay tuned each week for more details as the various events unfold.

[Download the 2025-26 Susitna Rotary Calendar](#)

Jul	16	Wed	Alaska Rotary Dog's Day of Summer Free	Newcomb Park Pavilion Wasilla Lake 5:00 - 7:00pm	Open to the community Passing out free hot dogs Share the flyer
Jul	31	Thu	First Annual Susitna Rotary Ladies' Afternoon Tea \$25	3318 S Charming Valley Loop Palmer, AK, 99645	RSVP to Sommer Miller by 7/24 call/text 423-827-3787 https://evite.me/x2pSt7XaF8
Aug	15	Fri	Rotary Fellowship at the Fair \$30	Alaska State Fair Opening Day	RSVP Jan Helfrich 907-355-9333 Download the flyer
Oct	11	Sat	"Around the World in 80 Days" Wasilla Noon Rotary Fundraiser	Curtis Menard Sports Center	Stay tuned for details!
Nov	8	Sat	The Rotary Foundation Valley Club Fundraiser	Evangelo's	Stay tuned for details!
Nov	12	Wed	DG Marty Metiva presentation Susitna Rotary Update on District 5010	Everett's	Club meeting
Nov	26	Wed	Happy Thanksgiving	NO MEETING	
Dec	10	Wed	Club Annual Meeting	Everett's	Election of officers 2026-2027
Dec	17	Wed	Club Holiday Party	TBD	Stay tuned for details!
Dec	24	Wed	Christmas Eve	NO MEETING	
Dec	26	Wed	Kitchen Clean-up Christmas Friendship Dinner	Curtis Menard Sports Center	Many hands make light work!
Dec	31	Wed	New Year's Eve	NO MEETING	

[Read More](#)

Club Leaders

	<u>Kimberly W. Erickson</u> President		<u>Robert Allan Grogan</u> Club Service Projects- Josh the Otter Chair		<u>Samantha Jo Waisanen</u> President-Elect		<u>Samantha Shannon France</u> Secretary
	<u>Erin Cruz</u> Treasurer		<u>Hally L Marshall</u> Club Public Image Chair		<u>Cheryl L. Metiva</u> Club Director		<u>Jack W. Timm</u> Past Presidents Chair Club Director
	<u>Kathleen M. Timm</u> Attendance Secretary		<u>Richard A. Cavens</u> Sergeant-at-Arms		<u>Lanissa Grogan</u> Club Membership Chair		<u>Elinor T Hanley</u> Club Admin - meeting PowerPoint
	<u>Christian M Hartley</u> Club Admin Chair		<u>Brenda L. Hewitt</u> Club Service Projects Chair		<u>Josh Waisanen</u> Club Rotary Foundation Chair		<u>Teresa Blume</u> Club Programs Chair
	<u>Catherine Cheadle</u> Club Service Projects- Trails		<u>Wendy Gaynor Cucullu</u> Club Service Projects - Literacy		<u>Lynn Mitchell</u> Club Youth Exchange Chair		<u>Aaron Coman</u> iPast President
	<u>Mandy Mitchell</u> Club Fundraising Chair						