

Annual Company Picnic



On Friday, June 12, the Annual Design Alaska Company Picnic was held in our very own backyard.

Although it looked a little different than previous years, we still had a great time! Employees and their guests spent a bright and sunny afternoon socializing while enjoying great food and music.

Midnight Sun Catering provided us with pulled pork sandwiches, beef brisket, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, and corn on the cobb, while the Headbolt Heaters played a string of songs in their unique rock/folk/bluegrass/punk sound.

When the picnic was winding down, employees and guests sat around the table and answered Design Alaska trivia questions. One of the questions was, "How many Design Alaska employees work with family members who also currently work at Design Alaska. There are 9, can you name them all?"



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Safety - 5 Years ZERO Reportable Incidents

Jeff Putnam and Kym Pihlaja track and manage our overall safety incidents on a regular basis. Jeff frequently reports our safety performance to clients to show that we are a safe company to hire for work and won't present additional risk to them on their jobsites.

Jeff reported yesterday that we have gone **5 years** without an OSHA recordable incident. Congratulations to everyone on this achievement! It takes a deliberate effort to achieve a culture of safety and the results show.

Jeff also noted that the current statistics for our industry (Architecture, Engineering and Surveying related services), averages 1 incident per 200,000 hours work (1 incident per 100 typical employees per year). We have had **ZERO** in 5 years. If you average the last 11 years, we are at 0.44 incidents. You can see how 1 incident makes a big difference to the stats for our small sized firm. We have deliberately made a commitment to safety. From 2009-2014 we had three incidents, which caused our average to climb above the industry rate. This made us begin to look closer at our company safety as our clients began expressing concern. We saw the need to do something different in order to keep our employees safe and reduce incidents to avoid any additional safety red flags being raised in the future.

We hired a safety consultant to help us draft a set of safety policies that would instruct on safe work practices, and more importantly, train employees in work risks and methods to work safely. Once we had plans and safety equipment in place, we asked supervisors to review a safety plan monthly at their department staff meetings and raise awareness of working safely. We have continued to improve the plans each year and McKinley is currently providing updates to enhance readability and formatting. The hard hat replacement that is going on now is also part of the efforts we started 5 years ago.

The results have certainly paid off. Since we started this safety effort in 2014, we have had **ZERO** recordable incidents. Safety takes effort. We have been consistently applying ourselves towards education, training, and safety experiences. We are known by contractors to hold high safety standards and our clients have noticed as well. We are professionals that are in the building safety business, so it only makes sense that we value working safely as well. Congratulations again, and keep contributing to Design Alaska's overall safety program here at the office, in the field, and in your homes.

~ Chris Miller P.E.

President

Company Adventure Reminder

Saturday, July 25th

Meet at Pro Music boat launch at 1pm
(300 Front Street, Fairbanks AK)

We will be Kayaking and Canoeing to the Chena River Wayside Pavilion
Food will be provided by Midnight Sun Catering at 4pm

(3530 Geraghty Ave, Fairbanks AK)
Join us for food, fun, and fellowship.

Fairbanks Summer Traditions

Events in Fairbanks this summer are changing. With Covid-19 restrictions, our town has worked hard to find alternatives that allow for cherished Fairbanks traditions to still take place. Below, you will find info on events around town that are still being held, but with a variety of twists.

1. **Golden Days Parade**—“This year we’re putting on a REVERSE PARADE, which means instead of lining the streets of the parade route, you’ll get to cruise safely through the Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds and greet floats as you pass. As always, we’ll have the best of Fairbanks on hand, from the hometown heroes of Ft. Wainwright and Eielson to local bands and entertainers, bringing the Fairbanks flair that makes this town a great place to live and play. You can drive through any time between 11am - 2pm.”
2. **Golden Days Street Fair**—“We’re spreading out the Street Fair this year to accommodate safe distancing, but you’ll still have plenty of opportunity to shop your favorite vendors, visit info booths, and scarf down the best food the summer has to offer!”
3. **Golden Days Rubber Duckie Race**—Same ducks, same race, but in efforts to decrease riverside congregation, the annual rubber duckie race will be live streamed from start to finish.
4. **Music in the Garden**—“Due to COVID-19 restrictions for live events, our summer 2020’s Music in the Garden concerts will not be held at the Georgeson Botanical Garden. However, for your musical enjoyment, they will be prerecorded and aired on KUAC TV (Channel 9.4) on Thursdays at 7:00 P.M. The concerts can also be viewed on the UAF Summer Sessions website.” For more info, visit: www.uaf.edu/summer/events.
5. **Golden Days Rodeo and Music Festival**—The Rodeo must go on! “Saturday Gates open at 3pm, RAM Championship Rodeo @ 5pm. William Michael Morgan Performing Live @7pm. Sunday, July 19 gates open at noon. RAM Championship Rodeo starts at 2pm.”
6. **Tanana Valley Farmer’s Market**—The Farmer’s Market is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but there are some restrictions that you should be aware of before visiting. The market asks that if you feel sick, have traveled, or been exposed to COVID-19, you should stay home. One shopper per household is permitted to shop, masks are required, and there is a handwashing station at the main entrance. Attendees are asked to practice social distancing, leave pets at home, and wash produce at home. A virtual market page has also been published so that consumers can shop local vendors online. Visit their website for more information: <https://www.tvfmarket.com/virtual-market/>
7. **Midnight Sun Baseball Game**—“The Fairbanks Adult Amateur Baseball League and local Alaska Legion baseball teams are hoping to fill the void of what would have been the 115th annual Midnight Sun Game by hosting an All-Star game at Growden Memorial Park at 10 p.m. Saturday, the day of the summer solstice.” Although the Goldpanners will not be playing this year, there will still be a game under the midnight sun. For a little bit of background on the annual Midnight Sun Game visit https://www.midnightsungame.com/2020_stickells_batter-up/
8. **Midnight Sun Run**—The annual Midnight Sun Run will be held, but in a different fashion this year. There will not be any starting line entertainment, instructor-led stretching or even an official starting line. Instead, participants will have 72 hours to complete the 10K (6.2 miles) on a route of their choosing. Runners can upload pictures from their run to an online gallery, and a virtual costume contest will be held for the chance to win some pretty great prizes. For more information, visit the Midnight Sun Run Facebook page for a handy guide to 2020 racing.
9. **Tasty Tuesday**—Every Tuesday, until July 21st, the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds will be hosting food trucks from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.. Stop by for unique lunch options!
10. **Discover Alaska Series**—Each week we see Alaska through the eyes of an expert in their field. Due to COVID-19 restrictions for live events, 2020’s summer lectures will be recorded and aired on KUAC TV (Channel 9.4) on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Lectures can also be viewed on the UAF Summer Sessions website www.uaf.edu/summer/events

New Employee - Brian Fischer



Brian is Design Alaska's newest Mechanical Intern. He is from Shenandoah Iowa, and currently studying at Iowa State University. When asked to tell us a bit about himself, Brian gave some pretty entertaining answers.

Tell us about your family. Do you have a spouse or partner? Any children or pets?

I have three older siblings. I am told that parents stop having children when they finally have one that is perfect. I think this is a logical conclusion.

As for pets, I have a border collie at home and a few Siamese cats named after Lord of the Rings characters, as well as a few cows that I consider friendly enough to be considered pets.

Do you have any hobbies, hidden talents or collect anything special you would like to tell us about?

I enjoy and thrive at most sports. Basketball or water skiing are my favorite. I will fish for anything anytime. And I love being in and exploring the outdoors. I enjoy all forms of music and play any of the saxophones. I am pretty good at leatherworking. I have made holsters, guitar straps, and gun cases.

Name one thing that not many people know about you.

I have done one standing backflip in my life and I cannot repeat it.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?

Living in Iowa isn't a bad choice. Because it is so bland and unexciting that literally anywhere else in the world is an exciting adventure. Which makes for some cheap vacations.

Are you a morning or a night person?

Night.

What is your favorite song? What is your favorite movie? What is your favorite childhood TV show?

My favorite song changes constantly, but Careless Whisper is pretty high up the list consistently. My favorite movie is the Lord of the Rings Return of the King closely followed by the other Two in the series. I grew up on Tom and Jerry and still watch it on occasion.

What is your ideal meal?

A medium rare grilled ribeye steak with steak fries and as much corn on the cob as I can get my hands on.

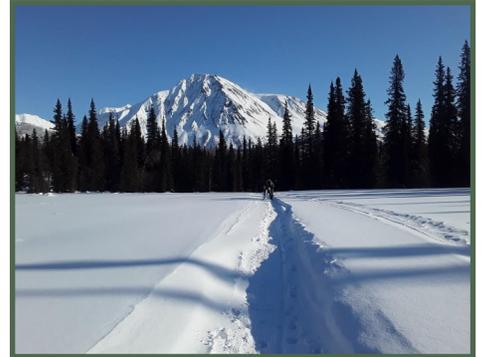
Tell us one of your goals on your life's to do list.

I would like to go to all 7 continents.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

If I feel comfortable I will become sarcastic, so please don't think I am crazy.

Biking the Iditarod Trail



This March Aaron Wilbur hit the trails with 75 other individuals to compete in the Iditarod Trail Invitational (ITI). Aaron describes this event as “a classic winter race with racers pitting themselves against the trail more than one another.” Aaron completed the shortened route finishing in McGrath, which was 300 miles from his starting point. Some racers continued all the way to Nome to complete the 1000 mile journey.



“With poor trails, warm temps, fresh snow, cold temps, high winds, and drifting snow, it was the challenge of a lifetime...I finished in a blazing 5 days and 20 hours for 9th place overall, with over half of the field scratching and dropping from the race. While it was a mind bending, soul crushing, and body breaking experience, I am hooked and can’t wait to do it again.”

~Aaron Wilbur

What does your camping experience look like? Do you sleep in a tent, R.V., or cabin? What activities do you like to do? What are your favorite camp meals? Where do you go? Share your experiences!

Chris Miller
 Angie and I are tent campers. Therma rest pads, sleeping bags, and 3 person tent for the two of us. Our favorite camp meals is oatmeal with peanut butter powder and dried cranberries for breakfast and red beans and rice for dinner. Our most memorable trip is a one week hike through the Brooks Range (Phillip Smith Mountains) from Arctic Village to the north fork of the canning river. We have great memories of that trip including the 'cinnamon colored grizzly bear'. Ask me about it sometime....

Marina Jones
 We upgraded last year when our little two person backpacking tent would not be enough for a lab, malamute and two adults... plus we are completely happy with car camping now and wanted to glamp out a little. Glad we bought this 4 person tent that you can stand up comfortably in. The cots were by husband's request and a very nice addition to the glamp. Something about spending a long day hiking around Alaska with the pups and coming back to a cozy tent is a wonderful experience. We definitely treat ourselves the first night of cooking with something tasty like steak, fish or chops...it progresses to simpler things like sausages and easy cook things the longer we are out though. Can't beat the state we live in to get out into nature for a few days!



Robin Rader
 This April we went camping on Jarvis Creek near Summit about a mile from the highway. It was glam camping with table, chairs, and cushy sleeping pads. The first night seemed a little cold. We brought wood for a fire and even dug a 6 foot deep fire pit but ended up not using it as the sunshine was hot until 8:00 pm. We skied and snow machined all over the place. The younger crowd spent a day AT skiing while we oldsters ferried people around on the snow machines. The last day we spent cross country skiing. I had a bit of a mess up with the sunscreen and ended up burning my face. All told, we had a great time.

Eliza Cink
 Camping used to mean backpacking in a small tent somewhere we could hike into and carrying all of our food and jetboil for my morning cup of tea. The further away from other people, the happier we were. Now, camping means setting up our giant 9 person tent in the backyard and roasting s'mores with the kiddos.



What does your camping experience look like? Do you sleep in a tent, R.V., or cabin? What activities do you like to do? What are your favorite camp meals? Where do you go? Share your experiences!

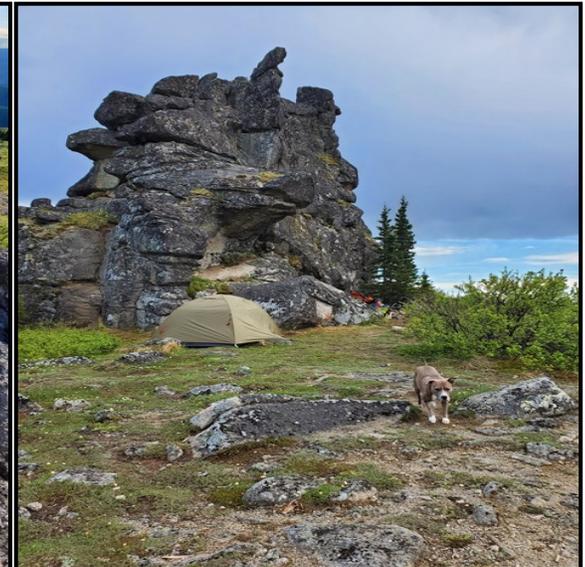
Blake Burley

Hot dogs, smores, and hunting!



Ryan Morse

This was hard for me to narrow down. As my truck (for those who have seen it in the parking lot) might suggest, I really enjoy road trips and outdoor adventures. I've camped out in the single digits with the roof-top-tent on backcountry snowboarding trips, thoroughly toured the haul road, and taken the rig on the ferry to explore Kodiak just in the last year or so. That said, the REAL camping for me is getting away from the road noise to enjoy the simplicity of backpacking. Here are a few pictures of my trail companions this past weekend. It was our first time on the Granite Tors Trail, and we had a great time complete with thunder storm and another session of plucking porcupine quills from Pebble's snout!



What does your camping experience look like? Do you sleep in a tent, R.V., or cabin? What activities do you like to do? What are your favorite camp meals? Where do you go? Share your experiences!

Taylor Tharp

I have always preferred tent camping, even though I still get a little spooked at night that I might get attacked by a bear or stomped on by a moose. I still sleep in a 2 man (aka 1 woman and a puppy) backpacking tent even though I haven't gone backpacking in years. I also still have the same sleeping bag that I had when I was 12 from when I went backpacking with the boy scouts in Arizona as one of the honorary annoying little sisters. When people ask if I want help setting up/breaking down my tent, I still say no, as a sense of pride that I can do it myself.. silly, I know. I still love roasting s'mores over the campfire and getting them to that perfect golden color on the outside and find it horrendous that people actually prefer turning there's into black charcoal looking globs of burnt-ness, but to each their own. No matter what, I have to have coffee in the morning and I'm not super picky on food; Mountain House meals will always suffice in a pinch. If you look in the trunk of my car at any point this summer, you will find it stuffed with all my supplies and that I'm ready to go in a moment's notice. My favorite camping spot is a secret as it's the prefect trifecta of isolation, trees, and water. A friend and I went on a road trip last summer in search of a comparable campground along the Tok cut off, stopping at every campground and could find any to compete with our typical spot. All in all, I love camping and being outdoors.

Aaron Wilbur

While not exactly camping, I do like to do winter endurance races on my fat bike. My race this winter was the Iditarod Trail Invitational, which covers the first 300 miles of the Iditarod trail. When I do sleep, I try to stay at a checkpoint but sleeping on the side the trail, while colder, is much more peaceful. I tried to eat ~10,000 calories per day, mostly comprised of cookies, snickers, dried mangoes, and doritos. If you'd like to hear more, I'd be glad to share.



Elizabeth Johnston

Before the toddler we were backpackers. We kept things light and really enjoyed not being weighed down. With the toddler, the meals are similar as we always had good food but the amount of stuff has increased exponentially. Three-man tent, camp chairs, a bigger stove, and mostly using the car instead of backpacks. One of our favorite camping meals is red lentil kale stew, but you can't go wrong with pancakes.

Marcus Curley

Miranda and my camping experience is tent camping with easy access to our car. Our camping locations are focused on areas near lakes or rivers for fishing and short day hikes as our most common activities. Our favorite meals are cast iron bacon and fired pancakes for breakfast and either turkey burgers or some ground turkey skillet dish for dinner. And can't go camping without making Reese's peanut butter cup s'mores. A great escape we had last year when the smoke got really heavy in Fairbanks was the state campsite along the Brushkana Creek where we came across a cow moose and her calf crossing the creek while fly fishing.



Wellness

By: Elizabeth Johnston



During the month of May twenty-three people joined team "Wellness by Design" and challenged themselves to move their bodies for 100-Miles-in-May. Of those, 16 succeeded. The activities that counted included canoe adventures, running after toddlers, and gardening, among others.

The team racked up 2,603.1 total miles coming in 13th place amongst Architectural/Engineering/Construction teams in total miles. The team members averaged 113.2 miles for a 15th place finish.

Congratulations to all participants.

Rank	Name
1	Jack Wilbur
2	Marina Jones
3	Samuel Mitchell
4	Aaron Wilbur
5	Chris Miller
6	Elizabeth Johnston
7	Ally Mitchell
8	Bekah Olson
9	Angie Schmidt
10	Mary Sue Dates
11	Eliza Cink
12	Jeffery Cink
13	Jennifer Davis
14	Kym Pihlaja
15	Taylor Tharp
16	Ryan Morse

100 MILES IN MAY

Icons: Running, Hiking, Swimming, Cycling



Design Alaska
will be closed on
July 3, 2020
for the
4th of July holiday.



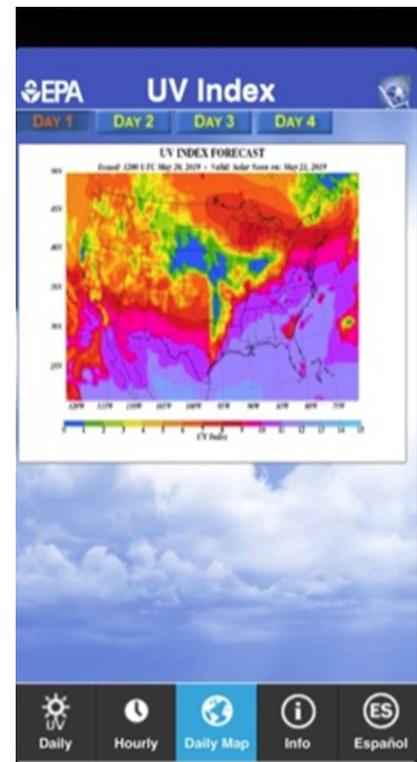
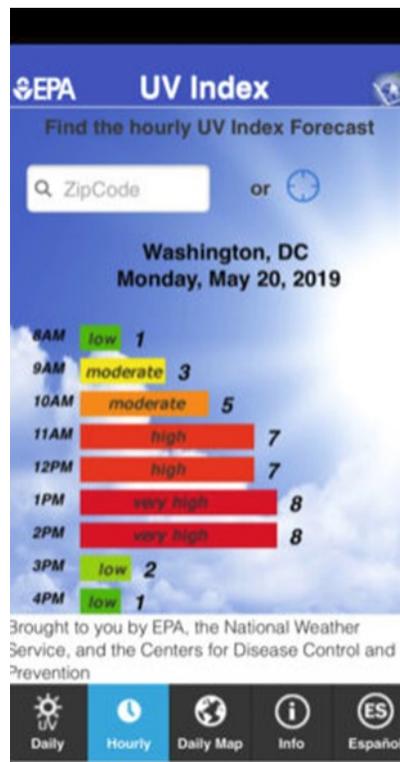
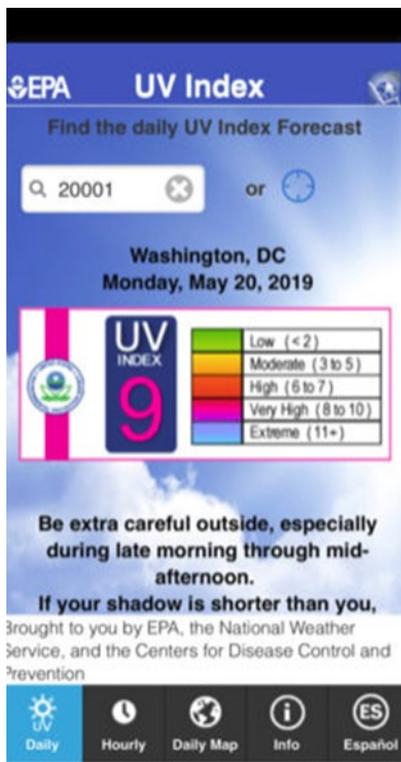
Employee FAQ: UV Index

What is the UV Index?

The UV Index is a tool used to forecast the amount of UV radiation from sunlight expected to reach the earth's surface. This forecast uses data about elevation, ozone, clouds, and location of the sun to determine the UV Index. The UV Index can range from 0 (which means there is no, or weak, sunlight) to 11+ (which indicates extreme sunlight). As UV goes up, the UV Index goes up. This means it takes less time for UV damage to occur to the skin and eyes. Protection is recommended when the UV Index is 3 or above. The higher the UV Index, the more sun protection needed.

The Environmental Protection Agency's UV Index App

While UV is not high all the time, the UV Index peaks when the sun is highest in the sky. It can stay elevated until late in the day. Checking the UV Index every day will allow for taking steps to protect skin and eyes from UV damage. An easy way to check the daily UV Index is by using the *SunWise UV Index* app for smartphones. This app is free! It provides sun safety advice based on the UV Index, hourly updates, and a daily map showing the UV Index across the United States. The app is also available in Spanish.



To download this app for an iPhone, go to <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/epas-sunwise-uv-index/id466052686> or search for *SunWise UV Index* in the App Store.

To download this app for an Android phone, go to <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.epa&hl=en> or search for *SunWise UV Index* in Google Play.

Downloading the app onto your phone is a convenient way to check the UV Index in real-time, but you can also check the UV Index on the EPA's [website](#) or in the Weather app on your smartphone.

June 2020 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Annual Company Picnic	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Managers' Meeting Food Truck Lunch	26	27
28	29	30				

June Birthdays

Patrick Brandon June 18
Emily Steele June 20



July Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 2—Pre 4th of July Company BBQ
Friday, July 3—4th of July Holiday
Thursday, July 16—Food Truck Lunch
Saturday, July 25—Company Adventure

Design Alaska Anniversaries

Susan Walker	20th Anniversary	June 12th
Bill Kinne	16th Anniversary	June 1st
Mitchell O'Bryant	10th Anniversary	June 4th
Lyle Axelarris	8th Anniversary	June 4th
Isaac Ladines	1st Anniversary	June 3rd

Pictured are two of the beautiful flower boxes that were delivered by Hawks Greenhouse this year.

