

# THE ASTAC MESSENGER



Spring/Summer 2011  
Quarterly Newsletter

## Can you text “FREE phone”?

Fast texting is at your fingertips with the Alcatel OT880A. If you like texting with ease and speed, you’re going to love this phone. When you sign a two-year contract, it’s absolutely free (\$159 with no contract). The Alcatel OT880A includes a touch screen, full-sized slide-out keyboard, digital and video cameras and lots of other cool features to help you stay in touch with your friends and family. Offer expires June 9, 2011, order online at [www.astac.net](http://www.astac.net) or call 1-800-478-6409.



## ASTAC offers North Slope travelers free WiFi

ASTAC recently installed free WiFi and a cellphone charging station (with eight plug-in outlets for cellphones) at the Barrow Airport. Look for the illuminated sign. Enjoy the free service.

## Capital Credits 101 – A Refresher

By Steve Merriam, CEO/General Manager

### What are capital credits?

Capital credits are how the utility assigns a portion of the margin left over, after covering operating expenses, to the member owners of the cooperative. Capital credits represent a member's portion of the margin the utility generated, but they are not cash and they can't be cashed in or used to pay your bill. Negative margins (operating losses) are used to offset future year's positive net margin.

### What is the difference between a capital credit allocation and a distribution?

Capital credits are allocated to member accounts each year and become a permanent record of member equity until retired. Retirement occurs when the Cooperative is in a strong financial position that allows maintenance and expansion of services and a payment of a portion of member's equity (their allocated capital credits). In the past, the Board has chosen to reinvest earnings into new services like wireless. **We are happy to report that our financial position will allow both service expansion and capital credit retirement later in 2011. Thanks for doing business with the company you own.**

## ASTAC launches new website

ASTAC is finishing a major upgrade to our website and plans to launch in June. We always strive to improve customer service and are excited about this development. The new site is much more interactive, allowing customers to view products and service plans and place orders online. Visit the new site at [www.astac.net](http://www.astac.net)

- new layout
- view: phones, accessories, plans
- access your account
- submit feedback
- ... and much more!



[www.astac.net](http://www.astac.net)



Barrow Lady Whalers

## Congratulations to the Barrow Lady Whalers 2011 3A state champs!

The Barrow Lady Whalers are this year's state 3A champions. The Barrow High School girls basketball team finished with a perfect 26-0 season. They beat rival Kotzebue, 58-31, to take the 3A title during the ASAA State Basketball Championships in Anchorage. The Lady Whalers never let Kotzebue get closer than within eight points.

"The girls have worked long and hard this season. They deserve this win and I'm so proud of them," said Lady Whaler Coach Jordyn Danner.

ASTAC's basketball-themed advertising campaign last year was such a success, we're doing it again for 2011. The Lady Whalers will be featured in several print ads in the Arctic Sounder as well as during the Swoosh Contest in October. We're excited to have the Lady Whalers join ASTAC's winning team!

## ASTAC awards annual scholarship



Harley Oleson

Each year ASTAC awards two \$1,000 scholarships to high school graduates from the communities ASTAC serves. Of the dozen applicants, this year's winners are Harley Oleson from Barrow and Jalen Charles Agnassaga from Wainwright. Congratulations for all your hard work!

## How to keep away telephone solicitors

You're about to sit down to dinner and the phone rings. It's not your friend or relative, it's a telephone solicitor trying to sell you something. Sound familiar? If so, there's a way to cut down on these calls. Register with the national Do Not Call program. When your home and personal cellphone numbers are registered, telemarketers are prohibited from calling you with solicitations. You can register for the free service at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call 1-888-382-1222. Once you register, your phone number(s) remains on the list until you remove it or discontinue service.

### 2011 Annual Meeting Schedule

Date	Day	Location	Time
July 11	Monday	Point Hope	2:00 PM
July 11	Monday	Point Lay	7:00 PM
July 12	Tuesday	Nuiqsut	2:00 PM
July 12	Tuesday	Barrow	7:00 PM
July 13	Wednesday	Atqasuk	1:00 PM
*July 13	Wednesday	Wainwright	5:00 PM
*July 14	Thursday	Kaktovik	2:00 PM
July 14	Thursday	Prudhoe Bay	7:00 PM
*July 15	Friday	Anaktuvuk Pass	11:00 AM

\*Elections

## Board of Directors

**Marietta Aiken**  
President - Barrow, AK

**Ella Kowunna**  
Director - Point Hope, AK

**Marie Tracey**  
Vice-President - Point Lay, AK

**Terry L. Tagarook**  
Director - Wainwright, AK

**Noreen Kaleak**  
Secretary/Treasurer - Kaktovik, AK

**Margaret Pardue**  
Director - Nuiqsut, AK

**Paul Bodfish Sr.**  
Director - Atqasuk, AK

**Debbie Bernard**  
Director - Prudhoe Bay, AK

**Patrick Mekiana**  
Director - Anaktuvuk Pass, AK

## Did you know...

- An estimated 250-300 million cellphones are currently used in the U.S.
- There is one cellphone for every two people in the workplace or about 3.3 billion cellphones that are actively in use.
- More than 1,000 cellphones are activated each minute.
- The average American uses a cellphone for 12 to 18 months before upgrading to a new phone.
- 70 percent of Americans do not know their old cellphones can be recycled.
- The Barrow Store and Anchorage office have recycle boxes, just bring your items in or mail them to either location.

