

THE ASTAC MESSENGER



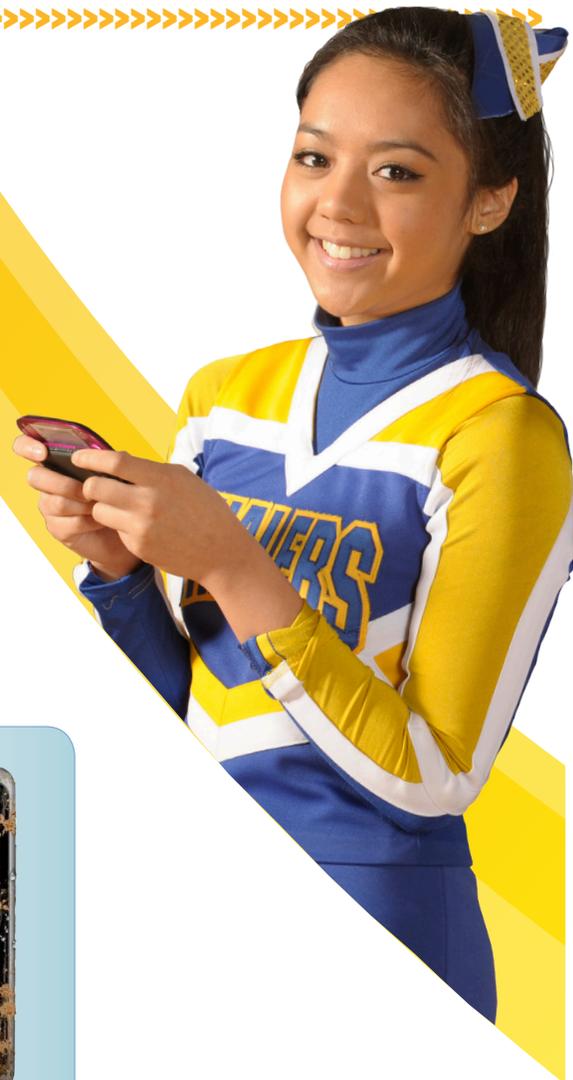
Summer 2012
Quarterly Newsletter

Wireless Data Now in Barrow!

The wait is finally over. ASTAC wireless data service is now available in ALL North Slope villages, including Barrow. Unleash the power of your ASTAC wireless phone and stay connected from wherever you are. So go ahead – Tweet, Facebook, shop and catch up on the news and sports of the day, all from your ASTAC phone.

New Wireless Data Bundles

ASTAC is very excited to announce our new and improved wireless data bundles. Beginning May 1, you will have the flexibility to pick a data plan that best fits your personal usage patterns. Starting at just \$15 per month, you can have your favorite apps and the Internet with you everywhere you go. Unlike our competitors' offers, our wireless data bundles include your mobile Internet use AND unlimited text messaging. We even have an exclusive data plan offer for our customers who have ASTAC Home Bundle to save you even more! We offer total flexibility; any phone can be on any plan, and you can change your plan as your needs change. Bundle up today!



SAMSUNG GALAXY XCOVER

Announcing a tough new member of ASTAC's Galaxy family: the Galaxy Xcover, one of the world's few rugged Android touchscreen smartphones. It's waterproof, dust and dirt resistant and has scratch resistant glass that's four to five times tougher than regular glass. Its 3-megapixel camera is equipped with an LED flash that doubles as a flashlight!

Check out our website for more details on the Galaxy Xcover – a tough phone for a rugged lifestyle.



Can Rural Telecommunications Be Saved?

by Steve Merriam, CEO/General Manager

It's a fair question, given the "one size fits all" solutions being issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in their recent Transformation Order for Universal Funding and Intercarrier Compensation. In that order, two important revenue streams that keep rural telecommunications affordable are going to be phased down starting in 2012, with further reductions being imposed each year thereafter.

What Are We Doing About It?

Lobbying efforts at the FCC for the past year were not very fruitful. Capping the size of the fund trumped investing in broadband for much of rural America. Alaska was particularly hit hard because of our harsh climate, lack of roads and small population spread over vast distances. It doesn't appear the FCC will now reverse course on its own. But there are still things we are doing to stop them before harm is done to networks serving rural consumers.

The Alaska delegation is very involved in monitoring this issue and is starting to use their oversight and appropriations powers to make the FCC account for its actions. This will have the most immediate effect. There have also been 31 lawsuits filed in federal court challenging the legality of what the FCC is trying to impose on rural service companies, but this avenue is a slow process and we do not expect any relief until at least 2013.

You Can Help Save Rural Telecommunications Too!

Call or e-mail the delegation and let them know rural Alaska appreciates their fight for your right to participate in modern society – something that Americans in urban areas take for granted but that you are being denied.

2012-2013 ASTAC Telephone Directory



We hope you are pleased with the new and improved telephone directory for 2012. ASTAC combined its directory with OTZ and TelAlaska to create a "Rural Alaska Telephone Directory" to provide more useful information and expanded distribution. A new publishing company was utilized, and that is why the distribution is a month later than normal.

If you have an active post office box, you should have received the new directory in the mail. If not, stop by the ASTAC Barrow store or Anchorage office for your free copy.

Lifeline Changes

Effective May 1, 2012, residential service Expanded LINK UP is changing.

Expanded Link Up is available to qualifying low-income residential customers residing on tribal lands. To qualify for Expanded LINK UP service, a customer must participate in at least one of the programs under the Enhanced Lifeline regulations. Qualifying customers receive assistance for 100 percent of the connection fees up to \$100. This is the maximum federal assistance available. If you have questions or need assistance, contact ASTAC Customer Service at 1-800-478-6409.

Annual Meeting Schedule

ASTAC annual meetings will take place between July 9 and July 13. Everyone who attends receives a free gift! In addition, there will be lots of extra door prizes, including cash and fuel vouchers. See our website for details. www.astac.net

2012 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

CITY	Anaktuvuk Pass	Prudhoe Bay	Kaktovik	Nuiqsut	Atkasuk	Wainwright	Point Lay	Barrow	Point Hope
DATE	July 9 2:00 p.m.	July 9 7:00 p.m.	July 10 2:00 p.m.	July 10 7:00 p.m.	July 11 1:00 p.m.	July 11 5:00 p.m.	July 12 2:00 p.m.	July 12 7:00 p.m.	July 13 11:00 a.m.
PLACE	Community Center	NSB SA10	Harold Kaveolook Gym	Trapper School Gym	Community Center	Community Center	Community Center	Inupiat Heritage	Tikigaq School Gym

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SPOTLIGHT



Gregg Anderson, ASTAC Network Technician

Gregg Anderson was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wis. He earned a bachelor's degree in engineering technology and a master's degree in telecommunications management from the University of Minnesota. Anderson joined the ASTAC Barrow crew 16 years ago as a network technician.

"I enjoy the inter-village travel and relationships that I've forged over the years with the ASTAC customers and their families," says Anderson, who lives in Arizona when he's not on the Slope.

As a network technician responsible for the western villages, Anderson's biggest challenge is trying to provide seamless wireline, wireless and data communications in all four villages at the same time while working in the extreme environmental conditions of the Arctic. His goal is to minimize potential network outages and keep our customers connected with high-quality service.

Thanks, Gregg, for your dedication to the ASTAC customers on the North Slope.