

# MESSENGER

Summer 2022

## FIRST LIGHT

By Jens Laipenieks, CEO/General Manager



Springtime in Alaska is always an awakening. Daylight floods like an ever-growing tide, and it triggers growth reaching far and wide.

This Spring also brought a new kind of light to the North Slope, specifically in the village of Atqasuk. ASTAC, with the help of UIC crews, recently completed a significant project, connecting Atqasuk to Utqiagvik with a

terrestrial fiber optic link. We employed a genuinely innovative design with the combination of aerial, gas-line mounted, and ground-layed fiber and crossed four rivers along the way. We completed our end-to-end testing this past week, passing the first light, in this case, pulses of light pushing data packets over the new cable. Last summer, we completed fiber build-out to every home in Atqasuk. They now join the other fiber-connected markets of Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, Point Hope, and Wainwright and have access to our newly launched 50Mbps and 100Mbps products.

Like the sunshine, this new connectivity will spur growth across Atqasuk. The entire community benefits from the improvements to home Internet, wireless services, and business connections. The students at the Mead River School will experience bandwidth like never before, enabling distance learning and creating myriad opportunities. ASTAC will also provide the community center with free Wi-Fi service and laptops for the entire community to use. The improved bandwidth will have a lasting impact that will not diminish with the seasons; it will only continue to grow and scale over time.

The true power of an end-to-end 100% fiber connection is that it is scalable and able to grow with the future demand and evolution of the internet for the next generations. Unlike satellites and microwaves, which have limited capacity, 100% fiber-optic networks are almost infinitely scalable.



I am very proud of what we have accomplished so far, and with our actions, we continue to prove our grit and creativity. I want to thank our partners on this project, the USDA, RUS, and UIC, all our dedicated employees, and you, the member-owners, who make all this possible.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Jens Laipenieks

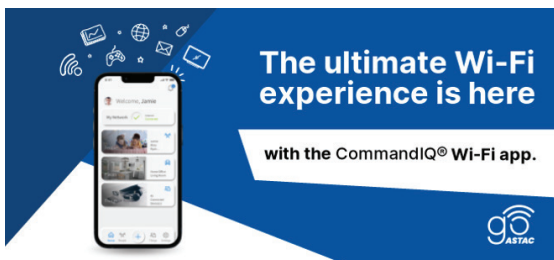
## SAMSUNG S22 AND S22 ULTRA RELEASE

We're back with a new release! Have you heard about the Samsung S22 and S22 Ultra? You want them? We got them! Come in today and see the team about getting the latest release.



## GOASTAC IS HERE!

If you haven't already done so, you must go and download the newly launched goASTAC app. Through the app members will be able to manage their networks, have access to parental settings and better protect your network with alerts. There are key features like creating guest networks, viewing usage per device and prioritizing device access. It is available in the Apple App Store and on Google Play for iOS and Android devices. So, download it today and take control of your Wi-Fi network! More information can be found on our website, [astac.net/goastac](http://astac.net/goastac).

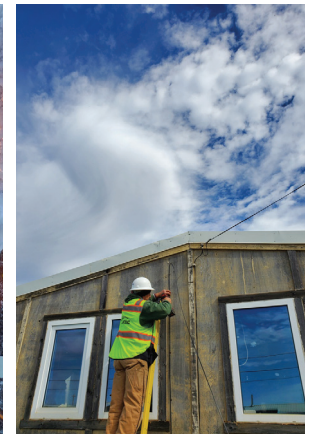


## ATQASUK FIBER CONNECTION COMPLETE

On May 24th, Team ASTAC, in partnership with UIC, achieved a monumental milestone on the Atqasuk fiber project; with the help of our technicians and support teams, the 78-mile fiber link between Barrow and Atqasuk was turned up and went live! This milestone is something that ASTAC has been working towards since the project was conceptualized in 2017. Currently, Atqasuk DSL has been transitioned over to the new fiber link. Customer experience has greatly improved, with latency reduced to 11 milliseconds as compared to the 550 milliseconds on satellite.

For continuing progress, we are now focused on fiber to the home conversions. We have technicians working to installing ONT's (Optical Network Terminal) and converting homes and businesses to the community fiber network. Every day we are closer to completion with installs and expecting to be fully finished in June.

Additional milestones we will be working towards are improvements on our central offices power plant for increased reliability and community center upgrades. We are excited to bring faster and more reliable connectivity to another ASTAC service community!





## APPLY TODAY

Opportunities at new heights

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

## OPEN POSITIONS

ASTAC is seeking to fill positions in various locations. If you are interested in any of the following openings, please visit [ASTAC.net/careers](http://ASTAC.net/careers) for more information on how to apply. We hope you will join our team!

### CURRENT OPENINGS

**Controller** – Anchorage

**Communications Specialist** – Anchorage

**Plant Accountant** – Anchorage

**Sr. Business Systems Analyst** – Anchorage

**Part-Time Community Liaison** – Utqiagvik

**Customer Experience Specialist (Full Time)**  
– Utqiagvik

**Combination Technician** – Utqiagvik

**Combination Technician** – Deadhorse

**Village Representative** – Atqasuk



## NEW INTERNET PLANS HAVE LAUNCHED

You asked. We listened. We expanded!

Fiber Internet with ASTAC means your speeds are the fastest in the market! We are adjusting rates and now offering services in Atqasuk. Check out the new and improved ASTAC Home Internet+ plans. If your needs change, you can upgrade, or downgrade at any time.

These plans come with a suspend feature accessible through SmartHub allowing customers to control their spend and usage throughout their billing cycle.

Our Home Internet+ plans are only available in our fiber-fed marks of Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Utqiagvik, Wainwright and recently added Atqasuk.

## REFERRAL PROGRAM

Earn ASTAC cash telling friends and family about your great ASTAC service! Once your referral has signed up for new service and your eligibility has been verified, ASTAC will add a \$50 bill credit to your account for **every** new customer you refer.

## SHIPS ON US!

Did you know ASTAC offers free shipping ALL YEAR long? Call our Customer Experience Department at 1-800-478-6409 to place an order today!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Marietta Aiken**  
PRESIDENT, UTQIAGVIK

**Carla SimsKayotuk**  
VICE PRESIDENT, KAKTOVIK

**Sophie Tracey**  
SECRETARY/TREASURER, POINT LAY

**Isabel Nashookpuk**  
ALTERNATE SECRETARY,  
WAINWRIGHT

**Pearl Burris**  
DIRECTOR, ANAKTUVUK PASS

**Olivia Cabinboy**  
DIRECTOR, NUIQSUT

**Della Segevan**  
DIRECTOR, ATQASUK

**John Long Jr.**  
DIRECTOR, POINT HOPE

**Trish McFarlin**  
DIRECTOR, PRUDHOE BAY

## ASTAC OFFICES

4300 B St. Suite 501,  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907-563-3989 Anchorage  
907-852-7100 Utqiagvik  
800-478-6409 Toll-free  
E-mail: [info@ASTAC.net](mailto:info@ASTAC.net)

