



*P. O. Box 1301
Bethel, AK. 99559
Ph: (907)543-2887 (Bet.) / (907)222-5058 (Nap.)
(907) 543-2877 (Cell)
Email: napaimute@gci.net
www.napaimute.org*



Worth a Picture: A rare clear September night in Napaimute

Director's Report – September, 2017

“Moose Meat & Dry Heat”

Summary:

Fall weather has continued to be miserable with only brief breaks in the wind and rain. The poor weather has an effect on almost every aspect of our lives – from subsistence activities to NVN operations. It has slowed the sawmill reassembly project, expedites the need for exterior maintenance of tribal buildings, and is making it hard for our firewood to dry.

Moose season seemed to have been good for most Middle Kuskokwim residents including the few of us hunting around Napaimute. The moose population in the Napaimute area appears to be slowly increasing. Hunting pressure from Lower River residents was especially light as reflected in our low gas sales during September. On a positive note it was observed that nearly every Lower River boat that passed Napaimute stopped for gas. We are still “the place to stop” for our downriver neighbors.



Young Nukalpiaqs learning to take care of their meat



The Last Wooden Boat on the Kuskokwim: Bill Eisenbart stops for gas in Napaimute

Shortly after moose season it was time for Lisa and I to travel to Tucson, AZ. for the National Tribal Transportation Conference where I was scheduled to give a presentation on our Kuskokwim Ice Road work. I think the presentation was well received although some of the key Trump Administration people had already returned to Washington, D.C. The presentation may have educated others about our transportation challenges in rural Alaska, but I don't think it will result in any additional funding at this time.



The dry heat of Tucson was a nice break from the past few months of wet weather back Home

Immediately after returning from Tucson the crew and I spent a couple of long days putting away the summer gear and preparing buildings and equipment for colder weather. This included pulling out part of the “Napaimute Navy”. Our little tribe now owns 6 boats, two canoes, and a motorized rubber raft. The two bigger boats are still in service until late fall. We will then pull them out at Napaimute and put as many as will fit into the airport shop for winter storage.

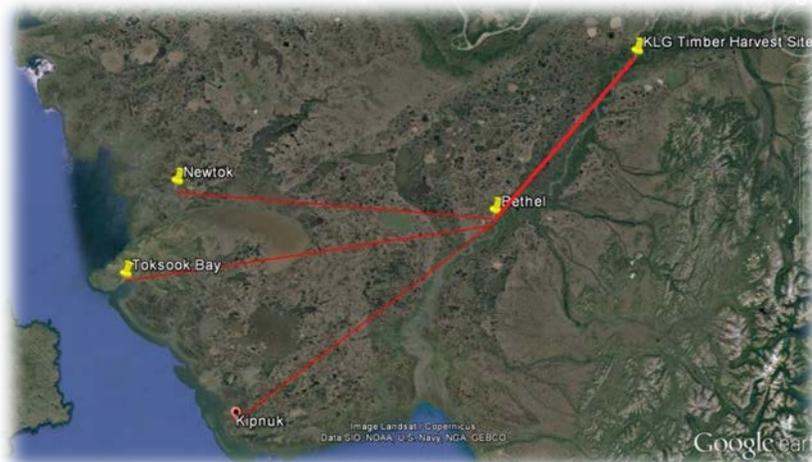


Putting the Fish Wheel to Bed: in recent years this has been our most important fish catching tool – we try to take good care of it

With everything off the beach and the buildings ready for colder weather it was time to head to Bethel to begin our 2017-18 season firewood sales. This began the week of October 2nd.



The Long Journey: our firewood being loaded for villages on the Coast: it's hard not to feel a little bit of pride knowing all the years and all the work that has gone into making this possible





Our New Bethel Wood Yard Leased from AVCP: an improvement from our previous wood yard in many ways

Firewood sales the first week have been brisk. This is without any advertising and without sales to the People in the villages (it's been too stormy). Our wood is in poor condition due to the weather and I let customers know that before making a sale but People seem to understand. We've all been feeling the effects of the continual wetness.



Picture for our future firewood ads



Another use for Middle Kuskokwim Timber: the Rohde Family works on their Napaimute Home Site last month

That's the report for this month. Thank you.

