

# THE ASTAC MESSENGER

**ASTAC**  
Your home court advantage  
**Spring 2014**  
Quarterly newsletter

## 2014 – Your Turn



By Steve Merriam,  
CEO/General Manager

Rural Alaska scored a couple of big victories in 2013, first with the FCC announcing in late July that Alaska would be exempted from quantile regression analysis (QRA) for the remainder of 2013 and all of 2014.

Starting in 2012, QRA had been syphoning high-cost support off from some rural Alaska telephone companies, including ASTAC, and sending it to the Lower 48 states.

Initially, we attempted to correct obvious errors in the QRA at the FCC, but those efforts proved to be futile, despite overwhelming evidence that the FCC erred. In early 2013, our advocacy strategy shifted to a political solution and we began providing the Alaska delegation with hard analyses of what QRA would ultimately do to small, rural Alaska carriers. They stepped up and had multiple heated discussions with the new FCC chairman nominee, Tom Wheeler. Within days of those meetings, the Wireline Competition Bureau of the FCC called me personally to say that QRA was suspended for Alaska. We were the only state in the country to get this accommodation!

Subsequently, Mr. Wheeler was confirmed as chairman by Congress and, mindful of the political firestorm that QRA was raining down on the FCC, announced in mid-December that he had instructed the Wireline Competition Bureau to scrap QRA and return to “high-cost, loop-based support.”

The saying “Out of the frying pan and into the fire” applies because, at this point, we don’t know what new model the bureau will concoct. I can assure you we are tracking the issue

and will continue to fight for your right to comparable voice and broadband service at a price comparable to urban areas. There is might in fair and noble causes and we will continue our fight. It’s your turn.



**Get the Google Nexus 5, featuring one of the best cameras on the market.**

- Automatic photo sync
- Optical image stabilization
- 360-degree photos
- First phone with Android’s new operating system: 4.4 Kitkat
- Affordable – Save \$300 with two-year contract

\*See website for details.

### Caleb’s Corner

**The new Google Nexus 5**

- Phone size and weight are amazing
- Awesome display as well as lightweight frame
- Good battery when in constant use
- Easy, fast initial set-up
- Downloading apps and games is simple

## 2014 summer internship in Barrow

### ASTAC offers job opportunity for Barrow High School students

ASTAC is seeking applicants to our Summer Internship Program from people who were raised in or currently live in Barrow.

The summer intern will gain both education and work experience in a retail-store environment in the rural telecommunications industry.

The internship is paid and runs from May through August, with flexible start and end dates and four-hour work days.

Additional information and a downloadable application are available on our website, [www.astac.net](http://www.astac.net). Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2014.

If you have questions about the Summer Internship Program, please email us at [info@astac.net](mailto:info@astac.net)

## 2014 ASTAC Scholarship Program

Going to college or vocational school? Every year, ASTAC awards \$1,000 scholarships to two high school seniors who live in our North Slope service area.

The most qualified and deserving applicants receive the scholarships. One is designated for a resident of Barrow and one for a resident of a community other than Barrow.

To be eligible for a scholarship, a student must:

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Live within the ASTAC service area
- Have a grade-point average of C or better
- Have plans to enter a vocational school, junior college or four-year university

Completed applications should be sent to the ASTAC office in Anchorage:

ASTAC  
ATTN: Scholarship Program  
4300 B Street, Suite 501  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Deadline! Applications must be postmarked no later than April 14, 2014.

Visit the ASTAC website for more information and to download the application:  
<http://www.astac.net/servlet/content/scholarships.html>

## 2014 ASTAC EVENTS

### April:

ASTAC will be in your village for Spring Sales Event – check website for dates

### Summer annual meetings

- July 7 2 p.m.: Anaktuvuk Pass  
7 p.m.: Kaktovik
- July 8 2 p.m.: Wainwright  
7 p.m.: Barrow

**August 1** • ASTAC board meeting

### October:

- Swoosh Competition
- ASTAC will be in your village for Fall Sales Event – check website for dates
- Fall annual meetings for Point Hope, Point Lay, Nuiqsut, Deadhorse, Atqasuk
- ASTAC board meeting: October 22
- AFN: October 23, 24, 25 in Anchorage, AK

## TOP 5 BEST-SELLING CELLPHONES 2013

1. **Apple iPhone 5**  
over 48 million sold
2. **Samsung Galaxy S4**  
over 39 million sold
3. **HTC One**  
5 million sold
4. **Nokia Lumia 520**  
over 4 million sold
5. **BlackBerry Q10**  
3 million sold

Source: Gartner Inc., the world's leading information technology research and advisory company

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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