

MESSENGER

Winter 2019



TO SPACE AND BACK

By Jens Laipenieks CEO/General Manager



ASTAC is in the satellite business! Since our beginning, ASTAC has relied on other providers to supply our satellite backhaul service for cellular and Internet traffic. Those days are over, and we are now up and running on Telesat's Anik F3 satellite that rotates with the earth over 22,000 miles above the equator. Utilizing hydrophobic dishes and the latest technology available, services in Kaktovik,

Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, and Point Lay will be greatly improved. ASTAC can now manage its own service and traffic, administer routine maintenance, and respond more quickly to any issues as they may arise. Most importantly, we are increasing capacity to all our satellite-based villages, more than doubling what exists now as I write this. If you live in one of these markets, this new capacity will greatly improve both the cellular voice quality and data speeds as well as your home Internet speeds.

Adding capacity will improve service immediately but making these investments in satellite technology is really a short-term solution. The eventual and long-term plan is to establish terrestrial connections capable of far greater capacity, 1,000s of Mbps instead of 10s or 100s. The demand placed on our networks continues to increase at an exponential rate and the fixed satellite constraints of high cost, high latency, and limited bandwidth, are all driving factors to change to terrestrial backhaul.

I am very proud of the networks we have built in the past few years. Fiber optics, high capacity microwaves and LTE are all part of the vernacular at ASTAC. Our networks have transformed immensely in just a few short years. We have more to do, capacity to grow, and rest assured, ASTAC will continue to strive to provide the best products and services possible to our members.



ALASKA RELAY

Alaska Relay Service is a statewide service that connects standard (voice) telephone users with deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, speech-disabled, or late-deafened people who use text telephones (TTYs) or other telephone devices available depending on the type of relay services used. This service allows relay users to communicate with standard telephone users through specially trained Communication Assistants (CA). Calls can be made 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with no restrictions on the number, length, or type of calls. Dial 7-1-1 to place a Relay call, or for more information visit www.AlaskaRelay.com.



WELLNESS PROGRAM UPDATE



In May, ASTAC began its first internal Wellness Program to help lower healthcare costs and to build a culture of health amongst employees. In July, over 20 ASTAC staff participated in a hydration challenge and the challenge winners, Emily Dodge and Dennis Rodgers were each awarded Hydro Flask bottles. In September, ASTAC held a steps challenge and in October we held a healthy eating challenge where employees were asked to eliminate two unhealthy foods from their diets for the entire month. This November, ASTAC will shift the focus from physical wellness to community wellness, by organizing a canned food drive. The donations will be shipped to a North Slope food bank in early December to help families in need.

the big ten

Swoosh

ASTAC 10th ANNUAL COMPETITION

ASTAC wrapped up its 10th Annual Swoosh contest in Kaktovik on November 13. Competitions were held in all eight North Slope communities over seven weeks. Soon, ASTAC will select a grand prize winner from all of the first-place winners and send them and a guest to see the NCAA Men's Final Four Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia April 3-6, 2020. Stay tuned to our web site and Facebook page to see who the lucky winner is!



FALL SALES EVENTS



ADVERTISING SURVEY

Only 1 minute of your time will give YOU a chance to win a Google Home Mini & a \$25 Amazon Gift Card. Go to our website at www.astac.net to fill out our survey!



SAMSUNG SMARTTHINGS PRODUCTS



Have you checked out ASTAC's new line of Samsung SmartThings products? From an easy-to-use app you can setup alerts when unexpected motion is detected in your home, notify you when your laundry is done or set a timer to turn off your lights when you leave. To watch more videos about these cool products, visit our YouTube "SmartThings" playlist or visit our Smart Home Showroom located at our Utqiagvik retail store to test out the products for yourself. For more information or to place an order, call 1-800-478-6409.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

FOLLOW US!

Have you checked out ASTAC's Facebook page lately? We share lots of great information including local events, product overviews, troubleshooting tips, jobs, network outages and more. Like our page and stay up to date.



TESTIMONIAL: ASTAC IN POINT HOPE

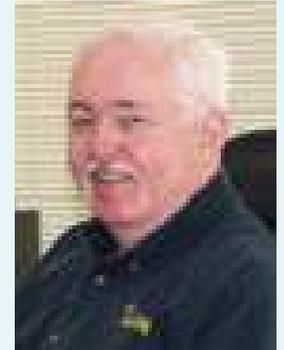
"Between my high-speed internet at home and the kiosks and WiFi link at the Community Center, I am very pleased with ASTAC's services and the improvements they have brought to the community of Point Hope. Thank you ASTAC!"



– Daisy Sage, Former Mayor

DAVE FAUSKE CONDOLENCES

ASTAC salutes Dave Fauske for helping ASTAC grow into the company it is today. He worked tirelessly to convince the FCC to grant the Cooperative a low-cost cellular license for the North Slope Borough. He loved the people of the Arctic and had the foresight to see that the survival of the Cooperative depended on implementing modern day technology in a very harsh, high-cost and sparsely populated area. Dave loved his family, ASTAC and the North Slope tremendously. ASTAC extends its deepest condolences to the Fauske family.



DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

Want to stop unwanted telemarketing calls? You can. The Federal Do Not Call Improvement Act of 2007 gives you control over whether telemarketers can call your personal home or cell phone. You can register for FREE at: www.donotcall.gov or by calling toll-free 1-888-382-1222.

- Register up to three personal phone numbers at a time
- Telemarketers must remove your number from call lists within 31 days
- Your number is permanently removed from telemarketing lists unless you delete your registry

HALLOWEEN @ ASTAC



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