DAVID ONGLEY HONORED IN PORTLAND

At the national tribal archives, libraries, and museums conference in Portland, OR, in October, David Ongley, director of the Tuzzy Consortium Library in Barrow, was honored for his significant contributions to the American Indian Library Association (AILA).

His nominator cited David as follows:
“For years David has been the only active AILA member working in Alaska and has been diligent at making sure Alaska Natives and their concerns are always represented in discussions and in the language used in resulting reports and publications. He has been very outspoken regarding the need for state libraries to ‘do right’ by the tribal and village libraries in their areas. He was instrumental in the drafting and publicizing of the ‘Culturally Responsive Guidelines for Alaska Public Libraries’ (available here: http://www.akla.org/culturally-responsive.html), an essential resource that can be used by public libraries in any area that serves Native patrons. I think he is a great role model and demonstrates how even small libraries in remote locations can be influential. His tireless good work keeps me inspired.”

A member of the AILA nominating committee adds: “The one thing that stands out when I think of David is that he prefers remaining behind the scenes but actually spends much of his time and effort on not only AILA but other professional association work. He never seeks recognition.”

David indeed seemed genuinely surprised when his name was called at the awards ceremony of Streams conference, which he helped to plan. Fortunately there was a delegation of about 25 Alaskans at this national gathering, and most of us were able to offer a toast of sparkling cider in celebration of David’s achievement at a post-conference wrap-up for Alaskans.

The citation continues: “David is passionate about his work, approachable, and full of encouragement. His great mentoring skills are apparent in his supporting new AILA officers, encouraging new librarians to become active in ALA and AILA, and writing grants to support Alaska Native librarians attending conferences. He is also a great advocate for AILA.”

Sue Sherif
Alaska State Library
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Jo Joiner

Dear AkLA members,

All too soon we will enter a new election phase. If you have not already done so, there may still be time to vote on the change to the AkLA bylaws that considers a change in our governing structure. You should have received a link to the ballot on Survey Monkey from Mary Jennings.

Our nominating committee will follow close on the heels of the bylaw vote with a slate of candidates for vacant offices. The result of the vote will determine for which offices we will be seeking candidates. If the bylaw passes, we will elect not only a President, but also a President-Elect this year, with the office of President-Elect to be voted for in subsequent years. A similar situation will exist for the offices of Conference Coordinator and Conference Coordinator-Elect. Please let us know if you would like to become more involved with AkLA and please consider running for office. Nominate yourself or someone you know who might be interested in helping the Association work for all of us. Contact Jane Fuerstenau, our Past-President with your nominations.

This is also the time of year when you can renew your membership. Our membership fees help support the work of the Association and our annual conference. Please do sit down and renew your membership now. Even better, recruit a new member as we celebrate 50 years of the Alaska Library Association.

At Face-to-Face in September the E-Council affirmed the legislative priorities we had last year. Together we can advocate towards these goals:

- AkLA supports full funding for the programs and services of the Alaska State Library. AkLA also supports the critical capital need for budget appropriations to fund the building of a new Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museum facility.
- AkLA believes that every student in the state needs and deserves the services of a certified school librarian, and AkLA supports full funding for the Public School Library Collection Development Grants.
- AkLA supports appropriating funds to the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program.
- AkLA supports the role of libraries in a democracy to provide open access to information for all Alaskans.

Mary Jo Joiner
2009 AkLA President
KENAI

Kenai Library Hosts Creative Classes

It was a hearty band of brave students who ignored the belching steam from Mt. Redoubt to show up for a class to learn about using Adobe Creative Suite’s InDesign program on the warm spring evening of April 10 in Kenai. In spite of the threat of having class cancelled if the volcano became more active, they learned basic document creation and were able to use their creativity to make a practice fake flyer advertising, of course, Volcano Tourism in Kenai.

A 2009 Interlibrary Cooperation Grant, Using Technology for Creative Expression at the Kenai Community Library, allowed the library to purchase additional copies of Creative Suite software and staff training, so we could expand our popular Teen Graphic Art Workshop to an adult audience. Library Staff-ers Cynthia Gibson and Amy Murrell-Haunold have been doing double duty by teaching adult classes in Photoshop and InDesign, respectively. Cynthia offered to teach the Photoshop class and began with the basics of artistically manipulating photos the students took in the library itself. Amy is a former graphic artist who took on showing patrons how to use the InDesign program which is intended mainly for commercial use such as newsletters. They were assisted by Kenai Central High School student Keenan Carroll who offered his help as part of his senior project. Besides providing the brawn needed with the set up and take down for classes, he also developed a prospectus for future classes in the form of a post card that would require use of both programs.

The students were all eager to learn for varying reasons, from needing additional skills for business purposes to just wanting to see what all the Photoshop fuss is about. Two local businesspeople had come specifically to learn to use InDesign for a newsletter they were tasked with producing and another had come to expand on artistically improving his business web site. Classes are taught by projecting a computer screen so the students can follow along as the teacher demonstrates step-by-step how to access and use the programs. Some expressed surprise over how powerful the programs are, but how easy it is to learn the basics. Photoshop’s powerful filters made every student an instant artist, and both classes produced a number of artworks that will be displayed in the library this fall. Besides a color printout, students were able to take away a digital form of their work on a free jump drive that was supplied as part of the grant so they could continue to work on their project or just look at what they’d done as a refresher next time they wanted to use the programs.

The popular computer classes in Adobe Creative Suite took a break for the busy summer, but will be returning next month. Photoshop classes this fall will concentrate on manipulating the students’ own photos, and for InDesign there will be some card-making for the holidays. Other ideas are being explored including the possibility of classes in digital scrapbooking, personalized calendars and other artistic uses. Class announcements are posted

(Cont. on pg. 4)
in the library and on the library calendars. Patrons must reserve a space, but more classes can be added as needed by public interest.

Grants were provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Alaska State Library.

Amy Murrell-Haunold
Kenai Community Library

BARROW

Tuzzy Library Goes Global

After months of intercontinental negotiations and various shipping snafus, three boxes full of books arrived at the Tuzzy Consortium Library in Barrow from Cape Town, South Africa. What interest does the library in Barrow have with books from South Africa and why does anyone want to send them halfway around the world in the first place? The tale begins over 12 years ago.

After beginning his work as Tuzzy Consortium Library Director in 1996, David Ongley was made aware of an organization of international polar librarians called the Polar Libraries Colloquy which met every other year. Through his contacts with this group, the Tuzzy Consortium Library became known to many librarians from around the world. Last March, a librarian in England contacted Ongley and wanted to know if the library in Barrow would be interested in a donation of books from a collector with a passion for all things Arctic. In particular, this collector had been developing a collection on the Northwest Passage, its exploration and people. The English librarian said he had been asked by the collector to try to find a worthy home for his books.

It took all of two seconds for Ongley to accept the offer. The donor, as it turned out, was a Mr. Raymond Danowski, an American, who spends his time between Cape Town, South Africa, and Britain. Thanks to the worldwide reach of FedEx, a collection of over 70 books and other items arrived in Barrow during the first week in September—just in time for the Tuzzy Library’s 20th anniversary celebration.

David Ongley
Tuzzy Consortium Library

(Cont. on pg. 5)
Officers of the Friends of the Tuzzy Library help unpack books. From left, Pearl Brower, Dorothy Savok and Sandy Solenberger.

As the chair for this year’s silent auction I am adopting the “earlier the better” attitude. If you have any art (originals, prints, posters, photographs, jewelry, pottery, etc.), books, book-related items, business services or your library’s fund-raising or marketing products (T-shirts, mugs, etc.) to donate, please contact Robin Hanson UAA/APU Consortium Library. Phone number (907) 786-1827. afrhh@uaa.alaska.edu.

Robin Hanson
UAA/APU Consortium Library
DOUGLAS

State Archives’ Ongoing Support of K-12 Education

In early 2008 a 2nd grade teacher at Douglas’ Gastineau Elementary School contacted me. She asked for a presentation to her students ~ hopefully about Douglas since we’re studying our communities right now. What can you find in the Archives to interest 7 & 8 year olds?

Quite a lot, actually, I learned. The program was a crashing success. Of course they liked climbing our rolling ladders and moving our mobile shelf units best, but they also seemed to learn from the displays we presented. In 2009 the teacher asked us to make the presentation to her new class and we did. I expect to do it again in February.

The photographer was Damon Stuebner of the Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums.

Larry Hibpshman is the one in the green tie standing to the right. The teacher is Paula Savikko. She is standing against the wall under the mounted photo. June Hall, a local artist, is the patron seated at the table.

In case you’re wondering, the picture shows me passing out white cotton gloves. I had all the children wear them for two reasons:

1. It helped me emphasize this is very special stuff we’re talking about, and
2. They all looked so cute in those huge white gloves.

Larry Hibpshman, Archivist
Alaska State Archives
Cassandra Clark’s *Mortal Instruments Series*, 2007-, which includes: *City of Ashes*, *City of Bones*, and *City of Glass*, is a great series to read... kind of like *Twilight* and the old *Dark Shadows* TV series woven together, but with a lot of action and pizzazz. These books are hard to put down, but we all root for the good guys in the end. These YA titles are my TOP READS. (Adell Bruns, Fawn Mountain Elementary School Library, Ketchikan)

If you haven’t read the *Wimpy Kid* titles by Jeff Kinney, 2007-, you might be pleasantly surprised by how well written and funny they are. My husband and I laugh out loud when reading them with our son. The audio books are great, too. Greg Kinney has a gifted voice as a writer that appeals to the smart alec and doofy kid in all of us. (Charlotte L. Glover, Ketchikan Public Library)

*Sarah’s Key*, by Tatiana de Rosnay, 2007. How do secrets from the past impact us today?

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Sarah’s Key, by Tatiana de Rosnay, 2007. How do secrets from the past impact us today?

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I’ve just discovered Colorado writer Sandra Dallas and have recently inhaled two of her books: *The Diary of Mattie Spenser*, 1997, which is the best fictional account of a woman homesteader on the prairie I have ever read and *Tallgrass*, 2008, which is about a Colorado ranching family and their experiences living next door to a Japanese internment camp during WWII. It’s a warm, compassionate and compelling read that would be a great ‘adult read for young adults.’ (Charlotte L. Glover, Ketchikan Public Library)

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July 1942, Paris: Sarah, a young girl, locks her younger brother in a closet as she and her mother are arrested and taken away by French police. She promises to come back and release him. Paris, today: an American woman married to a Frenchman writes a magazine article about Parisian Jews in 1942 and stumbles upon Sarah’s story. She cannot stop digging through the past until she learns what happened to Sarah. A member of my book group said of this title: “I thought, oh no, not another Holocaust novel, but then I could not put it down.” (Patience Frederiksen, Alaska State Library)
The Toon Treasury of Classic Children's Comics, Art Spiegelman and Francoise Mouly, 2009. There isn’t enough background information and they never list dates for any strip, but you can read some really old material you remember from your childhood in the 1940s-1960s. (OK. Do the math if you want!) I especially enjoyed The Fox & The Crow (which I mistakenly conflated with Heckel and Jeckel) and Sugar & Spike (where I learned that Spike’s given name was - gasp! - “Cecil”). And of course the Walt Kelly stories and Barks’ Uncle Scrooge adventures (for which there is not and never will be an equal!) (Larry Hibpshman, Alaska State Archives)

Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse, and Breaking Dawn, 2008-, by Stephanie Meyer. Many friends have made light of the Twilight series, dismissing the books as angst-ridden trash for teens. I probably would never have read them, except a friend bought me the entire set. Once I started, I discovered right away that while the series is geared towards teens, it’s a fun read for adults, too. I could hardly put the books down! Although wordy, Meyer drew me into the story and made me care about the characters. She has a true gift for description. Try them out and see what those teens (and their parents!) are raving about. (Freya Anderson, Alaska State Library)

The Help, by Kathryn Stockett, 2009, was riveting from first page to last. Set in the early 1960s, it’s a story on many levels: gangly, recent college graduate Miss Skeeter’s fight to redefine her privileged life on her own terms; her chronicle of the behind-the-scenes stories of the maids who work in Jackson, Mississippi’s society homes; and the rigid, but soon to bend, color barrier that separates and inevitably brings them both together. I highly recommend the audiobook, too - the most fascinating listen I’ve ever had. (Joyce McCombs, Delta Community Library)

The Undercover Economist: Exposing Why the Rich Are Rich, the Poor Are Poor—and Why You Can Never Buy a Decent Used Car! by Tim Harford, 2006. Often humorous, this book not only demystifies economics, but also offers plausible solutions for a number of societal ills. This is also a good read for people convinced that THEY are fixing prices. Sometimes THEY are and sometimes not. Mr. Harford shows you how to tell the difference. (Daniel Cornwall, Alaska State Library)

Alaska’s Accessible Wilderness: A Traveler’s Guide to Alaska’s State Parks. By Bill Sherwonit, 1996. Despite being dated, this is a fun read and most of the information still seems accurate. Part guide, part travelogue, Mr. Sherwonit makes Alaska’s state parks come to life with personal accounts of using the parks, plus interviews with rangers and park stakeholders. A good book for people unfamiliar with these Alaskan treasures. (Daniel Cornwall, Alaska State Library)
Jonathan McIntyre made a run to Title Wave on his last day as a library volunteer. As he had weekly for years, he backed his pickup up to the used book store loading dock and packed it with boxes of donated books. Back at Loussac, he unloaded and stacked them in the book sale sorting area, the last of hundreds of times.

After four and a half years and nine book sales, it is hard to imagine putting on a sale without Jonathan’s help. He’s played so many roles, he’s virtually the Swiss Army Knife of book sale volunteers. Serendipitously, his skills, experience, work schedule and interests dovetailed with the sale’s volunteer needs.

Good company and a great listener, Jonathan is quirky. He would buy large print books left over after the sales to send to nursing homes. In his 20s, he traveled the country making a living as a chess player. His last job before moving to Anchorage five years ago was at his local library in Farmington, NM.

A big plus with Jonathan was available time—a self-employed programmer, he could work weekdays. A passionate bibliophile, he loved evaluating donations, sometimes trolling eBay for buyers, raising thousands for Friends of the Library.

Jonathan also researched and priced specialty items like book sets and Alaskana for the sales. He evolved into a great team leader, directing volunteers in the bi-annual sale setup and teardown.

This summer, his experience as a professional mover paid off big time as he directed the packing of trucks and vans with boxes during the Chugiak-Eagle River Branch relocation.

Now, after spending his middle 30s as a library volunteer (among other things), he’s moving to Memphis, following his heart, though he says he’ll be back to Alaska. Meanwhile, his departure opens up some volunteer jobs—call Toni McPherson, 343-2981, to apply.

Toni Massari McPherson
(Reprinted with permission: Fall 2009, Anchorage Public Library newsletter)
AkLA has established a scholarship program to support the education of librarians for Alaska’s libraries, including school libraries. The stated purpose is to provide financial assistance to worthy students pursuing graduate studies in Library Science and to encourage graduates to return to Alaska to work in professional library positions. Preference is given to qualified applicants meeting the federal requirements of Alaska Native ethnicity.

Three scholarships of $4,000 each may be awarded: one for a Master’s Degree candidate, one for School Library Media Certification (the B.Jo Morse Scholarship), and a third from either category.

To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must be an Alaskan resident who:

- possesses a Bachelor’s Degree or higher from an accredited college or university;
- is eligible for acceptance, or is currently enrolled, in a graduate program in Library and Information Science leading to a Master’s Degree or School Library Media Certification, from a university program accredited by the American Library Association;
- is or will be a student during the academic year, semester, or academic quarter for which the scholarship is received; and
- makes a commitment to work in an Alaskan library for a minimum of one year after graduation as a paid employee or volunteer, or for two semesters for one semester’s financial assistance.

Completed applications must be received by January 15 of the award year. If you are interested in applying, copies of the guidelines and application forms are available online at http://www.akla.org/scholarships/index.html. If you have questions about graduate library studies or would like paper copies of the scholarship application, contact:

AkLA Scholarship Committee
Attn.: Aja Markel Razumny
Alaska State Library
P.O. Box 110571, Juneau, AK 99811-0571
Ph: (907) 465-2458 or 1-888-820-4525 aja.razumny@alaska.gov

or Jacque Petersen/Youth Services Coordinator
Alaska State Library
344 West Third Avenue, Suite 125
Anchorage, AK 99501
Ph: (800) 776-6566 (Alaska) or (907) 269-6571 Jacque.petersen@alaska.gov

Aja Markel Razumny
Library Development Coordinator
Colleagues:

Please take a moment to remember Bill Siemens who passed away quietly at home on Oct. 20. Some of you knew him as a charming person with a special capacity for reference service. But there can be few left in the library who remember him in his prime in the 1970s and 1980s as perhaps the most able reference librarian in Alaska. It was a joy and a privilege to watch him work the paper tools of those times for information. He was an imaginative, energetic, and fearless investigator who pleased patrons and delighted colleagues. He was evenunintimidated by government documents, which nearly everyone else ran from in those days. Many wise patrons did not feel that their research was done until they had consulted him.

Bill was one of the founding librarians of the Consortium Library in 1973, immediately elevating its status with a statewide reputation for superior reference service. He and his father built houses all over Anchorage, he restored old automobiles, and he was a woodworker of rare talent who created exquisite furniture. Most of all, he was a good and lasting friend to many who walked with him for a time through life.

Alden Rollins  
Professor Emeritus of Library Science  
UAA

Anchorage Daily News  Obituaries  Oct. 29, 2009  

Bill and I were good friends in the 70s, before I left for library school; have only this one photo of him—taken at his parents’ home in Anchorage, January 1978. Alden has expressed it well: Bill was a wonderful person, with a great sense of humor—one of a kind....

L. Andress, Ed.  
Newspoke

(Cont. on pg.12)
JUDY REDMOND

In 1976 Judith moved to Alaska, where she first worked at the Fairbanks North Star Public Library as a librarian, thus beginning her love of Alaska. She lived in many locations after this, both in the United States and overseas, but the San Francisco Bay Area always remained particularly special to her. She often returned there over the years to visit friends and family.

Judith always kept her love of Alaska; returning in 1990 to live in Kotzebue, Fairbanks, Galena and eventually Anchorage in 1996 where she worked for the Loussac Library, University of Alaska Consortium Library and the Anchorage School District. She eventually retired as the school librarian at the Russian Jack Elementary School.

Judith will be remembered as a loving sister, mother and grandmother, as well as for her love of books and the enjoyment they brought to others. She instilled these values into everyone she met including family and friends.

Anchorage Daily News Obituaries Oct. 28, 2009

DORRIS ANN BENSON

Dorris was born May 28, 1926, in Helena, Montana, and moved to Alaska in 1959.

Dorris held a master’s degree in library science and worked as an English teacher for the Anchorage School District until her retirement in 1994.

She enjoyed reading and traveling.

Her friends wrote: “After Dorris retired she was instrumental in starting a library at Holy Family Cathedral. She devoted many hours weekly making sure new materials and returned items were available to patrons. She was very proud of the collection, which numbered over 10,000 items at the time of her death.”

Anchorage Daily News Obituaries Oct. 11, 2009

(Cont. on pg.13)
Dr. Evelyn K. Bonner, director of Sheldon Jackson College’s library, died of cancer July 4 at her home in Marshall, Texas.

In 1967, she and her husband David accepted offers from Sheldon Jackson College and came to Sitka. Over the years, Evelyn was an English professor, library assistant, head librarian and then director of library services at SJC. Her many honors in Sitka included the Soroptimist Woman of Distinction Award, SJC Outstanding Faculty award and a Lisle Foundation Fellowship.

She was president of the Alaska Library Association for several years, as well as an active member for some 25 years. She served as volunteer, officer, counselor, mentor, leader—on innumerable committees, boards, forums, councils, associations—both local and national.

Prior to their departure from Sitka, Mayor Stan Filler issued a proclamation of appreciation for their decades of service to Sitka, and declared June 11, 2000, as David and Evelyn Bonner Appreciation Day.

Bobbie Sherrod
Kettleson Library--Retired

ALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY’S LISTENALASKA OPEN 24/7

Anchorage Public Library offers thousands of book titles in its ListenAlaska library that can be downloaded onto your computer and transferred to your MP3 player or iPod for easy listening. All you need is a library card to access this incredible resource anytime, day or night. Tour the virtual shelves of ListenAlaska and learn how to use APL’s downloadable collection in the newly expanded and updated Download Digital Media Guided Tour. The library includes kids’ books, classics, fiction and non-fiction. Access ListenAlaska from any Internet link at www.anchoragelibrary.org. The webpage also has a “Suggest a Purchase” feature on the left hand side at the bottom of the page.

Toni Massari McPherson
(Reprinted with permission: Fall 2009, Anchorage Public Library newsletter)
The Anchorage Public Library has evolved into the essential “go to” place in our community. The library is a destination, a classroom, a community center, a job center, a computer lab, a source for information distribution and a gateway to the community for new citizens. The library is an economic and community collaborator—libraries with vibrant public spaces stimulate surrounding retail, cultural and residential areas. Branch libraries, in particular, play critical roles in revitalizing the neighborhoods they serve by acting as community hubs.

Naysayers who predict that the Internet will eliminate the need for public libraries do not take into account the library’s role as a community center and neighborhood gathering place.

The Scott and Wesley Gerrish Branch, Girdwood, is the product of a decade of fund-raising and activism by local residents. They even passed a special tax assessment to get the library built. Since its opening, circulation and program attendance have skyrocketed. The Internet helped libraries become limitless. Library online resources (databases, downloadable books/music, catalog) are available to the public 24/7. The Samson-Dimond Branch computer lab draws users from all over the city. The lab, originally funded by the Gates Foundation, was updated last year. The educational role of the library starts early—from preschool (early literacy) through school-age years (homework and research help) and continues on into adulthood (continuing education and job seeking/training programs and resources).

The Muldoon Branch maximized learning opportunities by redesigning the program room to increase capacity from 49 to 75. Casual reading areas were created to better serve the clientele at the library. The public library, by definition, is public and open to all. Libraries put democratic values into action.

Agencies use libraries to distribute official documentation and to provide access to resources. Computer use at Anchorage libraries spikes during tax season and PFD application periods. The recently opened Chugiak-Eagle River Branch is the busiest branch in the system. Its importance to that community was evident by the several hundred volunteers who helped out when the library’s collection was being moved to the new location.

The neighborhood library is an anchor for business when trying to revitalize an area, improve the quality of life or spur an economic initiative. Library resources support the startup and sustainability of local businesses. Its role grows even as economic constraints require APL to make adjustments in the way we serve the community—with a focus on convenient, local access; sources of free, effective help; and services that provide a good return on investment (ROI). A recent study showed Anchorage libraries return $1.42 to $2.46 in value for every $1 of municipal support.

Toni Massari McPherson
(Reprinted with permission: Fall 2009, Anchorage Public Library newsletter)
General guidelines to publication in *Newspoke*,
Alaska Library Association newsletter:

**Not accepted:** paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons and/or libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

**Accepted:** Alaskana–books, book reviews, or articles relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons. Informative material related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members–reasonably “tasteful and well-written,” of an appropriate length (much leeway here); author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes, which may include length, spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences… (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in *Newspoke*.)

**Other**–determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three people, composed of AkLA members). If the *Newspoke* editor or the individual submitting has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the *Newspoke* Committee. ✦
ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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CALENDAR
National Book Month Jan. 2010
2010 ALA Midwinter Conference, Boston, MA Jan.15-19, 2010
Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage Feb. 20-23, 2010
Alaska Library Association Annual Conference, Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage Mar. 4-7, 2010
PNLA, Schweitzer Resort, ID Oct.17-22, 2010