ON THE PAPER TRAIL
*NEWS FOR SITKA TRAIL WORKS MEMBERS*
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# Phase 6 Cross Trail Construction
# Preferred Alignment Selected by Public

Sitka Trail Works, in partnership with the City and Borough of Sitka, has secured $1.8 million in Federal Lands Access Program funding to construct the Phase 6 Cross Trail extension from Harbor Mountain Road to Starrigavan Boat Launch.

Two alternatives for the Phase 6 trail alignment were considered by the public during a four week comment period. Overwhelming support for the East alignment was voiced at a public meeting held November 29. The East or upper alignment is preferred due to lower costs, ease of construction, and fewer impacts to the Golf Course and neighbors.

With the alignment finalized, we are working with our partner, the US Forest Service to complete National Environmental Protection Act reports for the biological, cultural and wetlands impacts.

Once these reports are completed and our consultant, LEI Engineering, completes the hydraulics analysis, Sitka Trail Works will secure a Army Corps permit and determine mitigation for the project on behalf of the City. LEI will also provide final construction plans for the No Name Creek bridge. The construction funds will be made available after the next reauthorization of the federal transportation bill in 2018. Construction will begin in spring 2019 and take two years to construct the last three miles of trail and install the bridge.

# Sitka Trail Works Updates Technology with the Help of a Rasmuson Grant

Sitka Trail Works received a $8,770 Tier One grant from Rasmuson to update technology, a Board priority for 2016. With the help of a volunteer, who likes to work strictly behind the scenes, we developed a list of computer equipment, software and printers that meet the demands of STW administration and bookkeeping. My personal favorite time-saving feature is being able to send high-speed, quality scans, directly to the computer.

The grant not only paid for the hardware but also for an upgrade to the STW website. Check out the new website for more trail information. New maps will be coming to the trail information within the next two months. The website also allows for online purchase of off-island hikes which is a big time-saver for staff. Using the new Square system for credit card transactions for membership also allows us to eliminate credit card monthly fees.

# Welcome to Laurinda Marcello, STW's New Administrative Assistant

Laurinda Marcello joined the Sitka Trail Works' team in January replacing Yvonne Heitzner who has re-retired after a hugely successful year. This is Laurinda's second time with our organization – 15 years ago, she was a trail crew member working on Heart Lake Trail & other projects. Now her duties include routine bookkeeping, fundraising and memberships, organizing the summer hikes, and making social media updates. Laurinda has previously worked in fisheries biology and currently teaches karate. You may see her out biking along Cross Trail or hiking to Beaver Lake.

**RENEW MEMBERSHIP EARLY TO GET YOUR PERKS**! STW now offers **members 10% discounts** on selected outdoor/hiking gear at Orion Sporting Goods, Murray Pacific, and Russell's. Specific information on these discounts and the use limits are on the website. The discount runs for the calendar year in which you sign up. So get your membership now! Please shop locally for your outdoor gear!

# Current Office Hours

The Sitka Trail Works Office is open weekdays at 801 Halibut Point Road in the Turnaround Park:

***Mon - Th*** 8:00 am - noon

***Friday*** 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

# Hiking the Fundraising Trail….

## More Ways to Help Sustain Sitka Trail Works, Inc.

Use Amazon? Sign up to support us on Amazon Smile. Amazon donates .5% of the purchase total to your designated non-profit. Only with memberships and off-island hikes is Sitka Trail Works able to continue to create and maintain a world class system of trails in Sitka!

| COMPLETED TRAIL PROJECTS |
| --- |
| Sawmill Creek Separated Path to Industrial Park |
| Cross Trail Kramer Dr. to Indian River Trail |
| Starrigavan Estuary Trail |
| Baranof Lake |
| Mosquito Cove |
| Path of Hope |
| Verstovia |
| Sea Lion Cove |
| Indian River Trailhead |
| Beaver Lake Loop |
| Herring Cove Loop Trail |
| Thimbleberry Lake |
| Thimbleberry—Heart Lake Loop |
| Fort Rousseau Causeway |
| Harbor Mountain Trail Reconstruction |
| Lake Eva Trail |
| **All Sitka Trail Works memberships are 100% tax deductible** |

# Phase II Mosquito Cove Repairs Project Funded

Sitka Trail Works applied for a $51,369 grant from the State Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to repair damage to Alaska State Parks' Mosquito Cove Trail caused by August 2015's dramatic storms. As with last year's project, the work will be completed in partnership with the US Forest Service since Alaska State Parks no longer has any local staff. The work will get the trail in good maintenance shape for the next few years.

Helicopter time to lift 15 yards of bagged rock for the repairs and lumber for replacing stairs and railings are high grant funded expenses. The grant will pay for Mike Mullin, USFS, to direct a composite trail crew of Forest Service Sitka Ranger District and Sitka Trail Works laborers for the four week long project on the "back side" (non-ocean side) of the trail.

This January STW Mosquito Cove Trail had storm damage with a number of trees down. It was impassable so a STW crew, Jerad and Trent Bayne, cleared and then rebuilt the tread.

**Keep Sitka Trail Works strong.**

**Please support our trails, become a member today!**

## SITKA TRAIL WORKS 2017 HIKES & TRAIL RACES CALENDAR

ALL HIKES ARE FUN AND LED BY VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS; TRAIL/HIKE DESCRIPTIONS **ONLINE AT SITKATRAILWORKS.ORG**

Participants should bring a daypack with snacks and water. VHF radio & First Aid supplied by STW Hike Leaders.

| *Date* | *Hike Info (round trip distance)* | *Meeting Spot* | *Donations* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **May 13 - SATURDAY** | **Starrigavan Loops 3 miles**<br>**Mostly easy with some moderate** | Old Sitka<br>Boat Launch Parking Lot<br>9 AM | **FREE - Membership Donations Welcome** |
| **May 20 - SATURDAY** | **Cross Trail - 2 Miles - Easy**<br>**"How to" GeoCache** | Meet at Sitka High School Cross Trail Head by Auditorium 8:30 AM | **FREE - Membership Donations Welcome** |
| **May 27 - SATURDAY** | **Fort Rousseau Kayak Trek**<br>**2 hrs paddle, 2.5 hrs hike** | Meet at Big Blue Bus in Crescent Harbor at 8:00 AM | **Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures $99 + tax, a $50 discount**<br>**CALL SSOA to reserve a spot. 907-752-0660** |
| **June 3 - SATURDAY** | **National Trails Day**<br>**Trail Maintenance** | To Be Announced | Board Members Welcome! Bring you favorite gloves, pruners and loppers |
| **June 10 -SATURDAY** | **Sea Lion Cove 6 miles, Difficult due to footing** | Depart Crescent Harbor 6:30am, Depart Kalinin Bay 4:30 PM | **$110 - Purchase Tickets & Reserve your space Online at sitkatrailworks.org or call 747-7244** |
| **June 17 - SATURDAY** | **Medvejie Solstice Run** | Register on Medvejie Solstice Run FACEBOOK | **Benefit for the Sitka High Track Team** |
| **June 24 - SATURDAY** | **Indian River Waterfall 9 miles Moderate difficulty** | Indian Rvr. Trailhead 9 AM | **FREE - Membership Donations Welcome** |
| **July 1- SATURDAY** | **Mt. Edgecumbe Hike**<br>**14 miles, strenuous last mile** | Depart Crescent Harbor 6:15am, Depart Fred's Creek 5:15 PM | **$110 - Purchase Tickets & Reserve your space Online at sitkatrailworks.org or call 747-7244** |
| **July 8- SATURDAY** | **Herring Cove/Beaver Lake 3 miles, moderate w/steep first 1/4 mile** | Herring Cove trail parking lot 9 AM | **FREE - Membership Donations Welcome** |
| **July 15 - SATURDAY** | **Alpine Adventure Run** | Register for Alpine Adventure Run: Christinemariehoran@gmail.com | |
| **July 22- SATURDAY** | **Gavan Trail to Harbor Mtn 6 miles, strenuous uphill** | Sitka High Cross Trail Trailhead by Auditorium 9 AM | **FREE - Membership Donations Welcome** |
| **July 30 - SUNDAY** | **Mt. Edgecumbe Hike**<br>**14 miles, strenuous last mile** | Depart Crescent Harbor 6 AM<br>Depart Fred's Creek 4 PM | **$110 - Purchase Tickets & Reserve your space Online at sitkatrailworks.org or call 747-7244** |
| **August 5 - SATURDAY** | **Verstovia - 5 miles strenuous uphill climb** | Verstovia Trailhead 9 AM | **FREE - Membership Donations Welcome** |
| **August 12 - SATURDAY** | **Thimbleberry-Heart- SMC Loop - 3.6 miles Moderate difficulty** | Thimbleberry Trailhead 9 AM | **FREE - Membership Donations Welcome** |

**Book tickets or donate online at: sitkatrailworks.org**

Tickets cover the cost of transportation and support Sitka Trail Works