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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **October 15, 2010**

Jeff Brown's Great Alaska Games Show Exhibition to open at the Alaska State Museum

“The Great Alaska Games Show” will begin at the museum with an opening reception from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on November 5 hosted by the Friends of the Alaska State Museum. Proposed and initiated by Juneau’s own fun and games enthusiast Jeff Brown, “The Alaska Games Show” will be a multi-faceted exhibit, which Brown likened to a “five-ring circus.” Items on display will include his collection of Alaskan-themed board games as well as gaming artifacts and photographs from the museum’s collection.

Brown’s board game collection is made of much more than just the famed “Monopoly: Alaska Edition” that is a resident in many Alaskan homes. Other titles include “On the Rocks” (a response to the Exxon Valdez oil spill), “North to Alaska” (a promotion for Yukon Sam Rest Stops along the Alaska-Canada Highway), “The Yukon Gold Rush” (the journey of a miner to the Yukon during the 1890s) and “Alaska 2000” (a Monopolistic game created by Brown).

In designing the show, Brown felt it was important to not only present an opportunity to celebrate amusement, but also to explore games that have deep roots in Alaska’s history. Games have played an important role in traditional Alaska Native culture for thousands of years, providing much more than fleeting entertainment. Many activities originally integrated survival skill-building techniques that developed physical strength and honed hunting abilities, for example. The Arctic Winter Games still keeps many athletes on their toes at the annual events, which include traditional games such as the seal hop, high kicks, stick pull and blanket toss. Large-format photographs of early Alaskan game-players will be on display in the gallery along with display cases holding an array of artifacts from “Eskimo yo-yos” to stunningly beautiful ivory cribbage boards.

In collaboration with museum staff, Brown will transform the gallery walls into a game in itself with wall-mounted items set against a board game design. The exhibit will feature interactive opportunities for gallery-goers of all ages, incorporating hands-on puzzles and games at three different levels for children, young adults and adults. Customized games will also be offered for play during the show's opening reception, and the Friends of the Alaska State Museum store will provide games merchandise for sale.

During the month of December, Saturday afternoons will be devoted to teaching and playing games including string games and yo-yo mastering.

A community carnival will be held on February 5 at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center in collaboration with "The Alaska Game Show." The youth-oriented event will highlight some of the games featured in the exhibit, including snow snake, stick pull, kneel jump, Bilboquet and board games.

"The Great Alaska Games Show" will be on display through February 12.

Winter hours at the museum are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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