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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: April 27, 2011**

### **Free admission, activities for Juneauites on May 14 for Museum Day**

JUNEAU – Museums and historic sites across the capital city will open their doors to the public for free admission on Juneau Museum Day, which will be held on Saturday, May 14. This year, Museum Day will be held in conjunction with the Juneau Maritime Festival and Douglas Arbor Day, both of which will offer activities and entertainment for the whole family.

Museum Day at the Alaska State Museum will mark the opening of “Capturing New Frontiers: The First Years of Alaskan Photography.” Curated by professional photographer Ron Klein and Head of Historical Collections for the Alaska State Library, James Simard, the exhibit will display Alaska’s territorial history through rare photographs including original gold-toned albumen prints and modern large-scale enlargements. Included in the show will be images taken in St. Michaels in 1866, a very rare daguerreotype of William Henry Seward and cameras of the era. The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 15.

Other exhibits on display at the ASM include “Just Old Hats: Headgear in Alaska History” as well as the museum’s permanent exhibits. Interactive hat-making activities will be available, and guest curators of “Capturing New Frontiers” Ron Klein and James Simard will be on hand to discuss early photography and share some old photo techniques.

The ASM will also feature original films displayed on the museum’s Science on a Sphere projection system. “The Alaska Museum Day Film Project” is a collection of about 10 self-produced videos from museums around the state, and a conservation demonstration on shipwreck materials will also take place. To top off the afternoon, the Friends of the Alaska State Museum will be serving free ice cream to museum attendants.

At the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, *Get Your Motors Running: Chainsaws and Outboards on the Last Frontier*, is one of two exhibits opening on Museum Day. This exhibit chronicles the shift from axes and paddles to chainsaws and outboards and the impact these machines had on everyday life in the Juneau area. There will be hands-on activities explaining saw tooth patterns and paddle types. Also opening on Museum Day the photography of Patrice Helmar will be exhibited in “Honeymoon Tonight.” This new work of Helmar’s is inspired by color field painting and the artist’s early childhood experiences commercial fishing with her family. The exhibit includes seven images printed on and framed in metal.

Aunt Claudia's Dolls will be open to the public during Museum Day. The museum features a large collection of dolls that belonged to Claudia Kelsey during her lifetime as well as the collection and work of doll maker Mary Ellen Frank.

At St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, some of the collection of watercolors of Russian Orthodox Churches created by Sam McClain will be on display. Painted in the 1960s and 1970s, the collection was donated to the Diocese of Alaska by Bruce Kendall, a former Alaska senator, earlier this year.

The Last Chance Mining Museum, located near the base of Perseverance Trail, will be open to the public during Museum Day. The museum has on display a variety of industrial mining tools and artifacts, as well as maps of local ore bodies.

The Canvas Community Art Studio and Gallery invites the public to join in on an interactive art project centered on historical maritime themes between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Participation in the project is pay as you can.

(A free shuttle service will be provided to transport museum goers between venues, including a stop at the Maritime Festival.)

Summer hours at the museum begin on Juneau Museum Day, May 14. Summer hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Summer admission is \$5. 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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[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)



[return to top](#)  
[press releases](#) | [Alaska State Museum](#)