



**WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**  
**Shakes Island Renovation Project**

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## **Wrangell Cooperative Association Announces Blog and YouTube Channel**

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### *Content Related to Shakes Island Renovation Project to be posted on Blog and YouTube*

**Wrangell, Alaska – 10/24/2011** The Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) posted the first four installments of a new blog over the past two weeks. Blog postings so far include excerpts from interviews with local adzer Tammi Meissner, carver Vanessa Pazar, and master carver Wayne Price. Plans for future postings include topics such as the history of Shakes Island, stories behind the totem poles, and the economic impact of Shakes Island tourists on Wrangell.

The Wrangell Cooperative Association also kicked off their new YouTube channel, wcatrube, last week with a short video excerpt from an interview with adzer Tammi Meissner. Additional videos posted to the channel include a short clip of bentwood boxes being bent and a longer interview with Tammi Meissner. Expect to see a new video soon of an interview with carver Vanessa Pazar.

Visit the blog at [www.shakesisland.blogspot.com](http://www.shakesisland.blogspot.com). Visit the wcatrube YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/wcatrube?ob=5>.

### *About Shakes Island*

Shakes Island is located in the harbor at Wrangell, Alaska and contains the Chief Shakes Historic Site, a National Register site that receives over 10,000+ visitors a year. The island stands as one of the few lasting reminders of Southeast Alaska Natives and their unique totemic art. The site's main feature is a replica of a 19th century Tlingit tribal house which is set on the authentic location historically occupied by Chief Shake's lineage. Not only is the site important to the national chronology of Native-white contact, it is still used today for Tlingit ceremonies and contains the prized clan artwork – at.óow – of the Stikine Tlingits. Shakes Island is owned and operated by the WCA.

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## **Shakes Island Renovation Project**

### ***About the Shakes Island Renovation Project***

The Shakes Island tribal house was completed in 1940 built by collaboration between the CCC, the Forest Service and the local Tlingit tribe. Except for minor repairs, no major reconstruction has taken place to the structure. Because the tribal house is listed on the National Historic register, the replacement timbers must be hand adzed. Master carvers from other communities are overseeing and training locals to complete the adzing. The old structure needs to be dismantled and then a new structure erected in its place with the hand-adzed timbers, new electrical and a new roof of split cedar shakes. The totem poles on the island also need to be refurbished. When the project is complete, a celebration of project completion will be held. Learn more or make a donation to the project at [www.ShakesIsland.com](http://www.ShakesIsland.com).

### ***About the Wrangell Cooperative Association***

Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) is the federally recognized tribe of the Stikine River region. WCA's charter was approved by the Department of the Interior in 1942. The tribe's mission is to support the cultural, ceremonial and subsistence lifestyle for all Alaskans and to promote the safe use and availability of a healthy environment for present and future generations. WCA provides social services, employment and educational opportunities to both the tribe and the Wrangell community. Of the 2,000 residents of Wrangell, approximately 800 are tribal members.