



WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
Shakes Island Renovation Project

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Wrangell Cooperative Association Utilizes Social Media to Keep Public Informed of Project Progress

Updates to Shakes Island Renovation Project to be posted using Facebook and Twitter

Wrangell, Alaska – 09/19/2011 The Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) posted the first album of photos about recent activities in the Shakes Island Renovation Project on their newly created Facebook page. These activities included ceremonies on Shakes Island prior to taking down most of the totem poles for refurbishing followed by two days of removing totem poles from the ground and placing them behind the tribal house. The WCA recognizes the importance of social media in keeping both tribal members and past and present community members informed about the renovation project's progress. WCA has also created a Twitter account and will be sending out tweets about Shakes Island to followers.

Go to www.Facebook.com to visit the Shakes Island Renovation Project page. Go to www.Twitter.com and sign up for Twitter to follow WCA Tribe (@wcatrbe).

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 Tlingit s. Shakes Island is owned and operated by the WCA.

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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.

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.