THE COST OF FREE TRADE
The UBC is strongly opposed to most Free Trade Agreements

For over twenty years, the United States government has promoted the deregulation of foreign trade through Free Trade Agreements. Both Democrats and Republicans have been making trade deals with other countries, assuring the American people that these agreements would improve our trade balance and our focus on manufacturing more value added products in the higher technology industry.

Each time, however, the result was a widening trade deficit and a net loss of U.S. jobs. Our massive indebtedness to China is a direct result of the trade deficit that followed the 2000 China trade agreement.

Free Trade Agreements give away access to the U.S. markets without reciprocal rights for U.S. producers. For example, under the agreement with Panama, any company registered in that country will have the right to bid on virtually any significant U.S. government construction project but American firms are denied access to bid on the only large scale project of any size in Panama, the widening of the Panama Canal.

Trade Agreements cost Americans jobs and put downward pressure on the wages of American workers.

“We now know that these deals were not designed to help U.S. workers or businesses that produce here,” states UBC General President Doug McCarron, “Rather they were designed to allow multinational corporations to off-shore production in countries where costs are cheap because workers are suppressed, the environment is abused and finance is unregulated.”

The costs of Free Trade Agreements are the loss of American jobs, lowering of national wages, and giving foreign companies opportunities in the U.S. that U.S. companies may not get in foreign countries.

In a time of a national financial crisis, high unemployment, and increasing trade deficits, it makes little economic sense to continue or enact more Free Trade agreements.

We support fair, balanced trade with other nations. But we object to trade agreements that stack the deck against the American worker.

Unfair trade agreements rob Americans of decent jobs and damage our long-term economic security.
The 2011 Construction season ended on an up note. Despite a slow start for the year, hours for Carpenters, Millwrights, Piledrivers and Divers will be down only slightly from last year. Since 2007, the total statewide hours has been dropping 10-20% each year. That is significantly less than most areas across the United States. Fairbanks carpenter hours were higher than either of the last two years, as were the Piledrivers/Divers. Southeast carpenter hours were nearly identical to their 2010 hours.

ALASKA’S PORT
The Port of Anchorage is not just an Anchorage project. It is key to servicing the whole state. Cargo shipments through the Port support more that 250 villages through fuel, cargo, and dry goods. 90% of the merchandise for 85% of Alaska’s population comes from the Port. The Port also provides 100% of the jet fuel for Joint Base Elmendorf - Richardson and 2/3 of the jet fuel used at Ted Stevens International Airport.

The Port contributes over $750 million to Alaska’s economy, is self sufficient and requires no state or local dollars to cover operational costs. Built fifty years ago, the Port is in need of modernization, expansion, and renovation of deteriorated facilities.

The ARCC supports projects like the Anchorage Port. They put Alaskans to work while continuing to build and maintain Alaska’s transportation infrastructure and vitalize Alaska’s economy.

HEALTH FAIRS
This year the Carpenter Health & Welfare joined other Unions in hosting Health Fairs in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Wasilla. Free services for participants included blood work, flu shots, PSA screening, and vitamin D testing. Look to see future Health Fairs in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Wasilla, Soldotna and Juneau.

POLITICS
The political season is upon us with the Alaska State Legislative session starting in January. Once again, the ARCC is actively campaigning on issues important to all the members including securing capital projects, ensuring quality contractors are awarded state construction projects, correcting 1099 misclassification abuses and fighting Right-to-Work legislation.

ORGANIZING
The Organizing Department has increased efforts in bannering and demonstrations. The area standard campaign brings attention to contractors that do not pay their employees a fair wage or do not provide basic benefits like medical and retirement.

Enjoy yourself during the holiday season, spend time with your loved ones and be safe.

Important Websites to Remember
You can access all your Trust information including your retirement accounts, health and welfare, hours worked, legal documents, forms, etc.

For medical, defined benefit retirement, forms, or to request your PIN, go to www.AlaskaCarpentersTrust.com

For defined contribution information go to www.retirement.wellsfargo.com

For assistance, call the Trust Office at (800) 478-4431 or visit the Alaska Regional Council of Carpenters www.ubcalaska.org
I appreciate the opportunity to write an article regarding the Millwright Employers Association (MEA) and our activities with Millwright Local 1501. As we are all keenly aware, there are many challenges facing unions and union contractors today. Our success will be determined by how we work together to meet these challenges.

Our industry is confronted by a number of challenges, including: decrease in the number of projects or major maintenance contracts being put out to bid; heightened cost consciousness by owners in evaluating bids; and increased labor costs due primarily to higher health and welfare and retirement benefits. As a result, there are many contractors (union and non-union) aggressively bidding the available projects - all looking for ways to perform the work as efficiently as possible in this low margin environment.

Local 1501 and the MEA are working together in a number of ways to meet the current challenges. First, we just concluded negotiations on a new three-year collective bargaining agreement. This new agreement provides responsible economic increases to address the escalating health and welfare costs, corrects inefficiencies in travel and subsistence, and adjusts some work rules to better reflect current practices. This agreement continues to differentiate between new construction and maintenance work reflecting the unique Millwright industry wherein many work hours arise from long-term facility maintenance agreements and scheduled outage maintenance contracts.

Second, we are working with the Alaska Regional Council and Fairbanks Carpenters Training Trust as well as the other training trusts to complete the merger into a single UBC Alaska Training Trust. The consolidation into a single training trust and streamlining of the administrative activities and expenses should enable each training program to deliver quality training consistently and more efficiently. It will also provide a base for re-establishing specific Millwright skills training and the Millwright Qualification Program.

Third, we are continuing the practice established with the founding of Millwright Local 1501 of developing work opportunities for Local 1501 members and member contractors in Alaska and throughout the western United States. By enhancing the skills training necessary to perform the Millwright work in particular industries and developing work histories with the member contractors, we can provide more work opportunities for Local 1501 members and the contractors can bid projects knowing they have access to sufficient numbers of skilled Millwrights. We are currently working on the issue of improving the ability of Millwrights to travel to various geographic areas efficiently while ensuring benefit credit in the members’ home area.

While each year seems to bring new challenges, our ability to work together to meet them will ensure our success. That means a commitment from the contractors, the MEA, the ARCC, the Local 1501 leadership and each of its members. We have made significant achievements since the founding of 1501 in 2004, but we have much left to do. We need to roll up our sleeves and work a little harder - together.
Death Benefits

You may be eligible for death benefits from the Defined Benefit Plan, the Defined Contribution Plan and/or the Health & Welfare Plan. In order for your beneficiary to receive any of these death benefits, you should complete an Alaska Carpenters Enrollment/Beneficiary Form that will allow you to designate your beneficiary for all of the Plans.

The form is available from Administration office or from the Trust Website. You should update your beneficiary forms in the event of life changes such as a divorce; marriage etc., to ensure all available death benefits are paid to your correct beneficiary. If you do not update your beneficiary forms, there is a possibility that your death benefits may be paid to someone you designated previously that is no longer a part of your life, while your loved ones receive nothing.

You must advise the Administration Office of any changes in your basic information, including changes in your marital status, spouse, designated beneficiary, home address or telephone number. Failure to do so may delay the timely payment of your benefits, and/or the communication of other important information.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America New and Returning Members

Local 1243 Fairbanks
Raymond Arkell, James Burner, Daniel Cary, Carl David Sr., Charles Farris, Carl Hornbeck, Michael Van Hatten Jr., Jack Zayon

Local 1281 Anchorage

Local 1501 Anchorage
Shaun Banfield, Scott Floyd, Rex Rohan

Local 2247 Juneau
John Blackwell, Robert Clark, James Embry, Dain Hungelmann, Shane Nyquest, Robert Sabin, Benjamin Shakespeare, James Stevens, James Westfall

Local 2520 Anchorage
No new members

Attend Your Union Meetings
Informed and Active Members Give our Union Strength!

In Remembrance

LOCAL 1243
Warren Story August 18, 2011
Richard M. Hensley October 11, 2011

LOCAL 1281
Ray Michlig May 22, 2011

The Alaska Regional Council extends our sincere condolences to the friends and families of our members.
Local 2247 Christmas Party
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
Appetizer Potluck
ADULTS ONLY
Moose Lodge, Juneau Alaska
Dinner starts at 6:00 pm
Please bring your favorite Christmas appetizers to share with your Brothers and Sisters.

Local 1243 Christmas Party
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
ADULTS ONLY
Westmark Hotel, 813 Noble St., Fairbanks, Alaska
No-host bar starts at 6:00 pm with a Dinner served at 7:30
Service Pin awards and presentation of Apprentices who have turned out at 6:45 pm
$10.00/person tickets are available at the Local 1243 Union Hall through December 7
Ticket proceeds go for door prizes

Local 1281 Christmas Party
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
ADULTS ONLY
Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska
Doors open at 6:00 pm with Dinner served at 7:00
$5/person tickets are on sale at the Hall and must be purchased by December 10
Two per member only as we are limited to 450 tickets
PLEASE – Cash Only for Tickets – PLEASE
All the ticket money will be given as the Door Prize Drawings
(The Captain Cook Hotel offers special rates for those who wish to stay at the hotel)
Work in Fairbanks has been steady all season with projects that have gone through the winter and with some projects that got early starts this summer. Kiewit Building Group had the Barracks and Railhead Ops Facility projects that kept members working, as did PCL with the Warriors in Transition. BEK of Alaska and KC Corp. were subs on those projects and they are just now finishing the punch lists items.

Ghemm Company’s Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center and Davis Engineering’s Life Science Center are two large projects that started this spring and will continue for the next couple of seasons. Ghemm also picked up the Arctic Research Greenhouse on the UAF campus that employed 17 carpenters for the summer.

American Mechanical picked up three good projects this year with the Ft. Greely Fire Station, Ft. WW 369 Organizational Facility, and the Bldg 4070 Remodel. Denny’s Construction is a new signatory contractor that did the foundation work under American Mechanical and I’m glad to report that they hired members out of Local 1243 to perform the work. Things went well on the job and we look forward to working with them more in the future.

Unit Co. also used a new signatory contractor for the foundation work at the Company Operation Facility, Aviation Task Force Building on Ft Wainwright. S2M Construction signed this summer and hired members of Local 1243.

Other contractors that had work this summer include GBC Inc. is doing GVEA’s Truck Shop, Arctic Health CANHR Health Clinic, and utilidor work on Ft. Wainwright. Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center kept a crew busy with various remodels, and work on a new Welding Shop. Kiewit Building Group finished the UAF Test Lab Facility and started 2400 feet of utilidor for the Westridge Steam Expansion Project that will continue next spring.

“Death Assessment Program

Local 1243 has had a Death Assessment Program in place since the mid 1960’s. This voluntary program gives a $10.00 donation from each participant to a designated beneficiary in the event of the death of another participant. This donation helps with the immediate costs that are associated with funeral expenses.

Local 1243 presently has 129 members signed up and we would like to see more members become a part of this program.

We have all been on jobs where we pass the hat to take up a collection for someone who has had an unfortunate situation befall them. This money is received well before an estate can be settled and can be greatly appreciated to help offset costs in a time of grief.

This is one more way we as members of the Brotherhood can give support to the family of a deceased member. If you are not signed up for the Death Assessment Program, I encourage you to do so. And for those of you that are, please call Penny at the Hall and see if you have any outstanding assessments.

Laird Grantham
Senior Business Representative, Local 1243
(907) 452-3862
lairdg@ubc1243.org

If you are looking for work in the Fairbanks area

GHEMM Co. requires employees to have the following certificates in order to be dispatched to the job:
Aerial Lift, Forklift; Fall Protection, Scaffold Erector, and a Hilti card for powder actuated tools.

You must take the new Construction Fall Protection class in order for your card to be current. There is NO expiration date on the new card.

Announcement
Carpenters Local 1281

Work has been pretty steady through the summer and I am optimistic this fall and winter look promising. Hours for this year through September are considerably down compared to the past few years. Membership is down 5% from one year ago.

Comparing dispatches from April through September of 2010 and 2011, Apprentices are up 9% and Journeyman are up 26%; but this does not reflect the drop in hours. I would expect an increase of hours for this winter due to the job status as of now.

Some Larger jobs completed or near completion include:

Looking ahead we have a number of projects in full swing:
Kodiak Fish and Game, Machine gun range and Building 308 with Tunista Construction, Chugach and Homer Electric Power Plants, 3 Cedars, Glenn Olds and Neighborhood Health Buildings, Kendall Toyota, Providence Generations, South Central Medical, Fire Station 6, My Health Building, Ft. Rich Command Center and Providence Cottages.

Late projects that start soon are Verizon and the Boney Courthouse Remodel. Metal stud, drywall, and acoustical work is where the majority of hours will be coming from this winter, so take advantage of any upgrades that come available at the training center for Interior systems. The new UAA Sports Arena should be awarded by the end of the year. There will also be projects bidding from the state capital budget as well as the military bases.

Just a reminder to keep all your contact information current. Make sure we have a good email address.

Millwrights Local 1501

We have signed a new three (3) year contract with the MEA that took effect September 1, 2011 and runs through August 31, 2014. Contract includes some language changes and a raise of a $1.65 for 2011 that was allocated for the H&S, a raise of $1.68 for 2012, and a raise of $1.73 for 2013. (Allocation for 2012 & 2013 raises has not yet been determined.)

2011 started off slow with job setbacks, such as the dismantling of the Agrium Plant in the Kenai area and shipping delays for equipment for the Norcon/HEA Electric Power Plant Expansion Project in Nikiski.

Dresser-Rand again has continued to employ a number of members this year with jobs at Alpine, Kuparuk, Milne Point and Pioneer facilities on the North Slope and at the Tesoro Plant in the Kenai area.

Jaffa Construction at Clear AFB finished the coal crusher and chute replacement project.

Bechtel at Fort Greely Missile Defense Project resumed Millwright work this spring and ran thru early summer.

Multi-Tech had a small conveyor job at Anchorage International Airport South Terminal.

SR Bales completed the replacement of the drives and lift systems for stage at the Atwood Performing Arts Theatre.

Work kicked off for the Anchorage area in June with SNC Lavalin and the new construction of the Chugach Electric Power Plant.

Work is just now starting to kick off in the Kenai area with Norcon and the HEA Power Plant Expansion Project. Norcon has sub-contracted the installation of the new Steam Turbine/Generator and other portions of the Millwright work to Jaffa Construction. The arrival of the Steam Turbine and Generator was due to arrive in late September but has been rescheduled to arrive the beginning of November.

Norcon will be self performing other portions of the Millwright work. Schedule has not yet been determined.

Journeyman upgrade training is available at the Fairbanks Carpenters Training Center in Fairbanks, and the Southern Carpenters Training Center and Piledrivers Training Center in Anchorage. Millwright specific classes can be scheduled.

“Get involved, join us in our demonstration efforts, attend your monthly meetings and protect our work.”
Scott Hansen
Senior Business Representative, Local 1281
(907) 276-3533
local1281@alaska.net

“Happy Holidays to one and all!”
Joe Pugliese
Senior Business Representative, Local 1501
(907) 276-3534
Millwrights@alaska.net
Brothers and Sisters:
We have seen another year come and go and it seems to be flying by quicker and quicker each year. We have seen some contractors more active than others this past year, and we have seen some new contractors sign with us.

The area of work that has been busy and looks to be that way in the future is the mine work here Southeast. With that in mind, I recommend that everyone take the MSHA class. It’s FREE and put on by UAS at the Marine Tech Center in Juneau. While this is not a guarantee that you will work at any of the mines, it does add a tool to your tool box that makes you more employable at the mines.

Ketchikan has been doing well. With the amount of work there, we have seen the Ketchikan membership grow.

We also have a growing pool of apprentices in Southeast with seven in the Ketchikan area and twelve in the Juneau area.

The Christmas Party will be held at the Juneau Moose Lodge on December 17th starting at 6 pm. Please bring your favorite family Christmas dish to share.

Everyone have a safe and Happy New Year!

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Piledrivers & Divers Local 2520

As we approach the winter months, it’s time to think about getting current on all your certifications. Check your expiration dates and make plans to attend any and all upgrade classes you need.

We just finished our Collective Bargaining Agreement for the years 2011 to 2014. Our economic package includes a 3% increase this year, 3% next year and 3% for the last year. Unfortunately, most or all of these increases will go toward health and welfare. Other highlights of the new contract include: getting rid of the assistant tender, rigger and framer classifications and lumping them into one Piledriver classification at the higher rate; prevailing a rate for ROV pilots and techs and for single atmosphere submarine pilots; strengthening per diem to make sure we are paid from date of hire to date of termination; and travel time will be limited to 4 free hours. We also made some substantial changes to our Diving agreement which will keep our diving contractors competitive in these down markets.

Work for next year looks really good. Right now we are in negotiations with Hamilton Construction for the three bridges to Seward and I look forward to this partnership. Kiewit has the bridge across the Tanana River which should be a two year job. The Seward Highway job was just bid and, as of this writing, the sub. for the bridges have not been named. West Const. has a job coming up in Cordova and needs to finish a job in Ousinkie. Pacific Pile and Marine just got jobs in Seward and Dutch Harbor. Sandstrom and Sons, Swalling Const. and AIC have various jobs throughout the state. The Dutra Group is currently working in Ketchikan on Berths 1 and 2 and should be there until April. Our diving contractors, American Marine and Global Offshore, continue to have work in the Inlet and statewide. Opening the outer continental shelf would have a big impact for our divers. There are still many jobs out and coming out for bid in Southeast and on the highway system. The Port of Anchorage Director has informed me there won’t be any new construction next year due to lack of funds to finish the first phase, but he expects a big push in 2013.
STATEWIDE ORGANIZING REPORT

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”
– Abraham Lincoln

How true those words ring today as we deal with an ever-increasing battle against labor. It is up to us to be vigilant in our endeavors at protecting our standards that our forefathers worked so hard to obtain for us. Today we face many obstacles when advancing our cause while protecting and increasing our market share. However, together we are willing to face those struggles and demand that we be heard.

We have been in a labor dispute with All Wall Contracting Inc. for some time now and have helped to expose their deceitful ways to many owners and honest contractors. We have successfully pushed them back into the rural communities where they ‘thought’ we would ignore them. Their bottom line has been repeatedly hurt. Recently, on a rural project, we were able to assist in getting a Federal DOL decision stating that their use of a dual clock system was only hurting the employees and cheating them out of their rightfully earned funds. This resulted in 25 employees getting back pay and over time wages that should have been available to those employees all along.

Today, we continue the fight against non-area standard contractors with our informational campaigns. Our ability to demonstrate to the public that the use of a non-area standard contractor only hurts the community and should be considered a scourge to our society is a vital part of our efforts.

Join in on this battle and help protect our future. Call or visit the organizing department or talk to your business rep about how you can help protect our Area Standards.

1099 EMPLOYEE MISCLASSIFICATION

by Arylis Scates

In the Organizing Department we are often asked, “What are the issues about 1099?” 1099 misclassification is when an employer turns employees into sub-contractors and diminishes a level playing field.

Imagine working for several years as an employee for a contractor. Then one Friday at the end of shift, your boss tells you that you have to get your own business license and work as an ‘independent contractor’. Suddenly, all your overtime pay is gone. You have to decide how your health care will be handled and if you can even afford to put money away for your thinning prospects of retirement. Who is going to pay for my license? What rights will I have? So many questions…

Now look at it from the contractor’s point of view. What a good day for the bad guy, right? All those years responsibly paying employees their wages and overtime. All those payments for healthcare and retirement. All that social security and workers comp. Bye Bye. Those are no longer expenses. It is all in the contractors pocket now or possibly used to leverage a lower winning bid. A race to the bottom.

Unscrupulous contractors love this ignorant race to the bottom because they then can avoid paying overtime, workers comp, social security, or Medicare; all of which are normally required by law. This in turn causes the earnest contractor to suffer and have to pay higher premiums on Medicare, workers comp and payroll expenses, thus leaving less room for employees to negotiate higher wages. However, this does not only hurt the contractor but also hurts the community as a whole. Who pays for the broken arm when a 1099 sub goes to the hospital? Do not think for a moment that the former employee, now a 1099 sub, went out and purchased coverage after having his overtime taken away. He already is losing out and earning less and therefore cannot afford the extra expense. Unfortunately, society will ultimately be responsible for that bill.

What can we do? Recognize what a poor choice 1099 misclassification can be. Stay informed and keep those around you informed. Voice your thoughts and encourage honest contractors to support legislation that fights 1099 employee misclassification and keep the playing field level.
Since the launch of the Sisters in the Brotherhood movement less than a decade ago, a generation of women members has been energized about the bright futures available through the UBC. They’ve founded women’s committees at more than a dozen councils, increased the number of women serving as convention delegates and alternates by nearly 600 percent, reached out to mentor other women, and are working to influence federal regulations to promote diversity in the trades.

“No other union has ever made a commitment like this to women before,” said Elizabeth Skidmore, a member of Local 118 of Raymond, N.H., who presented the Women’s Committee report at the UBC’s 40th General Convention in August. “Sisters throughout the UBC should be heartened by the support shown by General President Doug McCarron and the delegates at the General Convention. Now it’s up to all of us to make the most of this opportunity.”

President McCarron has charged Skidmore and JoAnn Williams of Local 795 in the St. Louis & Vicinity District Council with directing a new effort to improve outreach to women and assist councils in their efforts to support women in their ranks. Skidmore and Williams, with the help of the International SIB staff and Steering Committee, have:

- Played an important role in national policy discussions with the US Department of Labor and advocated for solutions that benefit the UBC, our contractors and our Sisters;
- Begun creating curriculum to assist Councils and Sisters to develop and support SIB committees;
- Visited a number of Councils where they met with both their Council leadership and their SIB committees to assist them in building a SIB that works hand-in-glove with the Council’s organizing and political efforts;
- Provided personal coaching for a number of women leading local SIB’s; and,
- Developed a new SIB website, which should be launched by the end of November. Announcements will be sent out when it goes live.

www.UBCSisters.org

The mission of the UBC Sisters in the Brotherhood:
Build a stronger union
Create a network of active sisters
Provide avenues for women to eliminate barriers to their success
Promote an increase in the numbers and diversity of women in the UBC
Advocate for strength, unity and the retention of all members.

The Women in the Trades took place November 1-4, 2011. Nine young women took the course, which included Apprenticeship Seminar, Introductions to Hand Tools, Power Tools and Builders Math.

Projects included: hammer, saw & nail, build a saw horse, frame a wall, hang dry wall, run a screw gun and learn how to cut out stairs with a skill saw.
80 years ago, workers on construction projects financed by the government were finally guaranteed a fair and living wage when Republican President Herbert Hoover signed the Davis-Bacon Act into law on March 3, 1931. Other than the Wagner Act that protects worker’s right to organize, the Davis-Bacon Act protecting prevailing wages is the single most important legal protection for construction workers.

The Act is named after its sponsors, Pennsylvania Senator James Davis and New York Representative Robert Bacon. Both were Republicans.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the United States government was already greatly involved in heavy construction projects from flood control and dam building to expanding and housing the institution of government. Federal and state governments sought to protect themselves from falling victim to ‘fly-by-night’ and ‘cut throat’ contractors who performed ‘shoddy’ work with an unskilled workforce.

Davis and Bacon viewed their bill not so much as an avenue to protect workers, but more as a way of providing some market stability in what was, and still is, an inherently unstable construction industry. By establishing a local wage standard that contractors had to pay workers on public projects, the authors of the bill intended to provide a level playing field on which contractors could compete for work based on wages that ‘prevailed’ in the area, rather than rewarding the practice of slashing workers’ wages in order to win work. After repeated attempts, Davis and Bacon finally won passage of the bill to protect local construction workers’ wages on government-funded projects, typically called prevailing wages, from being undercut by low-wage, out-of-area workers.

Alaska’s Little Davis Bacon (LDBA), called Title 36, was modeled after the federal Davis-Bacon statute. Today, as the state and legislators look to build buildings, expand Alaska’s transportation infrastructure, and construct dams and other energy producing projects, Alaska’s Little Davis Bacon Act provides a means for construction quality and efficiency, encourages local hire and guarantees a certain wage be paid.
Safety Corner by Keith Montgomery

Winter Driving

Fair or foul weather driving always presents hazards. But winter months present drivers with conditions that are far different from those they face during the summer.

Tips for Winter Driving

△ Be able to see and be seen. Clean all the snow and ice off of your windshield, other windows, outside mirrors, lights, and reflectors.

△ Make sure your vehicle is equipped with good wiper blades, and that wiper arms exert enough pressure on the blades to ensure a clean sweep. If moisture or ice builds up on the inside or outside of your windshield, stop and clean it off.

△ Tires with deep treads are essential for safe cornering and handling on slippery roads. Check the air pressure frequently to maintain the manufacturer's recommended pressure.

△ Get the feel of the road. While braking or accelerating, do so gently. Be aware of how slippery the road is and adjust your speed accordingly. Rising temperatures greatly increase the slipperiness of ice and snow.

△ Stretch your "following" distance. Knowing that winter surfaces increase stopping distance three to 12 times, the smart driver increases their normal dry road following distance. Heavy trucks require a longer stopping distance on slippery roads than passenger cars. Remember……don't tailgate.

△ Brake before curves. All vehicles are particularly sensitive to over-powering and over-braking on curves. Unseen hazards around the bend may require an evasive action, so turn your steering wheel slowly and smoothly, keep a constant speed in the turn, and pump your brakes carefully if it's necessary to slow down or stop.

△ When your brakes lock up on wet and slippery roads or during a panic stop, you lose steering control and your vehicle can spin. In vehicles equipped with Anti Lock Braking Systems (ABS), the driver's foot remains firmly on the brake pedal, allowing the system to automatically pump the brakes. Rear wheel ABS prevents wheel lockup so that your car stays in a straight line. If your car has ABS control on all four wheels, you also keep steering control. If you have steering control, it is possible to avoid a crash by steering around hazards if a complete stop cannot be accomplished in time.

△ Use proper lights. Never drive with parking lights instead of headlights during late winter afternoons or in early evening. Parking lights can cause an oncoming driver to think you are farther away than you are. Keep headlights clean; dirty headlights can greatly reduce your long-distance vision at night.

△ Lastly, assure that you and your vehicle are prepared for winter weather with emergency gear and proper tires, chains, and excellent vehicle maintenance.

American Income Life Insurance Offers No-Cost Life Insurance and Other Benefits

American Income Life Insurance occasionally offers additional benefits to Union members that includes a no-cost $3,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit as well a Health Services Discount Card and Child Safe kits. All members should be receiving another offer by the end of the year.

American Income Life is not affiliated with your Union medical and retirement (Alaska Carpenters Trusts), your Local Union, the Alaska Regional Council of Carpenters, nor the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Acceptance of the no-cost benefits may result in an American Income Life Representative calling to explain the benefits and offer other benefits at a cost. Members are not obligated to set up a meeting with the Representative nor purchase additional products.

If you have any questions, please call American Income Life Insurance Company at 1-800-495-1213.
Made in America
by Mike McCarron (EST–Southwest Regional Council)

“I have come to a resolution myself as I hope every good citizen will, never again to purchase any article of foreign manufacture which can be had of American make be the difference of price what it may.”

Thomas Jefferson February 26, 1815

Made in America! Many of us can remember when that was the norm and it stood for quality. Today, it is more of a novelty than anything else. In the United States, we now have fewer people in manufacturing than at any time in the last 70 years. We have gone from being the highest creditor nation to being the highest debtor nation virtually within one generation.

Like you, I have heard the politicians and pro-big business pundits talk about the many benefits of free trade. They tell us that free trade is critical to our being a part of the global economy. They say that if we don’t continue to negotiate free trade agreement, we will be left behind.

I don’t buy it. Maybe if the entire world was competing on a level playing field, I would understand this argument. But that is simply not the case. There is no way an American worker, despite record levels of productivity, can compete with someone in a third-world nation who earns a dollar a day or less! There is no way we can make a product at the same low-cost as a nation that has no concern for worker safety, health care or the environment.

And this leads me to the next big lie that free trade advocates try to spin - the cost. Even though the cost of producing the item is dramatically lower in most of these other countries, the final cost to American consumers is not really that much less. Are you getting sneakers for your kids for less just because they say Made in China? Is that work shirt you bought any less expensive because it was sewn by someone in Bangladesh? I don’t see it when I go shopping. In fact, many of these items are very expensive. All this means is that the big corporations have a larger profit margin.

The third big mistruth that is given regarding the global economy is that America will lead the way in high-tech products and in technology. I have news for you - where are all those iPads produced? Does Apple even make them in the United States anymore?

And not only have we lost that manufacturing, but more and more, the technology to develop and support these products is going overseas. I am sure that China and India are not satisfied just producing these products and giving the profits to a company based in the United States. These countries are working hard to produce an educated workforce that can design new technologies.

Recently, ABC World News did an interesting series called Made in America. They noted that in the 1960’s, nine out of ten products bought by U.S. consumers were made here in America. Today, it is left than half. They also cited a finding by Moody’s analytics that if Americans increased their purchases of American made products by just 1%, or about $0.18 per day, it would create 200,000 U.S. jobs. (ABC News link for the Made in America series: http://abcnews.go.com/WN/MadeInAmerica/)

Creating 200,000 jobs here in the United States generates a greater tax base which means more spending on education, infrastructure and other prevailing wage projects. It creates higher demand for factories and offices. In other words, it means more jobs for carpenters.

I think that buying more products made in America is an easy way for us all to help get our country back on sound economic ground. Improving our manufacturing base is critical to reviving the middle-class and ensuring the future for our children. Not only that; but it’s time we put the politicians feet to the fire on trade. We need to let them know we are watching what they do and that we care. As Americans, we need to stand up and tell our elected officials, “Don’t trade away our country.” You can do this by voting in elections, by attending town hall meetings and by calling or writing your representatives.

“BE ACTIVE.
BUY AMERICAN.
THE U.S JOB YOU CREATE JUST MIGHT BE ONE OF OURS.”
Hill Top Ski Area Project

Start of project

Demo upper ramp

Setting beams for ramp

Director Brian Howe

Apprentice Charlene Harris

Nailing bottom plates

Apprentice Ryan Kennedy

Deck ramp

Deck upper ramp

Finished project
There are a total of 110 apprentices currently in the program. The deadline for this first year class is January 16, 2012. Orientation will be February 21, 2012 and interviews will be February 22 through 24, 2012.

4th year class runs from November 7 through December 21, 2011.
2nd year class starts January 3 through February 17, 2012.
3rd year class starts February 27 through April 13, 2012.
1st year class starts April 23 through June 15, 2012.

Graduation for the 4th year class will be on February 18, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Anchorage Convention Center.

There are a total of 40 upgrade classes scheduled for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012. Anyone interested in taking upgrades classes can sign up online at our website at www.sactcapprentice.org. If you don’t have a computer, give the Training Center a call and we can put you on the list of the class you are interested in. If you sign up for an upgrade class, make sure you show up for the class. If you are working and unable to take the classes, please let us know ahead of time. That way, one of your fellow members can take the class in your place. Classes will be canceled if there are fewer than four members signed up. So, spread the word and fill the classes.

The Journeyman upgrade classes are for your benefit. Please take advantage of them when they are offered. You pay into the training fund why not get something out of it.

There is no reason why all our members should not have all their certification cards in OSHA 10, Fall Protection, First Aid/CPR/AED, Scaffold Erectors, Forklift, Aerial Lift and Welding. Refresher classes are offered to keep your cards current, so keep track of the expiration dates on your card and sign up for the refresher classes when needed. If you have any questions on the expiration dates, please call the Training Center.

Remember UBC members, we have welding booths here at the school if you would like to get a welding cert. in metal stud or structural steel. We’re open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Be sure to sign in at the office and sign out when you leave.

Thanks go out to apprentice volunteers Charlene Harris and Ryan Kennedy for their work on the Nordic Ski Jump at the Hill Top Ski Area. I, myself, have put in some time there. The Carpenters Local 1281 has donated a thousand dollar toward this project. There will be signs posted at the bottom of the ski jump for our support in this project. What a better way to give back to our community. (Check out the photos on page 14)

I would also like to thank Apprentice Instructor Rick Shockley and Apprentice Brandon Bibee for their work on the new concrete stairs at the Carpenters Union Hall, and all the ones that helped with the tear out and pour of the new stairs great job. Now we have a set of concrete stairs to be proud of.

Continued on page 19
All Journeyman/Apprentices interested in attending classes - sign up online at: WWW.SACTCAPPRENTICE.ORG

Click on Journeyman Upgrades
Course Schedule of Upgrade Classes
Scroll through calendar for classes
Once you find the class you are interested in, left click on it
Under More Details
This brings up a new window
Click on the schedule link, ex: www.sactcapprentice.org/blank-signup
Find the date of the class you would like to sign up for
Fill out form completely with your name, email, and phone number
Click “Submit Query” and you’re done.

If you have any questions on how to use the website or don’t have a computer, please contact the Southern Alaska Carpenter Training Center at 344-1541 for sign-up.

Classes held Monday through Friday are 6 - 9 PM, Saturday 8 AM - 5 PM
Fairbanks Carpenter and Alaska Millwright Training Center

(Right and below) Local 1243 Apprentice

Lemmitt Ross,
Is Local 1243’s only
4th year apprentice.
Lemmit does doors, acoustical ceilings, and print reading.

We will be fabricating snow bucket for forklift in welding class, as well as certifying apprentices for metal stud welding. The class will also be building a new fair booth for the League of Women Voters.

There will be 12 apprentices receiving Journeyman certificates at the Christmas Party. Journeyman safety classes are ongoing until June, check your cards for expiration dates.

(Right) 3rd class in session getting trained in rigging, metal studs, welding, print reading.

JOURNEYMAN SAFETY AND UPGRADE CLASSES 2011 - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORKLIFT</th>
<th>FIRST AID/CPR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 16 - 18, 2012</td>
<td>JAN 9 - 12, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 2 - 4, 2012</td>
<td>MAR 26 - 29, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AERIAL LIFT</th>
<th>OSHA 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEC 5 - 7, 2011</td>
<td>FEB 6 - 9, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 5 - 7, 2012</td>
<td>APR 30 - MAY 3, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 9 - 11, 2012</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL PROTECTION</th>
<th><strong>MSHA</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEC 12 - 14, 2011</td>
<td>JAN 16 - 18, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 30 - FEB 1, 2012</td>
<td>MAR 19 - 21, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 12 - 14, 2012</td>
<td>JUN 4 - 6, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 16 - 18, 2012</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCAFFOLDING</th>
<th>WEATHERIZATION</th>
<th>WELDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAR 26 - 30, 2012</td>
<td>FEB 14 - 16, 2012</td>
<td>7:00 am - 3:30 pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RIGGING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 21 - 24, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 23 - 27, 2012</td>
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</table>

** All dates for MSHA training are tentative dates and may vary a few days depending on the availability of instructors. Those who sign up for these classes will be notified of the exact dates as soon as we have them.

All members in good standing can sign up for classes by stopping by the Training Center of calling us at 452-4626.
Applications for the 2012 apprenticeship program are being accepted until March 1, 2012. Anyone interested should visit http://www.local2520.org/Apprenticeship.htm.

The JATC will review applications and conduct interviews in March with first year apprentices starting on April 2, 2012. The Piledrivers JATC does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex or religion; women and minorities are urged to apply.

The current Piledrivers training schedule is posted at the Union Hall and on the union web site. There are signup sheets at the union halls for rigging, welding, forklift, aerial lift, OSHA 10, NSTC and first aid/cpr. Once these signup sheets have enough names, we will arrange a class in addition to what is already scheduled. All apprentices should have received their class schedule dates in the mail, if not contact Kevin immediately.

The Southern Alaska Carpenters Training Center has welding facilities for members that need certifications for the AWS D1.3 metal stud welding code. Members in the Fairbanks area can practice welding and test at the Fairbanks Carpenters Training Center. Piledriver members in Southeast may practice welding at the University of Alaska campuses in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan.

**Alaska Piledrivers & Divers Training Center**

**Fall 2011 thru Spring 2012**

More classes will be added if enough people register on the sign up sheets at the Union Hall. Come by or call to register.

We currently have sign up sheets for OSHA 10, NSTC, Aerial Lift, Certified Rigging, and Welding Booth Times.

The classes have a 4 student minimum size and if attendance is below the minimum, that class will be canceled.

**Classes held at the Piledrivers from 8 am - 5 pm,** unless noted differently. Dates and times may change without notice, so please inquire early. To be eligible for class, you must be current on your union dues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Dates/Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerial Lift</td>
<td>April 19, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Mathematics</td>
<td>Improve your skill in math fundamentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classes available when enough people sign up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Mathematics</td>
<td>Improve your skill in math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classes available when enough people sign up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Reading</td>
<td>November 28 - Dec. 2, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Rigging</td>
<td>April 9 - 12, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Formwork</td>
<td>February 6 – 8, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form Hardware</td>
<td>February 9 – 10, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Formwork</td>
<td>February 13 - 16, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete, Grout and Epoxy</td>
<td>February 20 - 21, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confined Space</td>
<td>Classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane &amp; Rig Setup</td>
<td>April 24 - 25, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drafting</td>
<td>December 5 - 9, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Protection</td>
<td>Classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leveling and Layout Instruments</td>
<td>November 22 - 25, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid/CPR</td>
<td>December 15 - 16, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 2 - 3, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 5 - 6, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classes also on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>@ Respond Systems. Call Piledrivers for appointment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forklift</td>
<td>April 18, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials 40 hour</td>
<td>In conjunction with the Painters Union (if possible).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials 8 hour</td>
<td>Call Piledrivers Training for scheduling, before your card expires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Slope Training</td>
<td>February 1, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 20, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSHA 10</td>
<td>January 30 - 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 16 - 17, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piledriving Equipment</td>
<td>April 13, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of Pile</td>
<td>April 4, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powder Actuated Tools</td>
<td>Classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Construction</td>
<td>February 27 - 28, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tools, Materials, Ethics and History of the Trade</td>
<td>April 2 - 3, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Control</td>
<td>Classes available year round. Call us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Welding and Cutting</td>
<td>January 2 - 6, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kevin Hanley
Training Coordinator
Piledrivers and Divers Training Center
(907) 272-7577
kevin@local2520.net
I would like to mention that, as of September 31, 2011, Julie Schnyder is now a Journeywoman. Julie has also won the prize for the most attended union meetings as an apprentice.

Julie started her apprenticeship in April of 2008. Some of the contractors she has worked for are PPS, Ken Brady, Kiewit Pacific, and BEK.

Here are some of the comments on her evaluation forms: pleasure to work with, good attitude, always stayed busy, great work safe attitude. All her marks were average to above average.

She passed all her training classes with grades of 87% up to 93% an excellent apprentice in class. Never had to send her a letter for late time cards or Union dues.

I wish every apprentice in this program was like Julie. It would make my job so much easier.

Congratulations Julie for all your hard work in becoming a Union Carpenter. WELCOME ABOARD!
Carpenters Local 1243 - 4th Tuesday of the month
Carpenters Local 1281 - 1st Tuesday of the month
Carpenters Local 2247 - 1st Tuesday of the month
Millwrights Local 1501-3rd Tuesday of the month
Piledrivers Local 2520 - 3rd Tuesday of the month

THIS IS YOUR UNION
ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

ALASKA REGIONAL COUNCIL DIRECTORY OF OFFICES

Alaska Regional Council
John Palmatier
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
410 Denali Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 274-2722 • (907) 274-2727 Fax
Statewide Toll Free 1 (888) 974-2722
Website: www.ubcalaska.org
Email: arcc@alaska.net

Organizing Office
Arylis Scates
Director of Organizing
410 Denali Street, Suite 101
Anchorage, AK 99501
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Email: arcc@mtaonline.net
TIPLINE 1 (855) 822-5463

Carpenters Local 1243
Laird Grantham
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Email: lairdg@ubc1243.org

Carpenters Local 1281
Scott Hansen
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Statewide Toll Free 1 (877) 276-3533
Email: local1281@alaska.net

Carpenters Local 2247
Jonathan Smith
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Juneau, AK 99802
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Statewide Toll Free 1 (800) 478-3675
Email: local2247@acsalaska.net

Piledrivers & Divers Local 2520
Steve Abel
Sr. Business Representative
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Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 272-7576 • (907) 277-8967 Fax
Statewide Toll Free 1 (866) 905-2520
Website: www.local2520.org
Email: steve@local2520.org

Millwrights Local 1501
Joe Pugliese
Sr. Business Representative
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Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 276-3534 • (907) 272-7500 Fax
Website: www.alaskamillwrights.org
Email: millwrights@alaska.net

TRUST OFFICE INFO:
Alaska Carpenters Trust Funds
3380 C Street, Suite 107
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 561-7575
Statewide Toll Free 1 (800) 478-4431
Contacts:
Cary - Eligibility
Susan - Pension/Defined Contribution Claims & Benefits in Washington:
1 (800) 531-5357

Alaska Apprenticeship and Training Centers Directory of Offices

Southern Alaska Carpenters Training Center
Brian Howe
Training Coordinator
8751 King Street
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907) 344-1541 • (907) 349-5823 Fax
Statewide Toll Free 1 (888) 825-1541
Website: www.sactcapprentice.org
Email: carpenters-training@clearwire.net

Fairbanks Carpenters Training Center and
Alaska Millwright Training Center
Ed Pugliese,
Training Coordinator
6 Timberland Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 452-4626
(907) 456-5542 Fax
Email: trainingdirector@fctcak.org

Piledrivers Training Center
Kevin Hanley
Training Coordinator
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(907) 277-8967 Fax
Website: www.local2520.org
Email: kevin@local2520.org