

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Railroad announces finalists of Catch the Train Photo Contest, online voting for grandprize winner begins

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – Today, Monday, Dec. 21, the Alaska Railroad announced the finalists of its Catch the Train Photo Contest, all of whom will be featured in the Railroad's 18-month 2016-2017 calendar. In addition, voting is now open to the public via the <u>Alaska Railroad Facebook page</u> to choose the grandprize winner, who will receive the honor of the Alaska Railroad calendar's cover, \$1,500 and roundtrip rail travel for four.

The contest finalists are:

- Wilbert Bascug, Cale Green, Rocklund (Rocky) Grimes, Tracey Harmon and Emily Weaver of Anchorage, Alaska
- Laura Gregory of Fairbanks, Alaska
- Dean Ojala of North Pole, Alaska
- Mike Criss (for three photos), Steven Heyano, Christie Wyzykowski of Wasilla, Alaska
- Joseph LeMay of Downers Grove, Illinois
- Michael W. Sullivan of North Arlington, New Jersey
- Richard B. Kelly of Morgan, Texas
- Jonathan Fischer (for two photos) of Seattle, Washington
- David Gillett of Boncath, Pembrookshire in West Wales, U.K.

Their photos were selected based on artistic merit, originality, subject and style. In addition to having their photo featured as a month of the upcoming calendar, the finalists will have their photo displayed in the Alaska Railroad's 2016 Panoramas onboard magazine and receive rail travel for four on the trip of their choice.

"We received more than 700 entries to the photo contest, and we were excited to see how well these photos captured the thrill and grandeur that passengers experience on the Alaska Railroad," said Alaska Railroad Director of Guest Services and Passenger Marketing Bruce LaLonde. "It was difficult to only choose 18 photos, but all of our finalists provided an excellent representation of the breathtaking beauty along the Railbelt that Alaskans and visitors can see when aboard our trains."

Online voting is open now through Sunday, Jan. 10, and can be accessed through a tab on the Alaska Railroad Facebook page (www.facebook.com/alaskarailroad). The grandprize winner will be announced on or around Monday, Jan. 11, 2016.

For additional information about the Alaska Railroad's Catch the Train Photo Contest, visit www.alaskarailroad.com/catchthetrain.

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