

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inaugural partnership between Alaska Railroad and Talkeetna Bachelor Society supports annual fundraiser

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – For the first time, the Alaska Railroad is partnering with the <u>Talkeetna Bachelor Society</u> for a weekend of fun and excitement in support of its annual fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. Each year, the Bachelor Society organizes the <u>Bachelor Auction & Ball</u>, which is celebrating its 35th year of auctioning off some of the state's most eligible bachelors, with the mission of raising money to primarily support the Bachelor Society's Fund for Women and Children in Crisis, administered by the Sunshine Community Health Center in Talkeetna.

To kick off the weekend, five bachelors will ride the Aurora Winter Train from Anchorage to Talkeetna the morning of the auction, handing out the Bachelor Society's <u>Male Order Catalog</u> and giving passengers the opportunity to get to know the eligible bachelors before the auction. The Alaska Railroad is proud to donate 10 percent of all Anchorage to Talkeetna round-trip rail fare for the weekend of the event to the Bachelor Society.

"This is one of the most iconic winter experiences in the state in addition to being the most fun weekend of the year in Talkeetna. It's a tradition more than three decades in the making that has become somewhat of a local holiday, but it's also for an incredibly important cause in our community," said President of the Talkeetna Bachelor Society Todd Basilone. "The Bachelor Society is thrilled to be working with the Alaska Railroad on what will certainly be an exciting addition to our event."

Passengers will arrive in Talkeetna at 11:15 a.m., after which they can enjoy numerous festivities in the town, including a number of winter and holiday themed activities, as well as the Wilderness Woman Contest, which is hosted by the Bachelor Society. The Bachelor Auction begins at 7 p.m., at the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar in Downtown Talkeetna, immediately followed by the Bachelor Ball. The evening continues with live music and dancing at the Fairview Inn, as well as an All-Night Bachelor Breakfast at the Talkeetna Roadhouse. On Sunday, visitors can spend the day exploring the town and its many restaurants and attractions before departing on the southbound Aurora Winter, which leaves Talkeetna at 4:50 p.m., and arrives back in Anchorage at 8 p.m.

"We're always looking for new ways to support Railbelt communities, as well as provide our passengers with unique experiences," said Alaska Railroad Director of Guest Services and Passenger Marketing Bruce LaLonde. "This is a memorable, Alaska experience for locals and visitors alike and benefiting a cause that the Alaska Railroad is proud to support."

Rail fare does not include admission to the Bachelor Auction & Ball. For more information about the Talkeetna Bachelor Society and to purchase tickets to its annual fundraiser, visit <u>TalkeetnaBachelors.com</u>. To book tickets aboard the Aurora Winter Train, visit <u>www.AlaskaRailroad.com</u>, or call Alaska Railroad reservations at 907-265-2494, or outside Anchorage at 800-544-0552.

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