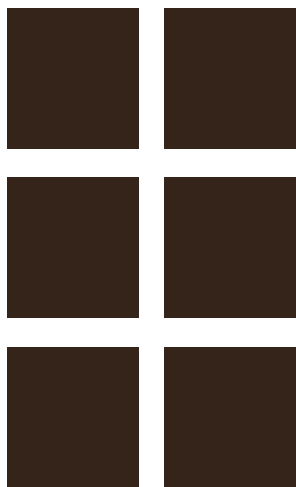


# BLUNT BELL BULLETIN



In the **CHANGING  
World.**

By  
Pearl-Grace Pantaleone  
Marketing Coordinator



As the snow falls down and covers the tundra North of the Alaska Range, and as the ice paints a clear coat atop our pavement in Alaska's largest city—it marks another cold, long winter here in the Last Frontier. The snow blankets the same old landscape in white. For the people of this great state the air has indeed changed.

Oil prices have remained at an average price of \$40-50 per barrel, after its plummet more than a year ago. Alaska's economy hit a shock wave, and is still trying to recover while living within the means of our state revenue. Government, public and some private sectors' budgets have dramatically decreased. We just need to find a way to adjust. More and more contracting companies are using the design-build technique to get their projects going on this tight budget. Some are even giving those once publicly bided projects to their current term contract firms.

But while the oil and gas industry might take a toll on this, other industries are taking advantage of low oil prices, e.g. the retail and travel industry. Since gas prices are not at the unusual record high like they were in 2008-2013 (more than \$100 / barrel), airlines and travel agencies are cashing in on reduced operational costs. Since oil prices dropped, Alaska has actually seen a record high tourism with Alaska Airlines have bringing in

engineers  
surveyors  
**bell**  
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**CMH**  
CONSULTANTS

new direct routes and expanded destinations.

We can't forget about retail! Over the past two years there have been many buildings popping up all around the city of Anchorage. With anchor-shops such as H&M, Nordstrom Rack, Cabela's, Bass Pro Shop, The North Face, and even Ultra – they have brought in over 1,000 new jobs here in town.

Before you loose your cool about O&G laying off some work on the slope and with our Point Thomson Office demobing – open your eyes to other industry possibilities here in the state. Just like Alaska has to live within our means of revenue, we have to invest in other opportunities to remain on our feet.

BELL & CMH have already started making strides to change our environment and culture in hopes to move in the right direction for profit, growth and success. So bring on 2016, we are

ready for  
what will  
smack in  
our face!!



NEW  
information  
technology



logy  
SYSTEM

*BY Christian Foster*

BELL & CMH have upgraded and modernized its Information Technology (I.T. Infrastructure) to replace old systems with new server hardware, operating systems and software. These improvements use a combination of cloud-based and virtualization technologies to improve performance, capacity, availability and security. Anchorage office staff, as well as field staff, have noticed improved speeds when accessing info-cus, consolidated network server storage, as well as simplified remote access procedures.

"I used to wake up at 6 AM to transfer files for my scanning guys and the guys up north," says Scanning Manager Chris Burt. "And I had a hard time logging in remotely sometimes. But with the new system it's a lot faster."

The new system is more streamlined and efficient when it comes to transferring and storing important data and documents.

BELL is now working with Applied Microsystems, an Anchorage-based I.T. services provider, to roll out these changes, including additional planned changes. We will be making changes to our email system, with a planned migration away from *GoogleApps* to *Office 365* for Business. We will be using other products to meet the needs of our Anchorage and field-based operations. This intention is to provide the tools to seamlessly integrate remote operations with day-to-day office work and increase BELL's overall efficiency, while keeping costs down.





# Projects, People!

Here is a list of all BELL & CMH's active projects:

## Surveying

Badami Right of Way Revision  
BP Surface Casing CH2M Support (R30)  
Put 23 Mine Site DNR Plat  
PBOC Wing C & E Subsidence Study  
Sag River Bridge & West Dock Bridge PM  
WD Road As-built Continuation  
DS14 Production Sustainment Design Survey  
DS18-35 Conductor Installation  
ADEC DS3, M-Pad and X-Pad Subsidence Study  
STP-36 WDSP Pig Trap Modifications  
DS16 Caisson Removal & VSM Replacement  
Sag River 2015/2016 Ice Road  
Duck Island Water Intake Bathymetry  
DS16 Access Road By Pass (Ice Road) -1  
Liberty SDI Island DNR Plat  
Liberty Sag River Bridge As-Built Plat  
MPU B Pad Grind & Inject Facility  
Northstar Warehouse Subsidence  
Great Bear Petroleum Conductor S/O  
Oxbow Landfill Sinkhole As-Built  
Polar LNG Pipeline Design Survey  
Prudhoe Bay Hotel As-Built  
Deadhorse Tract 44C Topo and Design Volume  
Brooks Range 190-Man Camp Support  
Great Bear Exploration Wells  
Black Gold Camp DOT Plat  
NSB Oxbow Landfill Topo  
Mobil-Kuparuk Access Road Construction  
L Pad Well Bore Survey 2015  
2015 GPB Road Upgrade Construction  
S-136 Conductor Installation  
Kuparuk River Stream Barb Inspection

## Civil Engineering

Cedarwood (L10 B3) SLEV  
Deadhorse Track 26 A/B  
GCI Fiber Optic Install NS  
Deadhorse Airport L4 B900 As-Built Plat  
Halliburton Deadhorse Plat  
DOT Deadhorse Airport Plat L7B B200  
Signature Lands Services – L1 & L2, Maui Subdivision  
AWWC Master Plan 2015- Civil Survey Support  
North Slope Maintenance Facility Civil Design  
ConocoPhillips KCS NE Shops Bldg  
Great Bear Camp DOT As-Built Plat  
Tanaka Martial Arts - Civil Design & Platt  
Jayhawk Air - Civil Design  
Sun Valley Lot 3 & 4, BLK 6 Re-Plat  
36th Avenue Construction Surveying Services  
West Anchorage Roads Pavement Pres,  
Kasilof River Area Topo/Control Survey  
Colville ASLS 81-119 Lot 1 Section Line Easement  
Dowling warehouse; Civil & Survey Design  
Jewel Lake Shore Sub, Re Plat  
Endicott Road Elevation Profile  
2015 Spine Road Upgrade (As-built Post Const)  
K-Pad Road Upgrade Design Package  
Put23 Mine Site Drainage Plan

## Mechanical Engineering

Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center  
Haines Brewery, Heat pump re-Design  
ConocoPhillips KCS NE Shops Bldg  
ASRC North Slope Maintenance Facility



# Good-byes, Welcomes,

# & See You Later.



*By Nancy Robertson*

## NORTH SLOPE PROJECT MANAGER

After more than 30 years with BELL, Rick Allison will be retiring in January from his position as Project Manager of our GPB/Prudhoe Bay office. Rick began his surveying career in college. An aimless, directionless hipster, he was hired by BLM during summer break as a bullcook. When they no longer needed a bullcook Rick stayed on for two more summers and was inexplicably sent out in the field with the surveyors on Kodiak Island. His love of math combined with his passion for the remote wilderness proved to be a winning combination and spawned a career in surveying that endured over the next *many, many, many, many, many, many, many, many* decades.

Rick first traveled to the North Slope with Bomhoff in 1979 when they were developing the Kuparuk field. Rick recalls surveying cross country from Kuparuk to Pump Station 1 on foot as a particularly memorable project. He laughs when he recounts how he and Steve Whiting chose the route for Oliktok by flying over and mapping it out on paper from the air and how that could never happen today. After a few years on the slope he returned to survey in Anchorage working on both the Arco and Sohio towers. In 1985 he received a call from friend Jeff Cotton who asked him to come aboard with BELL. First as an Office Tech,

then as Jeff's alternate. Rick remembers those early days as an adventure noting that the equipment and technology were not nearly as sophisticated as it is currently, and everything was new construction.

**"It was exciting to be given a lot of responsibility at a relatively young age and I had to be resourceful and learn to deal with a dynamic work environment"**. He recalls the appeal of working on big sealifts and the stress of making sure that those enormous modules fit precisely. Rick talks about watching those huge modules being set and holding his breath while the hundreds of hours of work all came together perfectly. Another highlight was being involved from the very start with the Badami field.

It is this variety of work, projects, as well as the opportunity to work with so many different colleagues and clients that have kept Rick coming back all these years. It also happens to be the place where he met his wife of 28 years, Laqueta. Rick and Laqueta were both friends of the Cottons who had been trying to get them together, with limited success, for some time. Rick says the first time they met at a party they were both decidedly unimpressed with each other. Apparently the Cottons knew a good combination when they saw it because once Rick was on the slope where Laqueta worked for Arco, they became fast friends and then husband and wife—now blissfully married since 1987. They really are a perfect couple.





When asked how things have changed in the past 30 years Rick talked about how socially everything is different. In the beginning it was a younger work force and there were always social opportunities on the slope. There was even a social director at MCC who would arrange plays, fly in bands, run movies in the theater and ensure that there was always plenty to keep workers occupied in their off hours.

These days the work force in Prudhoe is much more mature and as a rule, people work long hours and maybe go to the gym, then head to their room to rest up and soak their dentures. Of course technology, equipment, safety and management have evolved dramatically but the plywood paneling and orange 70's carpet at MCC remains unchanged.

Rick plans to spend his retirement pursuing his love of travel, working on remodeling and woodworking projects and spending time developing his creative and artistic talents. He sees this move as bittersweet and looks back on his career with BELL with a great deal of pride and satisfaction indicating that it will be the people and relationships he will miss the most.

His advice to his replacement Tim Barnhart is to "Take care of the people who work here and represent Bell well." While Tim has some very big shoes to fill, somehow I'm sure he will take Rick's advice and provide the same strong leadership that Rick has shown for the past 30 years.

#### NEW MANAGEMENT



*Tim Barnhart*

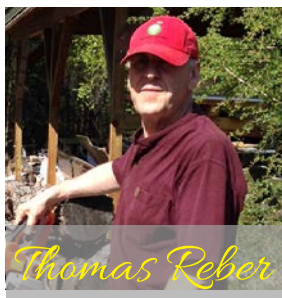
Tim is moving from his position as Project Manager at Pt. Thomson to our BP office where he will replace Rick Allison as Project Manager. Tim originally began work for BELL in 1988 and stayed through 1996 when he left to work around the state. Tim returned in 2006 to our BP office where he was the Lead Cadd Technician until 2012

when he was tapped to head up the Pt. Thomson project. The completion of this project coincided with Rick's retirement and Tim will be moving into that position in January. Welcome back Tim!



*Jacob Wolf*

Jacob has accepted a position with ML&P in Anchorage. Jacob has worked as an Office Technician in our BP office since 2008. Always exceptionally professional, Jacob often took the initiative to learn and grow in his career. In addition to being an excellent drafter, Jacob took the required training to provide quality control/civil inspection services and was always willing to assume new responsibilities. This new position will allow Jacob to stay close to home and spend more time with his family. We wish him the very best.



*Thomas Reber*

After working on/off with BELL for over 30 years, Tom has decided to retire. Rick recalls that after Tom had been on the slope for several years, he made a "punch card" for himself with numbers from 1 to 52. Tom declared that he would punch out a number for each week he worked on the slope and when he got to 52 he was leaving. True to his word, on week 52 Tom left the slope and began working around the state for many years before deciding to return to us for good in 2009. Tom is known for his upbeat and positive attitude and his willingness to teach and mentor young surveyors. His experience and knowledge will be missed and we thank him for his many years of dedicated service.



*Kent Hackleman*

Another "original" from our BP office, Kent is returning after spending the past 3 years at Pt. Thomson. Kent originally came to BELL as a Party Chief then moved into the role of Lead GPS Technician before transferring over to Pt. Thomson rotating with Tim Barnhart as Project Manager. At the completion of Pt. Thomson, Kent returns to us to alternate with Tony Hollaway as Control of Work/Scheduler. A hearty welcome back to you as well Kent!



*Kirstyn Draper*

New to the BP office but not new to BELL, Kirstyn started work at our BP office in November of this year. Kirstyn originally began work at Bell in our Anchorage office as an intern during college. In 2013 she was dispatched up to Pt. Thomson to help survey the airstrip and ultimately moved into the Office Tech position there. Kirstyn has proved to be a valuable asset spending two tours in Korea and now will be alternating with Dave Klein as an Office Technician in Prudhoe. Welcome Kirstyn!

# Employee News & Announcements

Anchorage was the chosen city to host the *GLACIER Conference: Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation, Education and Resilience* to focus on climate change. This day and a half conference took place at the Anchorage Museum on Sunday, August 30th and the Dena'ina center on Monday, August 31st. Incumbents Secretary of State John Kerry gave opening remarks and President Obama was the honored guest who gave closing remarks to the conference. President Obama traveled to three other cities in Alaska to see first-hand effects of climate change and to talk to the Native Americans including: Seward, Dillingham, and Kotzebue.

Your Marketing Coordinator, Pearl-Grace Pantaleone, who serves as Outreach Chair for the Alaska Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals & Secretary for the Ambassador Council, was given the opportunity to volunteer both days to gather knowledge of this precedent issue in the globe.



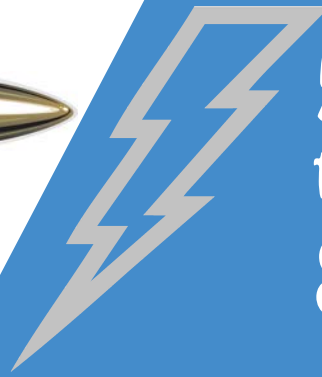
Point Thomson office staff from left to right: Tim B., Cathy B., Karen D., Kirstyn D., James C., Paul (WPF), Kent H., Jeremy A., and Jerrod S. All wear minion goggles on Halloween, as we say farewell to the Point Thomson office for now. BELL has been providing surveying services for the PT Project since its inception in 2008.



BELL was jam packed with back to back conferences the first week of November! The Alaska Miners Association Conference and Trade Show was held at the Dena'ina Center. Bob and Brendan attended the conference and sessions as they learned more about the impacts of the market and future mining projects in Alaska. Thanks to the help of manning the booth to Frank B., Kyle G., Greg B., Mat M., Chris F., Tab C., and Pearl-Grace P. at the 3 day long trade show!

BELL also attended the annual Associated General Contractor's conference at the Captain Cook Hotel the week after the AMA Conference. We learned a lot about current and future construction jobs in Alaska, and hope to get on board with a few of them!



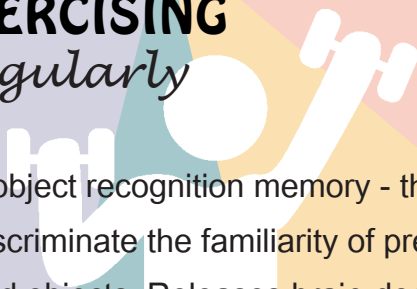


# 5 hobbies that can make you SMARTER

*Contributed by Tab Cahill*

## 1 EXERCISING *Regularly*

Enhances object recognition memory - the ability to discriminate the familiarity of previously encountered objects. Releases brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) - a protein linked to cognitive benefits such as long-term memory.



## 2 PLAYING *a musical* INSTRUMENT

Enhances cognitive skills and academic achievement by promoting the development of certain executive functions. Show enhanced performance for verbal fluency and processing speed.



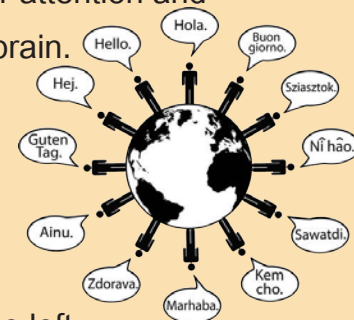
## 3 PLAYING *Video* GAMES

Develops working memory - the system responsible for holding and processing new and already-stored information. Improves spatial navigation, strategic planning and motor performance - 30 minutes of playing a day can significantly increase Grey matter in the brain.



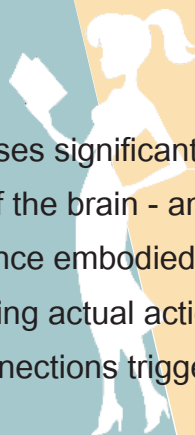
## 4 LEARNING *a new* LANGUAGE

Speaking multiple languages improves the brain's executive function - meaning mentally demanding tasks can be performed better. Bilinguals are better at solving puzzles, planning and task management due to better attention and task-switching capacity in the brain.



## 5 READING

Daily reading causes significant increases in connectivity in the left temporal cortex of the brain - an area associated with receptivity for language. Readers experience embodied semantics, a process that mirrors brain connectivity that occurs during actual actions - e.g. reading about driving can trigger the same neural connections trigger when actually driving.





*By Pearl-Grace Pantaleone*

Companies look every much like the market. When business is booming, more employees are brought on for the demand. The company is constantly busy; projects are coming left to right. Everyone is producing billable hours, and making a considerable profit. But when projects become scarce, competition increases, business then slows, and some employees are let go.

It's the natural ebb and flow of the success of the company. In today's market, we are seeing the latter. This is where companies have to actively—quite frankly, aggressively—search and seek new opportunities. And with this, business development will come to a great, great reward. Here are 6 steps on how you can help our company thrive on an individual level.





## STEP 1 **Determine Your Area of Expertise.**

Before you can establish or develop your expertise, you have to decide what you want to be known for. Think about a very specific niche. With a niche focus, you'll have more opportunities to prove you know what you are talking about, and while your potential audience might be slightly smaller, it will also be that much more relevant. Specificity is a trade of volume for significance.

## STEP 2 **Start Writing & Publishing**

Once you know your area of focus, it's time to start building your reputation. The best way to do so is show off your expertise! Content marketing is the best way to build a brand and reputation online; when people look for information, they tend to go back to sources that were helpful to them. If you can become a trusted source of information through your content, over time you will become collectively known as an expert of your specific field! It's a good idea to start your own blog and update it on a regular basis (you never know who might want to pick it up to publish!).

## STEP 3 **Flesh Out Your Social Media Profiles**

If content is the fuel for your personal brand, and in turn brand for the company you represent, social media is the engine! Take the time to polish the details of your social media profiles—Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Google+—to make sure they are consistently in line with your personal brand standards. Post updates regularly! The new generation (Generation C) is all online, and if you don't exist online, you aren't as credible.

## STEP 4 **Speak at Events and Develop Case Studies**

If you are trying to win the business of the people who are mutually interested, it's a good idea to work up a few case stud-

ies. Work with your past or present clients and co-workers to spin & present a solid narrative. People love real stories more than promises or speculations, so prove what you've done by giving them digestible case studies! You should also consider looking for speaking events in your area. This will help give opportunities to demonstrate your expertise while also connecting with new audiences.

## STEP 5 **NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK**

On social media and in the real world, the key to sparking growth as an individual and the company you represent is networking. I cannot stress this more. Engage with other individuals in your field, social influencers who have many connections, and anybody else who could be valuable in helping you spread the work about your expertise or work you do. Attend professional networking events to meet those in your area. In the online world, engage in community discussions whenever you can. The more opportunities you have to meet people and talk, the better!!

## STEP 6 **Do Your Research on the Project/ Client**

The most daunting thing about trying to get back in the game after a while away, or trying to dive into a new market is recent experience. Some firms just dive into an RFP as a prime thinking they can give it a shot. But the truth is if the client doesn't know you that well and you don't have relevant experience with them, the other team is more likely to win. Find the contracting specialist, procurement agent, or project manager can help build that relationship, and they might possibly come to you asking for the service. You might even find these people at a networking event you went to. Do the research on their website, take the key people out to lunch, and find out the history of the project. Even seek to be the sub in the project to gain experience, to learn more about the client. Just go the distance!

*Success starts somewhere, but everyone needs to be willing to put in the extra work to find those opportunities.*