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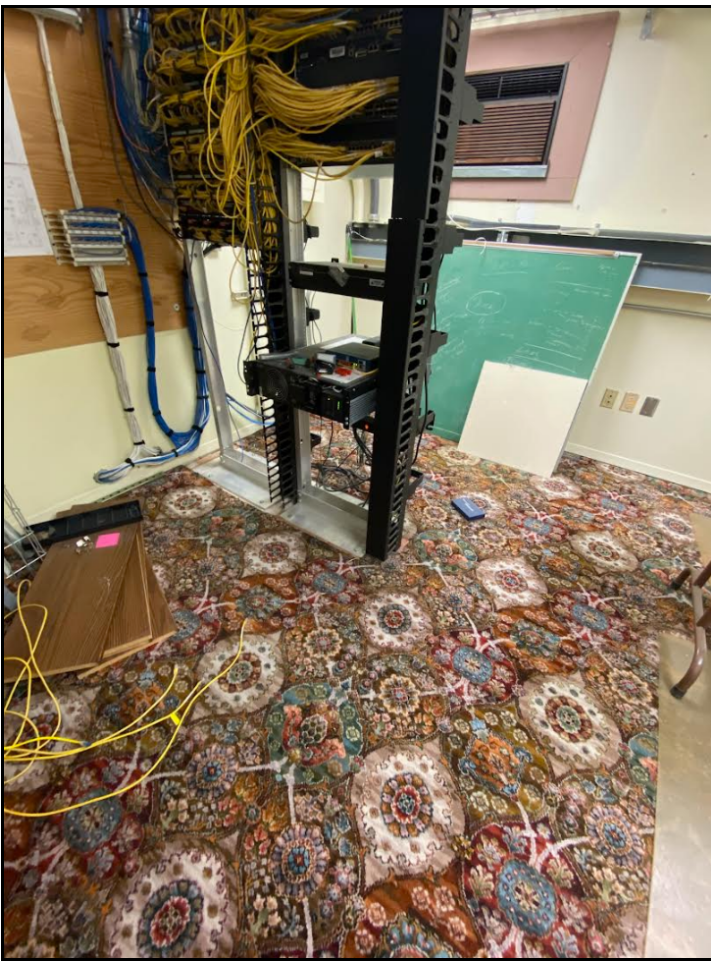
Good morning everyone, welcome to the **Facilities Forum**.

Yesterday was the vernal equinox and the first day of Spring (in the northern hemisphere), which means that today we'll have more than 12 hours of daylight for the first time since September. The short range weather forecast calls for warmer temperatures, but it's going to be icy and slippery for a few more weeks. I grew up in New England, and this time of year we'd be watching for the crocuses to poke through the ground. UAF has its own harbingers of spring though... Pretty soon the steam truck will be opening up the culverts on Denali Lane and the street sweepers will be out picking up a winter's worth of gravel from the campus roads.

Keep reading for an exciting article about Nicki Smith's tour of the FNSB pool facilities (and how they compare to the Patty Center). There's also a story about an epic snow shelter discovered (and demolished) on campus, with a great new vocabulary word.

If anyone out there wants to submit an article or photo for a future edition of the Facilities Forum newsletter, please send them my way. The next issue will be sent out April 3.

The Week in Photos



Occasionally, I like to throw in a “Where on campus is this” picture. Here’s an example. Can anyone identify this building and room? Hint: This isn’t an area rug, it’s wall to wall carpet in a hub room that used to be an office. Many thanks to Brittany Van Eck for the photo!



A moose on campus last week. Photo courtesy of Brittany Van Eck.



The end of one era and beginning of another. The Grounds Crew is sad to see Jason Garron, former trail groomer leave, but excited to welcome Todor Yakimov to the team. Todor has worked on the paint crew since 2018, and is excited for this new opportunity.

Announcements

- MRI Safety Training is being offered tomorrow, March 21 4:00-5:00pm in Murie 103. Anyone who may need to work in the Murie MRI suite MUST take annual training. There is no sign up required for the training session, just show up.
- Congratulations to Larry Anderson, the lead technician in the Alarms Shop, for passing the NICET Level III exam! Alarms Technicians who hold a Level III certification can perform fire alarm system layout activities, supervise level I and II technicians, provide submittal packages, and interact at a higher level with AHJ’s. Nice work Larry!

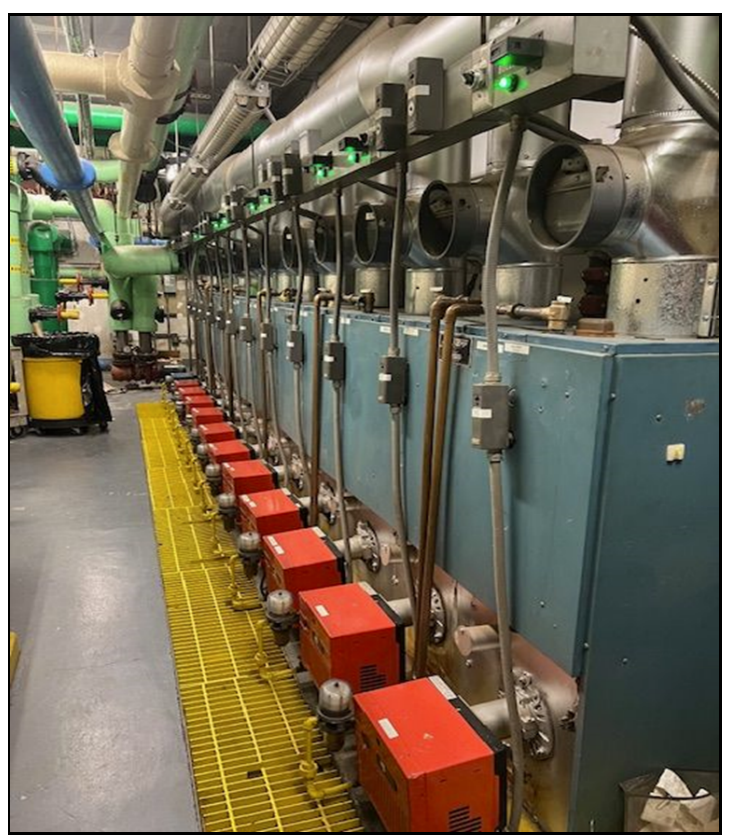
A Tour of the FNSB Pools

By Nicki Smith, Housing, Dining, and Plumbing Shop Service Manager

In early February I reached out to the director of parks and recreation for the Fairbanks North Star Borough inquiring about their local pools. I asked if there was someone I could talk to about touring a few of their facilities, and he directed me to Linda the aquatics manager.

Linda and I spoke back and forth a bit about our different systems, chemicals, and distributors. We also arranged for myself and a few of our technicians to tour the Hamme and Mary Siah Pools. We opted out of Wescott Pool, as Wescott and Hamme are sister pools, and very similar to each other, although Wescott has the slides, which adds just a bit to their total volume of water.

On February 29th myself, Bill Cox, and Mike Stagno went to Mary Siah to meet Linda. Linda was by herself for the tour, so I apologized ahead of time for the very large number of questions that were about to come from Mike and Bill! We first went to the mechanical room where all their chemicals are stored and injected.



These 13 boilers provide heat for the Hamme Pool. Yes... 13! We do the same job with a small shell and tube heat exchanger.

That setup is very similar to our acid/ CO₂ injection we have here at the Patty Pool. We then went into their main mechanical room for the pool where all of their piping and filters were.

Since Mary Siah is much smaller, only about 60,000 gallons of water compared to our 220,000 gallons, their filters are much smaller. They change the sand in those filters 2-3 times a year, where we have never changed the sand, only treated it. We noticed that Mary Siah does not have a balance tank, and that is because of the smaller volume pool, plus their scuppers are lower than the deck of the pool, so that space acts as a buffer. They have that one pretty dialed in as to not have a bunch of water go to drain (waste). I confirmed the rumors, Mary Siah is generally kept 1 degree warmer than Hamme Pool. Linda told us that one degree makes a big difference with their younger, and older customers.

We talked a lot about the history of the pool. It was originally a YMCA in the 50's. Later in the 70's when Hamme Pool was built, Mary Siah launched a campaign to keep the facility from closing (due to the new pool being built down the road). Hamme and Wescott Pool were built at the same time due to the oil boom that drastically increased our state budget.

Mary Siah used to be all tile, until it was recently lined to address pool wall/ floor issues. Now only the blue lanes on the bottom of the pool are tile, so at first glance it gives that tiled look. Something else that happened during that work is that they lost two feet of their depth.

Mary Siah uses a different brand controller than we do from BECS, that is located up in their front office. So all the wires and tubing associated with the control runs from the mechanical room in the basement to the office upstairs. Makes sense for their application. Lastly, one thing I did like about the Mary Siah mechanical room is that all of their piping was color coded and labeled with numbers. Those numbers correlated with the filter backwash process.

Once we were done debating the appropriate test chemicals up in the lifeguard area (STAGNO), we proceeded to Hamme Pool. Hamme Pool is about 250,000 gallons. Their mechanical area is bigger as expected, and also has a separate chemical area. This chemical area is much more segregated as they used to use chlorine gas for Hamme, now they just use chlorine. They also have sand filters, but still

much smaller than ours as we admitted our sand filters are grossly oversized.

We talked a bit about how small the balance tank was for Hamme, and how they still struggle a bit with balancing the water. There were only about 10 people in the pool while we were there, and the pool was flowing over the deck in spots. Bill did some quiet calculations and solved all their balance problems internally.



The shell and tube heat exchanger that provides heat for the UAF pool

All and all it was a good experience, I learned a ton between talking mechanics of it all, and the history. Linda did tell me that her main pool technician came from the Alaska Club, and it is also rumored that they have a salt water system in their pool.

I failed to take any pictures besides one, but the one I did take is pretty impressive. Hamme and Mary Siah do get some steam from the city utilities to heat their pool. Unfortunately it is not enough to heat the large volume of water at Hamme.

A Quinzhee at Cutler

Last Wednesday evening, UAAPD Dispatch called Thadd Williamson and asked him to investigate a large snow shelter they had discovered adjacent to one of the parking lots at Cutler. I went with him to look at it... and I was surprised at what we found!

Like a lot of people, I sometimes fall into the trap of believing that students spend entirely too much time playing video games and not enough time building snow forts. Apparently, there are exceptions.

Snow shelters like this are called [Quinzhees](#). The word is of Athabaskan origin. This particular shelter was well thought out and carefully constructed. A small tunnel served as the opening, and was hidden from the road and parking lot, but visible from the ski trails. A narrow foot path led from the parking lot to the shelter opening. The interior was accessed by crawling on your belly through the tunnel, which opened up to a room about 20' in diameter, shaped like a dome, with a ceiling peak of about 6 ½ feet. There were even decorations on the wall, including a thermometer that showed the inside temperature was 20 degrees warmer than the outside temperature.

Unfortunately for the industrious students who built the structure, the police asked us to demolish it to make sure no one was hurt. Terry Beasley came up to Cutler with the loader, and in about an hour had the pile knocked down and the shelter filled in.

As you wander around campus, be on the lookout for other snow shelters!



Thadd Williamson at the entrance to the Quinzhee, or snow shelter.



Unfortunately, we had to demolish the structure. The above picture shows Terry Beasley from Operations filling it in with the loader.

Join UAF Facilities Services for the Fairbanks Heart Walk!

By Karrah Hearn, Customer Service Manager

When the American Heart Association was founded June 10, 1924, heart disease was considered a death sentence. The best option for many people, they were told, was bed rest. There was no treatment, no hope. But the AHA's founders didn't believe that. They felt that if we only understood heart disease, treatments would follow. And were they ever right. Fast-forward to today and there are not only treatments, but proven ways to lower your risk for heart disease as well as stroke. Through scientific research and the power of millions of volunteers and supporters, we have a deeper understanding of the many factors that contribute to these diseases.

I'm excited to announce the return of our Fairbanks Heart walk this year is on May 18th at the Carlson Center. As we mark 100 years of Heart disease research, we aim for our biggest walk yet!

Facilities Services has a team, and we want you to join us! This is a fun event that can be attended by the whole family.

If you follow the link below, you will be taken to the Facilities team page, where you can learn more, sign up to be a walker for the team, or make an online donation. If you need assistance signing up or have general questions please let Karrah Hearn know.

https://www2.heart.org/site/TR/HeartWalk/WSA-WesternStatesAffiliate?team_id=844397&pg=team&fr_id=10638

Open Facilities Services Positions

- [Assistant Database Manager](#)
- [Painter](#)
- [CT3 Operator](#)
- [Engineering Assistant](#)
- [Senior Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Utilities Electrician](#)
- [Sheet Metal Fabricator](#)
- [Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Asbestos Abatement Technician](#)

- [Housing Maintenance Technician](#)
- [Contract Manager](#)
- [Facilities Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Pool Technician](#)
- [Labor Crew](#)
- [Electrical Assistant/Relamper](#)

UAF Historical Photo of the Week



This is one of the stranger photographs I've come across in the UAF historical archives... the caption reads "Two men in graduation regalia hold a pair of polar bear cubs, University of Alaska Fairbanks 1951 graduation". I have so many questions. Where did they get polar bear cubs? What happened to them after this? Did they have names? Where was their mother?

That's all I have for today. I hope everyone has a safe and productive week. Thanks for all you do for

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