

News Release

DATE: September 13, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Stephenie Wheeler, 265-2671, cell 382-3327
or Tim Sullivan, 265-2357, cell 223-7372

Railroad sets Annual Print Sale-and-Sign Events

2019 official print/poster is first to feature bears

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) will release its 2019 annual poster/print at two public sale-and-signing events featuring artist Susan Watkins, who will sign prints and posters. Both events are part of a local First Friday art showcase.

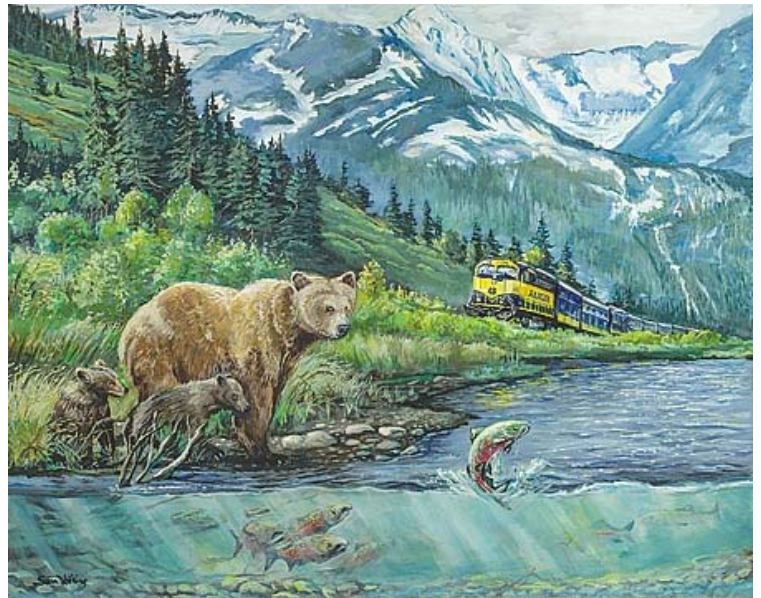
- **ANCHORAGE: Friday, Nov. 2,**
3 - 7 p.m. at the Anchorage Historic Depot (411 W. 1st Avenue)
- **FAIRBANKS: Friday, Dec. 7,**
4 - 7:30 p.m., at the Fairbanks Depot (1031 Alaska Railroad Depot Road)

Entitled *On Time for Dinner*, the oil painting depicts an Alaska Railroad passenger train moving along track between Portage and Seward, beside a stream where a sow and her cubs prepare to feast on salmon. The title refers to the Alaska Railroad's on-time schedule and onboard dining service, as well as meal time for the bears.

"My oldest grandson has been working aboard the train as a server this summer. He says the biggest thrill for the passengers is when they come upon a scene like this," said Watkins. "Such sightings are wonderful and spontaneous. Wildlife are often not the least bit disturbed by the train, and so passengers often get these experiences. Coming to Alaska and seeing wildlife is the focus for so many; and train travel allows such encounters safely and frequently."

The 2019 art print artwork is Watkins' second Alaska Railroad commission. She painted the artwork for the 2013 ARRC print / poster as well.

2019 artwork features a sow and her cubs.



- more -

September 13, 2018

A resident of Eagle River, Watkins has called Alaska home since 2004. She traveled and painted extensively throughout the United States, Europe, South Pacific, Asia and the Middle East before settling in her home and art studio nestled in the Chugach Mountains. Watkins studied under the renowned master artist and author Jack Coggins, among other notable artists, at the Wyomissing Institute of Fine Arts in Reading, PA. The award-winning artist has been featured in numerous art shows and exhibits. She specializes in oil paintings on canvas, linen and birch panels, as well as murals on facility walls. More information about Watkins is available on her website at <http://susanwatkinsfineart.com/>.

Renowned artist John Van Zyle produced the first official Alaska Railroad painting in 1979. Since then, the annual tradition (except in 1984, when no painting was released) has evolved into a popular collector's item. More information about the Alaska Railroad's annual art print program, including history and images of prints from the recent past, are available on www.AlaskaRailroad.com/Corporate > Click IN THE COMMUNITY > then Annual Print Contest.

- end -

The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasj@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired - dial 7 11 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate formats.