DATE: Jan. 8, 2021 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MEDIA CONTACT: Ashleigh Ebert, Thompson & Co. PR (907) 306-0289, ashleigh@thompsonpr.com

## Railroad announces Catch the Train photo contest finalists

Online voting for grand prize winner begins Jan. 8

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Even in a year when travel was down significantly, the beauty of Alaska's only year-round railroad was shared by amateur photographers from Alaska, Rhode Island, Georgia, Florida and Canada in the Alaska Railroad's annual *Catch the Train* photo contest.

The 12 finalists have already earned a spot in the Alaska Railroad's 2022 calendar. Now they vie for a cash prize, a Denali getaway, and the calendar's cover in a public vote on the <u>Alaska Railroad's Facebook page</u> where the grand prize winner will be decided. Voting is open now through Jan. 20.

This grand prize winner will receive the honor of the Alaska Railroad 2022 calendar's cover, \$1,500 in cash, round-trip rail travel for four on the *Denali Star Train* and a hotel stay at the Denali Bluffs Hotel.

## The contest finalists are:

- Andrea Johnson, Wasilla, AK
- Annie Helmsworth, Columbus, GA
- Brian Reed, Chugiak, AK
- David Blazejewski, Providence, RI
- Ehren Rickman, Soldotna, AK
- Janice Stevenson, Venice, FL
- Jennifer Zhu, Tagish, Yukon Territory, Canada
- Joanie Havenner, Anchorage, AK
- Ken Edmier, Leesburg, GA
- Kent Huey, Anchorage, AK
- Rich Harter, North Pole, AK
- Shelly Plum, Anchorage, AK

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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, each finalist will receive rail travel for two on the Alaska Railroad route of their choice.

"We received nearly 400 entries to the photo contest this year, and we always love to see how our fans and passengers capture the experience of riding our trains in a photo," said Alaska Railroad Marketing Communications Manager Meghan Clemens. "We look forward to welcoming our talented finalists onboard."

Online voting for the calendar grand prize winner is open now through Jan. 20 and can be accessed through the Alaska Railroad Facebook page (www.facebook.com/alaskarailroad). The grand prize winner will be announced on or around Jan. 21.

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

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