

# ALASKA RAILROAD

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Railroad Print/Poster Signing in Fairbanks Dec. 7 *2019 official art print is first to feature bears*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) releases its 2019 annual poster/print in Fairbanks during a second public sale-and-signing event. Similar to the first event held in Anchorage Nov. 2, the Fairbanks First Friday event features artist Susan Watkins, who will sign prints and posters. Event details

#### **First Friday, Dec. 7**

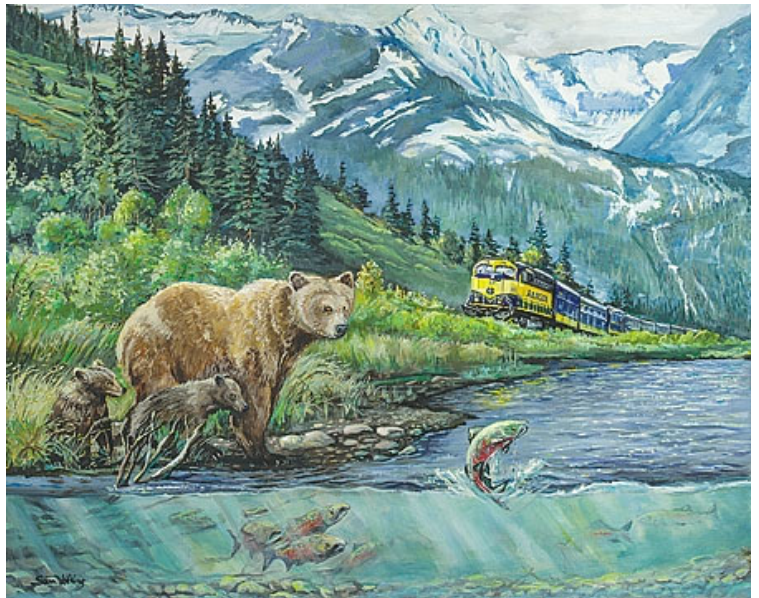
4 - 7:30 p.m., at the Fairbanks Depot  
1031 Alaska Railroad Depot Road  
*Includes free rail ticket drawing*

Entitled *On Time for Dinner*, the oil painting depicts an Alaska Railroad passenger train moving along the tracks 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.*



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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](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com/Corporate) > Click IN THE COMMUNITY > then Annual Print Contest.

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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](mailto: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.