

# ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION



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## **2006 Alaska Railroad Commemorative Print “Lighting the Way” in January**

Anchorage-The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) will release its annual print in January 2006. “Lighting The Way” by Anchorage artist Kurt Jacobson, continues the tradition of artwork featuring the Alaska Railroad.

This year’s print features an Alaska Railroad SD-70MAC locomotive pulling passenger cars through the wintry backcountry of Alaska. The scene has Mount McKinley in the background with the train coming toward the viewer. This was Kurt’s first submission to the Alaska Railroad Art competition.

“The Alaska Railroad is an important mode of transportation for Alaska in the winter as well as the summer,” says Kurt. “So the painting shows how beautiful Alaska is, in a winter snowfall, and how the railroad “Lights the Way” through a snowfall providing its service throughout Alaska.”

Kurt was born and raised in Alaska. With no formal Art school training, he has taken lessons from other Alaskan artists such as Teresa Ascone in watercolors and from Bill Cross in Acrylic painting classes. After shattering his wrist in 1995 and having it rebuilt, his family convinced him to get serious about art. In 1998, he founded Snowbound Art Studios, and started selling his art at the Anchorage, downtown market. Today, his originals are sold in Art galleries in South Central Alaska as well as the larger Arts & Craft shows in Anchorage.

Kurt will sign prints and posters in the Anchorage Depot on Saturday, January 7 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and in the new Fairbanks Depot the following Saturday, January 14, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Prints cost \$50, posters cost \$25, and pins cost \$5.

An electronic image of the painting is available on the Railroad’s web site at:

<http://www.alaskarailroad.com/arrc41.html>

John Van Zyle produced the first official Alaska Railroad painting in 1979. Since then, the annual tradition (excepting 1984, when no painting was released) has evolved into a favored collector’s item. The posters, prints and pins will remain on sale at the Anchorage and Fairbanks depots following the signing events.