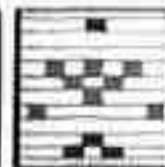


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The original Alaskan regatta

The Prince William Sound Tourism Coalition's regatta begins with visitors assembling in Anchorage for a motor coach trip to Portage and a train ride to Whittier. A tour of local shops and a boat tour to the nearby bird rookery and other parts of Prince William Sound are among the highlights of the many activities.

The first evening of the regatta begins with a flotilla parade into Valdez Harbor where vessels drift right into dinner and a concert. The evening ends with Casino Night in Valdez. The second day of the regatta offers numerous sightseeing and adventure opportunities including optional tours of the Alyeska pipeline terminal with travel back to Anchorage provided via air, rail, vessel or motorcoach.

The casino gambling and the regatta auction have proven to be favorites.

Cruises, tours, air travel packages, adventure experiences and luxury hotel accommodations are sold on the auction block for poker chips. Almost 300 people attended last year's regatta, held the first weekend in May.

The casino night in Valdez offered prizes for the best and worst poker hands with the winning gamblers taking home seven-day cruises in the Caribbean.

The different vessels participating in the regatta offer up a wide variety of adventures during the "cruise Prince

William Sound" portion of the regatta. Each boat does their own thing, with each captain showing off his or her favorite secluded spot and scenic treasure. After these tours of the sound wrap up, all vessels rendezvous in Anderson Bay and then float into Valdez together.

The coalition plans and coordinates several kick-off events prior to the regatta. In 1993, these included



bingo aboard the Klondike in Whittier and the dinner cruise and casino night aboard the MV Bartlett in Valdez. Most surprising to the coalition volunteers who coordinated the two annual regattas has been the enthusiasm with which people have participated. Residents of the Prince William Sound communities have flown to Anchorage for cocktail dresses and men's evening wear.

Anyone interested in participating in next year's regatta, scheduled for May 14 and 15, 1994, can send a post card requesting information. Or request to be placed on the "early interest" list. Write **PWS Regatta, P. O. Box 243044, Anchorage, Alaska 99524.** ■

