

Saveoonga Plans Walrus Carnival; To Display Long-Whiskered Walrus

"About two weeks ago, Nathan Noongwook got a walrus that had real long whiskers," said Jerry Wongittilin, council president of Saveoonga on St. Lawrence Island. "The whiskers are nine or ten inches long. That is the first time anyone has ever caught a walrus with long whiskers like that."

The walrus is very unusual

indeed because the average walrus has about an inch and a half to two inches of whiskers.

"That walrus didn't even look old. It was just different. We also have a walrus with four tusks," added Jerry with an amused smile.

These unusual animals will be on display for everyone to see during the Walrus Carni-

val, the first such celebration Saveoonga has ever put on in its history. It will take place on April 16-17 and then again on April 24.

"We have three charter plane loads that will come from the Nome area. There might be about 100 people in the three charters," Wongittilin said. "I would also like

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Walrus Carnival .

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to see people come from Fairbanks because they would really see something very different."

There will also be an old style walrus skin Eskimo house on display for the visitors. Reindeer burgers will be served as well as walrus meat.

The program includes blanket toss, women's snowshoe race, non-Native seal hooking contest, tug of war, Eskimo style, rope jumping, Eskimo style, Eskimo dances, walrus harpooning demonstration, fishing contest, dogteam races for visitors, and baleen toboggan races for children.

On April 16, Nome drama group will fly over to perform at Savoonga.

For prizes, non-Natives will be rewarded with ivory carved pieces and the Eskimos will be given "white men prizes like merchandise."

Jerry Wongittilin first thought of the carnival.

"Our people think it is a terrific idea. It is one way to try to promote tourism to Savoonga," said Wongittilin.

Savoonga welcomes everyone for an exciting visit and cautions them not to forget their cameras.