

7<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON VOLCANIC ASH

Anchorage (Alaska), USA  
19-23 (a.m.) October 2015

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. VENUE OF THE MEETING

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Volcanic Ash Workshop will be held at the Atwood Center, Alaska Pacific University (APU), Anchorage, Alaska, from 19 to 23 (a.m.) October 2015. The Atwood Center is located at 4101 University Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Please see the Campus map on page 5.

2. WORKING LANGUAGE

The working language will be English **only**.

3. HOTEL BOOKING

There is **no block of rooms reserved at a selected hotel**. All participants will be responsible to make their own hotel booking. Because the workshop is not taking place during our tourist season, rates will have gone down and selection of rooms should be relatively easy. The following is a list of suggested hotels and their websites. Please make your booking directly with the hotel of your choice.

**The closest hotel** (within walking distance to the Atwood Center, see Campus map) is the **Marriott Springhill Suites – University Lake** (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ancum-springhill-suites-anchorage-university-lake/>). While this hotel overlooks a small lake, it is not within walking distance of any restaurants. However, the hotel does have a shuttle service, and they can take you downtown and pick you up when you are ready to return to the hotel. For more convenience, you may wish to rent a car. There is complimentary on-site parking. Hot buffet breakfast is included. Tax (12%) is additional.

For those who prefer to stay downtown, the following list represents only a small sample of the many hotels that are available. **All hotels will charge an additional 12% tax**. There is also a fee for parking a car per day, which can be a bit expensive.

(a) **The Hilton Anchorage**

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alaska/hilton-anchorage-ANCAHHF/index.html>

Prices start at \$99/night (a “government” rate). Breakfast is not included.

(b) **The Historic Anchorage Hotel**

<http://www.historicanchoragehotel.com/>

The only hotel in Anchorage on the National Register of Historic Places, The Historic Anchorage Hotel was Alaska's central meeting and gathering place when it was established in 1916. Restored to its original grandeur in 1989, this boutique hotel stands as a classic example of

Anchorage's rich heritage and commitment to preservation. Prices start at \$219/night with complimentary breakfast.

**(c) Anchorage Grand Hotel**

<http://www.anchoragegrand.com/>

An all-suite hotel with a queen or king bed (or two beds) in a separate bedroom, living room with queen sofa sleeper, and gourmet kitchen. Prices starting at \$85/night with complimentary continental breakfast.

**(d) The Westmark Hotel**

<http://www.westmarkhotels.com/destinations/anchorage-hotel/>

\$109/night. Does not include breakfast.

**(e) Quality Suites Downtown Anchorage**

<http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-anchorage-alaska-AK017?source=gglocalai>

\$99 government rate; from \$84 advance purchase rate (no refunds, no changes); from \$105 best available rate. Shuttle service. Full breakfast included.

**(f) Copper Whale Inn**

<http://www.copperwhale.com/index.htm>

A Bed & Breakfast (B&B). Rates: \$99/night for shared bath; \$129 for private bath; \$159 for a suite. Continental breakfast included.

There are a number of hotels in the "midtown" area of Anchorage, which is a little closer to the workshop venue. Many of these hotels offer free parking and there are restaurants within walking distance. Tax of 12% is always additional. A small sample is provided as follows:

**(g) The Embassy Suites Anchorage (a Hilton property)**

<http://embassysuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alaska/embassy-suites-anchorage-ANCESES/index.html>

Prices from \$129 (which is a government rate). There is a courtesy hotel shuttle service. Free hot breakfast. Complimentary parking.

**(h) The Hampton Inn Anchorage (a Hilton property)**

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alaska/hampton-inn-anchorage-ANCAKHX/index.html>

Prices from \$152 (no government rate offered). There is a courtesy hotel shuttle service. Free hot breakfast. Complimentary parking.

(i) **Best Western Golden Lion**

<http://bestwesternalaska.com/hotels/best-western-golden-lion-hotel>

Prices from \$99 (government rate). Free parking. No hotel shuttle service. On-site restaurant serves breakfast – not complimentary.

(j) **Springhill Suites Midtown Anchorage**

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ancsh-springhill-suites-anchorage-midtown/>

Prices from \$190. Complimentary on-site parking. Free breakfast. Airport shuttle service – on request.

To see all hotels located on a map, use Google maps and enter “Anchorage, Alaska” in the search line. Then delete this and enter “hotels” or “bed and breakfasts.” Zoom in to see the hotel names. If you have questions about a facility in which you are interested, contact either Dave or Renee for more details on the area.

#### 4. **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**

The Municipality of Anchorage People Mover Bus stops every hour at the South Terminal in the Ted Stevens International Airport from approximately 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. The bus will take passengers to the downtown Transit Center, which is within easy walking distance of most hotels. The fare is \$2.00. **Must have exact change.**

There is no airport shuttle service for Ted Stevens International Airport, i.e., Super Shuttle, GO Shuttle.

Many hotels provide complimentary shuttle service. See above under “Hotel Reservations.”

Rental car companies that service Ted Stevens International Airport include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National and Thrifty. These are on-site, and there is a free airport shuttle to the Rental Car Center across from the South Terminal. Other smaller, locally owned, independent rental-car companies have sites located around the Anchorage area. You may get a better price if you shop around, but note that many of these companies do NOT provide any complimentary shuttle service, so you would need to take a taxi to their facility.

Taxis run about \$10-22 one way to downtown/midtown hotels.

**There will not be a shuttle service to the workshop venue.** Participants are urged to share the costs of renting cars and parking fees.

#### 5. **ENTRY VISA REQUIREMENTS**

Some participants may require an entry visa. Please confirm with the nearest US Embassy.

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows citizens of participating countries to travel to the United States without obtaining a visa, for stays of 90 days or less for tourism or business. Go to <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/visit/visa-waiver-program.html> for more information about the VWP.

All other participants will need to apply for a visa at the nearest US Embassy or Consulate in your country of origin. For more information, go to <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/visit/visitor.html>. **If you need a letter of invitation from the US host, please contact Dave Schneider via e-mail** (see below).

## 6. CURRENCY EXCHANGE

US currency is the dollar (\$). Currencies can be exchanged at airports. US banks can also provide US dollars but you would likely need an account. There are ATMs at many locations around Anchorage that accept credit cards.

To convert your local currency to the dollar, you can use any number of currency conversion websites, such as <http://www.xe.com/>.

## 7. LOCAL CLIMATE IN OCTOBER

The mean weather conditions in Anchorage in October are as follows:

Mean daily maximum:	Low 40s F (+4°C)
Mean daily minimum:	Around 30 degrees (-1°C).
Absolute maximum:	51 degrees (+11°C).
Absolute minimum:	18 degrees (-8° C).

October is a relatively dry month with little to no precipitation. However, it is not unusual to have snow.

Anchorage enjoys low dewpoints, so humidity is low and, thus, the climate is very pleasant. However it is best to dress in layers and be prepared for both warmer or colder days. Bring an umbrella and appropriate shoes that can handle wintry precipitation.

For more information about the weather in Anchorage prior to your departure, visit the National Weather Service (NWS) website:

[http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=61.21805771700048&lon=-149.90027773099973&site=all&smap=1#.VSMTf\\_nF\\_OE](http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=61.21805771700048&lon=-149.90027773099973&site=all&smap=1#.VSMTf_nF_OE)

## 8. DRESS CODE

Dress code is casual. Good walking shoes are recommended.

## 9. LOCAL ORGANIZER

The Local Organizers for the meeting are:

Name & Organization	Telephone No.	Email Address
David Schneider (USGS)	1-907-786-7037 office 1-907-250-7923 mobile	<a href="mailto:djschneider@usgs.gov">djschneider@usgs.gov</a>
Renee Tatusko (NOAA/NWS)	1-907-271-3886	<a href="mailto:Renee.L.Tatusko@noaa.gov">Renee.L.Tatusko@noaa.gov</a>

**ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP**

