



Photo courtesy Joel Nudelman

Fat Albert's Tavern

43792 Raven Creek East, Beluga, AK (907) 583-2013
61°08'57"N 151°03'55"W

License Issued: May 27, 1987 to Albert Van Huff and Christel Richardson

CLOSED 2017

Amenities: Pool table, dart board, TV, juke box.

Web site: None. YouTube

History and Notoriety: The community of Beluga is located on the west shore of Cook Inlet and is less than 40 miles from Anchorage and only 30 miles from Nikiski. However, it is not on the state road system and is accessible only by plane or boat. The people that live here work at the Chugach Electric power plant (which powers about half of Anchorage) or for the oil and gas industry. The population swells during the summer months when people come to fish and hunt.

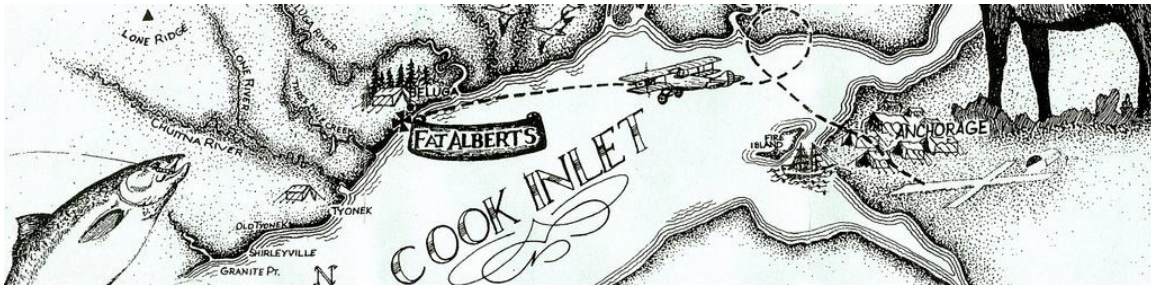
When Albert and Christel (now married) first opened the tavern, a bunkhouse was built in connection. As there are no hotels and only one general store in Beluga, Fat Albert's is the unofficial community gathering place. People from the neighboring community of Tyonek (10-mile drive) are also frequent customers.

Unfortunately, Fat Albert's was the scene of a murder in 2004. While the altercation between the two local men involved was clouded with conflicting stories, the man who owned the handgun was found guilty of manslaughter.

It's enlightening to be on this side of the Cook Inlet. When you look east, it's like looking at a whole different world. It's amazing how much difference a single body of water can make.

Visiting Fat Albert's: This bar is located near the bluff and has a deck with a great view of Cook Inlet. If you are here after dark, you can see the lights of Anchorage, Nikiski, and the flames from the offshore oil rigs. It is a small bar but has lots of charm. Fat Albert's is a seasonal bar and is only open from April 1 to September 30.

Author's Note: Fat Albert's is now the Beluga Fish Camp, which has no bar.



For a "Hook of a time!"



Your Hosts

Al & Christel Van Huff

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