



## **The Albatross (a.k.a. The Alby)**

37556 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Kenai, AK (907) 283-7052  
60°30'24"N 151°16'19"W

License Issued: 1983 to Patricia M. Defoor and Ernest Poole

**CLOSED 2022**

Amenities: Pool tables, dart boards, horseshoe pits, juke box, occasional live music

Web site: Facebook. YouTube

History and Notoriety: The Albatross is named for a character from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by the English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, written in 1797–1798. The poem relates the experiences of a sailor who has returned from a long sea voyage, where he encounters an albatross, which are among the largest of flying birds.

The Albatross is a handsome and very well-kept place to enjoy a beverage and mingle with the locals, who refer to the bar as the “community center.” The mahogany back bar was made in 1941 by the Detroit Cabinet Co. When Pat (now Vinson) and Ernie Poole opened their

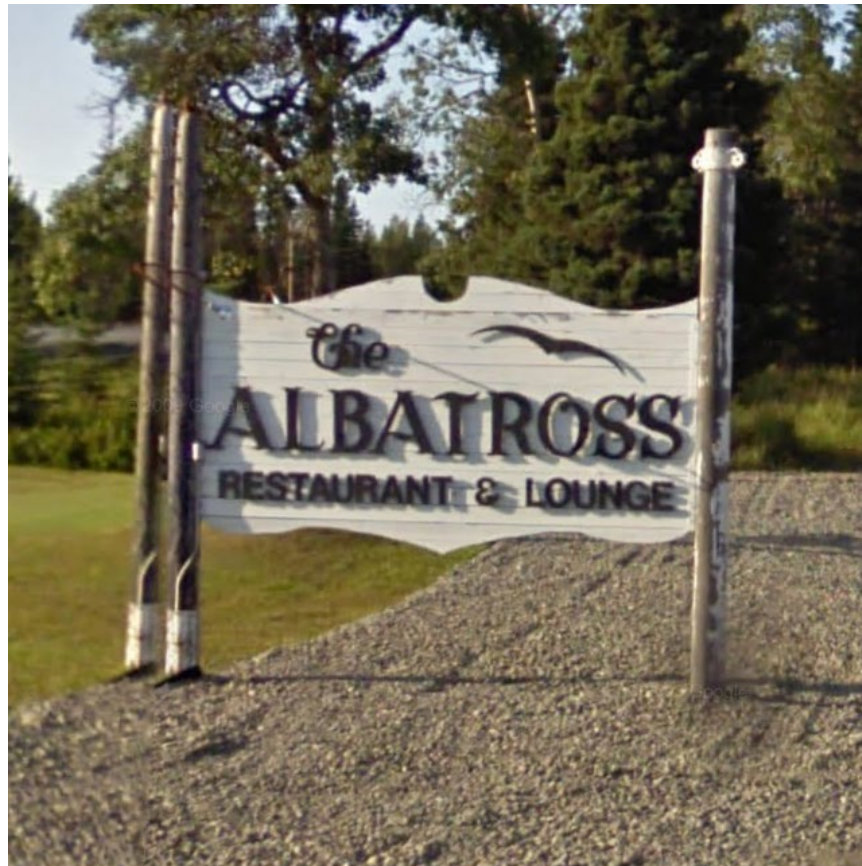
establishment, the restaurant was an integral part. The restaurant closed after Ernie passed away in 2000 and has never re-opened.

Darts are a popular pastime, and the Albatross sponsors several teams. In fact, Pat and Ernie created rules for Mixed Gender Dart competitions which are used to this day.

Visiting the Albatross: Thanksgiving is a big event here. The bar sponsors a Kid's Auction on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, with proceeds going to local kids. Customers donate the items, which can range from the absurd to incredibly elegant. Be sure to ask to see the "dickie bird."

**Author's Note:** This bar was another victim of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photos by the author: September 1, 2012.















The "Dickie Bird"

