

CONNECT

WITH OWL
VIDEOCONFERENCES



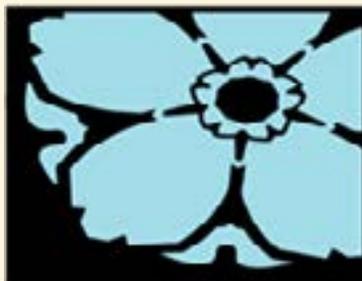
Andi Hirsch, Community Outreach Librarian

When Bill Butler, the author of “66 Days Adrift: A True Story of Disaster and Survival at Sea” offered to speak at the Juneau Public Library, Andi Hirsch, the Community Outreach Librarian, jumped at the opportunity. The Juneau Public Library already owned the book and sailing is a popular activity in Southeast Alaska. Furthermore, Bill is a lively, engaging and humorous speaker. After planning the visit, Andi told Bill about Alaska’s Online with Libraries Videoconferencing Network (OWL). Bill thought that utilizing the OWL network was a great idea, allowing him to connect with smaller communities that he could not visit. Andi posted Bill’s event to the central OWL calendar and soon seven other libraries signed up. During Bill’s presentation, he was able to talk directly to the live audiences in Juneau and other towns across Alaska. It was a great success! Over 40 people attended, learning about the nine weeks he and his wife were adrift in the Pacific. OWL videoconferencing connected nearly 1/3 of his audience, allowing them to join and participate in this opportunity that would once have been limited to local residents.

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