

FAIRBANKS

Here we are, in Fairbanks, Alaska. We have reached the apex of our trip, now every mile will bring us closer to home.

Fairbanks is located in the heart of Alaska and the Chena River runs thru it. This photo of the Chena was taken from the RV Park we stayed at.



One bit of trivia we picked up was that the name of Fairbanks was chosen in 1902 by a District Court Judge, James Wickersham, who admired a man named Charles Fairbanks. He was a senior senator from Indiana, who later became Vice President under the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt.

The city is a modern city, and could be any city in the lower 48. The population of the city is now around 32,000, which includes many Army and Air Force personnel stationed here at several bases. The economy here appears to be alive and well. The impetus being Federal monies and oil related business. All North Slope activities are supplied from Fairbanks. Coming into Fairbanks, one drives into the city of North Pole. Here we see a huge statue of Santa Clause as well as a large Christmas store, open year round with Xmas gifts, and all the trappings that go with it.

After a couple of days in Fairbanks, we left for Denali Park which is about 125 miles south. We have signed in for three days here, which will be as much a rest stop as a tour destination. Having been here 4 times and done everything there is to do, there is not much left except back country hiking! Our hiking abilities ended forty years ago. Our next stop is Anchorage.

Dave & Bonnie