



## Power Search

- Our Stories
- Web
- Yellow Pages
- Classifieds

Search

## Local Interest

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Outdoors
- Arts
- Letters
- Business
- Seawatch
- Opinion
- Neighbors
- Town Crier
- Churches
- Obituaries
- Activities
- History
- Circulation
- Archives
- Classifieds

## Features

- Photo features
- Editorial Cartoon
- Tourism Guide
- Forum
- Archives
- Real Estate
- Alaskan Autos
- Explore the Kenai
- About us

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## Millions of viewers in United States and Europe to get look at Homer

*Homer video to be broadcast here and abroad*

**By McKibben Jackinsky**  
**Staff writer**



□ Photo by McKibben Jackinsky, Hom Paul Gray, producer of the Exploring Alaska Television Show, is making a 30-minute Homer video to be seen by more than 50 million Americans and 20 million people in Europe. □

Gigantic brown bear and world-record halibut? Seen 'em. Towering snow-capped mountains and sparkling blue water? Ho hum. It's people that call this great state home and the activities that fill the hours of their days that interest non-Alaskans, according to Paul Gray, producer of the Exploring Alaska television show.

Gray is out to give people what they want, starting with a 30-minute video about Homer. The film will be seen throughout Alaska on Gray's show, which has weekly ABC statewide distribution. Thanks to a contract with Markwell Media Productions, it also will be shown to more than 50 million viewers across the United States and an additional 20 million viewers in Europe.

"This is not your typical travelogue about going fishing," said Gray who has been filming in Homer for the past two weeks. Instead, the film will have a heavy emphasis on Homer's artistic environment. "It's Homer filmed with an artistic touch."

There are glimpses of First Friday and the Shorebird and Wooded Boat festivals mixed with historical footage. Because Homer is a frequently accessed doorway to activities around Kachemak Bay there also is a trip to Otter Cove, the oyster farms of Peterson Bay and visits with individuals at Halibut Cove and China Poot to whet

viewers' appetites.

Local musicians are the common thread that ties together shots of people and activities set against the area's stunning scenery. Sponsoring businesses and organizations pay a per-minute rate for placement in the film.

"Land's End Resort is the one that got it all started," Gray said of the film's initial support from the business at the end of the Spit. They were soon followed by other area businesses, including Homer Ocean Charters.

"It will have a music video look," Gray said of the variety of local musicians, such as Marjolein Cardon and Atz Kilcher, and those brought to the area to entertain, such as Richie Havens who recently performed before Homer audiences thanks to Clave and Downward Dog Productions.

Born in Idaho, Gray came to Alaska in 1975. He worked



in the Prudhoe Bay oilfield for three years, before going to work in the advertising department of a trade magazine in Anchorage. Several years later, Gray and his wife, Nancy, moved to the Kenai Peninsula, where Gray began a small advertising paper. He eventually sold that and developed his weekly Alaska television show, which premiered in 1997.

□ Photo by McKibben Jackinsky, Hom  
A 30-minute film about Homer that is being produced by Paul Gray's Exploring Alaska Television Show is woven together with music by Homer musicians, as well as musicians that come to Homer to perform, such as Richie Havens, who was recently brought to the Kenai Peninsula by Clave and Downward Dog Productions. □

Since then, Gray's camera has captured numerous facets of the Alaska adventure. His lens has focus on the annual Polar Bear Plunge in Seward, the 414-mile Dalton Highway and a horseback excursion into the mountainous gold mining areas surrounding Cooper Landing. He has tracked the 2,000-mile bone-jarring, metal-twisting Iron Dog competition from Wasilla to Nome to Fairbanks and documented rubbing-elbows-with-the-bears sport fishing at Silver Salmon Creek Lodge on the west side of Cook Inlet. There aren't many corners of Alaska that have escaped Gray's camera.

When Gray met Mike Markwell earlier this year, he was encouraged to train his lens on the more personal, up-close corners where Alaskans live their day-to-day lives. Markwell Media Production is a syndicated media consulting company based in Kentucky. Gray's relationship with Markwell offers increased exposure on the Colours channel, as part of Dish Network, as well as American One Netw American One Sports Network and distribution overseas.

"He said to show more cities and people and what they do," Gray said.

Where better to begin than Homer?

"This is a place that encourages and is fascinated with the creative spirit. ... It is wonderful and rich. There is culture with a lot of heritage. No one has ever focused on that," Gray said.

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