

Adventure Panel Biographies

Mike Gordon arrived with his family in Seward in 1953, at age ten. Mike graduated from Anchorage High School in 1960 and in 1970 opened what was to become the world famous Chilkoot Charlie's nightclub, which he owned and operated for forty-five years, selling the operation to his employees in 2015.

Mike has completed fifteen marathons and summited the highest mountain on six of the seven continents, reaching 27,500 feet on Mt Everest, the seventh, on his third attempt at age fifty. He graduated from the University of San Francisco with a bachelor's degree in politics and a minor in philosophy, later earning a master's degree in writing from Alaska Pacific University.

Roman Dial is a long-time Alaskan, father, husband, and professor of biology and mathematics at Alaska Pacific University. "The Adventurer's Son" is his second book. His first was "Packrafting!"

As a lifelong adventurer and outdoor educator, **Nancy Pfeiffer** has traveled from Antarctica to the Arctic Ocean. Life as a mountaineering guide has given her the opportunity to experience the world's highest summits, yet it is the landscapes and cultures encountered along the way that intrigue her most. Her published works range from poetry to scientific research, and explore subjects from the joys and frustrations of building a house as a single woman, to mountaineering for paraplegics.

Caroline Van Hemert is an Alaskan author, adventurer, and wildlife biologist. Her writing and research have been featured in the *New York Times*, *Audubon*, *LA Times*, *Outside*, and *National Geographic*. Her recent book, *The Sun is a Compass: A 4,000-mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds*, tells the story of her human-powered expedition from the Pacific Coast to the Chukchi Sea—by rowboat, ski, foot, packraft, and canoe—to rediscover birds, the natural world, and her own love of science.