



**Wrangell-St. Elias glowed in the Alaskan summer sunset.**

and sunshine and warmth.

The Valdez option should be required for all. The weather was clear and warm (even at Worthington Glacier) and the scenery was awesome. Valdez was spectacular, with several groups of competitors and staff walking the waterfront, taking pictures of the marina with snow-capped peaks as a backdrop, checking out the salmon derby, and having dinner at a great little restaurant. The return to Glenallen featured sunset-lit mountains and Mount Wrangell in shades of pink and orange. I've seen that poster on sale in Seattle.

Day Nine began cold and clear, west from the Caribou Lodge parking lot on the 14.7-mile Talsona Creek TSD, before a 134-mile transit to Palmer. Hatcher Pass TSD north of Palmer was saved, according to Anchorage newspapers, by an alert parks employee who noticed the erosion on the paved hill climb

along Little Susitna River. A call to the highways department started reinforcement with truckloads of rock. Our long Hatcher Pass route had to be detoured however, since the gravel road west of the summit had washed away.

The rally was regrouped at Gold Mint Trailhead and a new transit written for 62 miles into Anchorage. As cold as all the riders were, Anchorage wouldn't come soon enough. Total mileage to Anchorage: 2,684 to 4,217, before heading home. Your mileage may vary.

Dinner and awards (and an occasional roast) were held at the Sourdough Mining Co.; shuttle provided from the hotel, complete with a six-gun totin' "sour-dough" driver. Winner of the 2006 Alcan5000 was the Subaru Outback team of Revere Jones, Brian Deno and Tom Gould. Winner of the Unlimited Cycles (third overall) was Jim Robertson on a BMW F650GS Dakar, from

Aptos, Calif. First Cycle2 (fifth overall) was Dean Scheel on the sweet Suzuki DL-1000 V-Strom. First SOP (sixth overall) was Doug Martin with son Brantley, and navigator Will Amthor, in another Subaru Outback. First SUV (ninth overall) to Phil Stonich, John Stonich and Michelle Henrie in a GMC Envoy. First Cycle1 (10th overall) to Jay Ritchie from Starkville, Miss. First Team went to Cars 1, 2 and 9 as Impromptu Subaru. Ironman was shared by 13 who completed all the options and collected the most miles.

*Full results, photos and links, archives on previous events, and more stories can be found at [www.alcan5000.com](http://www.alcan5000.com).*

*For more rally stories, search links and schedules, see [www.tsdroadrally.com](http://www.tsdroadrally.com).*