



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Adventures of Intrepid Naturalist and Survivalist  
is Explored in *Alone in the Wilderness***

**Inspiring Story of Dick Proenneke airs December 11 at 9 P.M.**

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (November 21, 2008) – In 1967, Dick Proenneke retired at age 50. He traveled to the Twin Lakes region at the base of the Aleutian Peninsula and built himself a log cabin on the lake shore. With only skill and resourcefulness as his companions, it was there, amid all the beauty – and harshness – of Alaska, that he spent the next 30 years of his life, *Alone in the Wilderness*.

Rhode Island PBS will air this fascinating glimpse into solitude and survival on **December 11 at 9 PM** on channel 36, digital 36.1, RI cable 8, DirecTV36, Dish 7776. The broadcast is part of the public television station's quarterly fundraising and membership pledge drives.

*Alone in the Wilderness*, produced by Bob Swerer, uses color footage Proenneke recorded himself to share with his family back home in Iowa. Filmed mostly with a stationary 16mm camera, the film consists of shots of Proenneke performing tasks around his cabin, canoeing, walking, plus views of wildlife, along with narration. For shots of himself, Proenneke would fix the camera in place, and then perform his tasks. Since he was alone, he would have to return for the camera after walking or canoeing away.

In 1997 producer Bob Swerer and his father flew to Twin Lakes to visit with Dick Proenneke and to explore the Twin Lakes region. With more than 3,000 feet of film shot, and meticulous, poetic journals written, Proenneke's adventures in Alaska resulted in three films, edited and produced by

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ALONE IN THE WILDERNESS airs on Rhode Island PBS

November 21, 2008

Page 2 of 2

Bob Swerer; ***Alone in the Wilderness*** was released in 2003. This documentary covers Proenneke's first year in the wilderness, showing his day-to-day activities, and the passing of the seasons as he sought to scratch out a living.

With insights ranging from survival in the wilderness to man's place in the cosmos, Proenneke's experience is best described as poetry.

Information/sources

<http://www.dickproenneke.com/DickProenneke.html>

<http://www.aloneinthewilderness.com/>

*WSBE Rhode Island PBS is owned and operated by the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority, a quasi-public agency of the State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island PBS is a viewer-supported member of the Public Broadcasting Service. Committed to lifelong learning for more than 40 years, Rhode Island PBS has used the power of commercial-free media to educate, engage, enrich, inspire, and entertain viewers of all ages in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts, and eastern Connecticut. For more information about the programs and education services at Rhode Island PBS, visit [www.ripbs.org](http://www.ripbs.org).*

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