

*“I thought you would enjoy the picture attached, taken yesterday, December 1, as I made a 60-mile swing on the snowmachine trail checking out RW (rural wireless) equipment issues in "The Tundra Villages", i.e. Atmautluak, Nunapitchuk and Kasigluk. About five miles out of Atmautluak heading back to Bethel I stopped when I came across these young GCI customers who had a broken chain drive in the middle of a frozen lake. In the old days this would have been a real emergency, but the young man told me, ‘No problem.’ He had just used his GCI cell phone to call his dad to come give them a tow back to their house. When I snapped the picture he was on the line with his parts supplier, ordering a new drive chain so he could pick up parts in Kasigluk and hopefully fix the machine same day. The terrain in the middle of the frozen lake was flat enough that standing on the seat gave him the height he needed to complete a call. (The bushes in the picture are actually trail markers planted by Atmautluak Search and Rescue). These young people acted like it was no big deal at all. It seems that all of us in the GCI Rural Wireless projects have ushered in a paradigm shift for Bush Alaska. I stayed until their tow arrived; their dad was also a GCI Rural Wireless believer, of course.”*

*Dan Picazo, GCI Field Maintenance Tech*





