

**COMMUNITY SERVICE  
ORGANIZATIONS 2020 GRANT  
REQUEST**

**APPLICATION  
INSTRUCTIONS**

Due Date: Friday, August 23rd, 2019, 5pm. Late applications will not be considered.

CSO requests follow a competitive application process, as requests will likely exceed available funds.

Please review the entire packet of forms prior to starting your application. Do not omit any of the requested information or required attachments. If an item does not apply to your program, note "N/A" for that item. A checklist is attached in this packet for your use.

**SUBMISSION**

**FORMAT:**

The City Administration plans to incorporate all grant submissions into a digital document for the City Council to review. For this reason, we require that the submissions to follow a uniform format. Please do not provide supplementary materials, which are not in the direct format of this packet.

Please submit **one (1) DOUBLE-SIDED COPY** and **ONE COMPLETE PDF FILE**

Address: City of Valdez, Attn: Finance Department, PO Box 307, 212 Chenega, Valdez AK 99686

[mmccay@valdezak.gov](mailto:mmccay@valdezak.gov)

QUESTIONS: Please contact Magdalena McCay, Comptroller, at 834-3454 or [mmccay@valdezak.gov](mailto:mmccay@valdezak.gov)

I

## GRANT FUNDING REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

### **CRITERIA, RESTRICTIONS, and INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The City of Valdez strives to ensure that a wide variety of programs and services are made available to the community. The objective of this grant program is to provide funding assistance to agencies and organizations to expand these opportunities in Valdez.

**CRITERIA:** The City Council will evaluate your application based on:

I. Purpose of the Program: What demonstrated community need is being met? What is the impact on the community if your program is not provided? What other programs/agencies exist to meet this need? How do they compare to your program?

II. Management of the Program: Effective management of financial and human resources? Appropriate technical skills and knowledge of this program service? Fiscally responsible? Proven ability/track record?

III. Fiscal Health of the Program: What internal controls are employed to ensure adherence to approved financial policies and oversight? What financial reserves are available to deal with unanticipated fiscal impacts?

IV. Community Support of Program: Strong participation? Volunteer services? Financial support shown through private and corporate contributions, user fees, in-kind donations?

V. Specifics of Program: Target population - who benefits from your program? Cost effective? Well thought-out concept and organized plan of action? Measurable results?

**RESTRICTIONS:** Restrictions on this funding include:

I. The organization must have obtained a non-profit status recognized by the State of

Alaska and 501(c)(3) tax exempt status recognized by IRS before a contract can be executed. Informal associations are not eligible for grants.

II. There are no guarantees of annual funding; the intent is for your group or program to become self-sufficient.

III. This grant funding is subject to the availability of funds lawfully appropriated for disbursement.

IV. Grant funding is intended to supplement your budget, not to fund your program in total.

V. Programs and services are the goal; grant funds are not to be used for construction activities. No equipment purchases of over \$500 will be permitted.

VI. Grant funding is not intended to provide an increase to the fund balance of your organization. Funds are to be **fully** expended in the 2020 fiscal year on the specified program(s).

NOTE: This list is not intended to be all inclusive.

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|

#### Criteria, Restrictions, and Insurance Requirements (continued)

#### **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Insurance requirements for Grant Recipients include:

A certificate of insurance naming the City as additional insured must be in effect during the entire contract period, including the following:

- \* Worker's Compensation as required by Alaska Statutes and Employer's Liability in the amount of \$100,000.
- \* Comprehensive General Liability to include premises operation, contractual liability, and personal liability in a minimum amount of \$1,000,000 combined single limit.
- \* Comprehensive Auto Liability - \$500,000 per accident (for programs requiring the use of vehicles owned and/or hired)



**AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING REQUESTS OF \$100,000 OR MORE:** The Grantor requires a recipient receiving \$100,000 or more in the organization's fiscal year to conduct an independent audit by certified public accountant that is in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America. A copy of the financial statements and all audit findings must be submitted to the City of Valdez within 30 days after recipient receives the audit report.

Future funding requests will only be considered if prior year audits are on file with the City of Valdez as described above. If most recent audit is still pending at the date of application the City of Valdez must receive written notice of the audit status with the submittal.

III

### GRANT FUNDING REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS 2020 FUNDING REQUEST/CERTIFICATION FORM

ORGANIZATION NAME: Valdez Avalanche Center- Alaska Avalanche Information Center Inc.

PROGRAM TITLE: Valdez Avalanche Center - Public Avalanche Forecast, Education and Weather Data

FUNDING REQUEST FOR 2020: \$ 52,500

1. Non-Profit Corporation? Yes XXX No       

Date of incorporation: 12/10/10 Federal Tax ID #: 80-0674646

2. Organization's estimated TOTAL 2020 operating budget: \$ 56,000

3. Historical Funding and Membership Information

	Total CSO	City Funding	City % of # of Budget Funding Total	Members
2016	65,500	40,000	61.0	140
2017	92,700	52,500	56.6	150
2018	100,300	52,500	52.3	155
2019	114,800	52,500	45.7	160

Note: AAIC is undergoing a reorganization with potential dissolving of the state-wide entity to allow for regional centers to exercise autonomy and seek funding that is secured and managed by local advisory boards. For this reason, we have included AAIC's financial information, in addition to financial budgets that reflect just Valdez Avalanche Center.

**4. What was previous grant funding used for? Be specific.**

Funds from 2019 were used as agreed in the application. This included expenses for professional avalanche forecasters (3 part-time forecasters,) support for the Executive Director, daily weather observation data collected and published, insurance premiums, education programs for Valdez residents from elementary, middle, high school and community members, and emergency response services provided on an as needed/on call basis. The Valdez Avalanche Center (VAC) again established an information Kiosk in Thompson Pass which ran from mid-March through the end of April and provided daily forecast information plus three weekly education programs. The Valdez Center issued 60 advisories from December 2018 through April 2019. The three part-time forecasters worked with three observers to collect and analyze field data. Over the season Thompson Pass received 421" of recorded snow while Valdez received 158". The freezing level throughout the area was higher in elevation than average, and wind was less of a driving factor in the Valdez avalanche problems than in previous forecasting seasons. There was a significant avalanche cycle in late March with zero fatalities. An average of 250 people viewed the forecast each day throughout the season with more than 60,000 views in total. Although there were some close calls this season, there were zero fatalities. The Valdez Center provided 24 community and school education programs reaching more than 450 individuals.

**ATTACHMENTS:** (label as indicated)

- Copy of your organization's most recent fiscal year end financial statements including balance sheet and profit and loss, and sources and uses of revenues. These statements must also show all accumulated fund balances for all of the organization's assets. (label page 2)
- Copy of balance sheets from three prior fiscal years. (label page 3)
- Copy of your organization's estimated current operating budget, including revenues and expenditures. (label page 4)
- Copy of proposed 2020 budget, including revenues and expenditures. (label page 5)

- Copy of your organization's balance sheet and profit and loss as of 6/30/2019

**CERTIFICATION:** (must be signed by both individuals)

I certify that the information contained in this application, including all attachments and supporting materials, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Snah Carter 8.22.19  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (or equivalent) DATE Education Coordinator/VAC Interim Director

[Signature] 8/22/2019  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS (or equivalent) DATE

(1) (Organization's Most Recent Fiscal Year-End Financial  
Statement to include all fund balances on all organization's funds)

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Accrual Basis

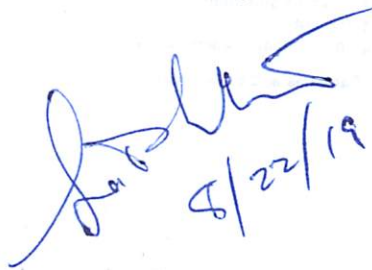
## Alaska Avalanche Information Center

## Balance Sheet

As of July 15, 2019

	Jul 15, 19
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 · AAIC Main	2,333.34
101 · FNBA Savings	2,502.75
007 · PayPal Account	1,003.26
Total Checking/Savings	5,839.35
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	29,144.41
Total Accounts Receivable	29,144.41
Other Current Assets	
16000 · Payroll Advances	773.00
Total Other Current Assets	773.00
Total Current Assets	35,756.76
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>35,756.76</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
51000 · Credit Accounts	
51100 · AAIC Main 0040	682.24
51200 · Valdez 0099	120.69
51300 · Hatcher Pass 0131	11.00
51400 · Haines 0172	56.55
Total 51000 · Credit Accounts	870.48
Total Credit Cards	870.48
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	-243.55
Total Other Current Liabilities	-243.55
Total Current Liabilities	626.93
Total Liabilities	626.93
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	4,157.57
32000 · Retained Earnings	8,868.77
Net Income	22,103.49
Total Equity	35,129.83
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>35,756.76</b>

(All Funds)





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Accrual Basis

## Alaska Avalanche Information Center

## Profit &amp; Loss

July 2018 through June 2019

Jul '18 - Jun 19

## Ordinary Income/Expense

## Income

## Sales Income

21,125.00

## 43300 • Direct Public Grants

## 43310 • Corporate and Business Grants

5,000.00

## 43330 • Foundation and Trust Grants

4,075.00

## 43340 • Nonprofit Organization Grants

625.51

## Total 43300 • Direct Public Grants

9,700.51

## 43400 • Direct Public Support

## 43410 • Corporate Contributions

3,500.00

## 43450 • Individ/Business Contributions

25,600.35

## 43490 • Private Contracts

6,750.00

## Total 43400 • Direct Public Support

35,850.35

## 44500 • Government Grants

## 44530 • Local Government Grants

62,500.00

## Total 44500 • Government Grants

62,500.00

## 46400 • Other Types of Income

## 46440 • Interest

2.75

## 46420 • Inventory Sales

60.00

## Total 46400 • Other Types of Income

62.75

## 47200 • Program Income

## 47230 • Membership Dues

2,490.00

## 47240 • Program Service Fees

42,253.41

## Total 47200 • Program Income

44,743.41

## 49000 • Special Events Income

12,298.59

## Total Income

186,280.61

## Gross Profit

186,280.61

## Expense

## 60300 • Awards and Grants

## 60340 • Scholarship Awards

1,280.00

## Total 60300 • Awards and Grants

1,280.00

## 60900 • Business Expenses

## 60918 • PayPal Fees

444.34

## 60920 • Bank Charge

135.82

## 60900 • Business Expenses - Other

25.00

## Total 60900 • Business Expenses

605.16

## 62100 • Contract Services

## 62110 • Accounting Fees

4,109.20

## 62150 • Outside Contract Services

8,872.95

## 62170 • Valdez Observation

40.00

## 62100 • Contract Services - Other

-563.00

## Total 62100 • Contract Services

12,459.15

## 62800 • Facilities and Equipment

## 62810 • Equipment

1,243.88

## 62840 • Equip Rental and Maintenance

89.95

## Total 62800 • Facilities and Equipment

1,333.83





64000 - Program Expenses	400.00	400.00
64001 - Student Certification Fees	8,126.76	8,126.76
64002 - Program Supplies	188.00	188.00
64003 - Permit Fees	48.98	48.98
64000 - Program Expenses	8,763.74	8,763.74
65000 - Operations	231.32	231.32
65020 - Postage	218.40	218.40
65030 - Printing and Copying	903.00	903.00
65040 - Supplies	2,051.82	2,051.82
65050 - Telecommunications	763.08	763.08
65060 - In-Field Communications	0.00	0.00
65000 - Operations - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 65000 - Operations	4,167.62	4,167.62
65100 - Other Types of Expenses	1,638.21	1,638.21
65110 - Advertising Expenses	766.00	766.00
65120 - Insurance	10,399.05	10,399.05
65121 - Directors & Officers	653.00	653.00
65123 - Workers Compensation	9,389.00	9,389.00
Total 65120 - Insurance	21,207.05	21,207.05
65130 - Fundraising	-125.36	-125.36
65150 - Memberships and Dues	1,140.00	1,140.00
65100 - Other Types of Expenses - Other	20.00	20.00
Total 65100 - Other Types of Expenses	23,879.90	23,879.90
66000 - Payroll Expenses	147,690.23	147,690.23
66900 - Reconciliation Discrepancies	-127.00	-127.00
66300 - Travel and Meetings	6,259.32	6,259.32
68400 - Website	17,262.80	17,262.80
Total Expense	223,574.75	223,574.75
Net Ordinary Income	-37,294.14	-37,294.14
Net Income	-37,294.14	-37,294.14

*Handwritten signature and date 8/2/19*

ALAC FINANCIAL UPDATES 6/25/23									
	FUND BALANCE	Balance from P. Trans	2023 Contributions	TOTAL FY23 CONTRIBUTIONS					
COSSOVA	\$915.00	\$915.00	\$100.00	\$1,930.00					
EASTERN ALASKA	\$10,313.77	\$10,313.77	\$213.41	\$21,840.95					
HARRIS	\$6,757.84	\$6,757.79	\$6,758.37	\$19,274.00					
HATCHER PASS	\$76,587.00	\$16,777.77	\$4,007.82	\$97,372.59					
VALANCE	\$273,122.19	\$10,082.83	\$6,028.33	\$289,233.35					
TOTAL	\$416,695.11	\$41,847.24	\$13,029.22	\$471,571.57					
1000 WINDSH MEMORIAL	\$5,300.00			\$5,300.00					
ABRAHAM O'LEARY	\$145.82			\$145.82					
JOHANNY EDELLSTROM	\$104.20			\$104.20					
ETNA PELLEGRINI	\$404.20			\$404.20					
RANDY RALST	\$6,124.13			\$6,124.13					
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS	\$10,012.86	\$47,364.89		\$57,377.75					
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$416,695.11	\$47,364.89		\$464,060.00					
ASSET ACCOUNTS									
AND ENDORSE		\$9,305.84		\$9,305.84					
AND ENDORSE		\$2,505.00		\$2,505.00					
AND ENDORSE		\$985.35		\$985.35					
AND ENDORSE		\$6,303.39		\$6,303.39					
TOTAL ASSET ACCOUNTS		\$19,100.02		\$19,100.02					
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE									
CONSTANTINE									
Mat for Parks and Trails									
INVENTORY									
TOTAL ASSET ACCOUNTS									
INCOME SECURED FOR 2020									
Alaska DPM (2020)		\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00					
PICK-UP (2020)		\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00					
INVESTING LIABILITIES									
Credit Cards		\$228.69		\$228.69					
INSURANCE (PARK FUND)		\$1,781.00		\$1,781.00					
WEBSITE		\$1,300.00		\$1,300.00					
TRAVEL (PARK FUND)		\$3,340.30		\$3,340.30					
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$7,721.99		\$7,721.99					
NET ASSETS		\$11,378.03		\$11,378.03					
LESS FUND BALANCE	\$416,695.11	\$41,847.24		\$458,542.35					

(Copy of Three Prior Fiscal Years' Balance Sheets)

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Accrual Basis

## Alaska Avalanche Information Center

## Balance Sheet

As of June 29, 2018

	Jun 29, 18
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
001 - AAIC Main	54,452.22
007 - PayPal Account	590.27
Total Checking/Savings	55,042.49
Accounts Receivable	
11000 - Accounts Receivable	850.00
Total Accounts Receivable	850.00
Total Current Assets	55,892.49
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>55,892.49</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
51000 - Credit Accounts	127.00
Total Credit Cards	127.00
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	-165.51
Total Other Current Liabilities	-165.51
Total Current Liabilities	-38.51
Total Liabilities	-38.51
Equity	
30000 - Opening Balance Equity	4,157.57
32000 - Retained Earnings	39,580.26
Net Income	12,193.17
Total Equity	55,931.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>55,892.49</b>

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Accrual Basis

Alaska Avalanche Information Center  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of June 30, 2017

	Jun 30, 17
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	18,525.30
001 - AAIC Main	2,903.17
007 - PayPal Account	
Total Checking/Savings	19,428.47
Accounts Receivable	12,962.68
11000 - Accounts Receivable	
Total Accounts Receivable	12,962.68
Other Current Assets	
Inventory Asset	-28.74
009 - Michael O'Leary Scholarship Acc	795.82
010 - Johnny Soderstrom Scholarship	594.50
011 - Liam Walsh Memorial Fund	2,803.64
012 - Erik Peterson Memorial	3,342.73
Total Other Current Assets	7,507.95
Total Current Assets	39,899.30
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>39,899.30</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
51000 - Credit Accounts	
0040 - AAIC Main Credit account	154.13
0131 - Hatcher Pass Credit account	-26.80
51000 - Credit Accounts - Other	127.00
Total 51000 - Credit Accounts	254.33
Total Credit Cards	254.33
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	367.15
Total Other Current Liabilities	367.15
Total Current Liabilities	621.48
Total Liabilities	621.48

Page 1

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Accrual Basis

Alaska Avalanche Information Center  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of June 30, 2017

	Jun 30, 17
Equity	
30000 - Opening Balance Equity	4,157.57
32000 - Retained Earnings	33,407.04
Net Income	1,713.21
Total Equity	39,277.82
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>39,899.30</b>

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8/22/19



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Accrual Basis

Alaska Avalanche Information Center  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of June 30, 2016

	Jun 30, 16
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
001 - AAIC Main	9,569.69
007 - Pay Pal	5,563.61
Total Checking/Savings	15,133.30
Accounts Receivable	
11000 - Accounts Receivable	12,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	12,000.00
Other Current Assets	
Inventory Asset	-28.74
009 - Michael O'Leary Scholarship Acc	700.82
010 - Johnny Soderstrom Scholarship	545.90
011 - Liam Walsh Memorial Fund	8,793.24
012 - Erik Peterson Memorial	1.00
Total Other Current Assets	10,012.22
Total Current Assets	37,145.52
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>37,145.52</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 - Accounts Payable	60.00
Total Accounts Payable	60.00
Credit Cards	
51000 - Credit Accounts	
0099 - Valdez Credit account	-63.42
51000 - Credit Accounts - Other	27.00
Total 51000 - Credit Accounts	-36.42
Total Credit Cards	-36.42
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	402.14
Total Other Current Liabilities	402.14
Total Current Liabilities	425.72
Total Liabilities	425.72
Equity	
30000 - Opening Balance Equity	3,161.75
32000 - Retained Earnings	30,959.73
Net Income	2,598.32
Total Equity	36,719.80
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>37,145.52</b>

(3  
)

(Organization's Current Operating  
Budget) AAIC has yet to finalize a  
2019-2020 budget due to reorganization

*ADL*  
8/22/19

decisions. Provided is the VAC 2019-2020 budget.

(Copy of Proposed 2020 Budget)

**2019-2020 VAC Proposed Budget**

**Income:**

City of Valdez	\$52,500
Private Contracts (NIT Alyeska Awareness)	\$3,000
Early winter Fundraiser	\$2,000
February Fundraiser	\$500
Spring Fundraiser	\$2,000
DPS program	\$1,700
Membership/Private business donations	\$2,000

Total Projected VAC Income

\$62,700

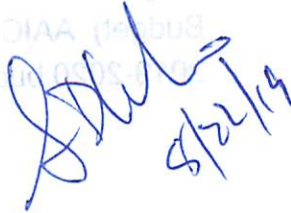
**Expenses:**

Forecasting/Observer/Educator wages	\$28,500 *
Blueberry Weather Station wages	\$15,500 includes training **
Spring Thompson Pass Basecamp	\$5,000 includes wages and supplies ***
InReach	\$300
Website	\$500
Phones	\$500
VCVB membership	\$100
Postage	\$100
Forecasting Program	\$1,500 includes pro fees, equipment, uniform
Fundraising inventory expenses	\$500 includes hats, stickers, maps, etc.
Admin support	\$500
Insurance	\$9,000

Total Projected VAC Expense

\$62,000

Proposed by Sarah Carter 8/15/19

  
8/22/19

\*based on 32/hours per week total/\$40 an hour (\$23/hour plus overhead cost of employee)  
for five months Dec-April

\*\* based on 8/hours per week total/\$37 an hour (\$20/hour plus overhead cost of employee) for  
365 days/year

\*\*\* based on two employees 15/hours per week/\$30 an hour (\$15/hour plus overhead cost of  
employee) for 5 weeks

gll  
5/22/19

## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** Valdez Avalanche Center- Alaska Avalanche Information Center Inc.

**PROGRAM TITLE:** Valdez Avalanche Center - Public Avalanche Forecast, Education and Weather Data

**Complete section below. Limit comments to this page.**

**1. Summarize the program you are proposing. (You will provide the details in the scope of services form.)**

Valdez Avalanche Center AAIC proposes to continue public avalanche forecasts and education services for the City of Valdez and surrounding region. We will continue to provide consistent, reliable snow avalanche forecasts and backcountry travel education programs that have reduced the rate of avalanche burials and fatalities in the Valdez, Thompson Pass area. We will also continue to provide year-round daily climate records for precipitation, temperature, and wind at the Blueberry weather station for the National Weather Service and City of Valdez. We will provide emergency response services on an on-call, as-needed basis.

**2. Briefly, but specifically, describe why the program to be funded under this proposal is needed and how it will benefit the Valdez community. Is this a new or existing program? How have you determined the need for your program? Valdez is a community that experiences some of the most snowfall and extreme weather. The surrounding mountainous terrain is capable of producing catastrophic avalanches that endanger residents and infrastructure. The Eastern Chugach mountains are internationally known for their allure to snow sport enthusiasts and Thompson Pass is the choice destination for thousands of local visitors and tourists each winter. The operations of the VAC and AAIC are primarily justified by the presence and significance of the snow avalanche hazard. In the eleven years the VAC and AAIC have operated in Valdez, the occurrence of fatalities, full burials, and close calls has been observed to significantly reduce due to increased awareness of the risks and information that aids mountain travelers to make informed decisions about when and where to ride. The AAIC hosts the VAC website and provides online snow condition forecasts and snow science education opportunities for the community and users in the Valdez and Thompson Pass area. The AAIC and**



VAC also compile and archive climate and weather data, a service left void in the community after the National Weather Service withdrew from Valdez in 2015. This data is invaluable and can be used by the city to help predict, account for, and mitigate flooding, snowloads, snow removal, and to warn against the risk of potential avalanches. Their forecasting, avalanche education, and climate record collection and tracking are all existing programs of the VAC.

3. Is this program year-round, seasonal, or a one-time event? Winter based, year-round  
Schedule: Beginning date: 1/1/2020 Ending date: 12/31/2020

4. Estimated number of people to be served by this program? 21,000

Provide formula for estimate: AAIC websites, VAC web pages, and education programs; during the peak of the season and special seasonal events, avalanche forecasts are accessed online in excess of 800 times per day. The average throughout the season is approximately 330/day for 220 days. The education programs provided through Prince William Sound College, Valdez City Schools, community and businesses reached more than 1100 students directly. As the center has grown, so have the number of individuals who rely on these services. An influx of out-of-state visitors has also increased demand.

5. Target population served: (ie: youth, adult, Senior Citizens, disadvantaged, etc.) The AAIC and VAC programs serve youth, adults, senior citizens, disadvantaged individuals, employees working in the field, and all winter time, backcountry mountain travelers.

6. Is membership in your organization required for participation: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ X

7. Fee to participant: Member \$ \_\_\_\_\_ n/a \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member \$ \_\_\_\_\_ n/a \_\_\_\_\_

8. Number of paid program staff: Full-time 1 Part-time 3 Temporary 6

(6)

ORGANIZATION NAME: Valdez Avalanche Center/ AAIC

Program Information (continued)

9. Volunteer Services Information:

Number of volunteers: Actual 2017 10 Actual  
2018 15 Anticipated 2019 20  
Estimated 2020 20

Source of volunteers (parents, members, professionals, others): Volunteers generally learn about VAC by attending one of our training or education events, through our website, personal recommendations, contacts made at industry conferences and workshops or through our volunteer recruiting efforts. The typical volunteer is someone who recreates in the backcountry and has been affected by an avalanche incident or accident.

Types of services provided by volunteers: Volunteers take many roles at VAC. Volunteers help with fundraiser events, assist with educational events, collect data, submit snow, weather, and avalanche observations online, collaborate and work directly with avalanche practitioners and generally assist in furthering avalanche awareness to the public at large.

10. Where will you operate this program? What facilities? The core of our information dissemination is through our website, [www.alaskasnow.org](http://www.alaskasnow.org). Board members, forecasters and volunteers work out of their homes.

Financial management is provided by the Foraker Group, whose offices are in Anchorage. Training and education events occur throughout Valdez and the surrounding area including the Valdez Civic Center, Prince William Sound College, local schools, community organization hosts, and field locations near Valdez and Thompson Pass such as the information kiosk that operates at Mile 39 March-April each spring.

11. What is the specific impact on your program if City funding is available at the following percentages of your request?

75% VAC would reduce forecasting and education services for Valdez resulting in fewer forecasts, education programs, and general services.

50% VAC would cut all services by 50% for Valdez, resulting in a once/week forecast and 50% fewer education programs.

25% VAC would cover critical expenses and provide a once/week professional observation with minimal weather data collection.

0% VAC would not be able to sustain an avalanche forecast or education programs.

12. The City is prohibited from contracting with businesses or persons that violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). What methods does your organization employ to comply with the requirements of ADA? VAC provides services to everyone without regard to ability. We embrace those with disabilities and are willing and prepared to make special arrangements for specific needs by request. VAC forecasts and education information are ADA compliant and available to the public online.

(7  
)

ORGANIZATION NAME: Valdez Avalanche Center/ AAIC

Program Information (continued)

13. Any other comments you would like to make about your program?

Valdez Avalanche Center / AAIC continues to see an increase in the use of backcountry recreation and thus, an increase in the hazard and risk of unintentional injuries and deaths relating to backcountry travel and avalanches making the need for the VAC/AAIC services even more valued and important than ever. Since the organization was first established, public awareness and participation in crowd-sourced avalanche information and data sharing has increased. The scope of services have expanded from forecasting and education to include weather data collection, consulting, and risk mitigation work. The VAC is integral, with other AAIC regional centers, to furthering the networking of avalanche practitioners and backcountry users. Each regional center no contributes to the overall budget of AAIC, working to reduce the burden on any one region, allowing us to fully serve all areas of the state. The VAC provides avalanche information addressing the common access points and areas traveled from the Port of Valdez out to Mile 70 of the Richardson Highway.

In addition to providing information free of charge, the professionals with the VAC frequently encourage and facilitate communication and data-sharing amongst commercial operations and backcountry users within the area. VAC is available to contract with local companies to provide training for visitors and employees who recreate, work, and travel in avalanche terrain. Each spring, Valdez continues to see an influx of visitors from around the state and the globe, who visit the community for outdoor recreation and special sporting events. For the past four seasons, VAC has established an information kiosk manned by professional avalanche practitioners and educators in Thompson Pass at Mile 39 of the Richardson Highway. This has proven to be a success, as visitors to the pass seek out information and educational opportunities that otherwise are not available. This quick, easy outreach venue provides avalanche conditions updated daily, classes on avalanche and mountain safety, and a networking opportunity for travelers who are looking to connect with other knowledgeable travelers to plan, prepare, and choose terrain appropriate to the changing conditions.

Contracts and fee for service training programs are increasingly supplying additional support for VAC/AAIC budgets.

In order to sustain these programs, it is critical the VAC employ highly trained, dedicated staff who demonstrate the competencies required of industry standards and expectations. We aim to hire and train individuals who provide consistent, quality, and dependable services to handle the forecasting, tracking



climate data (rain and snowfall), and education services. We generally hire one full-time seasonal employee to ensure the forecast and data collection is consistent, reliable, and ongoing, and two or three part-time support staff. The seasonal forecaster is tasked with collecting, interpreting, and communicating avalanche forecasts and weather data on the VAC website. They also coordinate educational and community awareness events. Requested funds are used to cover the forecaster wage, the information kiosk expenses, insurance premiums, stipends for interns/support staff to post information on the VAC/AAIC public avalanche website, weather station maintenance, general operations (admin, insurance, outreach, accounting), and education services for the schools and community of Valdez.

A majority of the work performed by VAC/AAIC has been accomplished by volunteers. The motivation driving our volunteers is their ability to offer others potentially life-saving information that helps individuals and employer to make a sound decision about their outdoor activities in avalanche terrain.

For further information, see <https://www.alaskasnow.org>.

ORGANIZATION NAME: Valdez Avalanche Center

**OPERATING EXPENSES OF PROPOSED PROGRAM (Budget Form #1)**

**Program Expenses: Budget Breakdown**

**PERSONAL SERVICES:** \$ 35,500

Salaries/wages \$ 30,500 Employee benefits \$

Other: workmen's comp \$ 5,000

**CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:** \$ 10,000

Reproduction/copying \$ Equipment rental \$ Data

processing/website \$ 3000 Dues/subscriptions

\$ 1000 Contractual services \$ Professional fees &

services \$ 6000 Other: \$

**OTHER SERVICES:** \$ 2,000

Volunteer services \$ Communications/postage

\$ 100 Printing \$ 100 Advertising/promotion

\$ 100 Electricity \$ Heating \$

Travel/transportation \$ 1700 Other: \$

\$

**COMMODITIES:** \$ 3,500

Clothing \$ 300 Office supplies \$ 200 Building

maintenance \$ Operating supplies \$ 1500 Parts &

supplies - equipment \$ 1500

**OTHER CHARGES/EXPENSES:** \$ 11,000

Insurance \$ 8000 Contingencies \$ Training

\$ 1500 Rent \$ Capital equipment

\$ 500 Office equipment \$ Other expenses:

1000 \$

**TOTAL COST FOR OPERATION OF THIS PROGRAM:**

\$ 62,000

ORGANIZATION NAME:

*Handwritten signature and date 8/2/19*

---

## FUNDING SOURCES FOR PROPOSED PROGRAM

(Budget Form #2)

This program budget covers the period of   FY2019   to   FY2020  

### SOURCES OF PROGRAM FUNDING GOAL AMOUNT % COMMITTED (Y/N)

Parent Organization \$   1000     1.5%     Y  

Gifts and Contributions \$   1000     1.5%     Y  

Membership Dues \$   1000     1.5%     Y  

Fees & charges to participants \$   2000     3%     N  

Private sector grants (specify source and date of award)

Alaska Community Foundation for website \$   850     1%     Y  

Fundraisers (specify major fundraising events/programs)

Early Winter Fundraiser \$   2000     3%     Y  

Winter Film Festival \$   500     1%     Y  

Spring Fling Fundraiser \$   2000     3%     Y  

### Subtotal of Financial Support for this program:

\$   9,500     15%  

### Supplemental Funding Requested from City of Valdez:

\$   52,500     85%  

### TOTAL FUNDING FOR OPERATION OF THIS PROGRAM:

\$   62,000     100%

NOTE: Projected program financial support should meet or exceed projected program expenditures. If not, you must provide an explanation. If the financial support is projected to exceed the expenditures by a substantial amount, please provide an explanation as to why grant funds are being requested for this program.

(10  
)

ORGANIZATION NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Valdez Avalanche  
Center \_\_\_\_\_

### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Timeline OUTCOMES for 2020 (What do you plan to accomplish in 2020 - be specific)

The goal with the 2020 program request is to continue supporting weather data collection and publication, education programs, snow forecasting services, and on call emergency search and rescue. We are unclear as to how AAIC will be able to support VAC, due to reorganization and financial shortcomings. Specifically, VAC might have to apply for our own 501(s)3 and purchase required insurance, provide one full-time, seasonal staff member and one part-time assistant to provide consistent, reliable weather and snow forecasting, and education services for the Valdez community and surrounding area.

The important duty of tracking climate data for the city will continue to help our community with predicting flooding, avalanche danger, and the need for snow removal.

For the past ten years, Valdez Avalanche Center with support of AAIC, has assisted in providing education and outreach services for Valdez based international public events including Mountain Man Hill Climb, King of the Hill, Tailgate Alaska and Alaska Kite Festival in Thompson Pass. Over the years, these events have reorganized and changed, as have our support and services. Valdez has seen attendance and participation for these events continue to grow and diversify, further validating the



interest, support, and reliance on the forecast and services Valdez Avalanche Center provides.

In addition, we have partnered with the Valdez Parks and Rec to provide the annual spring Beacons and Eggs training program at Salmonberry Ski Hill. Our objective is to continue these programs, provide additional support for expansion of these events, add additional opportunities to our available services including education outreach, online forecast and presence for integration with local, state, and National Forest Service avalanche center websites and databases.

We believe that maintaining a forecast center in Valdez with paid staff who provide factual, internationally recognized avalanche problem forecasts and education services, along with climate data, will help support our community in a positive way that results in continuing to attract visitors and increase mountain recreation programs that invest in risk reduction ideology. The Valdez Avalanche Center is dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing injuries, and saving lives from backcountry travel and avalanche related incidents.

Valdez Avalanche Center is the only organization currently providing these services in Valdez.

1. The following information is to be used in the development of the outcome statement.

2. The following information is to be used in the development of the outcome statement.

3. The following information is to be used in the development of the outcome statement.

4. The following information is to be used in the development of the outcome statement.

Attach additional pages if necessary

**Definition: Outcome - End product or result accomplished.**

(11)  
CITY OF VALDEZ

GRANT FUNDING REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

This checklist is simply for your use in preparation of your application packet. It is not a part of the packet to be copied and submitted.

You are encouraged to check and double check your facts and figures prior to making your copies. Packets that omit any of the requested information or that contain errors in calculations **WILL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT** for correction and resubmission. The ensuing delay may jeopardize your application for funding.

A COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKET INCLUDES:

☒ 501(c)(3) tax exempt status letter \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of Insurance as required per application

☒ Funding Request/Certification form (labeled page

1)

☒ Recent Total Organization Financial Statement (labeled page

2)

☒ Copy of Prior Three Prior Years' Balance Sheets (labeled page

3)

☒ Current Operating Budget for Total Organization (labeled page

4)

☒ Copy of Proposed 2020 Budget (labeled page

5)

☒ Program Information forms (labeled pages 6, 7, and

8)

☒ Operating Expenses of Proposed Program/Budget form #1 (labeled page 9)

☒ Funding Sources for Proposed Program/Budget form #2 (labeled page

10)

**x**    **Scope of Services form** (labeled page  
11)

   **X**    **Additional pages submitted by agency** (label page numbers accordingly)

   **X**    **Copy of Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss as of 6/30/2019**

**REMINDER:** You must submit **one (1) DOUBLE SIDED COPY OF COMPLETE PACKET** and a **COMPLETE PDF FILE** before the deadline. Late submissions will not be considered for funding.

**DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 23rd, 2019**

Early submissions are accepted and encouraged!

Thank you for your submission.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: FEB 18 2011

ALASKA AVALANCHE INFORMATION  
CENTER, INC.  
PO BOX 2988  
VALDEZ, AK 99686

Employer Identification Number:  
80-0674646  
DLN:  
600118004  
Contact Person:  
MARK I. TOMBACK ID# 95020  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31  
Public Charity Status:  
509(a)(2)  
Form 990 Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
December 22, 2010  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Sincerely,



Lois G. Lerner  
Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC

Letter 947 (DO/CG)



Employee Identification Number:

80-087463

NAME:

ROBERTA

Current Position:

MARKET RESEARCH

Contract Telephone Number:

(877) 333-3333

Accounting Period Ending:

November 30

Public Utility Number:

000-0000

With the following:

Yes

Executive Date of Examination:

November 30, 1965

Executive Date of Revision:

Yes

Admission Address:

00

RECEIVED FEB 10 1966

INTERNAL SECURITY

RECEIVED

JAN 10 1966

RECEIVED

Dear Sir:

We are pleased to inform you that your review of our report for the  
second quarter of 1965 has been completed. The report was prepared for you and  
is being furnished to you for your information. The report contains a summary of  
the results of our investigation and a list of the recommendations we have made.  
We are sure that you will find the report to be of great value to you and  
to the Department. We are sure that you will find the report to be of great  
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to be of great value to you and to the Department.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John A. Smith  
Director, Market Research

Enclosure: Publication 100-10

# POLICY NUMBER: SC1703128

## Basic Policy Information

### Named Insured

Firm Name: Alaska Avalanche Information Center, Inc.  
Address: Box 911  
Valdez, AK 99686  
Business: (907) 982-0332  
Cell: (907) 255-2242  
Fax:  
Email: info@alaskasnow.org

### Transaction Information

Term: 3/22/2018 - 3/22/2019  
Last Update\*: 3/22/2018  
Carrier: Prime Insurance Company

### Location Information

Location #	Building#	Address
00001		PO Box 2988, Valdez, AK 99686

## Errors and Omissions

Liability Coverage Type: Professional Errors & Omissions

Coverage Basis: Claims Made

### Coverages

Coverage:	Limit	Deductible/Type	Ded Basis	Ded Applies To	Misc Information
General Aggregate	\$500,000				
Each Occurrence	\$250,000	\$2,500/Dollars	Per Claim		

\* Not all information contained in the document may be the latest representation of your information. If you request new coverage or a change in coverage, please be advised that coverage cannot be bound without speaking to a licensed agent. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your Agency directly.

*Reh*  
8/22/19

10/10/2008 - 3/31/2009

10/10/2008

10/10/2008 - 3/31/2009

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(<http://www.pachner.info>)

## POLICY SUMMARY

[BACK TO LIST](#)

### Commercial Auto # 6LKKO0000007719100

Commercial Automobile Policy

Effective Dates: 12/17/2018 - 12/17/2019 CURRENT

Named Insured: Alaska Avalanche Information Center, Inc.

National Casualty Company (<http://www.kandkinsurance.com/>)

### Coverages

*(Please note that only main coverages are shown. View your full policy document for all coverages.)*

#### COVERAGE / LIMIT / DEDUCTIBLE / TYPE

Comprehensive / -- \$1,000

Combined single limit / \$1,000,000 --

Collisions / -- \$1,000

Medical Expense / \$10,000 --

Uninsured motorist combined single limit / \$1,000,000 --

Underinsured motorist combined single limit / \$1,000,000 --

### Vehicles Insured

Number of vehicles on this policy: 1

[Download vehicle list \(.csv\)](#)

Veh #	Cust Veh #	Year/Make/Model
00001	00001	2018 Toyota Tundra SR

### Drivers

Please contact your agency for a list of all active and excluded drivers.

*Handwritten signature and date 5/22/19*

### Do you want to make a change to your policy?

If you'd like to request any changes to your policy, please give us as much information as possible and we'll contact you to verify details.

REQUEST A CHANGE

*Not all information contained in the Client Portal may be the latest representation of your information. If you request new coverage or a change in coverage, please be advised that coverage cannot be bound without speaking to a licensed agent. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your Agency directly.*



(<http://www.pachner.info>)

**Pachner and Associates, LLC**

P.O. Box 140

Keene, NY 12942

[www.pachner.info](http://www.pachner.info) (<http://www.pachner.info>)

Phone: 518-576-2100

Fax: (866) 786-1619

24 Hour Contact: (888) 582-4884

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

*[Handwritten signature]*  
5/22/18



POLICY SUMMARY

[BACK TO LIST](#)

**Errors and Omissions # RENEWAL OF SC1703128**

Errors & Omissions Liability

Effective Dates: 3/22/2019 - 3/22/2020 FUTURE

Named Insured: Alaska Avalanche Information Center, Inc.

Prime Insurance Company

Liability Coverage Type: Professional Errors & Omissions

Coverage Basis: Claims Made

**Locations**

There are 1 locations on this policy.

[Download locations list \(.csv\)](#)

Loc #00001

PO Box 2988, Valdez, AK 99686

**Coverages**

(Please note that only main coverages are shown. View your full policy document for all coverages.)

COVERAGE: General Aggregate

COVERAGE: Each Occurrence

**Schedule of Hazards**

No schedule of hazards is available to show. Please view your full policy document for the schedule of hazards or contact your agent for details.

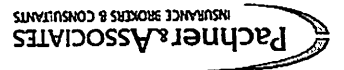
**Do you want to make a change to your policy?**

If you'd like to request any changes to your policy, please give us as much information as possible and we'll contact you to verify details.

[REQUEST A CHANGE](#)

  
8/22/19

All information contained in the Client Portal may be the latest representation of your information. If you request new coverage or a change in coverage, please be advised that coverage cannot be bound without speaking to a licensed agent. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your Agency directly.



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## Alaska Avalanche Information Center (AAIC) 2018-19 Annual Report Summary

The 2018-19 snow season saw the return of El Nino and a relatively warm and wet winter compared to recent years in Alaska. Southcentral was in the crosshairs this year as cycle after cycle brought ample precipitation throughout the region. Many coastal areas saw periods of rainfall at lower elevations throughout the winter. The AAIC produced 454 avalanche advisories and forecasts for the Hatcher Pass, Thompson Pass, and Haines areas supplemented by over 150 snowpack and conditions observations from across the state. These advisories, forecasts, and observations were published to the updated AAIC website viewable at <https://alaskasnow.org>.



2018 Snow Safety Summit – K. Klause photo

The AAIC continued to collaborate and build partnerships through events like the annual Snow Safety Summit held in Anchorage just prior to the Southcentral Alaska Avalanche Workshop (SAAW.) This year's Summit featured Tyler Aklestad, six time Arctic Man and 2016 Iron Dog champion, as the AAIC works to further build bridges with the snowmobile community. Participants also heard from CBS news affiliate Joe Vigil from KTVA television with valuable tips for communicating with and sharing information

effectively through the media.

Our list of partners grew to include Kendall Toyota of Anchorage as a key contributor to the forecasting operation in Thompson Pass. ABC Motorhomes, AARP Alaska, Black Diamond, BCA, Ortovox, Alyeska Ski Resort, Conoco Phillips, the City of Valdez, the City of Palmer, the Haines Borough, Eagle River Polaris Arctic Cat, the Alaska State Troopers, and the Rasmuson Foundation along with dozens of local sponsors who continued to support the AAIC mission through the 2018-19 season. The AAIC was featured in radio, television, and newspaper publication reports throughout the state and continues to build its followership on the social media platforms Facebook and Instagram.

With support from the Alaska Department of Public Safety, State Troopers, First National Bank Alaska and AARP Alaska, the AAIC conducted 58 community outreach workshops, reaching over 5,500 people across the state. The majority of these workshops were delivered to schools where AAIC instructors engaged the next generation of Alaskan winter recreationalists with a fun, exciting, relatable, and most importantly, hands-on introductory backcountry and avalanche safety training. The AAIC also provided two AIARE Level 1 classes at the Prince William Sound College in Valdez.



Weekly workshop held in Thompson Pass – K. Klause photo

Tragically, there were two avalanche fatalities in Alaska this season. On March 9th, an Anchorage man was skiing with friends in the mountains on the Kenai peninsula when he was overtaken by an avalanche. Though his partners were able to locate, unbury, and perform CPR on the man, they were unable to resuscitate him. Less than a week later a Haines local snowboarder was caught in an avalanche. His partners were also able to locate, unbury, and perform CPR to no avail. The AAIC offers its solemn condolences and love to the communities and families affected by these tragedies. Accidents like these highlight the importance of the AAIC community's effort on behalf of backcountry and avalanche safety education.





# AAIC 2018/19 Season Report

## We Are

A network of five regional avalanche information centers serving a community of outdoor enthusiasts by sharing information on conditions in the backcountry and mountains of Alaska. With your support the AAIC has grown to serve thousands of backcountry travelers from youth through adults.

## Education & Outreach

**61 Education Programs Delivered**  
**7,138 individuals served**  
**14 Communities, 23 Schools**

## Forecasts

**455 Published Forecasts**  
**157 Published Observations**

## Website

**145,761 Page Views**  
**62,866 Sessions**  
**27,026 Users**

## Community Support

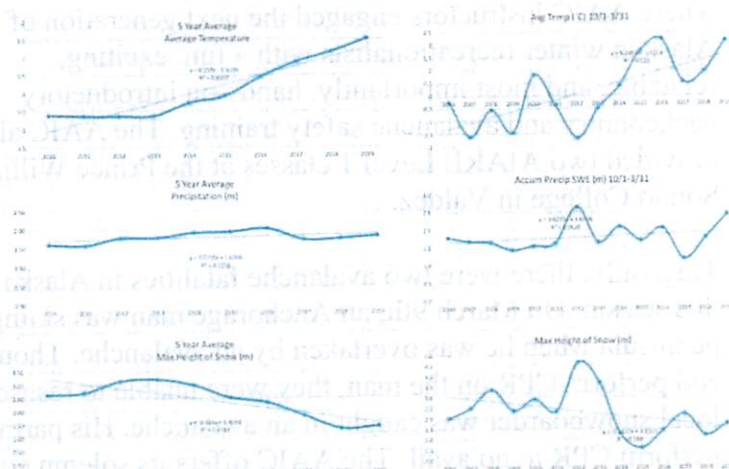
**3,698 Facebook Followers**  
**1,247 Instagram Followers**  
**208 Individual Donors**  
**26 Community Sponsors**

## AAIC Statistics:

454: Published Forecasts  
 157: Published Observations  
 145,761: AAIC Website Page views  
 62,866: Sessions on AAIC Website  
 27,026: Users on AAIC Website  
 3,698: Facebook Followers  
 1,247: Instagram Followers  
 250: Average Instagram Story Views  
 60+: Education Programs  
 5,000+: Received Avalanche and Backcountry Training 2018-19

## Cordova Avalanche Center (CAC): 2018/2019 Seasonal Avalanche Report

Overall this winter, warm temperatures began a relatively shallow snow pack. Our base waited until January to establish. Several strong warm wet storms occurred, with prolonged dry spells in between. While a few large avalanche cycles ran with the warm wet systems, any concern about potential persistent weak layers also washed away with the warm and wet. In early March the height of snow grew significantly, but temperatures quickly rose mid-march. Within a week, 10 inches of rain fell on our local peaks. The most dramatic avalanche of our season happened at that time above the headwaters of our smaller hydroelectric facility. Presumably, the avalanche dammed the creek for a couple hours, until the snow dam failed. A six-foot wave then traveled down the creek, depositing snow high on the banks for 2 miles to the ocean. This heavy rain left our shallow snow pack well tested, and continuing warm





temperatures seemed to end the avalanche season early. In mid-April, however, winter returned bringing 3 feet of new snow above 500 feet. Spring shed soon then began, with mostly small loose events off steep sunbaked slopes. Currently, rain tempts a few looming cornice and glide crack failures. By the time, however, anyone reads this (if anyone reads this besides me) the avalanche season will be in hiatus and ready to begin again.

Submitted by Hoots Witsoe

### **Eastern Alaska Range Avalanche Center (EARAC):**



*Snowmobile safety course with Kyle Sobek and Trevor Grams, Photo by Logan Wicken*

The Eastern Alaska Range Avalanche Center (EARAC) again placed a focus on bringing education to the interior of Alaska. This fall we made great headway with the snowmobile community, hosting multiple awareness level courses for the snow machine users. To compliment this education, we also premiered the Boondockers snowmachine film in town.

In addition to education, our weather station subcommittee made great progress on increasing weather data coming from the mountains. We have done a field site assessment trip with United States Department

of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and have permissions to upgrade other existing stations. These will combine to give both ridge top wind levels as well as snow depths in the bowls. A perfect combination of information before heading into an area without a forecast.

We celebrated the end of the season with the first annual SkiMo Race in partnership with the local downhill ski area in Fairbanks, AK. This event will support future outreach for the EARAC. The EARAC also hosted an observation contest to encourage backcountry travelers to submit their observations through the Alaskasnow.org website. We received 154 observations as a result of this effort and look forward to expanding this program during the 2019-2020 season.

Submitted by Mark Oldmixon

### **Haines Avalanche Information Center (HAIC):**

Winter 2018/2019 was another tough season in Haines. It started out with a decent November snowpack, but the weather just did not bring much snow throughout the winter. Due to unusually high snow levels and a few major mid-winter rain/thaw events, the snowpack at treeline was approximately 58% of average (based on SWE).

2018-19 Weather / Climate Stats:

- 42" of precipitation from Oct-Apr in Haines (93% of average)
- Driest February on record.
- Least snowy February on record (5" in Haines, 6" at Customs)



*Haines avalanche. Photo by Erik Stevens*



- Least snowy Winter on record in Haines: 60.5" of snow total (34% of average)
- Despite the lack of snow, ski conditions were surprisingly decent in some areas of the Chilkat Pass and North-facing Lutak zone above 1200ft. The dry February actually helped to cause ample surface-facetting, setting us up for a few weeks of soft recycled powder and good stability. That thick layer of surface facets was a harbinger of bad things to come, however.

This very weak persistent layer was slowly, sequentially buried by 100-150cm of new snow in mid-March, causing a large natural avalanche cycle. Many paths produced 10-year slides, and some seem to have produced roughly 30-year slides. This cycle was quite predictable: slow, gentle loading of the widespread weak layer to large depths, followed by an extreme warm up with heavy new loading and rain-on-snow to act as a trigger. Also notable was unusually long runouts during this cycle. Some slides ran 2-3+ miles in low-angle terrain, running through that slick facet layer that sat over a hard ice crust, lubricated by free water.

#### Notable Events:

- We installed (in collaboration with the Yukon Avalanche Association) a new alpine weather station in October 2018. The station is at Haines Pass, British Columbia, and was funded by a Yukon Community Development grant. We are proud to report that in the last 9 years, we have helped bring the number of backcountry weather stations from zero to six, including at least one alpine weather station in each of our three forecast zones.
- We published 101 forecasts from Nov. - April, with a staff of three part-time forecasters / observers.
- We taught a Level 1 Rec. course, and a snowmachine-specific awareness class.
- We also taught 5 free backcountry skills / rescue / beacon practice workshops.

On March 13th, 2019, the community took a hard hit with the death of David Dzenawagis. Dave was well known and active in our local ski community, and regularly submitted observations. The avalanche that took his life was complex, with crown depths reaching 3 meters in areas. It was rated HS-ASu-D3-R4-O. A full report is available at [Alaskasnow.org](http://Alaskasnow.org) > Haines > Accidents.

Submitted by Erik Stevens

#### Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center (HPAC):



Hatcher Pass Forecasters from Left: Sam Galoob, Jessie Haffener, Allie Barker and Jed Workman

Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center had another successful season with growing community support, and a supportive and energetic eight-member advisory board. HPAC significantly increased their conditions reporting through the addition of website based, mid-week summaries. These were produced by two new staff members living at the Independence Mine at HP. We provided nearly 50 weekend advisories and mid-week summaries from November through April, with some additional updates after the end of season due to late season snow.

Our social media outreach continues to grow exponentially with regular postings through Facebook and Instagram and proves to be highly valuable for delivering pertinent information

quickly to 4,734 followers.

The CNFAIC/HPAC web-based observation platform received 127 Hatcher Pass specific observations this season. Numerous other observations were made through social media venues, HPAC email, and through the good ol' telephone...just leave a message after the rooster crows.

As Alaska warms up due to climate change, we are seeing more 'rain on snow' events, and perhaps the earliest wet cycle we've observed at HP came on March 30th, 4 to 6 weeks early. We also experienced long periods of drought with excellent stints of square powder surface conditions, followed by sporadic large dumps with ensuing avalanche cycles.

Two confirmed avalanche burials with successful companion rescues occurred this season, with no injuries. No fatalities this season.

As of May 11, 2019, a series of plots within a 3-mile circumference of the Independence Mine Snotel Site (3550') recorded the snow water equivalent to be 53-83% of POR average, and 56-97% POR median. The snow depth recorded 76-93% of POR average, and 81-100% POR median.

HPAC succeeded in funding our non-agency avalanche center through grants, Facebook fundraisers, and our annual cabin fever reliever fundraiser. We were able to pay forecasters in real dollars this season instead of just carrots and moose!

HPAC succeeded in our third year of acquiring a loaner snowmachine from Alaska Mining and Diving in Anchorage which continues to enable Hatcher Pass forecasters and observers to expand field observations and strengthen our outreach and relationships with the motorized community. The snowmachine allowed observers to frequently access areas that were previously out of practical reach by human power (Dogsled pass, Peters creek headwaters, Purches creek, upper Willow creek, Lane Hut area).

The annual free HP avalanche rescue workshop continues to be a popular event, with approximately 100 attendees. This workshop is a collaboration between the Hatcher Pass Snow Rider's Club (a local snowmachine group), HPAC, AAIC, Chugach Avalanche Center, Alaska Avalanche School, and the Anchorage Nordic Ski Patrol. The Black Diamond Anchorage Retail Store was present, providing additional loaner rescue equipment. The event includes all user groups, of all ability levels, and is family friendly. This event requires a megaphone to speak to the large crowd, and teaches the "Know Before You Go" curriculum. The event incorporates an old converted school bus with a 10-foot outdoor grill, and is high energy despite being the depth of winter and the sun not yet above the horizon. Many people conduct their first practice rescue scenario ever, are introduced to modern avalanche rescue gear, and given discounts on new gear.

In addition to the rescue workshop, our HPAC team provided education at six Mat-Su Valley schools. Programs were conducted at Glacier View School, Sutton Elementary, Teeland Middle School, American Charter Academy (field session at IM bowl), Girl Scout Troop from Anchorage (field session at IM bowl), and a KBYG program for Mat Su Central.

Submitted by:  
Jed Workman and Allie Barker, HPAC

#### **Valdez Avalanche Center (VAC):**

For winter 2018/19, the Valdez Avalanche Center issued 60 advisories from December through April with the forecasting position being split between three people over the course of the season. Daily observations were recorded at the Blueberry Study plot supplying climate data to the National Weather Service.



The freezing level throughout the area was higher in elevation than average, and wind was less of a driving factor in our avalanche "problems" than in previous forecasting seasons. The advisory area had a significant avalanche "cycle" in late March with no fatalities. Over the winter, Thompson Pass received 421" of recorded snow with 58" SWE. Valdez received 158" snow with a 52" SWE.

For the third year, from March 15 - April 15, VAC staff manned a temporary information kiosk near Thompson Pass offering three times weekly free educational courses and forecasting information. This was made possible with support from the City of Valdez and ABC Motorhomes who donated temporary housing for the forecasters. In addition, the team provided several other avalanche awareness and rescue courses to elementary, middle and high school groups.

Changes for the season included: advisories published three times per week instead of seven, a new website, a two-year lease donation of a Toyota truck thanks to a sponsorship from Kendall Toyota of Anchorage, and the creation of the Valdez Avalanche Center Instagram page.

This is the sixth year the City of Valdez has allotted funding through the Community Service Organization program for Valdez Avalanche Center. Private businesses and individual member donations have enabled the program to grow from a volunteer effort to paying qualified, trained forecasters and observers for their work.



*Bird's Eye View of Thompson Pass*

Submitted by Ryan Van Luit, Peter Biskind and Sarah Carter

**CLOSING:** The AAIC staff strives every day to support the work of regional avalanche centers and interested communities in Alaska through resource and information sharing, education, and research.