



WALK 'N' ROLL FOR ANIMALS, MAT+SAR WITH AK MILITARY YOUTH ACCADEMY – MAY 2017

MAT + SAR

SEARCH & RESCUE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2018 – ISSUE #1

MAT+SAR News & Updates

By Jason Williams

2018 is upon us and with that, a new Board has been selected to lead MAT+SAR Search & Rescue. The elected members are as follows:

- **Jason Williams** – President
- **Brittney Miller** – Vice President
- **Patty Howell** – Treasurer
- **Amy Bohmbach** – Secretary
- **Mark Stigar** – Training & Safety Officer
- **Charity House** – Logistics Officer
- **Stacie Burkhardt** – K9 Lead
- **Al Wilson** – Motorized Lead
- **Sarah Gotchall** – Equine Lead
- **Joyce Johnson** – General Member
- **Tom Brozoski** – Member at Large

Please join me in thanking these team members who have dedicated a great deal of their time, energy & resources to our organization.

Exciting Changes

We are currently in the process of rebuilding the main MAT+SAR and K9 web pages.

The new URL for our main webpage is matsaralaska.org and the URL for the new K9 webpage is matsark9.org

Monthly Membership Meetings

MAT+SAR holds a General Membership meeting each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 21st at 7PM.

If you are interested in joining MAT+SAR, or just want to learn more about what we do, this would be a good meeting to attend.

All of our meetings and public events are posted on our calendar at matsaralaska.org

MAT+SAR Monthly Newsletter

Starting February 1st, 2018 – we will start sending out our Monthly Newsletter. We are excited to get this back up and running. If you know of someone who might be interested in receiving our Newsletter, please email Jason Williams at jasonw@matsaralaska.org

Thank you again to all the people that dedicate so much time and effort into MAT+SAR.

2018 is going to be a great year!

All the best,

Jason Williams, President



Joint Training with Houston Fire

Stacie Burkhardt, Lead K9 member, assesses a patient during a mock training exercise with Houston Fire Department.



Interested in joining MAT+SAR?

Visit us online at www.matsaralaska.org to learn more about becoming a team member.

OUR SPECIALIZED TEAMS



K9 SAR TEAM

Our highly trained K9 Teams are trained in air-scent, trailing, land and water cadaver, avalanche and evidence search. Teams are dispatched by the Alaska State Troopers and other local law enforcement agencies and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



GROUND SEARCH

Ground Team members are required to complete initial and ongoing training to maintain team membership. Team members have training in CPR+ First Aid, Land Navigation, SARTECH III & II plus survival training to name a few. Our Ground Team members often work as support for our K9 team as well.



MOTORIZED UNIT

Our motorized team members use ATV's, Snow machines and other methods of transportation to conduct search and recovery missions. Motorized team members become certified each year in order to conduct searches. Like other teams, when needed, they are dispatched by the Alaska State Troopers.



EQUINE TEAM

Our Equine unit is the only one in the state using horses as search partners and for transportation to search for missing persons. SAR responders on horseback are primarily a search resource, but also can provide off-road logistics support and transportation. Mounted SAR responders can in some terrains move faster on the ground than a human on foot, can transport more equipment, and may be physically less exhausted than a SAR responder performing the same task on foot.



PROJECT LIFESAVER

Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies, and is strategically designed for "at risk" individuals who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

THE MAT+SAR K9 TEAM



JOINT TRAINING WITH HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Front L to R: Patty Howell / Kgs Abbey & Ziva, Dalton Fiedler, Houston Fire, Stacie Burkhardt / Kg Myka, Charity House / Kg Roo, Terry Boyle, Lisa Jaeger, Kg Mak, Dan Govoni / Kg Dugg. Back L to R: Jason Williams (MAT+SAR President), Al Wilson (MAT+SAR Motorized Lead), David Camacho, Alma Hartley, Meda Warrior. Missing: Tom Brozoski/Kg Tasha, TC Tenneson/Kg Moose, Michelle Weston/Kg Murray, Joyce Johnson/Kg Cherry, Amy Bohmbach / Kg Tanker, Mark Stigar/Kg Lyra, Chelsea Malstrom/Kg Titan.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

March 23 – 24: Mel Nading Memorial Avalanche Rescue Workshop @ Hatcher Pass

- Sue Purvis from Montana will be principal instructor for this workshop and handlers from all over Alaska will be attending. We need volunteers to dig and hide in snow caves, support dog teams, provide snow machine/sled transport and take part in the mock avalanche scenarios.

May 18 – 20: Kg Airscent and Trailing workshop in the Matsu Valley

- Instructors will be from King County Search Dogs in WA state. We will need volunteers to hide and support the dog teams.

June 22 – 24: Kg Water Search Workshop in Fairbanks (sponsored by PAWS)

The MAT+SAR K9 Team trains EVERY weekend and we would love to have new folks join us and see what dog teams can do.

Contact: matsark9@gmail.com if you are interested!

MAT+SAR K9 IN ACTION

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MAT+SAR K9 HANDLER

Ever wonder what it is like to be a K9 Search and Rescue handler at MAT+SAR? Well, look at these amazing numbers for 2017!!

10 SEARCHES

3 SUCCESSFUL FINDS

22 PREVENTATIVE SEARCH AND RESCUE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS (PSARS)

3349 HOURS SPENT IN SEARCHES, TRAINING & PSARS

32,374 MILES TRAVELED DURING SEARCHES, TRAINING & PSARS

*Thank you to all the Men and Women who dedicate their time to
MAT+SAR*

-Stacie Burkhardt, Lead K9 – Dog Team 9

--LISA JAEGER WITH K9 MAK--



CHARITY HOUSE WITH K9 ROO



*For more information about MAT+SAR K9, please visit us online
at matsark9.org*

MAT+SAR MOTORIZED SEARCH & RESCUE



Our motorized team members respond to searches using ATV's and Snow Machines. They will often transport members of our Kg units or Ground Search teams.

All our Motorized members must be certified to be dispatched on a search.

Like other teams at MAT+SAR, when needed, the Alaska State Troopers dispatch them.

MATSAR MOTORIZED TEAM

	Name		Type	Certified	Type
1	Schwarzer	Dan	ATV	Yes	Honda Rancher 420, Honda Rancher 350
			Snow Machine	Yes	Ski-Doo - Tundra Extreme
2	Dunphy	Stephen	ATV	Yes	Honda Rancher 350
			Snow Machine	Yes	Ski-Doo-Summit 800
3	Smith	Matt	ATV	Yes	Polaris 850
			Snow Machine	No	Ski-Doo Tundra, Arctic Cat Mountain
4	Wilson	Al	ATV	Yes	
			Snow Machine	Yes	Arctic Cat Bearcat
5	Jaeger	Lisa	ATV	No	
			Snow Machine	Yes	Ski-Doo Skandic
6	Jaeger	Terry	ATV	No	
			Snow Machine	Yes	
7	Burkhardt	Stacie	ATV	Yes	Honda Rancher 420/Honda Pioneer
			Snow Machine	Yes	Ski-Doo Tundra
8	House	Charity	ATV	No	
			Snow Machine	Yes	
9	Williams	Jason	ATV	Yes	Polaris Sportsman 850
			Snow Machine	Yes	

*If you are interested in becoming a Motorized Team Member,
please email Al Wilson at al.wilson1@icloud.com*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SAFETY & TRAINING OFFICER



Hello everyone! I was recently elected as the MAT+SAR Safety & Training Officer. I am on the K9 Team, training a 2-year-old Britney Spaniel in Wilderness Air Scent.

I have lived in Alaska for 25 years. I retired from the US Army and Army National Guard (23 years) where I managed the Army Guard flight program, which gave me extensive exposure to Search and Rescue around Alaska and the lower 48 primarily from an Aviation point of view.

During my military career, one of my jobs was Training, both at an individual and collective level. I enjoy training, and always try to make it fun and worthwhile!

My immediate priorities are to ensure that all MAT+SAR training and certification requirements continue to be met. It is also my role to assess and address all current and future training needs across the organization.

As with any organization, Safety is our number one priority at MAT+SAR. We will continue to integrate safety into each of our trainings and during each and every Search and Rescue mission.

I am very excited to be a part of MAT+SAR and I look forward to all the wonderful things we will accomplish in 2018.

If you need to contact me, you can email me at mstigar@mpialaska.com.

All the best,

Mark Stigar, Safety & Training Officer
MAT+SAR Search & Rescue



MAT+SAR Search & Rescue is a nonprofit, 501c3 corporation that was started in 2003. MAT+SAR serves the entire Matanuska Susitna Valley, in South Central Alaska and other locations throughout the State and is dispatched by the Alaska State Troopers.

There are only two Search & Rescue organizations in the State of Alaska that provide the Project Lifesaver Tracking Service. They are MAT+SAR and the Anchorage Search Team.



Project Lifesaver in Alaska

By Jason Williams

The Project Lifesaver program is more than wearable locating technology. Certified Project Lifesaver first responders are given the necessary tools to respond to safety situations involving children and adults with autism, dementia, Alzheimer's or traumatic brain injury. The program trains first responders to understand the behaviors of individuals with these conditions so they can interact with this growing population in an effective and successful manner.

Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies, and is strategically designed for "at risk" individuals who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

MAT+SAR is the service provider for the Matanuska Susitna Valley.

Fun Fact - the Matsu borough has a total area of 25,258 square miles, of which 24,608 square miles is land and 650 square miles is water.

For more information on Project Lifesaver services in Alaska, contact the Matsu Area Representative, Jason Williams at 907-242-0700



General Meetings

February 21, 2018: MAT+SAR General Membership Meeting --- 7pm-9pm Palmer Forestry Building

MAT+SAR K9 Events

March 23 – 24: Mel Nading Memorial Avalanche Rescue Workshop @ Hatcher Pass

- *Sue Purvis from Montana will be principal instructor for this workshop and handlers from all over Alaska will be attending. We need volunteers to dig and hide in snow caves, support dog teams, provide snow machine/sled transport and take part in the mock avalanche scenarios.*

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Note: Events are always posted on our online calendar at matsaralaska.org & matsark9.org