



MEL NADING MEMORIAL K9 AVALANCHE WORKSHOP - HATCHER PASS ALASKA - MARCH 2018

MAT + SAR

SEARCH & RESCUE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

P.O Box 876467
Wasila, Alaska 99687

info@matsaralaska.org

MARCH 2018 – ISSUE #2

MAT+SAR News & Updates

By Jason Williams

Mel Nading Memorial, K9 Avy Workshop

MAT+SAR K9 hosted the Mel Nading Memorial K9 Avalanche Workshop in Hatcher Pass on March 24th and 25th.

Teams from ASARD (Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs), PAWS (Fairbanks) SEADOGS (South East Alaska), Bethel Search and Rescue took part in this year's Avalanche Workshop.

This year we also had a record number of volunteers helping during the workshop. These folks helped by hiding in snow caves for the dogs and other tasks during the workshop. Thank you very much!

MAT+SAR motorized units played a huge part by driving teams up and down the mountain. Thank you!

I'd also like to give a big thanks to Matsu EMS Deputy Director Barkley for allowing MAT+SAR to use Field Comm 1 for Base Operations and a big thanks to our very own Lisa Jaeger for driving it up to Hatcher Pass.

And last but not most certainly not least, our MAT+SAR K9 Team. Excellent job on putting together a fantastic Workshop!

MAT+SAR Partners with Pathfinder Aviation

MAT+SAR Search and Rescue has been looking at new and innovative ways to manage our 24/7 On Call Service.

The MAT+SAR Board of Directors toured the Pathfinder Air Operations Center at Merrill Field in Anchorage Alaska.

We were blown away by Pathfinders advanced tracking systems, technology and communications in their Operations Center. It is truly an amazing operation.

We look forward to working with Pathfinder Aviation and thank them for providing services to our organization.

Please see the press release below

All the Best,

Jason Williams

President, MAT+SAR

jasonw@matsaralaska.org



K9's make the best Co-Pilot's

Lisa Jaeger, K9 member with Co-Pilot Mak driving Matsu Borough Field Comm 1



Interested in joining MAT+SAR?

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

2018 MEL NADING MEMORIAL K9 AVALANCHE WORKSHOP



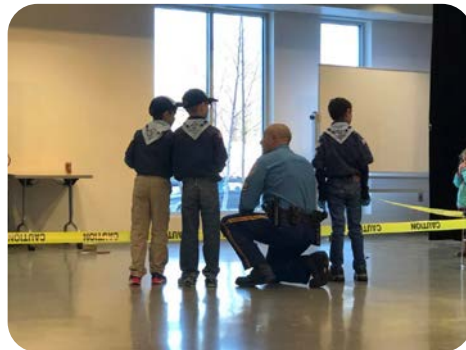
To see more photos from the Mel Nading Memorial, K9 Avalanche workshop, please visit the MATSAR K9 Facebook Page

MAT+SAR K9 IN ACTION

FORENSICS DEMO WITH THE BOY SCOUTS

The Alaska State Troopers requested MAT+SAR K9 Support at a Forensic presentation to the Boy Scouts. The Scouts learned all about crime scenes and how search dogs can be used to find evidence to help Law Enforcement. Thanks to K9 Team members Stacie Burkhardt and Patty Howell for bringing K9's Mika, Ziva and Abby to the event.

SGT. WEGRZYN WITH BOY SCOUTS



MAT+SAR K9 TEAM MEMBERS



Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Wegrzyn with some Boy Scouts at the Forensics Presentation

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



PRESS RELEASE



Pathfinder Aviation Lends Support to MAT+SAR Search and Rescue

Anchorage, AK — March 29, 2018 Pathfinder Aviation, a leading global aviation services provider, will be providing Dispatch services through their advanced "Air Operations Center" to MAT+SAR Search and Rescue, a all volunteer non-profit located in the Mat-Su of Alaska.

CEO Chuck Constant said, "we are pleased to contribute to this dedicated and professional volunteer organization who are out helping fellow Alaskan's "

ABOUT PATHFINDER AVIATION

Pathfinder Aviation's Air Operations Center (AOC) is staffed 24/7/365 constantly monitoring airborne aircraft through advanced satellite tracking systems and communications. The AOC staff is trained in emergency response for possible aircraft accidents or incident and is continually evaluating Alaska's changing weather conditions. Pathfinder's helicopter fleet operates Worldwide both on and offshore where tracking and constant communications is paramount.



Mark Stigar, MAT+SAR Training and Safety stated, "Pathfinder's tracking ability increases the protection and safety of MAT+SAR Teams in the field, which ultimately increases our ability to reunite lost Alaskans with family members. It welcomes partners like Pathfinder to help us achieve our mission."

MAT+SAR Search and Rescue responds to request for assistance from Alaska law-enforcement agencies. MAT+SAR is a volunteer-based nonprofit that has K9, motorized, equine and ground search units. The K9 unit has 11 K9 teams specialized in Wilderness Air-scent, Trailing, Avalanche Search, Human Remains Discovery both on the land and water.

For more information on Pathfinder Aviation, visit www.pathfinderaviation.com or call (907) 257-1550.

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2018

Media Contact: Media Relations, 907-257-1550

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

April 18, 2018: MAT+SAR Board Meeting --- 6pm-7pm Wasilla Museum

April 18, 2018: MAT+SAR General Membership Meeting --- 7pm-9pm Wasilla Museum

MAT+SAR Events & Public Appearances

May 5, 2018: Matsu Valley Emergency Preparedness Expo --- 11AM – 3PM, Willow Alaska

May 12, 2018: MAT+SAR Agency Wide Training – Elks Camp, Sutton Alaska

May 18, 2018: 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 2, 2018: Walk & Roll for Animals --- 9AM – 3PM Trunk Road in Palmer

June 2, 2018: Government Peak Mountain Race --- 10AM – 3PM

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