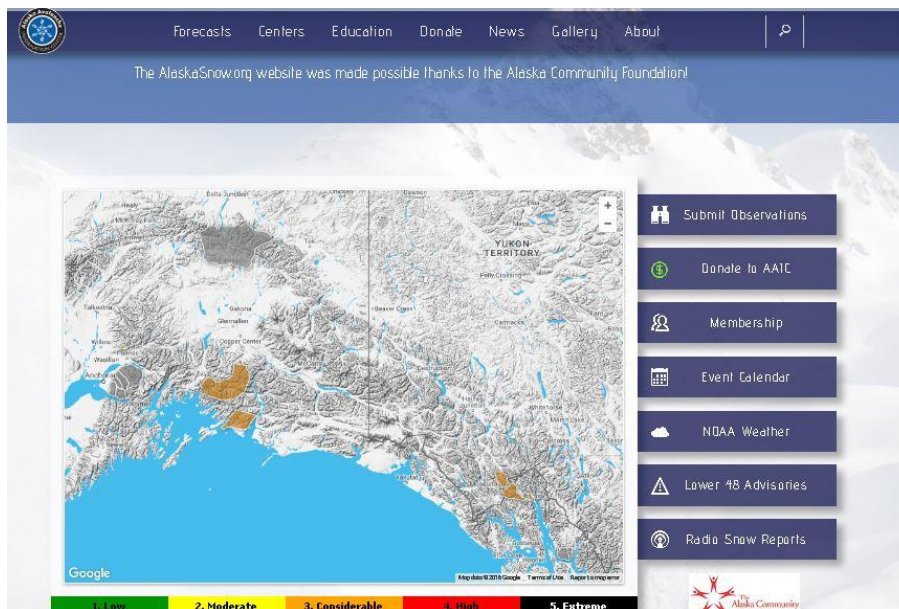




## Annual Projects Report 2016

### Thank you to everyone who helps make these projects possible!

- **AlaskaSnow.org – Alaska Community Foundation – New Website Construction**
- **Radio Snow Reports - AARP Alaska**
- **Weather Data Collection – City of Valdez**
- **Emergency Preparedness Fair - Wal Mart Foundation; MVFCU; McDonalds**
- **Forecasting Services – City of Valdez, Alyeska Pipeline, Tailgate Alaska, City Electric,**
- **Education – AARP Alaska, AIARE, DPS, PWSCC, UAF, Backcountry Babes, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Copper Valley Telecom, Copper Valley Electric Association**
- **Snow Safety Summit – Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, First National Bank Alaska, Geo Works, Black Diamond**
- **Community Snow Fest – Black Diamond, REI, AMDS, Team CC, Loussac Library, Geo Works, FNBA, APSC**
- **Mobile Game App – Brennaman Foundation**
- **Chilkat Foundation – Haines Weather Station**
- **Fairbanks Memorial Hospital – Eastern Alaska Regional Center**



The new AlaskaSnow.org website is now up and running thanks to support from the Alaska Community Foundation and AKSYS. This project has taken the dedication and coordination of all of the AAIC network centers and Justin Matley, our webmaster and website engineer from AKSYS. We are excited to have an easy way for the public to connect with all of our avalanche centers and find information in one location.

We want this to be easy for our users so please share any feedback you have that could help us make this even better.

#### **Radio Snow Reports - AARP Alaska, MEA, Mat-Su Vintage Racers, Big Lake Aurora Lions –**

The AAIC continues to broadcast weekly snow reports with safety tips and education opportunities on 10 radio stations in Alaska thanks to our sponsors and supporters. For the 2016-2017 season our major sponsor is AARP Alaska, Alaska Integrated Media (five Anchorage radio stations,) four Mat-Su Valley stations (KMBQ, Country Legends, 95.5 the Pass, and Radio Free Palmer) and one each in Haines (KHNS) and Valdez (KCHU). The nine stations in the Anchorage and Mat Su Area run weekly snow reports that run approximately 60 seconds, two-three days per week and two-three times per day. These reports include information on local trail conditions, safety tips and education

opportunities. Haines and Valdez also run weekly reports and in addition have forecasters come in to speak during their weekly talk shows to discuss issues and conditions related to mountain travel in their communities. We are still in need of sponsors for the 2016-2017 season so if you are looking for a fun way to give back to your community, please contact us so we can keep these reports coming!



- Weather Data Collection – City of Valdez**

The Valdez Avalanche Center continued in partnership with the City of Valdez to provide weather observations from the Blue Berry Weather Plot. The weather collection team included: Kevin Salys, Sarah Carter, Greta Palmer, Adrian Shafland, Jared Martin, Ryan Chalker and Kyle Sobek. This data is published with the National Weather Service and in the Valdez Star who publish it in their weekly Enviro Box.

- 2016 Emergency Preparedness Fair - Wal Mart Foundation; MVFCU; McDonalds.** This was the second year that the AAIC participated in the National Emergency Preparedness Expo held in Wasilla. With support from the Eastern Alaska Regional Center and the Valdez Center,



AAIC held an interactive experience that provided participants a unique opportunity to get prepared for winter adventures. More



than 1,000 people attended the expo and more than 150 took part in the avalanche training. Special thanks to Kyle Sobek, Conrad Chapman and Kathryn Peltier for helping to make this happen.



- **Forecasting and Observation Services – All Avalanche Centers**

Total Published forecasts: 290

Total Website Hits: 295,000

We encourage everyone to share your observations. The more folks share what they see out there, the better the information will be for all users.



- **Education – AARP Alaska, AIARE, DPS, PWSCC, UAF, Backcountry Babes, Valdez schools, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Copper Valley Telecom, Copper Valley Electric Association**



AAIC was busy this year with a variety of fee based and contracted education programs. During the 2015-2016 season the AAIC hosted 55 training programs. We reached more than 5,000 individuals directly and touched more than 1.2 million through indirect methods including radio and media outreach. We partnered with the Alaska Department of Public Safety to host Backcountry Safety programs which included a total of 14 programs in 8 communities.

The AAIC continues to be the only AIARE authorized Training Center in Alaska offering Level 1 and 2 courses. Other education programs included contract services with the Prince William Sound College, University of Fairbanks, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and Backcountry Babes.

AARP Alaska sponsored courses for those new to backcountry travel as well as those seeking to practice and add to their existing skills.

We are excited about the 2017 lineup of education opportunities which includes more backcountry safety programs, AARP safety courses as well as the AIARE Level 1 and 2 courses. All classes will be listed on our website at [www.AlaskaSnow.org](http://www.AlaskaSnow.org)



- **Snow Safety Summit – Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Black Diamond, & AARP**



**Alaska** – The 2016 Snow Safety Summit is one of the most important projects undertaken by the AAIC network. This year the Summit was held November 3<sup>rd</sup> once again at the BP Energy Center with more than 70 people participating from a variety of agencies and organizations from around the state. You can view the full Summit report, videos and photos at the Summit website <http://alaskasnowsafetyconference.webs.com/>

**Special thanks** to Christopher Constant for moderating this year’s Summit, Greg Kaplan from US Senator Lisa Murkowski’s office for the welcome address and Billie Sundgren Tewalt for her heartfelt Keynote Address.

- **Community Snow Fest – AARP Alaska, Black Diamond, Alaska Avalanche School, City of Anchorage**



The Anchorage Loussac Public Library was once again host to the Alaska Snowfest. Due to construction, the event proved a bit challenging but still had about 50 people participate. Folks who came out were awarded with hands on training, an opportunity to connect with top-notch educators and a chance to win a beacon, shovel and probe courtesy of Black Diamond. Media coverage included print press in multiple publications including: Alaska Coast Magazine, Make A Scene, Anchorage Press, Radio reports, KTUU and KNIK Television.



- **Mobile Game App – Brennaman Foundation, University of Alaska PWSCC/Backcountry Professor, New Mexico State University, KeyLink IT, National Science Foundation - This year, work on the Mobile Game App – *Live to Ride Another Day*** progressed as we continued growing our partnerships with Dr. DB Palmer (Backcountry Professor,) University of New Mexico with Dr. Karl Geisler, Behavioral Studies and KeyLink IT. In the fall of 2016 we applied for funding from the National Science Foundation and are awaiting word on the status of this grant which will allow us to continue to the next step of creating a working prototype of the mobile app. The project has evolved and now includes a far more comprehensive plan, tools (avalanche forecasting tools and reporting platform), that will allow this app to connect with real-world resources, goals and objectives, such as obtaining weather and snow forecast data, planning for adventure, plotting a course, navigation, and execution of a real-world backcountry outing. Special thanks to the Brennaman Foundation, Dr. DB Palmer, PWSCC, Karl Geisler, University of New Mexico, Allen McGhan and the team at KeyLink IT.

- **Haines Weather Station, Chilkat Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation and Haines Borough**

The Haines Forecast took on a big project this year to install a weather station on Mt. Ripinski thanks to support from a band of hearty volunteers. This weather station is now providing data to help make the avalanche forecasting in Haines far more robust and reliable.



- **Eastern Alaska Range Avalanche Center – Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.** The Eastern Alaska Range center, thanks to a band of dedicated volunteers and support from donors such as the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, is growing rapidly. They delivered more than 15 training programs in the Fairbanks, Tok, Delta and Nenana regions as well as provided support during Arctic Man and the Emergency Preparedness Expo. This center has big plans for continued growth, the installation of a weather station and lots more coming in 2017.
- **All of the centers** included in the AAIC network continue to grow and develop. Hatcher Pass now has an eight-member advisory board and is partnering and collaborating with the Friends of the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center for observations and education programs. Lots more coming in 2017. The Cordova Center is also growing and working to build an advisory board to help support programs in their region.



Thank you to all of our donors, supporters, volunteers, collaborators, staff and directors for helping us bring snow safety services to Alaskans.