

Alaska Avalanche Information Center, Inc.



2021-2022 Annual Report


Tax ID #80-0674646

ABOUT US

The AAIC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit avalanche center started by volunteers to bridge the gap between winter backcountry users and the lack of information about snow, weather and avalanches.

Regional centers including Valdez, Haines, Fairbanks and Cordova serve each communities through our website and a team of industry professionals whose service helps reduce unintentional injuries and death. Our funding is provided by grants programs, donations and generous sponsors.



A photograph of a snowy mountain slope under a clear blue sky. The snow is white and covers most of the mountain. There are some dark patches of rock or vegetation visible through the snow. The sky is a solid, clear blue. In the bottom left corner, the word "MISSION" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

To support and promote avalanche forecasts, education, research, professional development, and networking of practitioners in the pursuit of healthy lifestyles and the reduction of unintentional injury and death.

MISSION



PRODUCT OVERVIEW

FORECASTS

Our professional team of regional forecasters produce detailed and timely public avalanche danger bulletins based on conditions

EDUCATION

A variety of programs and resources deliver information and training to a range of experience levels including awareness workshops and trainings

OBSERVATIONS

An online public user database allows individuals to read and report their findings for recent weather, snowpack and avalanche activity

WEATHER STATIONS

Maintenance and installation for remote weather information adds significant value to forecasts, trip planning and seasonal history

BUSINESS MODEL



PROVIDE

Maintain an information hub for quality regional forecasts, snow observations, backcountry skills trainings and weather stations

STRENGTHEN

Build relationships with community members and visitors alike through business, industry and other user groups

PROMOTE

Meet the increased demand for education and awareness for all ages, users and ability levels through initiatives and programs

GROWTH STRATEGY

PAID STAFF

Hire and compensate quality professional forecasters and instructors

ONLINE PRESENCE

Make improvements to the website and social media content

OUTREACH

Build connections with community members and industry partners

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Steve 'Hoots' Witose, President

Hank Statscewich, Vice President

Andy Hedden, Secretary

Rich Loftin, Treasurer

Scott Doddridge, Director

Erik Stevens, Director

Jeff Moskowitz, Administrator &

Interim Director



2021-2022 Forecaster Team



Hoots Witsoe, Cordova
Erik Stevens, Haines
Jeff Moskowitz, Haines
Tim Thomas, Haines
Brady McGuire, Haines
Gareth Brown, Valdez
Sarah Carter, Valdez



2021-2022 Valdez Blueberry Weather Observers



Darryl Verfaillie
Connor Verfaillie
Kira Friend
Aidan Shafland
Zadie Carman
Holly Mooney



2021-2022 Instructor Team

Valdez

Sarah Carter
Gareth Brown

Haines

Jeff Moskowitz
Tim Thomas
Brady McGuire

Contractors

Madeline Dunn
Mike Buck



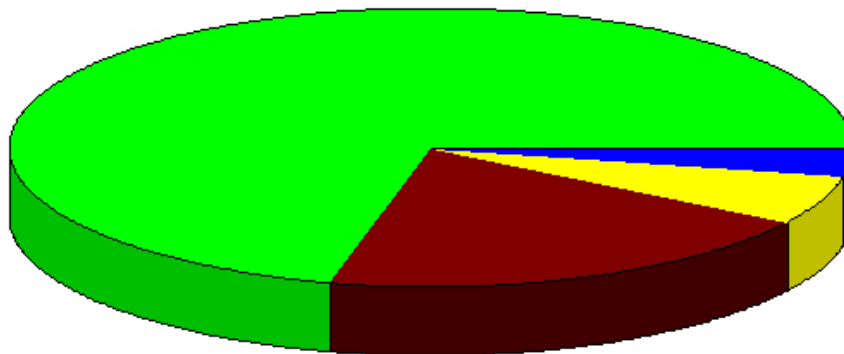
2021-2022 Income and Expenses

(Fiscal Year: July 2021 – June 2022)

Gross Income from all sources:	\$ 139,064.57
Total Expenses:	\$ 134,095.76
Total cash on hand:	\$ 84,860.32
Total assets:	\$ 97,554.73
Total liabilities:	\$ 561.96
Total net equity	\$ 96,992.77

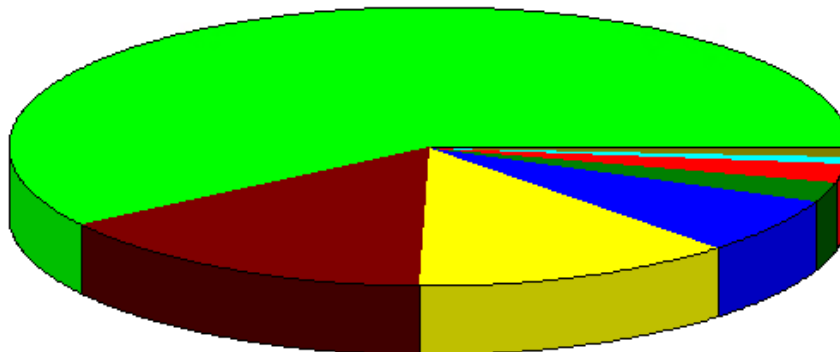
2021-2022 Income and Expenses Breakdown

Income Summary
July 2021 through June 2022



44500 · Government Grants	71.19%
43400 · Direct Public Support	19.93
47200 · Program Income	5.82
43300 · Direct Public Grants	3.06
Total	\$139,064.57

Expense Summary
July 2021 through June 2022



66000 · Payroll Expenses	59.62%
62100 · Contract Services	15.12
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	12.55
68400 · Website	6.67
65000 · Operations	2.47
64000 · Program Expenses	2.33
68300 · Travel and Meetings	0.77
60900 · Business Expenses	0.48
Total	\$134,095.76

What We Accomplished

2020-2021 Impact

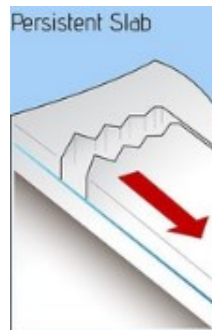
DESCRIPTION	# SERVED 2020-2021	# SERVED 2021-2022
Forecasts/Advisories published	239	558
Education Courses taught	25	47
Students served directly	458	2,588



What We Accomplished

2020-2021 Impact

AUDIENCE	# SERVED 2020-2021	# SERVED 2021-2022
Sessions	48,645	43,968
Users	24,154	25,148
Page Views	104,798	113,004



Alaska Department of Public Safety and Alaska State Troopers

Backcountry Safety Grant

2021-2022 Communities & Schools Served:

- Valdez
- Haines
- Juneau
- Anchorage
- Fairbanks
- Kenny Lakes
- Glenallen
- Nenana
- Mat-Su
- Sterling
- Hoonah
- Houston
- Pelican
- Nanwalek
- Whale Pass
- Sitka
- Nome
- Sepentine
- Shismerif
- Breveg Mission
- Deering
- Buckland
- Kotzebue
- Point Hope
- Wainwright
- Barrow



The 2022 Norwest Alaska Safety Question between the AAIC and Alaska Safe Riders to host a series of programs via snowmachine to nine rural Northwest Alaska communities



By utilizing virtual presentations along with web quest activities designed with the curriculum in mind, every school district in the state of the Alaska was contacted by e-mail and given the option to schedule a free backcountry safety presentation.



As Kristopher Wagoner CTE Teacher at Houston Junior Senior High School in the Mat-Su Borough School District said in an e-mail after a virtual presentation:

"I am sure every time you deliver the presentation, you save another life."

AIARE Recreational Avalanche Courses Taught

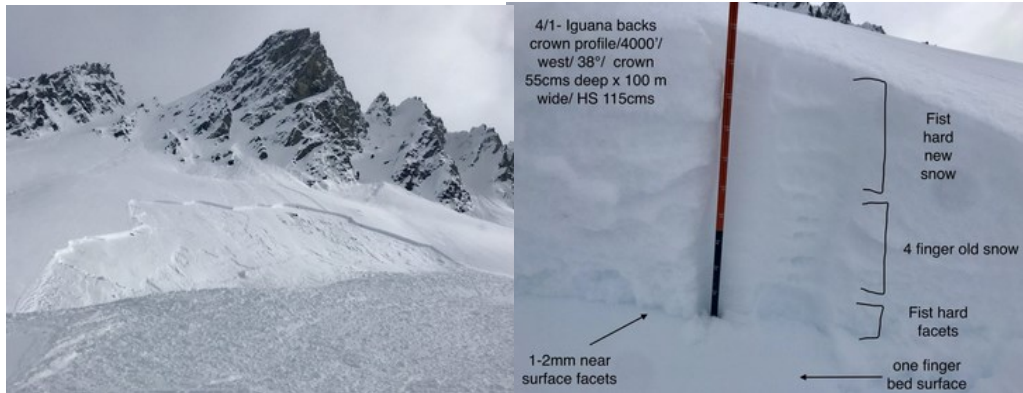
2021-2022 Universities & Courses Severed

- Prince William Sound College
 - Recreational Avalanche Level 1 Course
 - Recreational Avalanche Level 2 Course
- University of Alaska Anchorage
 - Recreational Avalanche Level 1 Course

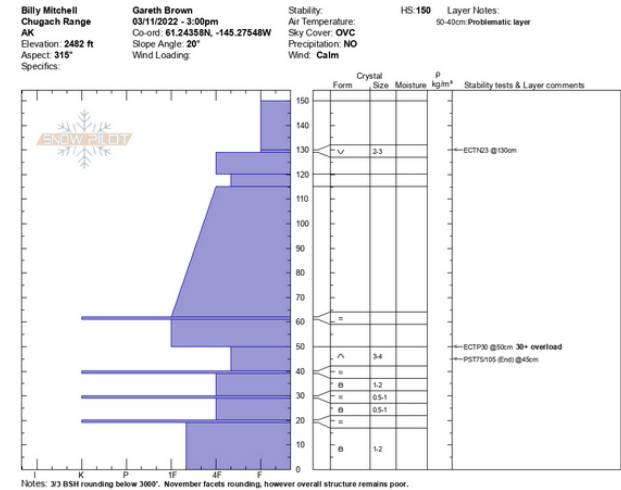


Prince William Sound College students studying Outdoor Leadership participate in a Avalanche Level 2 Rec Course to received credits towards their degree as a partnership with the AAIC.

Forecasts and Observations



This natural avalanche at Thompson Pass near Valdez was hard slab avalanche on a west aspect halfway up an apron (4000')/~38° slope/ 100 meters wide ran 200' vertical to a flat bench. Crown ranged from 50-100 cms, and failed on 1-2mm near surface facets and was investigated by VAC lead forecaster Gareth Brown

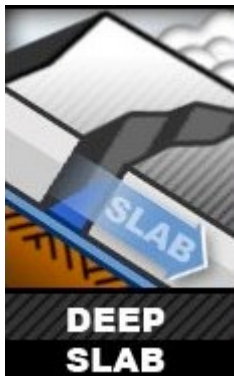


This skier-triggered avalanche near Haines on March 21st, 2022 is a good example of a close call that could have had deadly results. Luckily, nobody was injured in this slide. This was from a group of local recreationalists.

Avalanche Activity



From the Valdez Avalanche Center: February 17-18th A Significant avalanche cycle occurred during this time period. Most of the activity failed on deep persistent weak layers. These were the 1/24 facet-crust combo and the November facets. Numerous hard slab avalanches were observed that failed near the ground. (Photos: Gareth Brown and Jed Workman).



From the Haines Avalanche Center:
January 29th Deep slab natural avalanche that occurred roughly in the Lutak Zone. This slide may have run on a buried facet layer from late December's outflow event, or even a deeper rain crust near the ground (it went all the way to ground in spots). (Photo: Erik Stevens)

Public Observations

Detailed Observation

Date	2022-03-12
Location	Eastern Alaska Range
Observer	David Hooke
Aviation	N

General Observations

Shedded up McCullum Creek, then rolled out of the drainage up one of the side bowls. Several feet of powder in the drainage, on the plateau and in the bowl. Some slides observed on N facing slopes, none on S facing slopes. Snow pit revealed a right side up snowpack for 2-3' to a knife hard windward that extended past 120 cm depth (S facing slope). No observed weak layer below that wind board

Uploaded Images



EARAC

Detailed Observation

Date	2022-04-11
Location	Valdez
Observer	Jeremy Wood
Aviation	N

General Observations

Left trail at 11 AM with intent to hike up 40.5 mile trail. Wind increasing by 12 with active pluming and snow transport in the mts. Turned around at 3200 feet on west facing aspect due to concern about readible windfall, and on way down first rider ski out produced C2 slab between 1-3' thick. First rider carried 500 vertical feet with airbag deployment and stayed on top. Second rider pulled onto slab as well, but stopped on bed surface 50-100 vertical feet, also deployed airbag. First rider (skier) had poles and one ski also on surface. 30 minutes of probing produced buried ski and both riders exited without further difficulty.

Uploaded Images



VAC

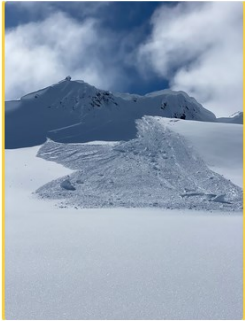
Detailed Observation

Date	2022-05-07
Location	Haines
Observer	John Upton
Aviation	N

General Observations

Observed a cornice failure that resulted in a steep down slide on a N/E aspect at approximately 5500'. Temp was 28 degrees but full sunlight. Overall snow conditions were stable with 3-4' of powder.

Uploaded Images



HAC

Public observations are crucial for monitoring conditions, creating forecasters and trip planning. These are a few examples from the 2021-2022 season in the Eastern Alaska Range, Valdez and Haines.

Total Public Observations

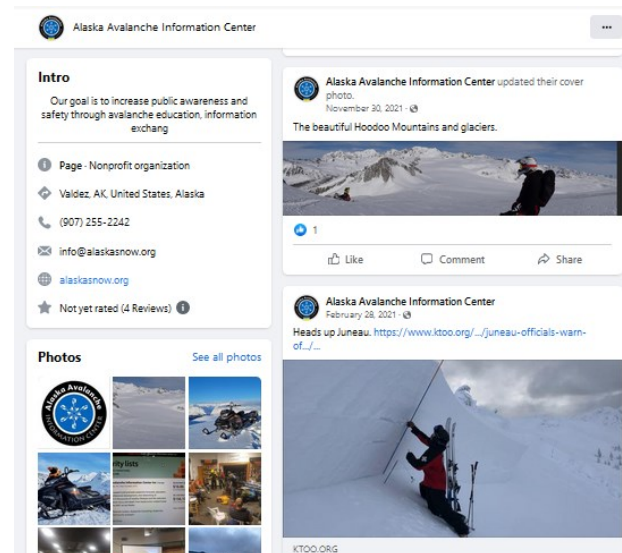
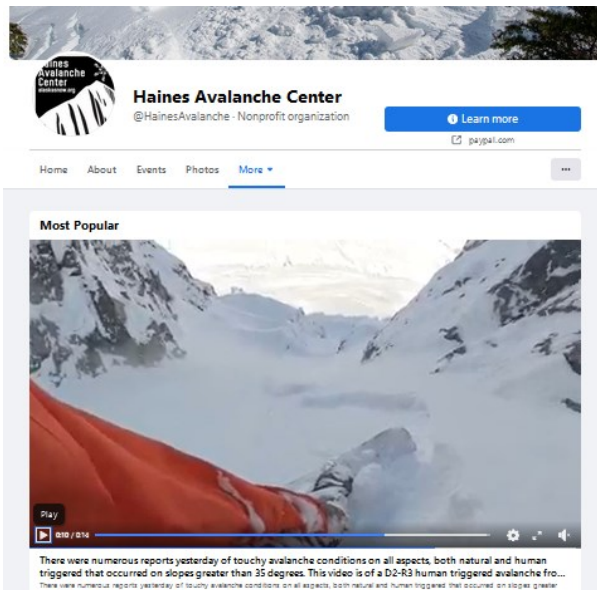
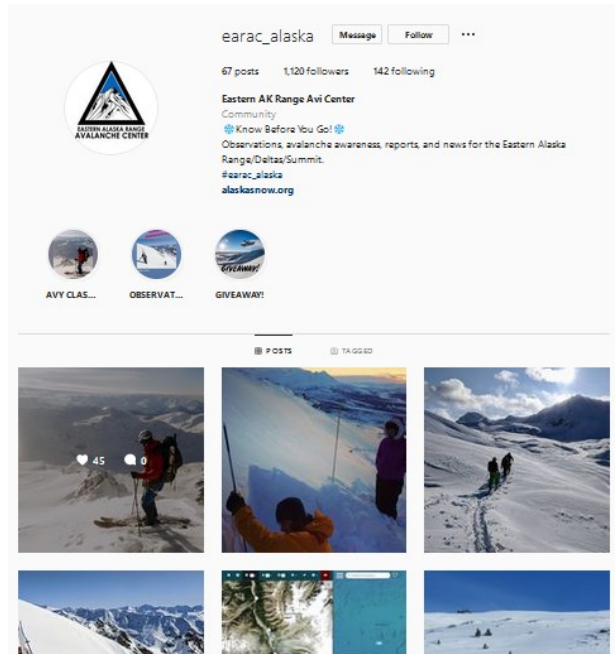
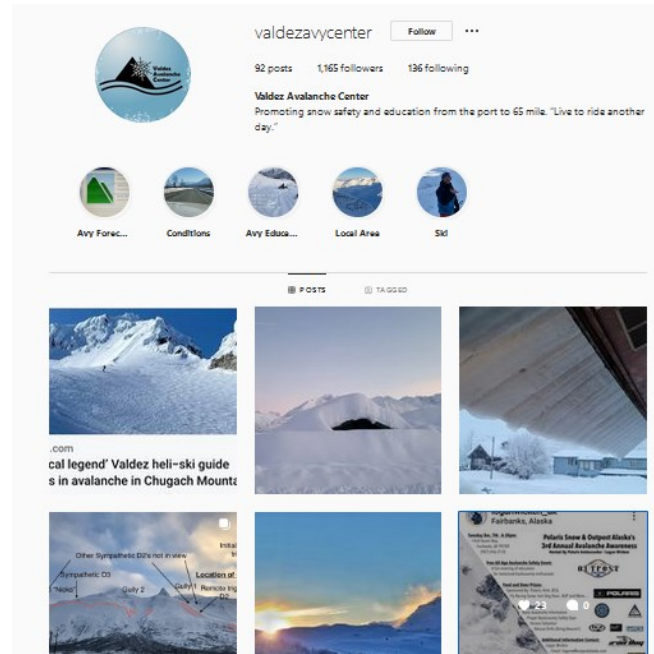
Valdez: 54

Haines: 92

Eastern Alaska Range: 31

Social Media

Instagram



facebook

The Future

- Increase corporate sponsorship
- Hire an executive director & paid staff
- Recruit additional board members
- Develop website and online presence
- Continue to pursue backcountry public safety grants
- Build new relationships with industry partners
- Create sustainable paid forecaster job positions
- Continue strategic planning sessions
- Open scholarship programs and opportunities

2021-2022 Title Sponsors



2021-2022 Members

Ann Myren	Jeremy Jansen
John. J Byrne	Ray Howard
Anthony Larson	Chorus Bishop
Matthew Jilson	Lois Peterson
Matthew Nelson	Elizabeth
Stan Robinson	Segars
Nishan Weerasinghe	Leslie Evenden
Brian Rougeaux	Reggie Crist
Shannon Donahue	Hank
Jacqueline St Clair	Statscewich
Stacie Evans	Marika
Alexandria Hubbard	Mayberry
Adam McComb	Russel Biggs
Shannon Stevens	Dan Jendral
Jacob Bell	Joe Salem
Jeremy Jansen	Richard Diehl
Alexandria Hubbard	Lanette Oliver
Adam McComb	Laurie
Shannon Stevens	Rich Loftin
Jacob Bell	Jonathan Gold
	Elise Leahy

Special Thanks!



AMERICAN
AVALANCHE
ASSOCIATION



**Coastal Alaska
Avalanche Center**



To Our Partners

Thank You!

For all you are doing to support this cause



By Providing
Advisories, Forecasts,
Information and Education