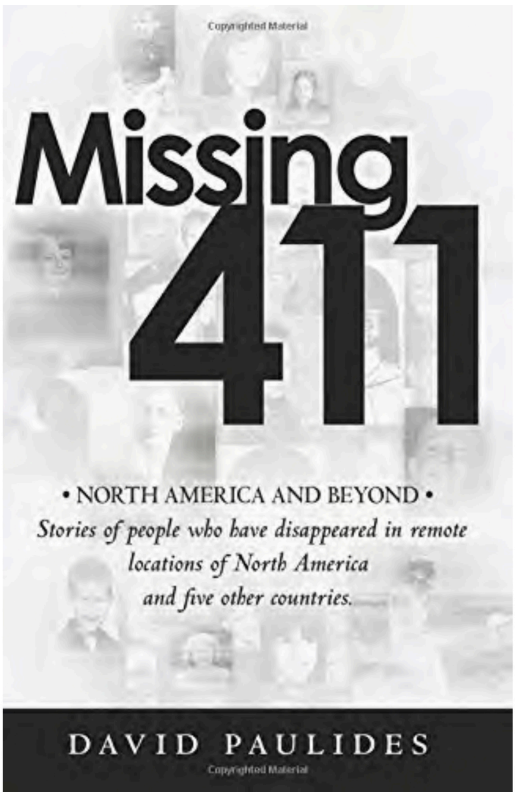


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INTRODUCTION

This book was never planned; it evolved. After dozens of radio interviews and hundreds of e-mails, it became very obvious that there were many more cases of missing people than what were contained in the Western and Eastern "Missing 411" books. I should start this manuscript with a huge "thank you" to every person that sent me cases matching the profile I've written about. Each of the cases you sent was investigated and thoroughly researched, and many are included in this book.

As cases were investigated and thoroughly understood, they sometimes led to additional cases and even new clusters. We did realize early on that we couldn't have found every case matching our profile, and we knew that the public would assist us in our continued search. We also knew that there would be additional cases that occurred as we were in the field conducting research, and many of these recent cases are in this book.

Before we get too far into the book, it is important to understand a few abbreviations that you will see multiple times in the narrative:

FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation
RCMP—Royal Canadian Mounted Police
FLIR—Forward-Looking Infrared Radar
NPS—National Park Service
FOIA—Freedom of Information Act

As a brief reminder of what the "Missing 411" books are about, I will include a short review. These books are about people who have disappeared in rural locations of the world—yes, the world. The past two books have focused on North America. We are going global now.

<u>The books included the following criteria for inclusion:</u>

- Missing are people with disabilities.
- Missing left with their canines.

- Missing are found in or near creeks, rivers, or other bodies of water.
- There is geographical clustering of missing persons.
- Bad weather was associated with the disappearance.
- Swamps and briar patches played a predominant role in many disappearances.
- The vast majority of disappearances occur in the late afternoon or early evening.
- When the missing is found, many cannot or will not remember what occurred while they were gone.
- When the missing is located, the majority are semiconscious or unconscious.
- When the missing is located, many are missing clothing or shoes or both.
- The missing is found in an area that was previously searched.
- Berries are inextricably related somehow with the disappearance.

New Clusters

With the publicity surrounding the first two books and the appearances I made, new information came to our attention, and soon four new clusters were discovered.

The news coverage of the National Parks' position on tracking missing-persons statistics brought significant attention to other national parks not listed in previous books. We were already researching Mount Rainier National Park when the first two "Missing 411" books were completed. We had filed a Freedom of Information Act Request on a case and were waiting for a response. Subsequent to the release of the books, new cases inside the park were exposed, which again showed a geographical cluster of missing people inside another national park. Refer to the chapter inside this book for details on Mount Rainier.

The other new cluster—and another national park cluster—is Sequoia National Park. Sequoia sits approximately fifty miles south of the largest cluster of disappearances anywhere in North America: Yosemite National Park. Sequoia sits in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, occupying its position just as Yosemite does further

north. The stories that emanate at Sequoia are just as baffling and perplexing as in any other cluster.

Another new cluster is the Three Sisters Wilderness in the Northern Cascades of Oregon. I documented the disappearance of Corwin Osborn in *Missing 411-Western United States*. This book brings forward additional cases directly from that wilderness and its surrounding area.

An East Coast cluster was added in the Adirondack region of New York. This region was brought to our attention in *Missing 411-Eastern United States* with the documentation of the Douglas Legg disappearance. The Green Berets were brought into the area and were supposedly used to search for the boy. We allocated more time to the Adirondacks and found a significant group of missing persons that was very disturbing.

Four new clusters:
Mount Rainier National Park, WA
Sequoia National Park, CA
Three Sisters Wilderness, OR
Adirondacks, NY

New Category—Coeds

During our research in various parts of the United States, I first came upon a student missing from a school that my son was attending, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. I first heard about this case and then committed over two weeks to being on site and examining the facts behind the disappearance. You will find this event to be one of the most unusual and disturbing cases I have ever written about. The reality of finding this case led me to research the disappearance of other coeds across North America, and that led to a special section in this book devoted specifically to university and college students that disappeared. I did write about the disappearance of Paula Welden from Bennington, Vermont, in *Missing 411-Eastern United States*. Paula was a student at the college that took a daytime hike to a local mountain and disappeared under very unusual circumstances. This was really the first case I wrote about that relates to college students. There was also a case involving two

University of California, Berkeley students (Orvar Von Laas and Walter Gordon) that both disappeared within months of each other at Yosemite National Park. The disappearance of the UC students actually fits two different criteria in this book: multiple disappearances and coed disappearances.

You will find this new section chilling in that the disappearances fit many of the criteria found in the general section of this book, and you may come to some conclusions on your own about the disappearances of some of the brightest minds in our collegiate arena.

International Disappearances

We don't have the resources to put feet on the ground in other countries, but we do have the ability to review online sources and conduct follow-up research on recommendations on cases from readers. It was this added work that led to an international section. For the first time, you will be able to read about missing-person cases that match our profile from outside of North America.

There have been several cases added to the Alberta province cluster, and other cases added for many of the provinces in Canada. The following is a list of the countries added in the international section and what they represent:

Australia: Two cases of missing people are explained, and their relationship to North American cases is explored.

England: One case is examined, and the elements within the disappearance are explained and discussed.

Indonesia: A relationship is explored between missing people in a jungle setting and the wearing of bright-colored clothing.

Iceland: A story is shared about people and boulders/rocks.

Multiple Disappearances

This is another new section that evolved after looking at thousands of cases, and certain groupings started to make themselves known. This section is related to multiple disappearances. To place cases in this section takes a certain amount of common sense and a certain amount of reality-checking. There are no hard and fast rules about the parameters of this section.

If two cases occur in the same geographical area in a relatively short time span, and there are no other cases found in that area from the previous years, they should probably be in this section. Groupings can be from the same school, disappearing from the same location, or even disappearing together.

Below is the list of locations where we have documented multiple disappearances:
Idaho: Lewiston
Wyoming: Alva and Bitterroot National Forest
Colorado: Evergreen
Maine: Lenox
New York: Schroon Lake, Indian Lake, and Lost Pond
British Columbia, Canada: Willow River and Bonnet Hill
California: Sequoia National Park and Point Reyes National Seashore
Alaska: Wasilla and Talkeetna

General Disappearances

The majority of the book is divided by western and eastern United States and into individual states within each section. This section is organized in a similar manner as the previous "Missing 411" books.

I ask the reader to absorb each of the disappearances and their facts. I guarantee that the facts in each case are true, as they came directly from news articles, Freedom of Information Act-acquired reports, magazines, and firsthand interviews. You will probably need to go back and re-read certain sections, as the stories will start to blend together and the facts behind the cases are so similar.

If you have children, think back to when your kids were the ages of the victims when they vanished. Apply a common-sense approach to these cases, and see if your children could've traveled the distances that many of these kids managed to cover. At the end

of the book will be my personal e-mail address where you can send feedback.

List of Missing

As in each of the past books, I have included a list of the missing by the date they disappeared. You will again find this section near the back of the book. In my previous books, I asked any statisticians or computer programmers to look at what is presented and determine if they could calculate the odds of the specific clustering or the specific clusters of missing children by years. I never did get a response.

National Park Service

The National Park Service has not changed its policy on missing people. They still do not track people missing inside their system and claim they have no lists of missing. Every senior law enforcement officer I know, in state or local government, does not believe that the NPS doesn't track this information. Because these books have not garnered national press attention, the pressure by the public on the NPS to change its policy hasn't yet occurred.

Tracking missing people isn't rocket science and doesn't cost money. Each park needs a clipboard, binder paper, and a numbering system. Each time someone vanishes, document the name, date, time, location, one sentence about the circumstances, and the report number of the incident. When someone is found anywhere in the park, rangers can go back to the clipboard and quickly reference who the person may be. Any ranger with a laptop and Excel spreadsheet could easily upgrade the tracking system. Each time another person disappears, the spreadsheet is updated and e-mailed to all rangers in the park; again, no additional funds needed. This is not time-consuming, not expensive, and yet can reveal problems inside their system that need to be addressed. Why wouldn't they be doing this?

The park service apparently sees no value on tracking missing people—doubtful. Hundreds of e-mails from readers have stated that the park service certainly sees the value in tracking—but they are afraid that this list would be leaked to the public, and

the vastness of the missing-person problem inside the park system would be known. If the park service is purposely concealing this issue, then we have a governmental agency that is so grossly corrupt it screams of a congressional investigation.

Let me state that the NPS has complied with the majority of my FOIA requests for documents. They have never supplied any list of missing people. They have referred me to other published books that are related to missing people, so I could paste together a partial list.

I have always wondered if my books ever made it into the hands of any of the relatives of people who have disappeared in a national park. It is those people that have the political power to orchestrate change. They would need to go to their congressman or senator, explain what is occurring, and demand a policy change.

Maps

We did include state maps in the first two Missing books. The feedback we received indicated they were hard to visualize. We understand that and apologize. It is very difficult to find a quality map that fits within the confines of a book and which we can license for a reasonable fee. We are going to recommend that readers use Google Maps to plot the missing, and we hope to place a larger map on the CanAmmissing.com website where you can get a wider picture of the issue. There will be no state maps in this book.

Review

The vast majority of the cases you will read about have been written about before, but the connections you see here have not been discussed. Many of the missing are not in any databases and will not be talked about in missing-person forums. The cases were found by thousands of hours of research, scouring older newspapers, referrals by readers, and pure luck. If you know of a case that needs to be reviewed and subsequently researched, please forward us the related information.

These *are not* normal missing-person cases. Thousands of cases have been researched and reviewed, and those eventually became what are found in the Missing 411 books. Specific criteria were applied to these cases for them to get to this section. Yes, cases were

heavily screened for facts and background to be applied to these books. I worked several cases as a police officer where we utilized FBI profiling reports to assist us in the investigation. According to TheFreeDictionary.com, profiling is "a formal summary of or analysis of data, often in the form of a graph or table, representing distinctive features or characteristics." While I am nowhere near an FBI profiler, I do recognize unusual facts and circumstances and view the presentation of those in correlation to missing people as a significant history lesson that needs additional public exposure and research.

Please read these cases with an open mind and apply common sense to the circumstances that are explained. You may want to stay close to a computer or iPad, as referring to online maps for location correlation may assist in the understanding of the locations and miles traveled.

CHAPTER ONE:
WESTERN UNITED STATES

Alaska

Name	Date/Time Missing•Time•Age•Sex•Location
Kevin Robert O'Keefe	10/08/85–Unk•36•M•GlacierBay National Park, AK
**Michael Palmer	06/04/99–4 a.m.•15•M•Wasilla, AK
**Charles Palmer V	04/10/10–7 p.m.•30•M•Talkeetna, AK
Gerald Deberry	10/10/11–6:45 p.m.•53•M•Fairbanks, AK
Paul Michael Lemaitre	07/04/12–7 p.m.•66•M•Seward, AK

**Refer to chapter on "Multiple Disappearances"

Kevin Robert O'Keefe
Missing 10/08/85, Wolf Point, Glacier Bay National Park, AK
Age at Disappearance: 36 years
**Freedom of Information Act

Glacier Bay National Park is approximately seventy miles northwest of Juneau. The park sits in an extremely wild and remote area where the Pacific Ocean forms a series of small to large inlets from a wide inlet going north from the region of Funter Bay State Marine Park.

Kevin O'Keefe traveled from his home in Sacramento, California, and arrived in Juneau on or near September 20, eventually flying on to the Glacier Park headquarters. He enrolled in and attended a class about living in the wilds of the park. On September 22, he was flown by floatplane into Muir Inlet, just north of Wolf Point, where he established camp. He was traveling alone.

On October 8, 1985, National Park Ranger David Nemeth and his partner were patrolling the region of Wolf Point by boat

when they stopped at Kevin's campsite. Rangers found a disturbing sight. Kevin's tent was near the high tide line, and this is where they also found a line of debris that appeared to be strewn by the high-water mark. The ranger made special mention in his report about the tent having one pole inside that had come down. They found his sleeping bag, foam pad, and other items outside the tent, lying on the ground. Rangers knew that Kevin was supposed to be picked up on October 10 and decided to leave his camp untouched.

From reviewing National Park Service (NPS) reports, which were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, it appeared there was concern. Rangers went back to the camp the next day, but this time four rangers went. They found the camp just as it had been the previous day, and it did not appear as though anyone had used it during the night. The NPS did not conduct any searches, but they did call for Kevin and didn't get any response.

On October 10, rangers again returned with the additional assistance of an airplane, a Cessna 206 on floats. Rangers conducted a two-hour flight over the area, looking for Kevin, but they could not locate him. On October 17, 1985, the *Anchorage Daily* published an article describing what NPS rangers found at Kevin's campsite: "Aided by search dogs, they found his boots and a hat half a mile away, down in a gully out of sight of the main camp. They found his food and caches too. But they never found any sign of the 36-year-old tourist." Later, in the same article, rangers speculated about what may have happened to Kevin: "What happened to Kevin O'Keefe may never be known. Rangers have rejected early speculation he was eaten by bears." The rangers stated there were no bear tracks anywhere in the area of Kevin's camp and even added, "almost no wildlife of any kind."

A review of the NPS report and itemization of Kevin's property indicates items were located at intervals of 60, 120, and 200-300 feet from his tent and that his boots and knit hat were found in a gully. It appears that everything that Kevin needed to survive was at his camp. He had survival books and pamphlets, film, food, a toothbrush, soap, cigarettes, vitamin C, a compass, a flashlight, and

other assorted items that you'd expect to find in a campsite where someone was staying for over one month.

Summary

NPS rangers did contact Kevin's family and found that he had planned to take a series of short hikes from his camp on a daily basis. He had not planned on any lengthy overnight treks or meeting other people. Rangers had found Kevin's daypack in an inventory search, indicating he had not left his camp.

Kevin's glove liner was found several hundred yards from his main camp. His boots and knit cap were found almost a half-mile from camp and found only with the aide of search dogs. If you have been a reader of cases I've outlined in past books, you'll understand how these clues start to look familiar. Patrick Whalen disappeared from Glacier National Park in Montana on November 2, 2000. His tent was found crumpled (same as Kevin's), and his boots were inside his tent. Patrick Whalen was thirty-three years old when he vanished, and he was never found (*Missing 411- Western United States*).

There are too many cases to quote where the victim vanishes, and their shoes somehow are found, or the victim is found without their shoes. Alaska is a location that is not forgiving; you must have shoes if you are to survive. Rangers never answered the obvious question of why Kevin's sleeping bag and other items were outside his tent. This makes no sense.

Rangers did not find any indications of an animal attack, and there was no blood located at the scene.

Knowing that Kevin's boots, daypack, primary pack, sleeping materials, and food were located at the site, one must deduct that Kevin was at his camp when something happened. It's apparent that there are no animals in this area, as Kevin's food was not disturbed. Why would Kevin take his boots off? Did Kevin voluntarily take the boots off?

It's amazing how someone disappears in a mountainous area somewhat near a population zone, and hundreds of searchers participate in the hunt. When you disappear in a remote region, hardly anyone looks for the victim. There was not a week-long sustained

ground search for Kevin O'Keefe. There were a few flyovers, boats cruising the coast, but not an extensive ground search; why? It appears obvious that Kevin was somewhere inland from the point where they found his boots—why not keep going deeper into the woods? If Kevin's boots and glove liner were found quite a distance from his camp, I would suggest a sustained effort to search in that direction; this effort was never made by NPS rangers. Why?

Michael Timothy Palmer
Charles Palmer V
**Refer to "Multiple Disappearances" chapter for details on these cases.

Gerald Deberry
Missing 10/10/11–6:45 p.m., Northeast of Fairbanks, AK
Age at Disappearance: 53 years

It's a very rare event when a search team finds its missing party, and then has to start searching for one of their own personnel. This is exactly what happened on October 10, 2011, along the Steese Highway at Mile 70 northeast of Fairbanks.

Gerald Deberry was a volunteer that responded to a call to search for Melinda "Mindy" Stratz of Utah. Deberry was a veteran of other searches and knew the area very, very well. He responded with his green Yamaha Kodiak four-wheeler and joined the efforts to find the woman.

This event started at approximately 2 a.m. when Mindy got separated from the other four wheelers in her group. Mindy's brother, Michael Stratz, contacted authorities and reported her as missing. Michael went to the Long Creek Lodge and told law enforcement that his sister was lost on a trail coming back from the wilderness. He reported that her red four-wheeler, trailer, and Jack Russell terrier had vanished. Alaska state troopers responded and started to gather troops for a comprehensive search. In the morning hours of October 10, a number of searchers had arrived to assist.

Late in the afternoon, Gerald had made a comment to others that he was starting to get cold. Other searchers built a fire, and someone gave Gerald another overcoat. After Gerald got warm, he again went out looking for Mindy.

As Gerald was out searching, another volunteer found Mindy alive and well near Frozen Foot Creek. There are few details available about Mindy's case other than what's been noted.

Searchers started to gather and head home when someone noticed that Gerald hadn't come back to his vehicle. Several of the original search teams went out to look for him. It was reported that Gerald was last seen four miles from the trailhead they had started searching. Searchers were told that Gerald had medical problems, but the medical condition was not released to the public.

Early in the morning of October 11, two different helicopters with forward-looking infrared radar (FLIR) started scanning the woods, looking for a heat signature. The Alaska state troopers sent their helicopter and Piper Supercub while the Alaska Air National Guard sent rescue teams to cover the ground.

Formal and informal searches for Gerald continued for a week with no evidence of him being found. The owner of the lodge where searchers were staging was Paul Potvin, an old friend of Deberry's. The *Alaska Dispatch* on October 14 printed a statement from Paul about the search for his friend: "It's a mystery, said Potvin. The four-wheeler is gone. Something had to have happened to him. He didn't get lost. Everybody agrees with that. He's been out there way too many times to get lost. That's the most baffling part." If Gerald didn't get lost, then where was his four-wheeler?

If the four-wheeler was in the area at the time the FLIR was in the sky, it should've indicated a heat signature. It didn't, or it wasn't there.

Almost one year after Gerald vanished, on Labor Day 2012, a miner was walking near the Faith Creek Mine at Mile 69 on Steese Highway and found Gerald's four-wheeler. It was on a slight incline, and the engine had been turned off. There was another massive search for Gerald in the region surrounding his vehicle, and nothing was found.

Summary

I pulled maps of the Faith Creek area to understand the location where Gerald's vehicle was found. It was located one small mountain range to the northwest of Steese Highway. There is actually a roadway that travels from the highway north toward the mine. There is a small valley that borders the north side of the small mountain that moves parallel to the highway. It is extremely hard to imagine how Gerald was unable to find his way back to search headquarters, even if the vehicle had failed. The man knew the area very well, and conditions were such that it was no more than a walk of three-quarters of a mile back from the vehicle to the roadway. Gerald would've known not to walk further north, because there was a larger mountain range in that direction.

I find it very peculiar that aircraft with FLIR never found Gerald's vehicle. The Alaska state troopers are experts at search and rescue and do this regularly. To look in a fairly confined area and still be unable to locate a vehicle with FLIR is odd.

In one last attempt to find anything the night that Gerald vanished, the Alaska Air National Guard sent a second FLIR-equipped aircraft and swept the region, finding nothing.

Gerald's sisters flew to Alaska to assist with their brother's affairs. One of Gerald's sisters, Cheryl Hart, made the following statement to WTAP on October 20: "We just have to keep the faith and hope, you know, that he either wanders in, or we find him."

Gerald Deberry has never been found.

Paul Michael Lemaitre
Missing 7/04/12–7 p.m., Seward, AK
Age at Disappearance: 66 years

As someone who has run in several 10K races during my years, I know that fatalities associated with road races are unfortunately a reality. Having a runner disappear, though, is not only unusual, but also almost unheard of. I will admit that the races I've run were along major city streets and not through forests or rural areas. The disappearance we are discussing here occurred at one of the oldest races in the world, at a location where they had never before had a fatality or a disappearance: the Mount Marathon in Seward, Alaska.





Seward is a port city just sixty miles south of Anchorage with its primary elevation at sea level. The Mount Marathon is described as follows on the Seward Chamber of Commerce website: "Launched in 1915, the three-mile Mount Marathon is a combination run, hike, and scramble up Seward's signature 3,022-foot peak." The race is limited to a certain number of runners that are chosen through a lottery and competitive activities. The race starts in downtown Seward and then heads up the mountain to the summit and then back down. The site states that minor injuries are common; major injuries and disappearances are not. The exact length of the course is 3.1 to 3.5 miles, depending on that year's layout. The average angle of the trail is thirty-eight degrees, the steepest slope is sixty degrees, and the start is at the corner of 4th Avenue and Adams Street in downtown Seward. The finish line is at 4th Avenue and Washington.

On July 4, 2012, Paul Michael Lemaitre had done all of the preparation possible for the race of a lifetime. At sixty-six years young, Paul was in very good shape for his age and was a civilian employee at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. He was a counselor

who assisted people leaving the military in getting their résumés in order. He had registered for the Mount Marathon and was assigned bib number 548. Paul had family members at the start line (3 p.m.) when the gun went off to begin the race. Paul had decided that it was a feat to finish, not to race to the finish. He just wanted to make a respectable run and complete the course in a timely manner. Just as a barometer of how fast this race can be completed, Fred Moore (age seventy-two) completed this year's course in one hour, eleven minutes, and thirty-four seconds; this was Moore's forty-third consecutive race.

As the race was taking place, there were a few unusual events that were occurring. In two separate incidents, runners fell in a steep section of the course and were seriously injured. There were very few details about what exactly happened other than the injuries were listed as serious. This was a very unusual occurrence for the race, as the Chamber of Commerce was proud of its history of being a safe race.

Paul was wearing black running shorts and a black running shirt. He had poor eyesight and was not wearing glasses the day of the race.

From all accounts that were reviewed for this segment, Paul was the last racer on the mountain. A July 9, 2012, article on the KTUU.com website had this explanation from the last person to see Paul: "According to the chamber, a race-timing crew stationed at the top of the mountain began its descent about 5:45 p.m. The lead timer, who was not named in the statement, spoke with Lemaitre at about 6 p.m. when he was nearing the mountaintop. The timer had reported that Mr. Lemaitre verbally confirmed that he wanted to continue, chamber officials wrote Monday. He looked good and did not demonstrate any sign of distress or physical or emotional concern and was moving slowly and steadily up the mountain." The timer then continued down the trail.

At 6 p.m. a race official spoke to Paul's wife and explained that he had been seen and was fine. They explained that if he wasn't down the mountain in ninety minutes, she should contact the authorities, but they thought he was fine.

At 8.pm. Paul's wife contacted race officials and notified them that Paul had not come back from the run. Race officials contacted the Seward fire department, who in turn contacted the Alaska state troopers, and a search was started.

Searchers encountered treacherous conditions as they tried to cover every conceivable location where Paul may have wandered. The visibility was horrible at times, as fog had hit the mountain. Ground searchers confronted two black bears that ran away from the people; no grizzlies were sighted.

There was a dusting of snow near the summit of Mount Marathon the night that Paul vanished. Searchers carefully examined the area and found no tracks. Alaska state troopers "Helo Teams" responded and continually covered the mountain with FLIR and found no evidence of Paul. The Alaska Mountain Rescue Group covered the mountain on the ground and found nothing related to Paul.

To understand the scope of the search for Paul, *The Alaska Dispatch* ran an article on July 9, 2012, explaining who contributed to the effort to find the runner: "Hundreds of volunteers have been involved in the rescue operation, including the Alaska Mountain Rescue, Nordic Ski Patrol, Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs, Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Department, National Park Service, Seward Police and Fire Department, the Air National Guard, Alaska State Troopers and many Seward residents, as well as racers who returned to Seward to help with the search."

Several dog teams from the Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs did cover the mountain attempting to find Paul's scent. Nothing of value was found by the canine search teams.

Summary

Paul Michael Lemaitre disappeared in an area where there had been hundreds of runners: an area that had a very well-marked trail and an overlook near the summit where there can be no mistake in which direction Seward and the finish line is located. The summit area has very little foliage and lots of rock, dirt, and boulders.