

# So You Want To Be An Avalanche Forecaster?

*from the couch to the snowpit; a look at the changing  
world of U.S. avalanche education*



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# Two Parts

- American Avalanche Association
  - Who We Are
  - What We Do
- Pro/Rec Education
  - Recreational Training
  - Professional Training
  - What to Expect



Waddington Range, BC



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# Supporting The Avalanche Community



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# American Avalanche Association

- 1983 – TAR founded
- 1986 – AAA founded
- Support, connect, represent
- Who are we?
- Today...

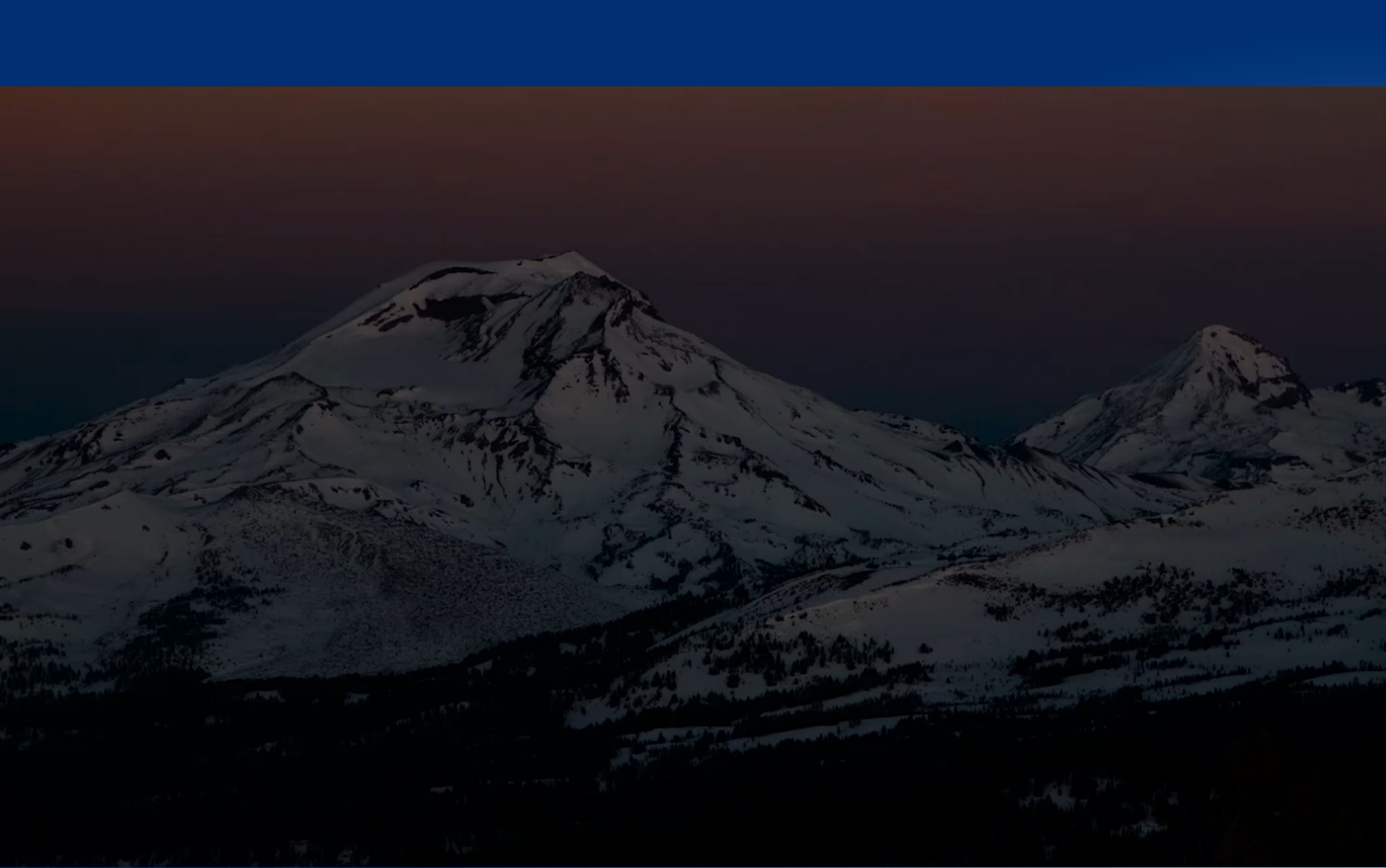


Mt Rainier, WA



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# Supporting The Avalanche Community



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Promotes and supports professionalism  
and excellence in **avalanche safety,**  
**education, and research** in the United  
States.



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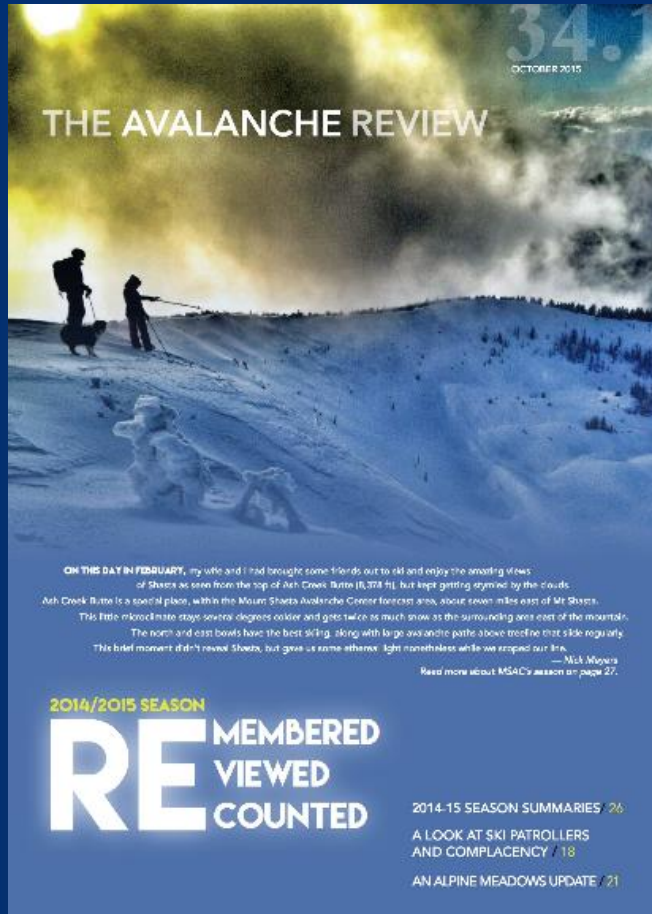
# AMERICAN AVALANCHE ASSOCIATION

- The Avalanche Review
- Avalanche.org
- Professional Development Grants
- Research Grants
- Avalanche Education Standards
  - Pro/Rec Split



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# The Avalanche Review



- Stay connected
- Industry news
- New ideas and research
- Learn what other pros are doing and thinking
- Inspiring photos



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# Pro Development Workshop Grants

## Here we are!

Also supporting this fall: CSAW, CAW,  
USAW, ESAW, NSAW, **SAAW**, WYSAW,  
MSU-SAW, SEASAW

And next spring: Sawtooth, Gallatin,  
Sierra events

Made possible by generous support from...

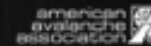


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# www.avalanche.org



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Legend  
● Agency avalanche centers - federal, state or city  
● Non-agency avalanche centers - non-profit, volunteer based  
Polygons represent agency centers that are participating in the national map project

[Purpose and Liability statement](#)  
[Get Listed](#)



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# Research Grants



Katreen Wikstrom-Jones – Effects of thermal properties of snow entrainment in avalanche run-out (AAA-Theo Meiners grant 2014)



Brint Markle – Validating the Avatech Snow Profiler (AAA-Theo Meiners grant 2013)

Kevin Hammonds – Thermophysical properties of the ice-snow interface (AAA grant 2014)

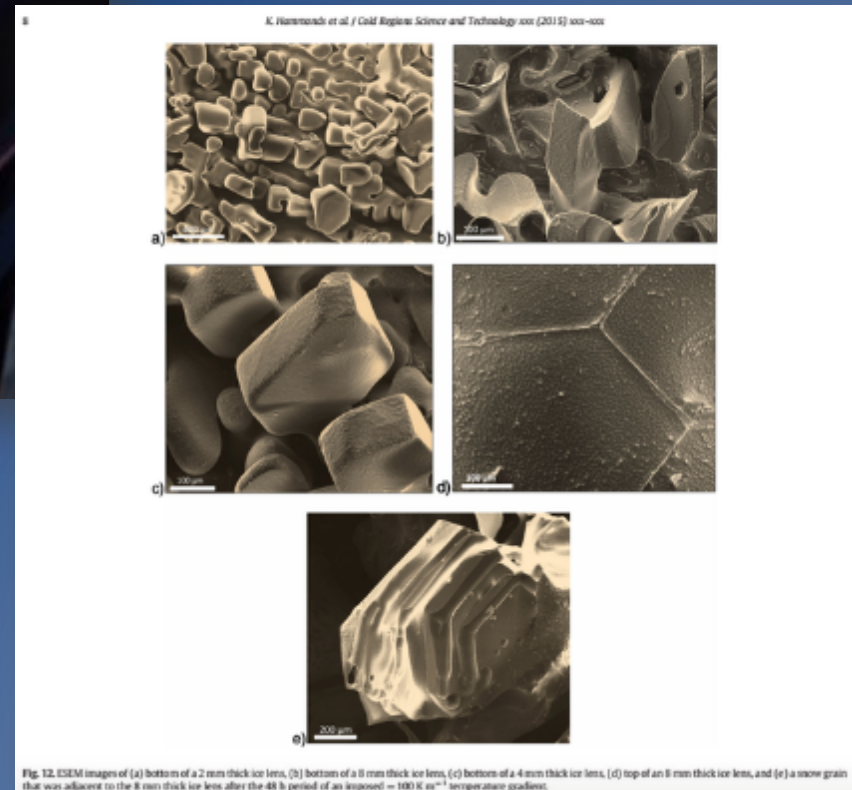


Fig. 12. SEM images of (a) bottom of a 2 mm thick ice lens, (b) bottom of a 6 mm thick ice lens, (c) bottom of a 4 mm thick ice lens, (d) top of an 8 mm thick ice lens, and (e) a snow grain that was adjacent to the 8 mm thick ice lens after the 48 h period of an imposed  $-100 \text{ K m}^{-1}$  temperature gradient.



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# AAA Pro/Rec Project



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4850 ft

12:11 PM  
2/13/2013

# So How Did You Get Here?



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# What Path Do I Take...?

- I want to work as an **avalanche professional**
- I want to just enjoy a **simple touring day**
- I want to ski in more **remote areas**
- I want to be a **leader** in my groups



Tatoosh Range, WA

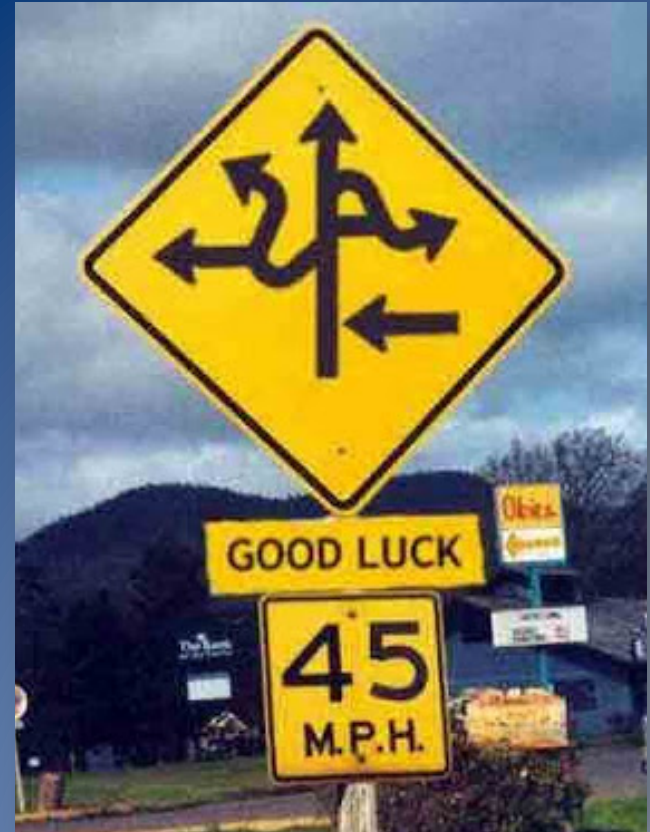


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# Current Avalanche Education

- Avalanche Awareness
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- National Avalanche School
- AVPRO



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# Pro/Rec Split

- Distinct Track
- Affordability
- Improvements
- Reciprocity
- Worker Safety

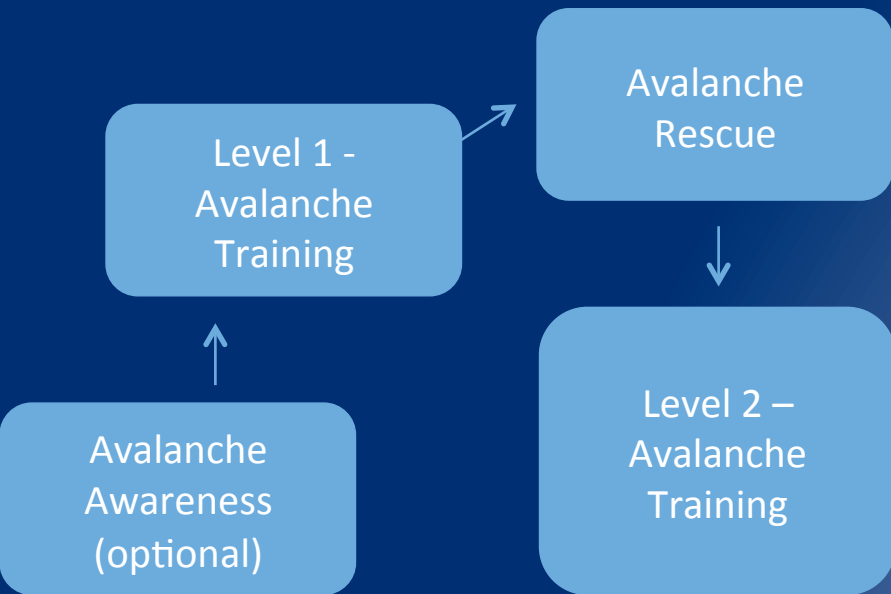


Squirrel Hill, AK



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# Recreational Avalanche Training

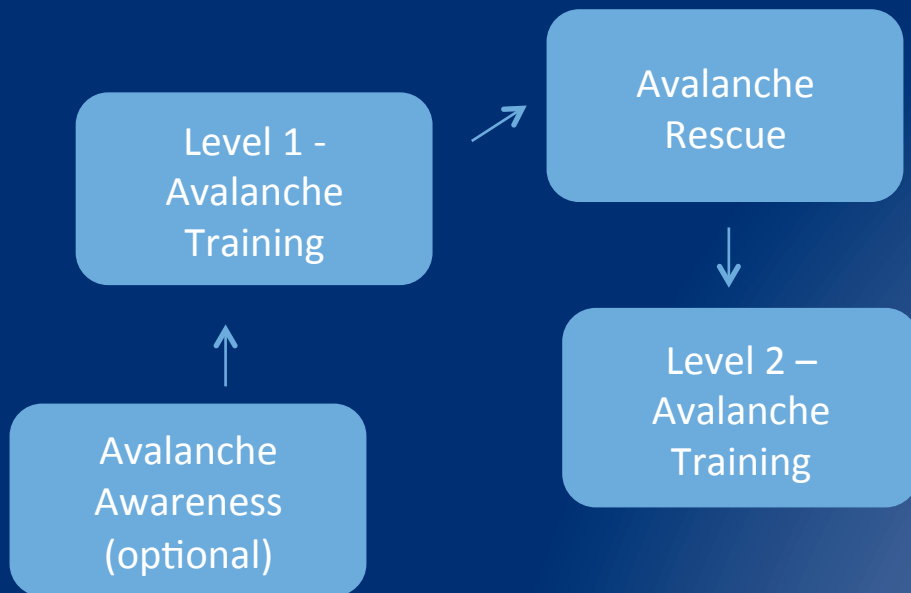


# Professional Avalanche Training



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# Recreational Avalanche Training



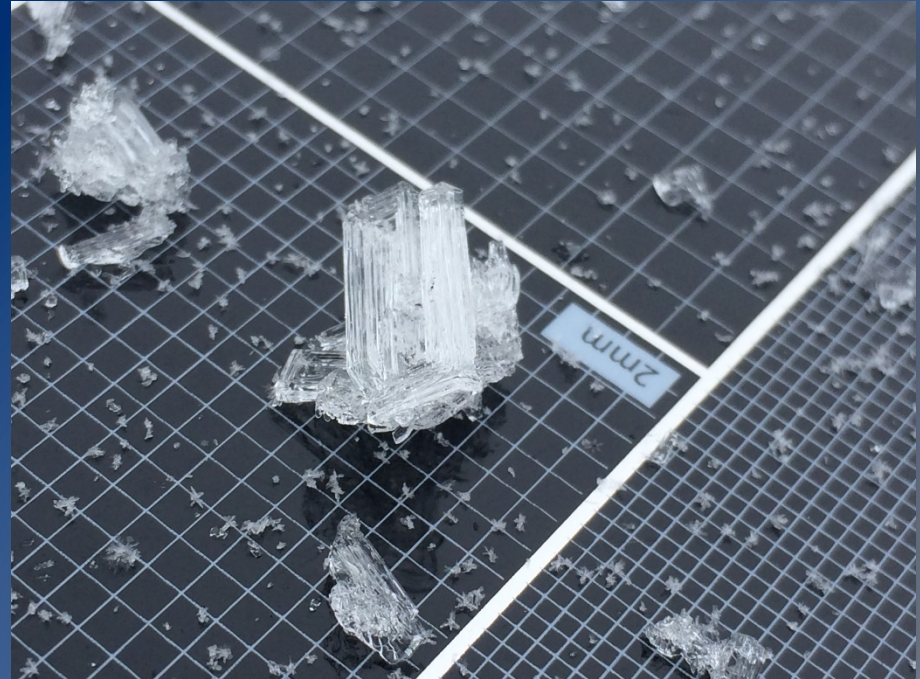
Wickersham Dome, AK



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# One Oldish Learning Opportunity...

- Avalanche Awareness
  - Creativity
  - Need for Continuing Education
  - Access Avalanche Center



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# One Newish Learning Opportunity...

- Level 1: Avalanche Training
  - Member of a group
  - Simpler Terrain
  - Supporting Information



Windy Corner, AK



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# Two New Learning Opportunities...

- Level 2: Avalanche Training
  - Leader
  - Challenging Terrain
  - Lack of Information



The White Stallion, WA



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# Two New Learning Opportunities...

- Avalanche Rescue
  - Single Day
  - Refresh Your Skills
  - Continuing Education



Paradise Park, WA



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# Recreational Avalanche Training



- Formal Training
- Mentorship
- Avalanche Review
- Workshops

**Life Long  
Apprenticeship**



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# Professional Avalanche Training



Snowbird, UT



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# Pro Training Program

Industry Advisory  
Group  
&  
AAA Education  
Committee



American Avalanche Association

Professional Course  
Trainers

Professional Course  
Providers

Pro1  
Course

Pro2  
Course

Pro SAR  
Course



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Industry Driven  
Development

# Professional Avalanche Training

- Standardization
- Evaluation
- CPD
- Level 1
- Avalanche Rescue



Cascade Pass, WA



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# Professional Avalanche Training

- Learn **Skills**
- Use **Experience**
- Gain **Competency**
- Develop as a **Professional**



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# Two New Learning Opportunities... PRO 1

- Member of an Operation
- Skilled Observer
- Risk Management
- Small Team Management



Mt Bona, AK

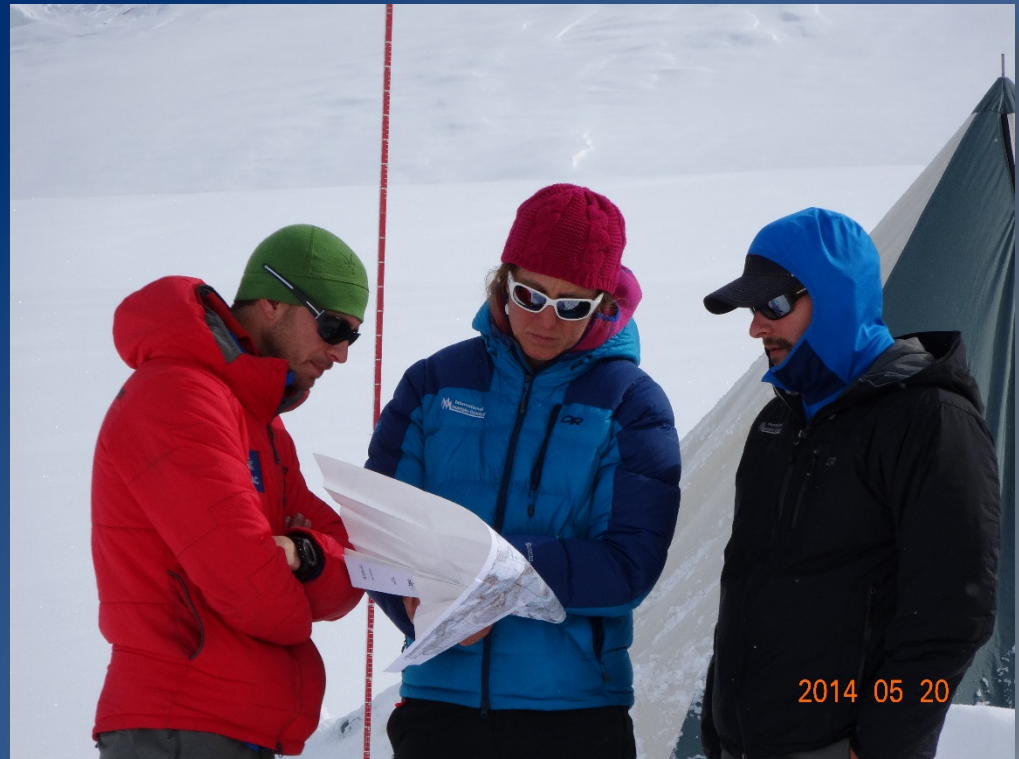


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# Two New Learning Opportunities... PRO 2

- Leader in and Operation
- Develop Forecast
- Risk Management Decisions
- Risk Treatment



Russel Glacier, AK



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# Professional Avalanche Training



Snowbird, UT



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# Professional Avalanche Training



Denali, AK

- Mentorship
- In-house Training
- Work Experience
- Continuing Professional Development



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# “Grandfathering...”

- We’ve got you taken care of
- Many places to enter



Atlin Range, YT



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# Should I Take a Course This Year?



Pyramid Peak, WA

- YES!
- Get Started



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# Pro/Rec Split...

- 2016/2017
- Clear Track
- New Courses
- Lots to Come...



West Buttress, Denali, AK



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**Dallas Glass**  
**Professional Training Coordinator**  
**American Avalanche Association**  
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