

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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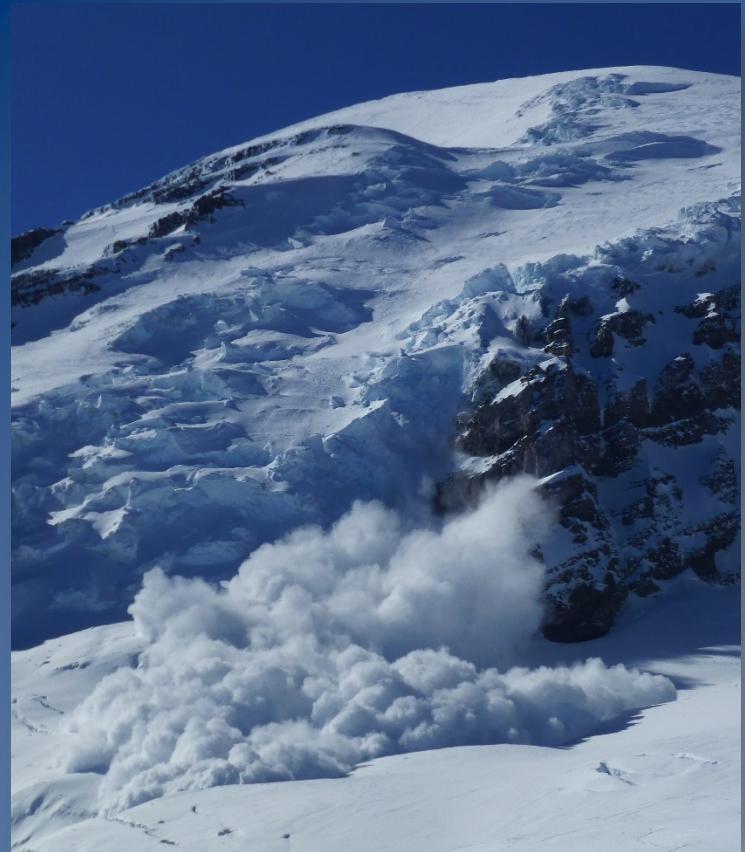
Supporting The
Avalanche Community



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American Avalanche Association

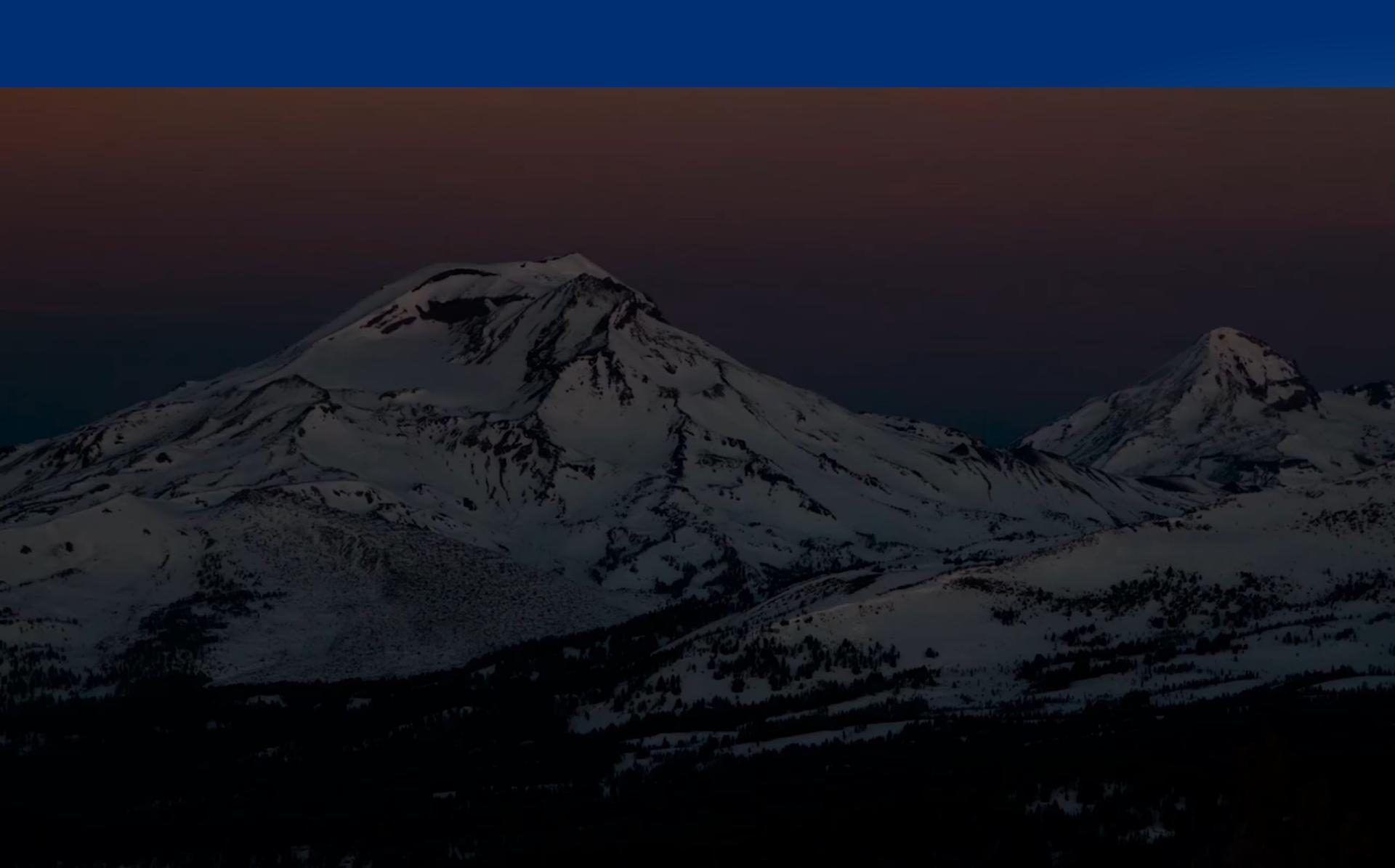
- 1983 – TAR founded
- 1986 – AAA founded
- Support, connect, represent
- Who are we?
- Today...



Mt Rainier, WA



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



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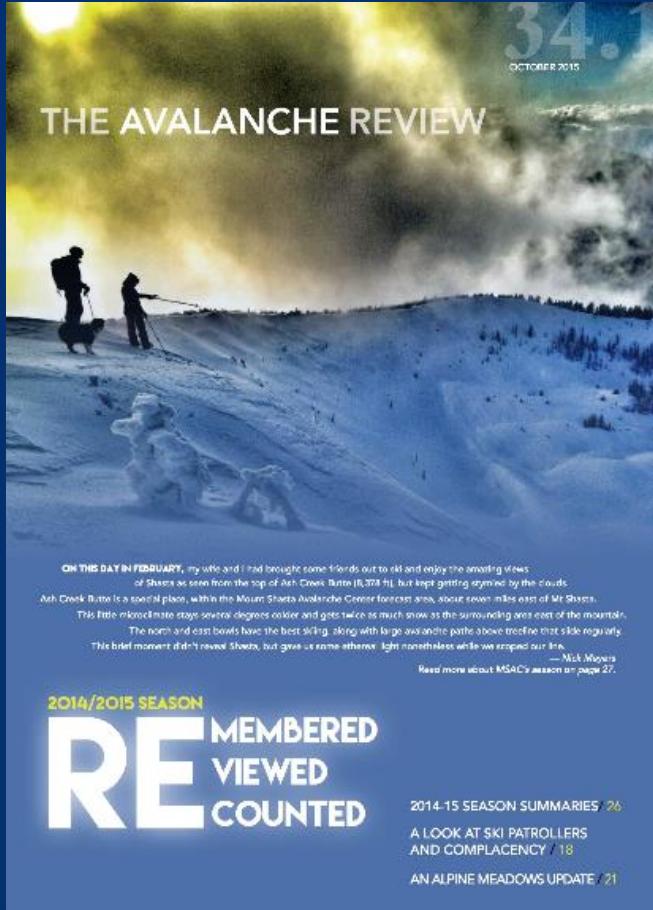
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- The Avalanche Review
- Avalanche.org
- Professional Development Grants
- Research Grants
- Avalanche Education Standards
 - Pro/Rec Split



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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

The screenshot shows the homepage of [avalanche.org](http://www.avalanche.org). The top navigation bar includes links for "avalanche.org", "SPONSORED BY", "bca", "american avalanche association", and "AVALANCHE CENTERS EDUCATION ACCIDENTS PROFESSIONALS DONATE". The main content features a map of the United States and parts of Canada, with a legend indicating agency and non-agency avalanche centers. Below the map are three sections: "education", "accidents", and "professionals".

SPONSORED BY

bca

american avalanche association

AVALANCHE CENTERS EDUCATION ACCIDENTS PROFESSIONALS DONATE

Map data ©2015 Google, INEGI. Terms of Use

Legend: ● Agency avalanche centers - federal, state or city
Key: □ Non-agency avalanche centers - non-profit, volunteer based

Map data ©2015 Google, INEGI. Terms of Use

education

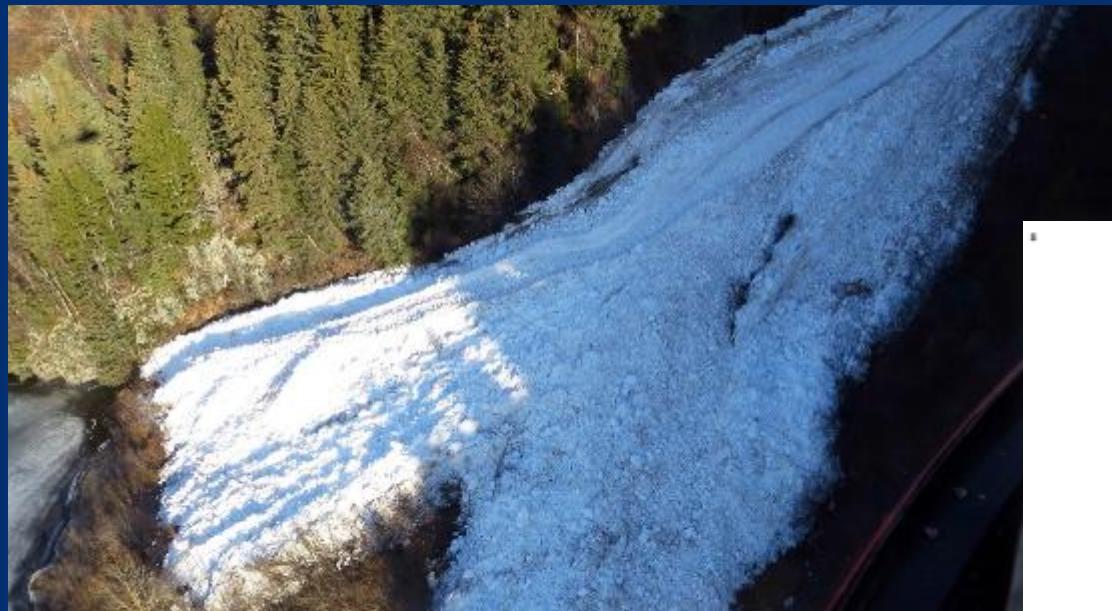
accidents

professionals



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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)

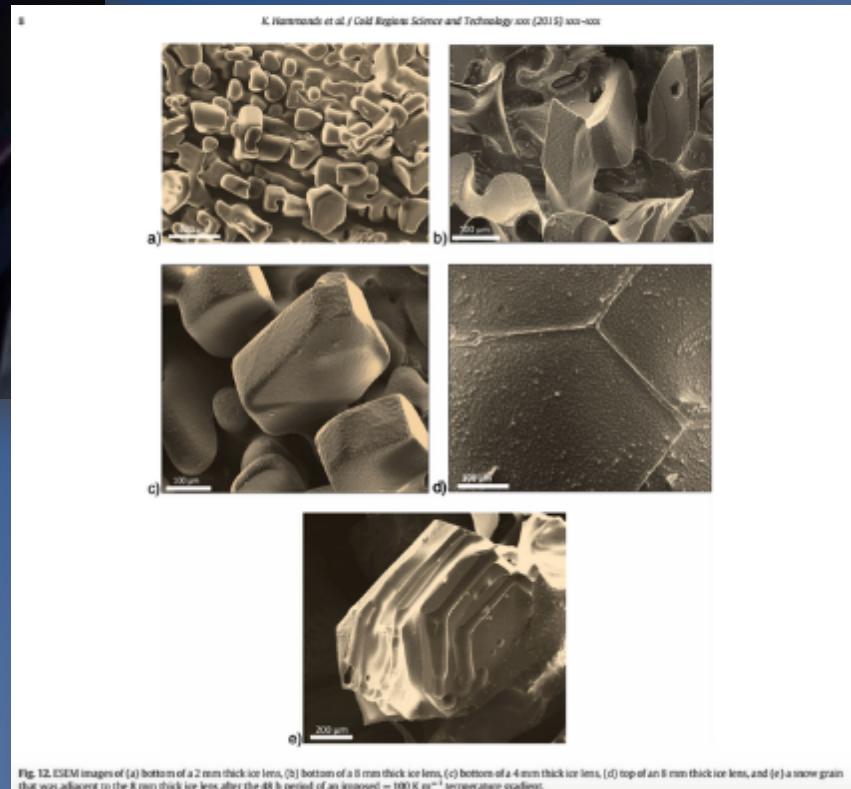


Fig. 12. ESEM images of (a) bottom of a 2 mm thick ice lens, (b) bottom of a 8 mm thick ice lens, (c) bottom of a 4 mm thick ice lens, (d) top of an 8 mm thick ice lens, and (e) a snow grain that was adjacent to the 8 mm thick ice lens after the 48 h period of an imposed -100 K m^{-1} temperature gradient.



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AAA Pro/Rec Project



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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



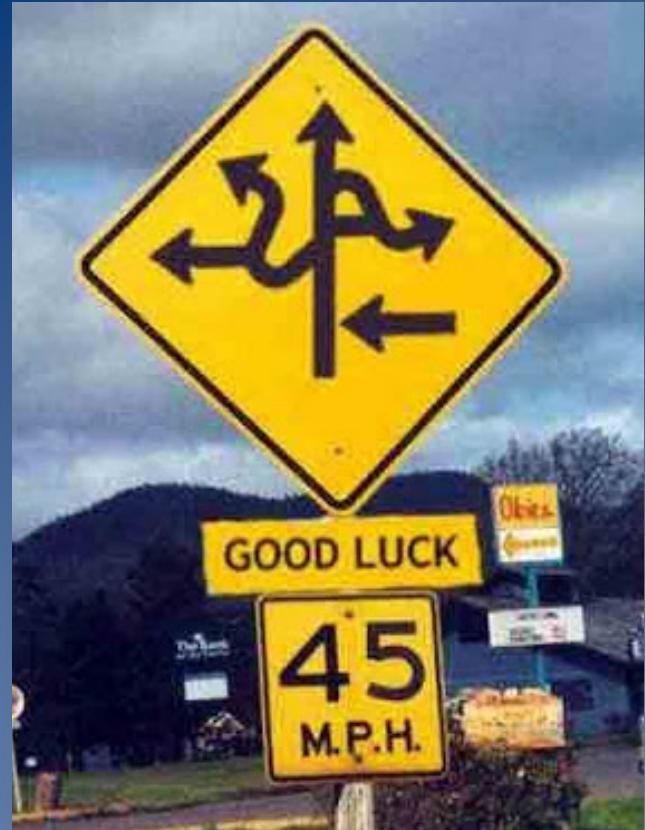
Tatoosh Range, WA



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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

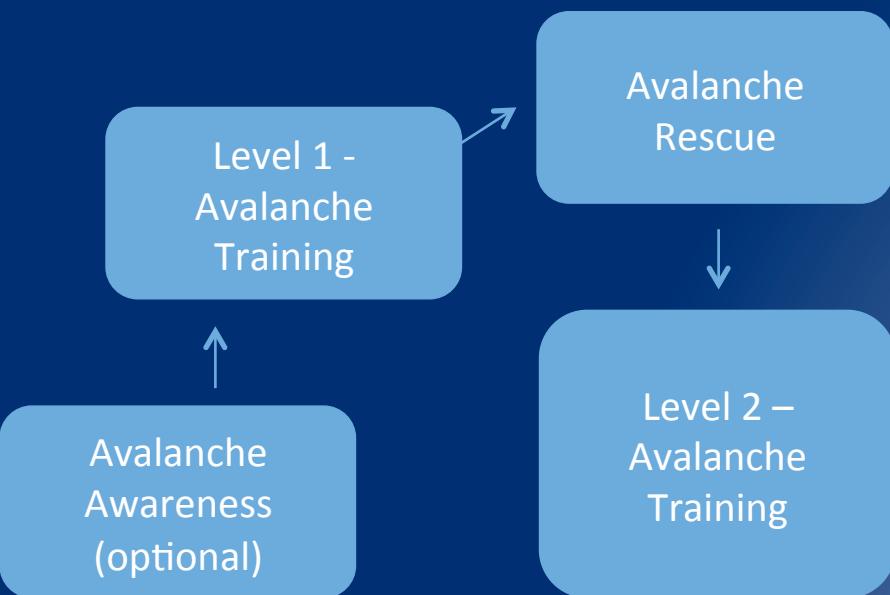


Squirrel Hill, AK



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Recreational Avalanche Training



Professional Avalanche Training



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Recreational Avalanche Training



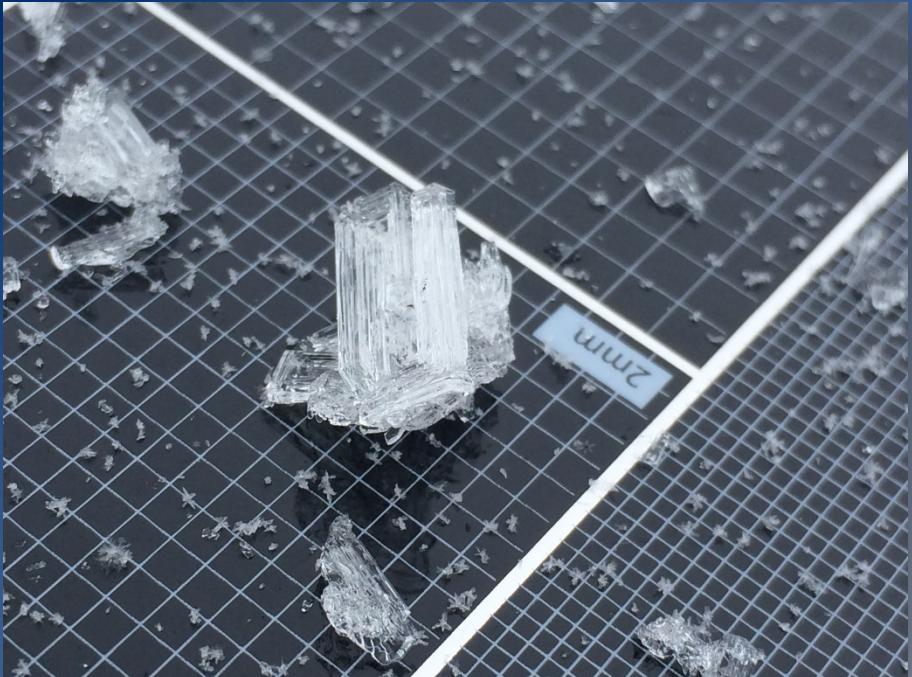
Wickersham Dome, AK



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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



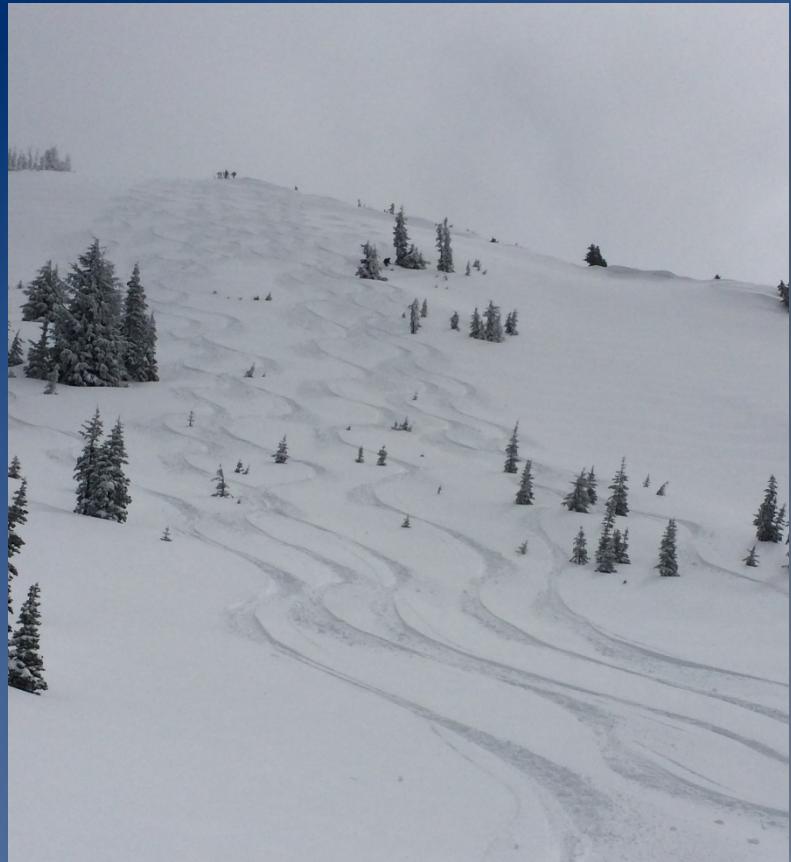
Windy Corner, AK



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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

Industry Driven Development

Professional Course
Trainers

Professional Course
Providers

Pro1
Course

Pro2
Course

Pro SAR
Course



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Professional Avalanche Training

- Standardization
- Evaluation
- CPD

- Level 1
- Avalanche Rescue



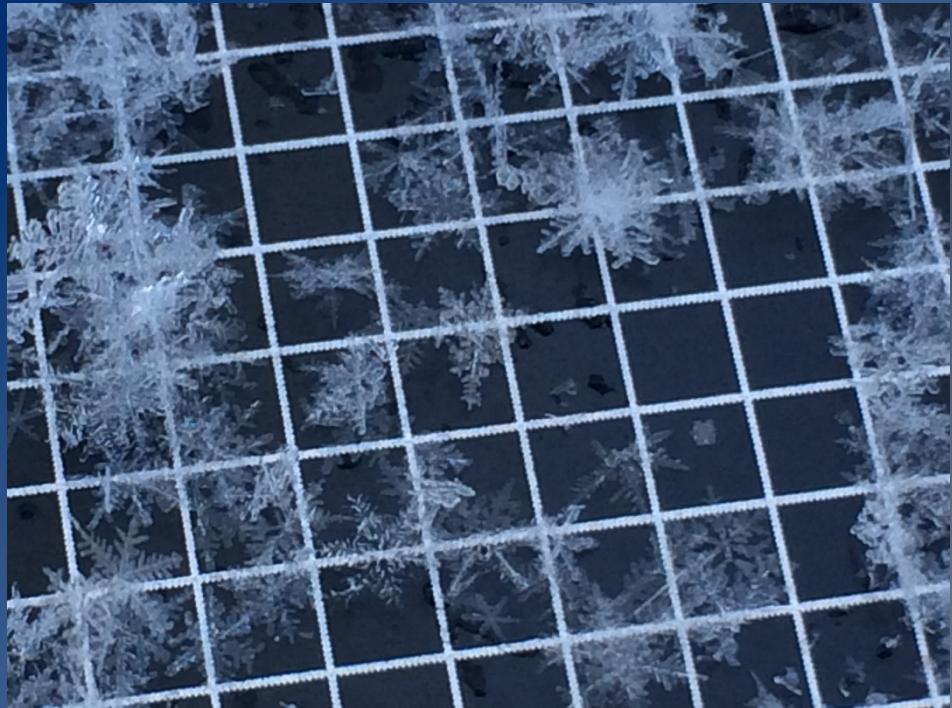
Cascade Pass, WA



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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



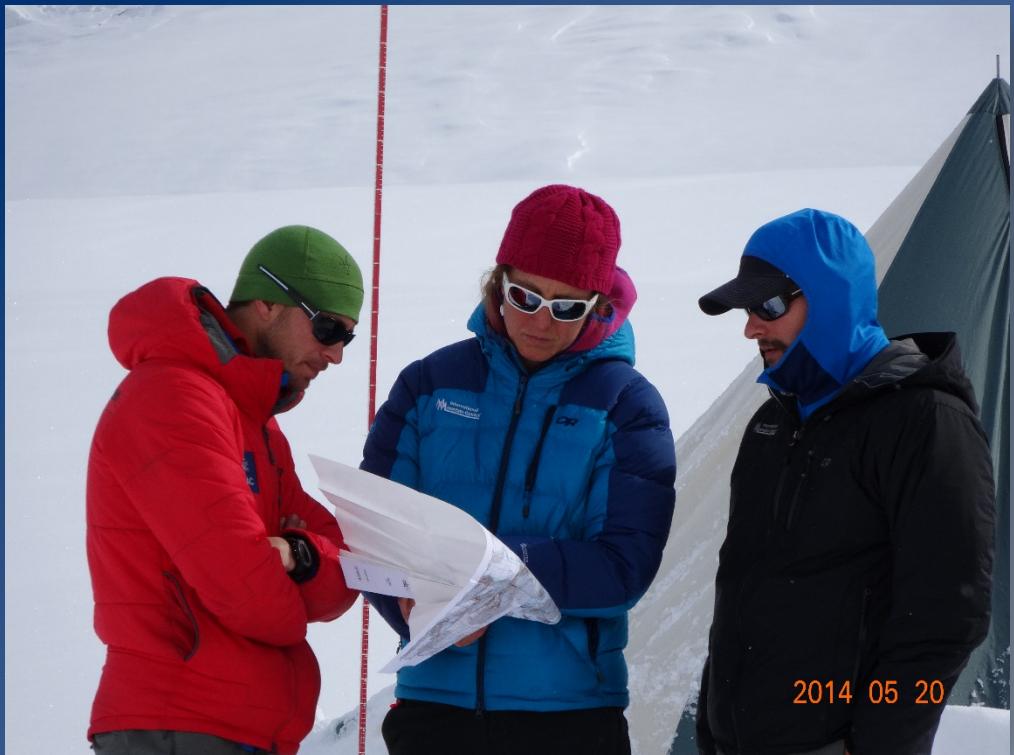
Mt Bona, AK



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Two New Learning Opportunities... PRO 2

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



Russel Glacier, AK

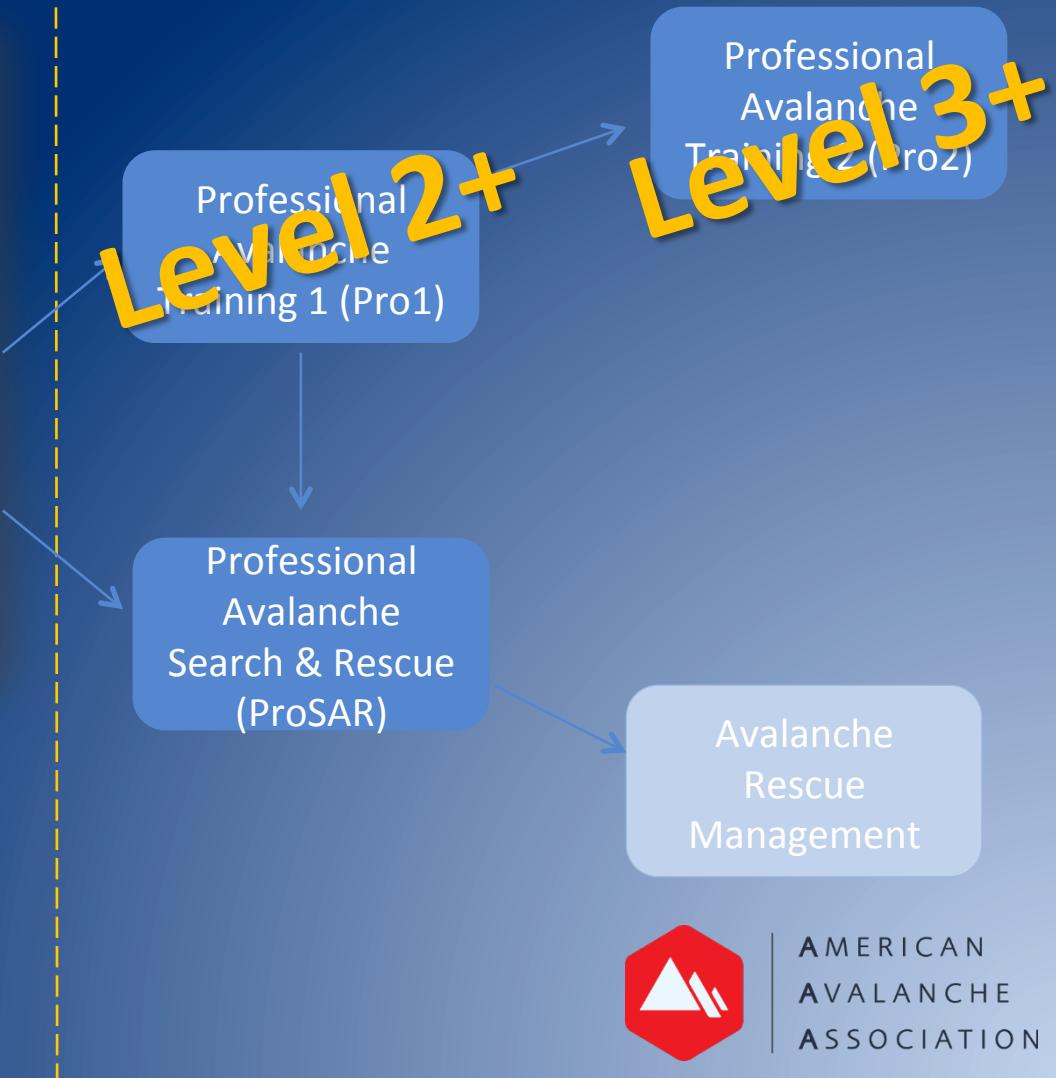


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Professional Avalanche Training



Snowbird, UT



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Professional Avalanche Training



Denali, AK

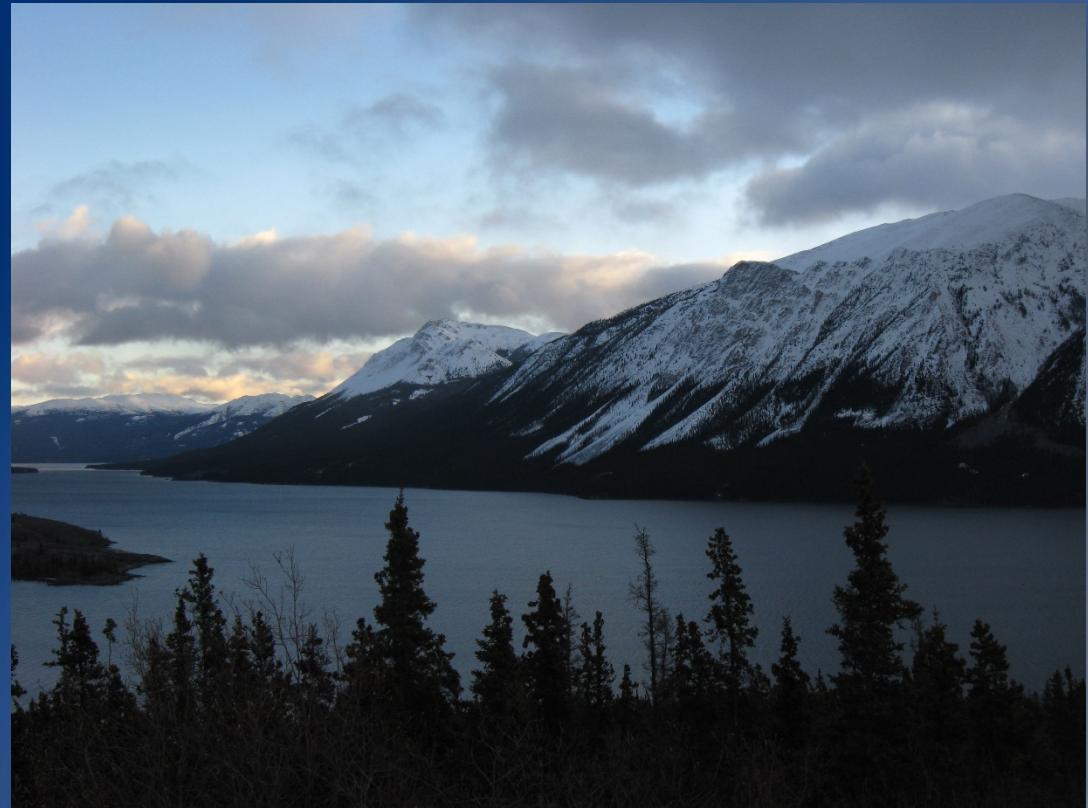
- Mentorship
- In-house Training
- Work Experience
- Continuing Professional Development



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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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