

FRIENDS OF



**SAWTOOTH
NATIONAL FOREST
AVALANCHE
CENTER**

**PO Box 2669
Ketchum, ID 83340**

November 15, 2005

Dear Friends:

This winter the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center begins its 12th year of operation. Once again up to date weather advisories and avalanche conditions will be posted daily for winter travelers and backcountry users **free of cost**. In order to continue this life-saving service and help prevent avalanche accidents and fatalities, the Friends of the Sawtooth NF Avalanche Center needs your help with its Annual Fund *more than ever*. Approximately 50% of the Avalanche Center's budget is paid for by the Forest Service – the rest must come from private donations.

This year the Friends are working to raise \$30,000. This will:

- Help pay forecaster salaries. Avalanche advisories and educational programs could not be provided without this valuable staff.
- Perform outreach and avalanche awareness classes in the surrounding communities.
- Help to maintain the two Titus weather stations that provide hourly internet information
- Help to install and maintain a community avalanche rescue training facility that will be accessible to the public on a daily basis.
- Provide special Avalanche Awareness Week programs
- Maintain two Polaris snowmobiles on loan from Woodside Motorsports, which allow forecasters to access snowmobile areas and provide timely and accurate avalanche conditions for the riding community.

Last winter, in spite of a very dry winter, advisory use increased again. Over 73,000 advisory phone calls, web hits and e-mails were counted, and this information was passed onto many more backcountry and out-of-bounds enthusiasts. More than 600 people attended avalanche programs and classes. Tragically, two very serious avalanche accidents occurred last spring, one of them resulting in the loss of a well-known and loved community member. As more and more people venture into the backcountry, demands for avalanche center services are increasing. The Mountain Express wrote an editorial last spring that urged everyone to adopt avalanche awareness as a community issue. We've included a copy in this letter. We can do it, but we need your help!

As the snow begins to fly this winter, we hope you will make a tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of the Sawtooth NF Avalanche Center. With your support we can make the backcountry a safer, more enjoyable place for everyone. Have a great season in the snow and we hope to see you at the Best of Banff Film Festival fundraiser this year!

Sincerely,

Kay Tenney
Co-Chair

Steve Butler?????
Co-Chair

Please turn over for avalanche class and event schedule

Save this Page!

2005-2006 AVALANCHE CLASSES AND EVENTS

<u>Time & Date</u>	<u>Class/Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
6-9 pm Tuesday, December 6th All day Saturday, December 10 th	Avalanche Basics (3Hr) Field Session	Hemingway Elementary
6-9 pm Tuesday, January 3rd All day Saturday, January 7 th	Avalanche Basics (3Hr) Field Session	Community Campus, Hailey

These classes are co-sponsored by:
Blaine County Rec, CSI and The Friends of the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center

Every Thursday, 3PM starting Dec 2nd
(except for holiday weeks) Beacon Clinics in the Ketchum Park and Ride lot
Sponsored by Backwoods Mountain Sports (726-8818)

AVALANCHE AWARENESS WEEK

10am Tuesday, January 31 st	Science Times-Children's Program (preschool & parents)	Community Library, Ketchum
7-8pm Tuesday, January 31 st	Adult Avalanche Awareness Program (1Hr)	CSI Community Campus, Hailey
6-7pm Thursday, February 2 nd	Adult Avalanche Awareness Program (1Hr)	Community Library, Ketchum

Sunday, February 5th Noon to 3pm Grand Opening Avalanche Beacon & Rescue Training Park
Baker Creek Parking Lot-North End

Come join the Sawtooth NF Avalanche Center & the Friends for clinics, practices and prizes!

February 2,3,4 2006 **Best of Banff Film Festival Fundraiser** NexStage Theater
Co-sponsored by SV Ski Patrol & Friends of the Sawtooth Avalanche Center

Please contact the Sawtooth NF Avalanche Center at 622-0095 for more information about classes, or check the Calendar of events in the local papers. We recommend the www.avalanche.org website and click on Sun Valley-the Sawtooth home page, the Sawtooth education link and the National Avalanche Center link

Friends of the Sawtooth NF Avalanche Center Advisory Committee:

Glen Allison, Steve Butler, Lindy Cogan, Tina Cole, Ross Copperman, Mark & Martha Deffe, Matt Gervase, Rob King, Michael Kraynik, Matt Leidecker, Michael Malko, Beau Mills, Andy Munter, Nils Ribi, Bob Rosso, Jeff Smull, Joe & Francie St. Onge, Bass Sears, Louise Stumph, Kay Tenney,

The Friends would like to especially thank all of our avalanche advisory sponsors this year:
Blaine County, Ketchum Fire Department, the Sawtooth Society, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Deer Creek Fund through the Idaho Community Foundation, Polaris and Woodside Motorsports