

YOUR TEAM OF FORECASTERS



Simon Trautman, Director of SNFAC

Simon grew up in Lander, Wyoming, and has spent the last 20 years trying to find someplace as nice as Lander; only with skiing...he is proud to report that the Wood River Valley is the place. He has a Master's degree in Earth Science from Montana State University, spent several years working snow safety for Moonlight Basin, and worked as an avalanche forecaster for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center.

Blase Reardon, Lead Forecaster

Blase Reardon likes snow and pointy peaks, especially together, so central Idaho is a wonderful place for him to explore and work. He has an M.F.A in creative writing and is completing an M.S. in glaciology at the University of Montana. His previous avalanche work includes editing The Avalanche Review and forecasting in Montana. Someday he may take a beach vacation but he'll never like eggplant.



Scott Savage, Forecaster

Scott Savage recently joined the SNFAC staff after spending the better part of two decades as an avalanche forecaster and snow safety director at Big Sky Resort in southwest Montana. Fourteen knee surgeries over the past four years presented him with an opportunity to investigate avalanche professionals' decision-making and other snow and avalanche related topics in depth. Scott is looking forward to spending less time in operating rooms and more time in the field in his new million acre backyard.



A Day-or Two - in the Life of an Avalanche Forecaster



An SNFAC forecaster arrives by 4:30 AM each morning, but each advisory starts the day before, when the forecaster investigates backcountry conditions. It's a simple recipe – go where the danger is highest, changing fastest, or most uncertain, and learn as much as you can. But the recipe's ingredients change as winds shift, snow piles up or the sun heats slopes. Knowing where to go on a given day takes experience, and getting there takes skills and fitness, because it means climbing to a ridge or a peak on skis, or snowmobiling from basin to basin.

Along the way, the forecaster digs in the snow to look at layers and test stability. He examines the crowns and debris of recent avalanches. Often he takes photos or makes a short video. The goal is to answer key questions: "What – and where - is the primary avalanche problem? How's it changing?" Then it's back to the office to edit photos and videos, record observations, and discuss conditions with the other forecasters. The day ends early so we're up for a pre-dawn start.

The three hours before the 7:30 AM deadline for issuing the advisory can feel like a sprint, especially when conditions change overnight or a storm builds. We tally snowfall, summarize temperature and wind data and review weather models. After we make our weather forecast, we set danger ratings, icons and danger roses for our four zones, and write the advisory text. We cram in breakfast, or if it's storming, phone calls with the NWS office or Bald Mountain ski patrol. Then we publish the advisory to our website, record it for our phone line, podcasts and KECH radio and email it to our 600 or so subscribers. Afterwards, we get more coffee and ready ourselves for office projects or another field day.



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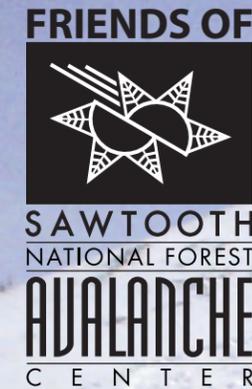
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The mission of the Friends of the SNFAC is to support the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center and promote life-saving avalanche safety information, education and outreach throughout South Central Idaho communities.



Friends of SNFAC

2012 / 2013 NEWSLETTER

Word from the Director of the SNFAC

The air is clean and nights are cold as another winter season approaches. I am proud to move into Chris's position as Director, and will work hard to continue the good work both he and Janet are known for. Blase returns for his 5th season, and we would like to welcome Scott Savage into his debut season of avalanche forecasting in the Idaho Mountains. Scott was selected from an impressive array of applicants, and we are lucky to have him aboard.

Avalanches affect nearly all of us in this community. If you are not regularly in the backcountry, you probably have friends and family that are. Most of us know someone who has had a close call or worse.

Our job at the Avalanche Center is to provide a community service. The goal of that service is to promote avalanche safety, offer accessible educational opportunities to public and professional groups, and to provide the daily snow, avalanche, and weather information needed to make good travel decisions.

The Avalanche Center's partnership with the Friends of the SNFAC is critical to fulfilling this mission. With the Friends supplying 50% of our annual budget, we truly could not provide the services we do without their help, and without the generosity of our community. On behalf of everyone at the Avalanche Center, I want to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support. Happy trails!

~ Simon Trautman, Director of SNFAC

HEADS UP

Did you know our community privately funds 50 percent of the Sawtooth NF Avalanche Center? Through the Friends of the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center, the community has been doing this for the last fifteen years in order to get the snow-safety information and services we need for everyone to play and live here safely. Although the Sawtooth National Forest, and Region 4 of the National Forest Service, place at our disposal all the tools-the equipment, the human resources, and their expertise- needed to operate a first-rate avalanche center, our government agencies cannot afford to take complete care of us. **THIS YEAR WITH YOUR HELP, THE FRIENDS HOPE TO RAISE \$70,000 TO MEET OUR FORECASTING NEEDS. YOUR DONATIONS ARE CRUCIAL!**

COME TOGETHER. Recognize our community asset. Applaud the outstanding effort our Forecasters make for our benefit. ENGAGE AND JOIN our citizen initiative to fund our avalanche center! Join the Friends of the Sawtooth NF Avalanche Center (501c3). Our non-profit is the private funding link in this extraordinary partnership. Together, we help them help us. It's that easy, and it's tax deductible! All it takes is your participation. **SPREAD THE WORD AND GIVE WHAT YOU CAN.** Your contribution helps you, your families, and your friends play safely and live safely, here in the mountains of Central Idaho... celebrating the joy of snow.

Word from the President

More and more people in our community are linked by a powerful bond: the love and respect for the wintertime backcountry.

We give the winter backcountry travelers the information they need to stay alive and have fun in avalanche terrain.

With professional daily avalanche forecasts, lectures and field day avalanche classes, the SNFAC is the central resource for avalanche information, serving all forms of winter backcountry users. Please – if you value our avalanche forecasts and education, donate to the SNFAC today.

Your support is critical!

~ Wolf Riehle,
President of Friends of SNFAC



DID YOU KNOW? Over the past ten seasons (2002-3 to 2011-12), SNFAC advisory use has risen 160% - from 49,500 to 130,600 views! Last year, each advisory got an average of 1100 views - a 15% jump over last season.



To learn more visit: sawtoothavalanche.com

Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center

2011-2012 HIGHLIGHTS

It was an accident and fatality-free season despite challenging snowpack conditions, several avalanche warnings, and a tragic winter nationally. Although our area averages 1-2 fatalities per winter, this is the second accident free season in a row!



❄️ Thanks to a Resource Advisory Committee grant, the SNFAC installed a new remote weather station in the Soldier Mountains that provides invaluable snowfall data for the Soldier zone.

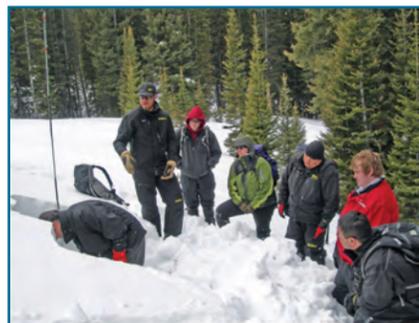
❄️ The SNFAC expanded their education programs last season, teaching classes for the Blaine County Road & Bridge Dept., the National Brotherhood of Skiers, and a new sidecountry program on Baldy. All told they taught nearly 600 skiers, snowboarders, snowmachiners, and snow professionals – kids and adults alike!

❄️ The SNFAC produced 119 advisories last winter. The advisory received over 130,000 views via the web, email subscription, and recorded hotline. Advisories were accessed an average of 1095 times each – a 15% jump over last season!

❄️ Public outreach continued to be very successful through the local newspaper, radio, and social media. Our “Likes” on Facebook increased from 960 to 1150, and we have 99 followers on Twitter.



Alpinfo Joshua Wells



❄️ The Friends of the SNFAC added new board members and had several successful fundraisers.

❄️ The “Skin It 2 Win It” rando race on Dollar Mountain was a huge hit and promises to be even more popular this winter.

DID YOU KNOW? The Ketchum Ranger district first provided a recorded phone message of avalanche conditions in 1983.

2012-2013 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date	What	Where	When
12/11/12	Ketchum Avalanche Basics Presentation	Hemingway School	6-8PM
12/15/12	Avalanche Basics Field Session	Galena Backcountry	All Day
1/8/13	Hailey Avalanche Basics Presentation	CSI Auditorium	6-8PM
1/12/13	Avalanche Basics Field Session	Galena Backcountry	All Day
1/17/13	Snowmobile Avalanche Basics Presentation	Woodside Motorsports	7-9PM
TBD	Snowmobile Avalanche Basics Field Session	Baker Creek	All Day
1/26 – 2/3	Avalanche Awareness Week!!		
1/26/13	Skin It 2 Win It	Dollar Mountain	10AM-3PM
1/29/13	Avalanche Awareness Presentation	CSI Minnie Moore Room	7-8PM
1/31/13	The Friends Most Incredible Raffle (Night 1)	SV Nordic Festival	5-9PM
2/1/13	Banff Film Festival & Most Incredible Raffle (Night 2)	NexStage Theatre	6-10PM
2/2/13	Avalanche Beacon & Rescue Training Clinic	Beacon Park	1-3PM
2/2/13	Banff Film Festival & Most Incredible Raffle (Night 3)	NexStage Theatre	6-10PM

Thank you to our donors - your gift brings safety & education close to home

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What Our Fans Say...

As an outfitter and backcountry ski guide service, we at Sun Valley Trekking work in collaboration with the SNFAC Avalanche Center on a regular basis. We provide data and observations to help them make their daily forecasts, and SNFAC puts out high quality forecasts which we use in our daily guiding operations. The SNFAC is an invaluable resource to our community. The team of forecasters is a very talented crew; combining many years of experience analyzing snow and synthesizing the information into a concise format that is both accessible and very relevant to the general public. This is no easy task. The SNFAC has a very large and diverse geographic area to forecast for which requires an enormous effort to monitor. We consistently see the forecasters out every day, putting fresh eyes to the snow-

pack and evaluating what winter recreationists need to know in order to ski safely in the backcountry. The quality of the forecasters' work and the excellence of the writing meets or exceeds the highest standard in the industry. The daily forecast is the primary resource used by professionals and recreationists alike in decision making in the backcountry. We are incredibly fortunate to have them and we hope and trust our community will continue to support the important work.
~ Francie and Joe, Sun Valley Trekking

I have been a huge fan of the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center for many years. Their accurate and detailed forecasts have been an indispensable part of my personal trips for over twenty years.

Furthermore, in my professional capacity as Director of Outdoor Programming and the Outdoor Leadership Academy at the Community School the Avalanche Center is an important tool for teaching safe winter travel practices and good decision making to our students. I have used avalanche forecasts from centers all over the west and hands down the Sawtooth Center is consistently the most useful and professional forecast out there. No question we are lucky to have the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center.

~ Rob Landis, Director of the Community School Outdoor Program

Comments or interesting scoop?
Contact us at:
friends@sawtoothavalanche.com