



Friends of the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center

2009 Annual Report

Dear Members,

It's been quite a year for the Friends of the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center (FOAC), and we have you to thank. We hope that you will take the time to read this annual report and understand what your contribution to FOAC has helped us achieve.

The winter of 2008-09 will be remembered as quite a year for avalanches. The heavy snowfall and cold temperatures in December set the stage for several avalanche cycles. Pass closures were common, and a climax avalanche at the Summit of Snoqualmie destroyed a house and the Hyak chairlift. Given these conditions, we were fortunate to have only three avalanche fatalities in the Northwest, two of which were outside NWAC's service area. While we can't take all of the credit, we are hopeful that NWAC's forecasts coupled with our outreach and educational efforts helped raise awareness of the avalanche hazard and kept people out of dangerous situations during times of high hazard.

Supporting NWAC

The core of the FOAC mission continues to be supporting NWAC and ensuring that the Center continues to thrive. In that regard, our work this past year was successful. We worked with Washington State Parks to complete the legislatively mandated 2-year study that reviewed NWAC's operations and made recommendations for developing a more sustainable financial model. The report gained a great deal of attention with government agencies and lawmakers and put NWAC on the radar screen as a critical government program. All of the agencies that currently fund NWAC expressed full sup-



Photo: chasejarvis.com

port for the recommendations and are committed to ensuring that NWAC continues to exist in the future.

The Washington State Parks report also developed several recommendations for obtaining private funding, and FOAC is taking the lead on this effort. The primary initiative at this point is the development of the new combined NWAC/FOAC website which will launch in late-October and has been funded entirely by FOAC. The new website will provide a more user-friendly interface for distributing avalanche forecasts and mountain weather information, and allow us to advertise and generate revenue to support NWAC. We are currently working with companies to bring them on board as advertisers and have received quite a bit of interest.

As a result of all of these efforts, NWAC is entering the 2009-10 season with full funding and anticipates being able to operate.

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throughout the winter and into the spring. However, the future beyond this winter is very unclear, and we will be working hard both to generate private funding and work with the

partner agencies and organizations to ensure that the Center maintains their necessary funding levels beyond 2010. For those interested, we have included a breakdown of NWAC's funding sources below

Projected NWAC Funding Sources 2009-10

Federal	\$117,500
USDA-Forest Service	\$75,000
National Park Service	\$17,500
USDA-Forest Service Fee Demo Money	\$25,000
Washington State	\$133,000
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$79,000
Department of Transportation	\$45,000
Washington State Parks Snowpark Program	\$4,500
Washington State Parks Snowmobile Program	\$4,500
Private + Carryover	\$85,000
Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association	\$25,000
Friends of NWAC	\$5,000
Other private	\$10,000
Carryover from FY08/FY09	\$45,000
Total	\$335,000
Estimated In-Kind Support	\$230,073
USDA Forest Service	\$30,000
Washington State Department of Transportation (weather station and equipment support)	\$23,415
National Park Service (weather station and equipment support)	\$5,620
National Weather Service (office costs + product access etc)	\$68,105
Local Ski Areas (weather station and equipment support)	\$7,770
All (one time cost for data support)	\$62,163
Friends of NWAC (web site development + equip)	\$33,000
Grand Total (Direct and In-kind Support)	\$565,073



Photo: Benj Wadsworth

Education

In addition to supporting NWAC, FOAC has been working hard to expand our avalanche education program, which complements our efforts to support NWAC. The mountain weather and avalanche forecasts are only helpful if those venturing into the mountains use the forecasts in combination with a foundation of avalanche education.

In an effort to increase awareness about avalanche hazards and NWAC's forecasts, FOAC collaborated with the Alpine Safety Awareness Program to develop the Know the Snow (KTS) Avalanche Education Initiative. KTS provided free, 2-hour avalanche awareness classes to winter recreationists who may not fully understand avalanche hazards. While the program served all populations, we focused our efforts on youth and snowmobilers, two groups that have been traditionally underserved by avalanche educators and have increasingly been avalanche victims.

KTS was implemented by developing a pool of volunteer instructors who taught 2-hour classes

in schools and to local outdoor groups. Volunteer instructors received a 6-hour training course that trained them to deliver the KTS program. For its first year, the KTS Initiative was quite successful. We trained 20 volunteers with a 6-hour class for a total of 126 training hours. Those new volunteers and our existing volunteer instructors went on to teach 69 2-hour avalanche awareness classes for a total of 138 volunteer teaching hours. We reached a total of 2331 adult students and 1686 youth. Classes were taught in the Seattle area, Bellingham, Portland/Vancouver area, Spokane, and the Methow Valley.

We look forward to continuing to grow our education program and are currently assessing the best way to move forward. Stay tuned for our periodic updates as we work to develop this program and determine the best way to implement it and reach as many people as possible with our limited resources.



Fundraising

With your support, 2008-09 was another successful year in fundraising. We hosted the 7th annual SnowBash at the Tractor Tavern in November. This event has become our annual winter kick-off event for the backcountry community. A full house was entertained by the rompin' bluegrass of the Tallboys, which has become a tradition at SnowBash. We raised over \$10,000 to support our efforts, but more importantly, we brought the backcountry community together once again to express support for NWAC.

We also took a bold step this year and hosted the inaugural end-of-the-season Snowball dinner and auction. This somewhat-more-refined event brought all of our supporters together for a great dinner provided by Bakemans Catering and an entertaining evening with auctioneer David Silverman. Despite a challenging

economy, you all stepped up and helped us raise our goal of \$25,000. It was a banner event which will certainly become a tradition going forward.

Aside from our two major fundraising events, we benefited a great deal from the efforts of others who hosted events on behalf of FOAC and NWAC. Feathered Friends hosted another successful Rep Night, Powderwhore showed their '08 film, *The Pact*, Outdoor Research held two Vertfest races, and the first Mission Ridge Film Festival was hosted in Wenatchee by Donni Vognild. Showings of "The Fine Line" were hosted at the North Bend Theater by the ski patrol from the Summit and in Leavenworth by Chris Hunter of the Stevens Pass ski patrol. The Summit at Snoqualmie also donated the proceeds from lift ticket sales the last day of the season. We are extremely grateful to have friends like these, as well as all of those listed below.



Photo: Stephen Matera



2008-09 Statement of Activities

The Friends of NWAC operates on a fiscal year beginning September 1 and ending August 31 the following year. The following table summarizes our revenue and expenses from September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009.

Revenue	
Donations	\$14,199
Education	\$50
Events by others	\$8,705
Event - Snowball	\$41,900
Events - SnowBash!	\$10,266
Grants	\$25,000
Interest	\$3,069
Memberships	\$5,389
Total Revenue	\$108,578.82
Expenses	
Administration	\$1,852
Advertising	\$785
Board meetings	\$1,323
Business & Govt Relations	\$3,828
Education	\$16,318
Events - Snowball	\$19,201
Events - SnowBash!	\$6,368
Events by others	\$1,772
Fundraising	\$50
Grants (RTA & NOVA)	\$1,328
Membership Support	\$8,512
NWAC Support - general	\$2,911
NWAC Support - Website	\$37,365
Total Expenses	\$101,611
Net Revenue	\$6,968.26
Cash Balance as of 8/31/09*	\$140,349.39

Our cash balance as of 8/31/09 is the result of 10 years of work and is the emergency fund that we maintain in the event that NWAC has urgent budget problems.



Thank You

The work of FOAC and NWAC would not be possible without the support of the many companies and individuals who contributed time and money to FOAC last season. We are truly grateful.

Extreme Hazard (\$1000+)

ASAP
Backcountry Access
Black Diamond Equipment
Crystal Mountain
Feathered Friends
Barney Harford
Karhu Skis
Line Skis
Mission Ridge Film Festival
Mountain Madness
Mt Baker Ski Area
North Cascades Heli-Ski
Clayton O'Brien-Smith
Outdoor Research
Rainier Mountaineering, Inc
Raynier Foundation
REI
Stevens Pass Ski Area
Summit at Snoqualmie

High Hazard (\$500-\$1000)

Backcountry Essentials
Bob Davis/Ecotope
BoeALPS
Crystal Mountain Hotels
Justin Davis
Egan and Associates
Roland Emetaz
Michael Jackson
J Bar C Enterprises
Scott Kushino
Michael Magruder and
Helen Todd
Powderwhore
Pro Guiding Service
Pro Ski
Salomon
Second Ascent
Mick Steinman
Jim Thornton
Chris and Lori Wadsworth

Considerable Hazard (\$200-\$500)

Alta Group
Keneta Anderson
Sandra Carson
Cascade Designs/MSR
Cascade Powder Cats
Cloudveil
Tom Lee and Gretchen
Dingman
Everett Mountaineers
Jeff Hauser
Robert Henry
Rob Hensel
Ian Jones
K2
Ian Mackie
International Mountain
Guides
Kay Lloyd
Jim Mates / Custom Boot
Service
Mountain Hardware
MountainSavvy
Mt Hood Meadows
North Cascades Mountain
Guides
Northwest Mountain School
David Perez
Rendezvous Huts
Scottish Lakes High Camp
Stephen Matera Photography
Lowell Skoog
Jeff Taipele
Benj Wadsworth
Washington Online Weather

Moderate Hazard (\$100-\$200)

22 Designs
Jon Alberts
Anchor QEA, LLC

BARK (Alpental Backcountry
Avalanche Rescue)
John Brastad
Krista Brunch
Ed Burns
Café Humana
Paul Campbell
Central Washington University
Daniel Dietzman
Sue Enger
Fall City Inn
Michael Faoro
Eric Feigl
Keegan Fengler
Betsy Grenzky / Integrative PT
Eric Hagstrom
Mark Hillman
Murray Kahn
Jens Kieler
Conrad Kreik
Greg Lange
Richard Lum
Rich Marriot
Andrew McDavid
Bill McJohn
Richard Meade
Blaine Miller/G3
Wayne and Florence Mohler
Orion Expeditions, Inc
Ortovox
John Roach and Stacey Chat-
field
Nikki Rolfe
Frank Rossi
Laurie Sherman
Sled Shed
Ingrid Sparrow, PT
Karen Sullivan
Vera Fitness
Dick Willy



Low Hazard (\$<100)

Bob Alexander
Jeremy Allyn
David Andrew
Peter Baer
Bjorn Ballien
Eric Basha
Mike Beeman
Robert Blumberg
Brian Booth
Kalman Brauner
Tom Broznowski
Jerry Casson
Eric Child
David Combs
David "Zap" and Jill Czaplicki
Mark Dale
Susie Davis
Paul Donnelly
Matt Dunnahoe
Funny Feelings LLC
Garth Ferber
John Garrison
Eric Gerdes
Steven Goldberg
Tyler Gowy
Charles Hagedorn
Cynthia Hickey
Steven Humphreys
Jeffery Hunt
Tom Jacobi
Jennifer Janousek
Judy Jennings
Luke Jennings
Carlton Johnson
Dan Johnson / Jet Chevrolet

Lisa and Macknight Johnson
Jayson Kastens
Tyler and Lindsey Kellet
Rick Knowles
Brent Lackey and Heidi Wa-
chter
Benjamin Landsmen
Chris Ledoux
Thomas Lewis
Mathew Linden
Gregory Louie
Amy Mann
Nicholas Mayo
Mazamas
Chuck McClaren
Mark Menard
Daniel Miller
Loren Miller
Peter Minnar
Patty Morrison
Mountaineers
Andrew Oberhardt
Darryl Olson
Aaron Ostrovsky
Off-Piste
Jeremy Park
Dick & Rita Pruzinski
Kathryn Pryde
David Rhoades
Bryan Rhodes
Lauren Richman
Ken Ritland
John Roskelly
Tom Rossi
Salon Rubio
Jason Rudolf
David Rugh

Paul Russel
Andrew Satler
David Schuldt
David Scott
Bruce Smith
Gaylord Smith
Adrian Solis
Scott and Heather Staples
Rob Stephenson
Don Stetson
John Stimberis
Leslie and Robert Stone
Terry Stuart

We sincerely apologize if we left anyone off this list! If you donated last year but don't see your name, please shoot us an e-mail and we'll update our records.