

UTAH AVALANCHE CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

**KNOW
BEFORE
YOU GO**



Basic Avalanche Education

In many cases just a little bit of avalanche knowledge can help people make life saving decisions.

UNLIKE A SCENE from a second rate sci-fi thriller or a James Bond movie, avalanches don't strike without warning. As a matter of fact, plenty of clues to unstable snow usually present themselves and most avalanche accidents are preventable. That's the good news. The bad news is these clues are often ignored due to lack of basic avalanche awareness skills. Now you don't need to be a snow scientist to enjoy the mountains during the winter and most recreationists either don't have time or aren't interested in becoming a snow geek. That's ok because in many cases just a little bit of avalanche knowledge can help people make life saving decisions. With this in mind, basic avalanche education is perhaps the biggest single component in keeping winter backcountry users alive. *



UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Leadership... Service... Accountability Patti Harrington, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Public Instruction
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June 26, 2007

Craig Gordon
 Avalanche Forecaster/Educator
 2242 West North Temple Salt
 Lake City, Utah 841 16

Dear Mr. Gordon:

On behalf of the Utah State Office of Education, I want to congratulate you on the success of the *Know Before You Go* avalanche education program and express the USOE's support for the curriculum. The feedback that I have received from participating Utah schools has been superlative.

The life skills offered thorough *Know Before You Go* apply not only to snow-related sports and activities but also to everyday life, where positive decision making with consideration of consequences is of prime importance. Your program is saving lives and educating students and families in Utah. The more than 50,000 students you have reached in the past three years is nothing short of astounding.

It makes sense that with the combination of easily accessible avalanche-prone terrain and ever-increasing numbers of school-aged students venturing into the mountains for winter recreation experiences, that you and your qualified staff continue *Know Before You Go* in Utah's schools. The program is a natural fit with the eighth grade Health Education core curriculum, and I envision increased numbers of schools utilizing the curriculum in the future.

I know funding can be a challenge for non-profit organizations such as the *Friends of the Utah Avalanche Center*, but I hope you can find funding sources necessary to continue this critically-important program. With the success you have had in Utah, I can see how other national and even international mountain communities would benefit from adopting all or parts of your curriculum. I appreciate the difference you have made for Utah's students. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank Wojtec Curriculum
 Specialist Health and Physical
 Education

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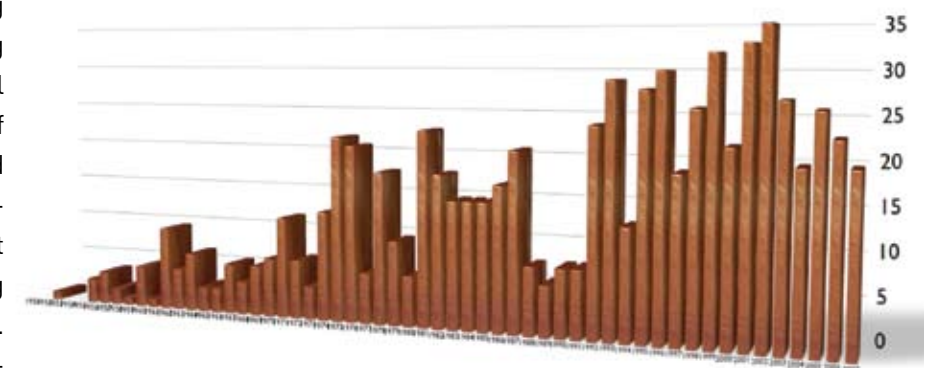
Know Before You Go 2006-07

THE KNOW BEFORE YOU GO (KBYG) avalanche awareness program was inspired by a tragic avalanche accident, killing three teenagers in Utah. It's the day after Christmas 2003 and the largest storm to hit Salt Lake City in nearly 30 years has been slamming the state for two days with about 18" of snow falling in the city itself. In the nearby Wasatch Mountains, it's raging. Winds are strong and out of the southwest at speeds of 25-40 mph, gusting to 60 and 70 mph along the exposed ridgelines. Since the 25th, 28" of heavy snow has fallen. The Provo area mountains, 30 miles southeast of Salt Lake, have received 22" of dense, wet snow. By all accounts it's an epic storm, crippling both cities and outlying rural areas. Throughout northern Utah trees are snapped, power lines down, and roads barely passable. Most ski resorts struggle to keep their areas open, battling strong winds, blinding snow and occasional power outages.

A small local ski resort near Provo, Utah is busy with young riders enjoying their Christmas break; however, the resort closes early because so many factors are working against it. As a result, a number of snowboarders and skiers, in separate parties, decide to drive up the road to an accessible trailhead for some powder riding. They come to the end of the road, and start ascending a popular hiking trail, Aspen Grove. Arriving at different times, but still within about a half an hour of each other, three groups find the visibility poor and decide to charge up the closest slope, a large north facing avalanche path, Elk Point. The slope rises to an elevation over 10,800' with a base elevation at Aspen Grove of 6700', affording a vertical drop of 4100'. No one is wearing avalanche rescue gear and communication among the groups, in total 14 people, is almost non-existent as they all head up the slope. The group never got to their destination. A series of four large natural avalanches are triggered from above and pandemonium ensues. At the end of the day, three young men were buried and killed, and the last body

The KBYG program was inspired by a tragic avalanche accident, killing three teenagers in Utah in 2003.

U.S. AVALANCHE FATALITIES 1951-2007



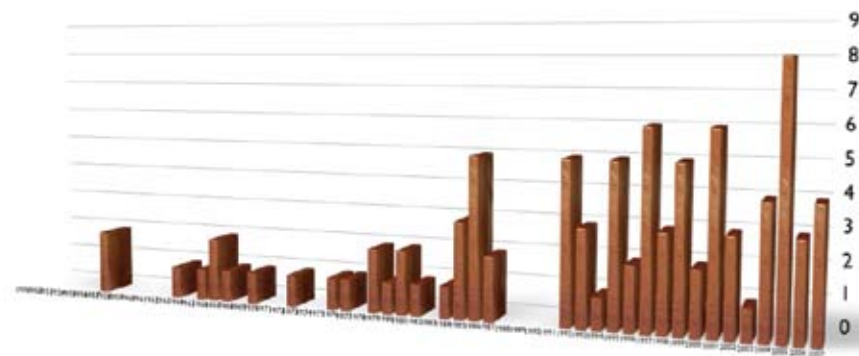
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On average, four Utahns are killed each year in backcountry avalanche accidents.

wasn't recovered until April 8, nearly three months after the slide was triggered. Covered extensively by both local and national news, the event kept avalanche awareness in the spotlight for an unusually long time. The tight knit, family-oriented community is devastated.

Unfortunately, the story is one we've heard before. While the characters change each time, the theme remains the same and the outcome is devastating for the victim's family and friends alike. The bottom line in so many cases is frustratingly apparent- technology far outpaces even basic avalanche awareness skills. In addition to high-tech gear, which riders quickly master and then look beyond the ski area boundary for "freshies," today's riders are also inundated with high-octane action sports videos, which can often give an unrealistic impression to the complexity of snow and avalanche safety. Throw in an unstable snowpack, some youth, a dose of testosterone, and mix well with a little lack of situational awareness and you have a potentially lethal combination.

UTAH AVALANCHE FATALITIES 1951-2007



Just two seasons prior to the Aspen Grove slide, Utah Avalanche Center (UAC) forecaster Craig Gordon investigated a deadly avalanche in upper Big Cottonwood Canyon, approx 18 mi southeast of Salt Lake City. A group of ten young snowboarders, mostly in their mid to late teens triggered a large avalanche, killing two males in the party. Much like the Aspen Grove slide in 2003, other than

a few shovels used mainly to build backcountry kickers, no one had avalanche rescue gear or even rudimentary avalanche skills.

The two events convinced him a teen-specific basic avalanche awareness program must be created. Craig thought, "If we could get this younger crowd thinking about avalanches, checking out our website or calling the hotline and wearing avalanche safety gear, lives would be saved. In the long run, a generation of riders would be educated on what to do while traveling in the backcountry."

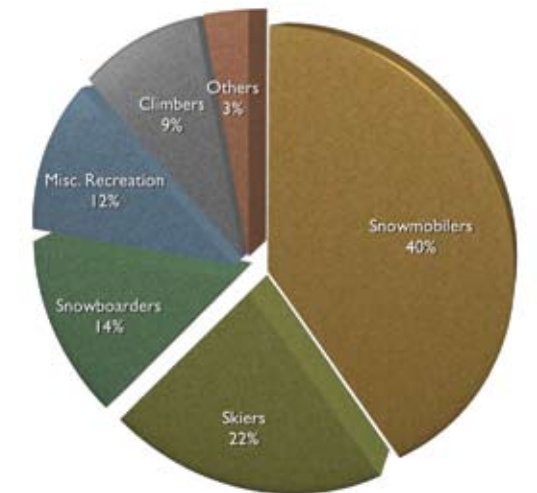
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In January 2004, Craig proposed the idea of developing a program specific to young adults in the state of Utah to Bruce Tremper, director of the UAC. The course would be unique, going right to the source—junior highs, high schools, and colleges—preaching the avalanche gospel to the masses. The program's creation and implementation would be a challenge, because as with most federal agencies the UAC gets by on minimal funding and personnel. We decided the program should be administered by the Friends of the FSUAC, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, and shared with all snow professionals and regional avalanche centers across the United States.

Bruce and Craig worked on a business plan and decided early on, the presentation would last for about an hour. Given in three parts to keep teens' attention, it needed to be fast paced and energetic. An avalanche professional would go to a school assembly and start with a 15-minute, narrated video showing avalanches, people triggering avalanches, and the destructive power of avalanches. Next, they would tell a dynamic story about a close call they had and what they have learned over the years. The presenter would segue into a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation about avalanche basics and wrap up the assembly with a question and answer session.

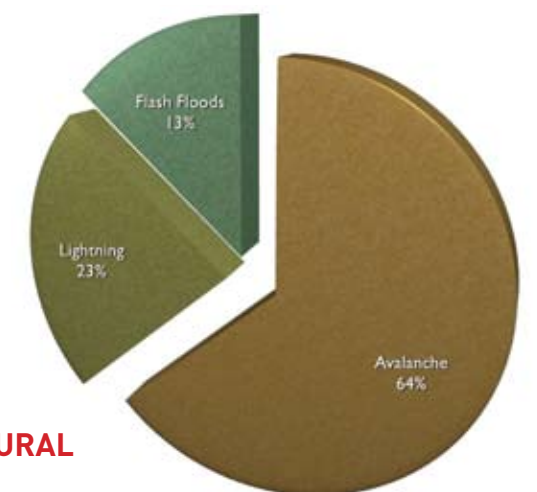
On paper and in theory it all sounded good, but several challenges lay ahead. How would we get into the school system, who would do all the leg work for avalanche footage and video development, and finally the age old question... where will the funding come from? With the backing of the Friends of the UAC, Bruce proposed they hire Craig as a contractor for the summer of 2004. He would take charge of coordinating the program and Bruce would act as a technical advisor to the project. *

U.S. AVALANCHE FATALITIES BY TYPE 1997-2007



Unlike most Western States where snowmobilers lead the list in avalanche fatalities, the past five years statistics have been a telling tale for Utah's backcountry snowboarders. The combination of youth, lack of experience and often times, not a very "avy-savvy" user group, all conspire against these young riders.

UTAH FATALITIES BY NATURAL HAZARD 1997-2007



Partnerships and Funding

In 2004, the Division of Utah State Parks and Recreation came onboard as a partner and donated more money than all the other partners combined!

ESTABLISHED IN THE SUMMER OF 2004, the Know Before You Go program is funded solely by donations and in-kind support. The majority of the annual operating budget is generated from a fundraising dinner held at either Snowbird or The Canyons in February. However, like any new product to hit the market, financial support hasn't been all that cut and dry.

Preliminary funding from the Friends of the UAC got the project off the ground, but it took visionary partners who trusted us to come onboard and partner with this innovative program to take it to the next level. Fortunately, Backcountry.com saw the need and planted the first seed monies, getting the venture through its initial stages. They trusted the reputation of the UAC and thought we had the expertise to give this program the attention to detail it deserved. Little by little, donations started to come in as people began to hear about this exciting new program. R.E.I. who has been a partner with the UAC for many years, were next to come on board with another generous donation.

Also, over the years, Craig developed great working relationships with the Utah Snowmobile Association (USA) and wanted to get them involved. Bridging the gap between motorized and non-motorized users, the USA stepped up to the plate and applied for an education grant from the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA). ISMA represents the four major snowmobile manufacturers and allocates grant monies for certain projects, usually education or safety related. We were awarded a grant which was a major breakthrough for the program, showing the strong commitment the snowmobile community has to avalanche safety and the well developed partnership between the FSUAC and USA.

In the fall of 2004, the Division of Utah State Parks and Recreation came on board as a partner and donated more money than all the other partners combined! The productive, fruitful relationship with State Parks and particularly Fred Hayes, the OHV coordinator, goes back several years. This significant donation was vital to the longevity of the program and all the hard work that went into it.

A few new ski industry partners came to our rescue in the summer of 2005. First was Brighton Ski Resort, a long time partner of the FSUAC in ava-

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-Past, Present and Future

lanche education. While previous in-kind support included lift tickets and parking for the Friends three day Level One avalanche awareness courses, two years ago Area Manager Randy Doyle agreed to help the program out financially. In addition, Brighton's proactive approach to avalanche education with their employees is a benefit to anyone working there. For the past three years, Brighton invited Craig to provide an avalanche presentation to its employees. There's a twofold benefit to everyone attending. Not only do attendees take with them life saving skills, at the end of the talk they're also rewarded with a free day pass at the resort. Positive incentives like this help us to further spread the avalanche message and pack the house with several hundred employees each year.

Ski areas are an important partner in the avalanche equation and we're thrilled to see the additional, on-going financial support from Deer Valley, The Canyons and Ski Utah. Bob Wheaton, Scott Pierpont and Nathan Rafferty respectively, were instrumental in getting their organizations to donate monies and we look forward to their continued partnership. In 2005 grant monies from the Park City Chamber of Commerce helped supplement a number of Summit County talks and defray video re-editing costs. Also that year, Kennecott Copper donated funds to help with avalanche presentations on the west side of the Salt Lake valley.

In-kind donations from Wasatch Backcountry Rescue (WBR) help facilitate the program on the road. WBR contributed a PowerPoint projector in 2004 and purchased a laptop computer for the 2005 season. Last winter during a WBR training class where dog teams throughout the country attended, Dean Cardinale presented Craig with a \$2000 donation. Over the summer we hope to create an all inclusive AV package presenters can grab and go. Support from valued partners like WBR help make this program a success.

Finally, this spring John Byrne generously donated \$5000 which will help sustain the program in the upcoming winter. We want to thank the Byrne Family for their partnership and altruistic vision- helping us keep backcountry riders of all disciplines educated and safe. *



Craig describes the dynamics involved in a slab avalanche to students from Westminster College.

Program Development

The presentation's dynamic message along with a very active avalanche year of 2004-05, propelled the program into the Utah schools spotlight.

PRIOR TO ITS PHENOMENALLY SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR, KBYG was a tough sell and working diligently to open the door of the school system wasn't always an easy task. After all, we were up against some stiff competition. The only programs welcomed by the Utah schools on a massive scale before were those that taught drug, alcohol and tobacco avoidance. This was a different type of program. However, once on the road, the presentation's dynamic message along with a very active avalanche year of 2004-05, propelled the program into the Utah schools spotlight.

With a seasons worth of presentations under our belts, we regrouped; saw what worked and what didn't and made the necessary tweaks to the original PowerPoint presentation. In addition, the original video was re-edited over the summer of '05, adding a few more interviews and new avalanche footage. With additional funding, we hope to update both the PowerPoint presentation and video this summer to keep the message fresh and up-to-date. *

Video Development, Editing and Re-editing

THE VIDEO WAS A TREMENDOUS HIT not only with students, faculty and administrators, but also with other avalanche professionals. After premiering a rough cut version at the 2004 Jackson Hole International Snow Science Workshop, every regional avalanche center wanted a copy. A finished version was available in November and about 150 copies were issued to snow professionals not only in the US, but in Canada, New Zealand, France, and the Netherlands. Our first go around was an international hit!

Original high quality footage came from TGR, Steve Kroschel, Steve Winter, and Richard Cheski. We also had some good rescue footage donated by KTVX News 4 Utah and KSTU Fox 13 News Utah. Jim Phelan, David Craig and Greg Painter chipped in with some amazing snowmobile footage that's always a crowd pleaser. New footage for the re-edit came from Ben DeJong, Andy Jacobsen, Tahoe Films, and Canadian Mountain Holidays. We edited the piece along with Video Wholesale of Salt Lake City. All the footage was donated for non-profit avalanche education.

Seeing the need to fill in some gaps, we conducted interviews with some of the world's top riders- Kasha Rigby and Jeremy Nobis world renowned extreme skiers, and Doug Andersen a radical snowmobiler featured in a number of popular action sports films. In addition to some exciting new footage, two young avalanche survivors were interviewed, putting a local face to a near catastrophic event.

After all the interviews were shot and additional footage gathered, it was off to the editing bay where the raw footage was sifted through and rough edited. We wanted to maintain the flavor of the original video and didn't have the funds or time to re-invent another version. Sounds simple on paper, but in reality it was an all encompassing, time consuming project. Once completed the new video was distributed to avalanche centers and educators in the U.S. and abroad and met with rave reviews. *

Personnel, Presentations and Scheduling

THE FIRST YEAR OBJECTIVE of Know Before You Go was to reach out to 5,000 students. Word got out about the program and we easily doubled our intended goal, speaking to over 12,000 students. Like a rock star with a hit album wondering if they could be as successful the second time around, we set our 05-06 season sights on just trying to reach the watermark set the year before. Over the summer and fall, Craig lined up a host of new schools to visit and a number of schools we spoke to invited us back to present to a whole new audience. By seasons end we were able to eclipse the pilot years successful start by giving 110 presentations, reaching out to just over 18,500 students.

This year we gave 119 talks to 22,450 young adults. In the past three seasons, Know Before You Go has been seen by over 50,000 teens and not one person attending these talks has been killed in an avalanche. *

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The Amazing Staff Behind the Program

THE PROGRAM IS WELL REPRESENTED WITH SNOW PROFESSIONALS from Ogden to Payson and Park City to Salt Lake City. Up north, ski patrol personnel from Snow Basin include Aleph Johnson-Bloom, GR Fletcher and Doug Wewer. In the Salt Lake area Dean Cardinale, Mike Morris, and Ralph Whatley from Snowbird as well as Gabe Garcia and Dave Richards from Alta help to cover a bulk of the talks. Darce Trotter who worked as snow safety and ski patrol director at Sundance for nearly two decades provided immeasurable assistance by handling talks in the Heber Valley, Park City and Provo areas. In Park City, a natural choice is Jake Hutchinson. He's the snow safety and ski patrol director for The Canyons. Jake's local expertise was utilized in both Summit and Salt Lake Counties. Finally, a new comer to the KBYG circuit this year is sponsored big mountain rider Sam Lee. Sam brought a tremendous amount of energy to the program and a unique perspective as a pro athlete and one time patroller.

This dynamic team of dedicated snow professionals deserves a tremendous amount of credit. It is their hard work and commitment to avalanche education that makes the program so successful.

ALEPH JOHNSON-BLOOM

Aleph, currently working at Snowbasin, has been a ski patroller in Colorado, Montana, and New Zealand. An avid backcountry skier herself in a wide variety of snowpacks, Aleph brings a unique perspective to avalanche education. She's taught avalanche classes for the past seven years and involved with the KBYG program for two seasons.



GR FLETCHER

A 13 year veteran from Snowbasin, GR Fletcher has held the position of assistant snow safety for the past 5 years. His personal professional avalanche education experience includes American Avalanche Institute levels 2 and 3 and AIARE level 3. Not only is GR an experienced climber and mountaineer, he also taught English as a second language to both adults and children in Taiwan for three years.

DOUG WEWER and SYRINGA

Doug started out ski patrolling in Pennsylvania, worked as a winter caretaker and volunteer patroller in Tuckerman Ravine, and then moved to Utah in 2000 to learn about avalanches and, of course, ski real powder.



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In addition, he worked the medical side of things on the Olympic downhill courses. In the winter, you might find him patrolling at Snowbasin, sending backcountry observations to the UAC, teaching at a Level I course or training his search dog, Syringa. In between storm cycles, he works as an engineer for the U.S. Forest Service in Ogden.



MICHAEL MORRIS

Mike has been in the ski industry for 16 years, currently working as Assistant Ski Patrol Director at Snowbird Ski Resort. Mike is a world traveler and adventurer, working as a guide both in the Grand Canyon and Nepal for 15 years. He was on top of the world in 2002 with a successful ascent of the SE ridge of Mount Everest. When he's not bagging big peaks, Mike enjoys play-ing with his son Max.

RALPH WHATLEY

Ralph started his ski patrol career at Snowbasin in 1985 and has worked as a professional patrolman for 23 years, 19 of them at Snowbird where he is the military weapons coordinator and training facilitator. Before settling in at the 'Bird, he worked in New Zealand and in France, at Chamonix les Grands Montets. Ralph brings a tremendous amount of experience and energy to the program.



DEAN CARDINALE and MIDAS

Dean Cardinale has worked with the Snowbird Ski Patrol since 1993, and is currently an avalanche forecaster for Snowbird Ski Resort. He is also the President of the Wasatch Backcountry Rescue group and a certified avalanche instructor with the American Avalanche Association. In Utah, Dean has responded to numerous avalanche accidents with his rescue dog Midas. As a guide, he has numerous backcountry, helicopter, and climbing trips in the USA, Alaska, Europe, Central America, Africa, and the Himalayas. On May 30, 2005 Dean summited Mt. Everest and is currently working on a seven summits bid.

GABE GARCIA

Gabe has been a pro ski patroller for 27 years and with KBYG since the beginning. For the first three years of his career he worked at Beaver Creek Colorado, before settling in at Alta for the next 24 years. He's been involved with the snow safety program for fifteen years and avalanche education for sixteen years. In addition to his duties at the ski



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resort, Gabe is a certified avalanche rescue dog handler with WBR, currently working with his dog Binx.



DAVE RICHARDS

For the past six years Dave has worked as a full-time Alta ski patroller and a part time helicopter ski guide for Wasatch Powderbird Guides. He is also an avalanche rescue dog handler and member of WBR. Prior to his career at Alta, Dave traveled around the world competing extensively as a professional big mountain free-skier. He has been featured in countless films and magazine covers and brings a vast amount of knowledge and edgy approach to the KBYG program.

DARCE TROTTER

Darce worked with the Sundance Ski Patrol from to 1979-2001 and was patrol and snow safety director from 1987-2001. After 22 years in the ski business, Darce went back to school and is now a registered nurse. He hasn't left the snow completely and still gets out a few days a week, providing backcountry snow and avalanche observations for the UAC. Darce has spent many years as an avalanche educator, teaching with KBYG since the inception of program.



JAKE HUTCHINSON

Jake is Director of Ski Patrol and Snow Safety at The Canyons, vice-president of WBR, and the only level 'A' validated dog team in Utah with 5 legs instead of 6. In addition, he's a certified AAA instructor, working for American Avalanche Institute in his spare time. When he doesn't have his face buried in the snow somewhere, he can be found biking, bagging peaks, wandering the desert, or fly-fishing somewhere high in the Uinta's.

SAM LEE

Currently teaching anatomy and biology at the winter sports school in Park City, Sam is also in the process of applying to medical school. She's patrolled for eight years at Kirkwood, Whakapapa, New Zealand, and The Canyons. Sam is a competitive big mountain skier sponsored by Alta Ski Resort, Roxy, and Surefoot at The Canyons. Her best finish to date is 3rd at the New Zealand Nationals 2005. This was Sam's first year with Know Before You Go and she was a huge help, always willing to pickup talks at a moments notice and often spending an entire day at a single school giving back to back presentations.



DATE	STAFF	EVENT	NO. PEOPLE
7/5/06	Gordon	National Wildlife Foundation	47
10/6/06	Morris	Ames Academy	94
10/7/06	Gordon	Ames Academy	101
10/19/06	Gordon	Hill Airforce Base	36
10/24/06	Gordon	Cedar City Board of Education	84
10/25/06	Gordon	Kaysville Scout Group	33
11/2/06	Gordon	William Pen Elementary	319
11/6/06	Gordon	Hill Airforce Base	36
11/7/06	Gordon	Salt Lake Rotary Club	216
11/9/06	Gordon	Davis County Search and Rescue	48
11/10/06	Wewer/Bloom	Davis County Scout Group	104
11/14/06	Lee	McGillis School	24
11/18/06	Gordon	Our Lady of the Snows	83
11/20/06	Lee	Park City High School (4 talks)	360
11/20/06	Garcia	Butler Elementary	98
11/21/06	Lee	Park City High School (4 talks)	328
11/27/06	Lee	Treasure Mtn Middle School (5 talks)	205
11/28/06	Lee	Treasure Mtn Middle School (5 talks)	221
11/29/06	Wewer	Hyrum Middle School (2 talks)	1017
11/30/07	Morris	Churchill Junior High School	254
11/30/06	Gordon	Sandy REI	103
12/1/06	Gordon	Evanston High School (4 talks)	637
12/1/06	Gordon	Evanston Middle School	412
12/4/06	Hutchinson	Rocky Mountain Middle School (2 talks)	595
12/7/06	Gordon	BYU Ski Club	37
12/9/06	Gordon	U of U Ski Club	19
12/11/06	Gordon	Salt Lake Ranger District	11
12/11/06	Fletcher/Whatley	South Davis Junior High School (6 talks)	822
12/12/06	Wewer/Fletcher	Eden Scout Group	60
12/13/06	Gordon	Morgan Junior High School	648
12/14/06	Gordon	Timponogas Hospital	67
12/15/06	Morris	Brigham Intermediate High School	637
12/18/06	Bloom	Snowcrest Junior High School	352
12/18/06	Garcia	Entheos Academy	27
12/19/06	Lee	Hunter Junior High School	88
12/20/06	Lee	North Summit Middle School	295
12/20/06	Lee	North Summit High School	303
12/20/06	Lee	South Summit High School	412
12/21/06	Richards	Bonneville Junior High School	1100
12/21/06	Gordon	Sandy REI	63
1/1/07	Gordon	The Residences at Deer Valley	15
1/4/07	Richards	Olympus Junior High School	846
1/5/07	Morris	Fort Herriman Junior High School (2 talks)	931
1/5/07	Morris	Indian Hills Middle School	1210
1/6/07	Gordon	Westminster College	41
1/8/07	Whatley	Saint Ambrose Catholic Church	43
1/10/07	Gordon	Sandy REI	71
1/10/07	Trotter	Springville Scout Group	129
1/12/07	Gordon	Steeps Camp	18
1/16/07	Trotter	Utah County EMS	31
1/16/07	Gordon	Wasatch Backcountry Rescue	88
1/16/07	Gordon	Goldman Sachs	23
1/16/07	Trotter	Salem Scout Group	43
1/18/07	Trotter	Utah Valley State College	29
1/18/07	Gordon	Backcountry.Com	31
1/19/07	Morris	Butler Middle School	1127
1/19/07	Morris	Roy Junior High School	897
1/20/07	Gordon/UAC Staff	Backcountry.Com	Field Day 52
1/20/07	Trotter	Wasatch County Search and Rescue	10
1/20/07	Trotter	Rocky Mountain Search and Rescue Dogs	14
1/22/07	Gordon	AMES School	37
1/22/07	Garcia	Central Davis Junior High School	1100
1/24/07	Richards	Kaysville Scout Group	68
1/24/07	Gordon	REI Sandy	43
1/25/07	Lee	Itineris Early College High School	167
1/25/07	Richards	Kennedy Junior High School	1255
1/29/07	Gordon	The Residences at Deer Valley	8
1/30/07	Trotter	Payson Junior High School	94
1/31/07	Trotter	Highland Scout Group	60
2/6/07	Gordon	REI- 33rd South	67
2/6/07	Whatley	Sandy Scout Group	48
2/9/07	Gordon	Steeps Camp	21
2/9/07	Scroggin	Evanston Scout Group	96
2/13/07	Gordon	Hunter Junior High School	187
2/14/07	Whatley	Holladay Scout Group	86
2/19/07	Garcia	Park City Olympic Park	12
2/20/07	Gordon	Brighton Ski Resort	118
2/22/07	Morris	Willow Valley Middle School(School (2 talks)	484
2/22/07	Morris	Logan Middle School (2 talks)	1268
2/22/07	Richards	Mount Harmon Junior High School	632
2/23/07	Gordon	Steeps Camp	26
2/23/07	Hutchinson	The Residences at Deer Valley	17
2/26/07	Gordon	Kern River Gas Transmission/Engineering	27
2/26/07	Gordon	The Residences at Deer Valley	6
2/26/07	Trotter	North Sevier Middle School	202
3/8/07	Whatley	Highland 29th Ward	48
3/17/07	Gordon	Wilderness Medicine Clinic	89
3/19/07	Gordon	Alta Rustler Lodge	28
3/22/07	Gordon	Island View RTC	57
3/26/07	Gordon	The Residences at Deer Valley	18
4/6/07	Gordon	Backcountry.Com (2 talks)	37
		TOTAL TALKS 119	TOTAL PEOPLE 22,451

Backcountry Awareness Week February Fundraiser

Governor Huntsman agreed that the last week of January should be dedicated to raising the level of avalanche awareness statewide.

ROGER KERR, THE MASTERMIND behind Backcountry Awareness Week, is Snowbird Expeditions program director and originally proposed the idea to the Governor's office four years ago. The Governor agreed that the last week of January should be dedicated to raising the level of avalanche awareness statewide. The week kicks off with Utah's Governor signing an avalanche awareness proclamation, followed by a media blitz during the week, which includes interviews with snow professionals. It all wraps up with an evening fundraiser and weekend avalanche classes given by forecasters with the UAC. Colleen Graham, the Friends president, teamed up with Roger and their hard work and dedication to avalanche awareness brings a diverse group of users together for a very special one night fundraising event. The proceeds go directly to the program's operation and expansion budget. This year Scott Pierpont and the Canyons Resort graciously hosted both the fundraiser and weekend classes and we want to thank them for being such a devoted partner. In addition, Olympic Gold Medal winner Jim Shea was the key note speaker. *



Craig Gordon and Utah's Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. shake hands after signing this years Backcountry Awareness Proclamation.

Other Season Highlights

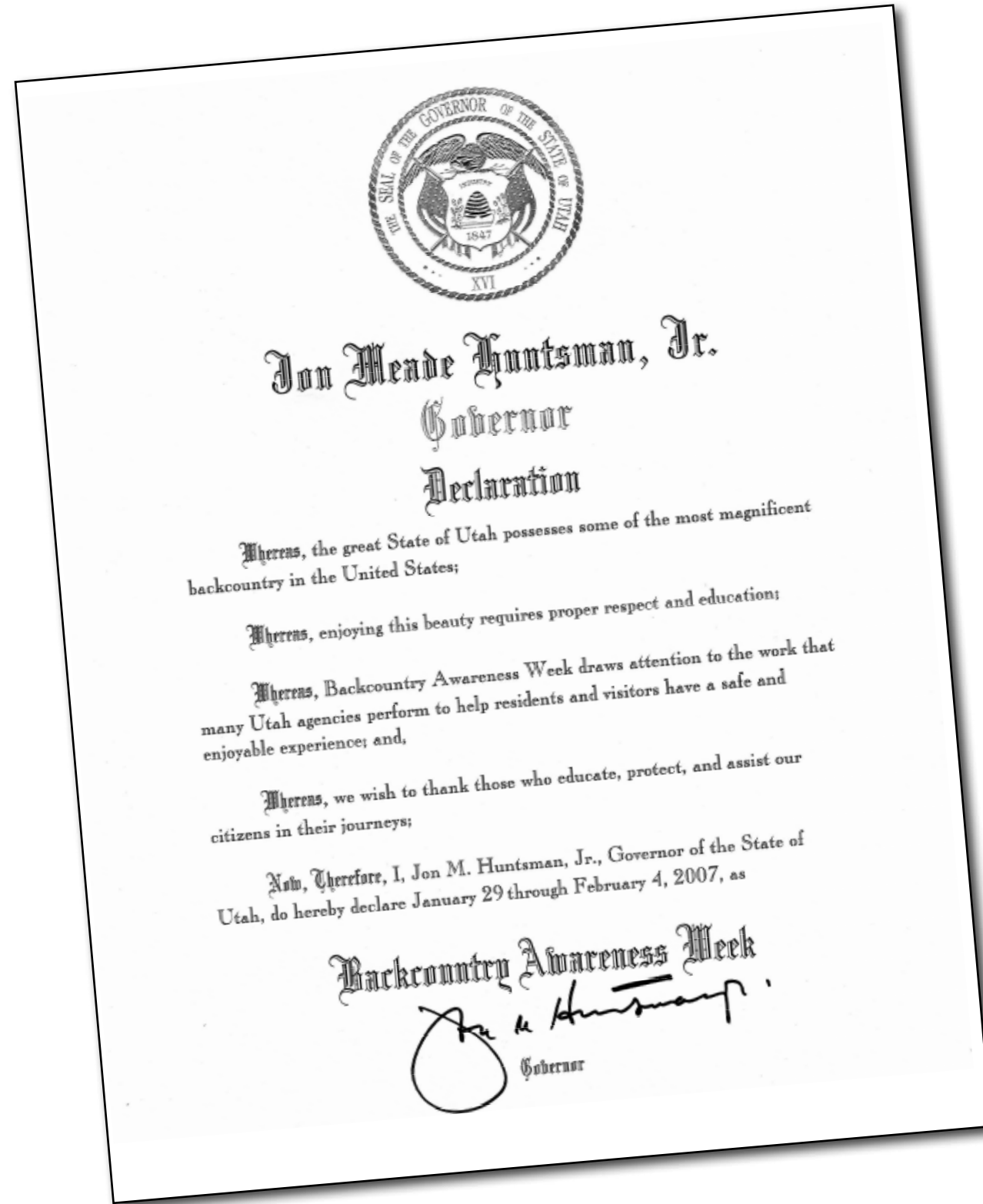
IN OCTOBER, CRAIG WAS INVITED to give an oral presentation describing the Know Before You Go program and its success to over 700 snow and avalanche professionals attending the prestigious International Snow Science Workshop in Telluride, Colorado. The 20-minute presentation outlined the history of the ground breaking awareness program, exposing it even further to both a national and international audience. Many attendees are adopting either parts or the entire program, implementing it in their own mountain communities. Ultimately, our efforts here in Utah have affected thousands of lives both here and abroad.

While most avalanche professionals were enjoying a well deserved break from winter, Craig jetted to Alaska, meeting other Alaskan snow professionals and educators, helping both the state and the North American Outdoor Institute formulate an outdoor safety school curriculum. The achievements of the KBYG program will act as a framework for avalanche education in the state of Alaska. *

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Olympic Gold Medalist Jim Shea, keynote speaker at this years Know Before You Go fundraiser, describes his gold medal winning experience.



Future Direction

UTAH'S STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION (USOE) recognizes the importance of this program and we're excited to work in conjunction with the USOE to provide life skills for generations of Utah's students. Physical Education Specialist, Frank Wojtech, is a visionary leader who cares deeply for quality education and realizes this program is vital to the safety of our youth. On the heels of another successful season, we'll be busier next year as even more schools have expressed interest in the program. In addition, we're working on an internet accessible version of KBYG.

The future for KBYG is exciting, the message well received and we're saving lives.

Finally, we will develop a curriculum for the program during the summer of 2008 so it can pilot as a state-wide, 8th grade physical education elective for the 2008-09 school year. This would be the first of its kind in the nation and could act as a successful model for other mountain communities to follow. The future for KBYG is exciting, the message well received and we're saving lives. *



Craig Gordon
Utah Avalanche Center
2242 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

May 9, 2007

Dear Craig,

I wanted to thank you for presenting the "Know Before You Go" program to the Winter at Westminster students. Your enthusiasm and knowledge truly inspired the group, and many students furthered their avalanche education because of your introduction. In fact, at the end of the semester, every student ranked your presentation at the top of the activity list and highly recommended it for next year's program. I look forward to having you present for us again next January!

Sincerely,

Liz Rogers
Outdoor Recreation Coordinator
Westminster College

Craig -

Park City High School has been extremely fortunate to have the "Know Before You Go" avalanche awareness program at our school for the past three years.

Over 1500 students have participated in this program and have been presented with information and knowledge that is critical in this ski town. We have students on the resort, mountains and back country every day, in every kind of conditions. With this number of ski days it is obvious that this program has helped our students avoid avalanches which are so prevalent in Utah's mountains. We plan on having this program for every sophomore in school and every student in our "Adventure Activities" class. The staff looks forward to the presentations every year knowing that it will help some student avoid dangerous, life threatening situations. Thanks to Craig and his group.

Bob Burns
PE Department Chair
Park City High School

Bruce...

I wanted to thank you for the excellent program you did for Davis Middle School in January of 2007. Approximately 400 students and 45 staff members saw the program. Most of the students spend time in the backcountry snowmobiling, snowboarding, sledding or skiing. The Know Before You Go program was quite informative, motivating, and fun to watch. The students learned about avalanches, but more important, they learned how NOT to get caught in one.

For several days after your program, I heard the students talking about it. Many students told me when they go in the backcountry, one person at most from their party has proper safety gear, typically a parent. Many asked their parents to purchase beacons, shovels and probes for them. They realize now that everyone needs their own equipment in case someone in their party gets buried. This program saves lives. It's one of the most important lessons our young people can learn, especially living here in snow country.

Sincerely,
Barb Jefferis
Davis Middle School

Thank you for the presentation. All of the feedback I heard was excellent. It went well and held both the youth and the adults attention. The effectiveness of the presentation was probably increased by all of the avalanche activity in the news during the following couple of weeks.

Jim Child
Scout Leader

Hi Craig,

The presentation was absolutely youth were very well instructed took on as especially poignant our young women excused herself hit very close to home for her. Two of her uncle was killed in a back country avalanche. When teaching youth, as every parent knows, they don't always learn the lesson from being "told." The presentation was perfect, followed up by this young woman's testimony of its relevance, made an indelible impression on our young men and young women.

Thank you very much.

Best wishes,
Dave Ellis
Scout Leader



Craig,

I just wanted to thank you for your help and involvement in our conference. We made a great impression on a lot of people! I heard a lot of compliments on your presentation. Once we compile our survey results, I will pass on your "rating" and whatever comments were given. Thanks again!

Sincerely, Jara

P.S. Sorry I didn't have any WhiteBaks left!

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THANKS

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