

Greetings from the Utah Avalanche Center:



DONATE NOW

July 2018

What's New

Utah Avalanche Center 2017-18 Season Review

Low snowfall creates dangerous avalanche conditions and historically higher fatality rates.
We're working to keep those numbers down!

49%
OF AVERAGE
SNOWPACK

146
human
triggered
avalanches

39
people
caught

16
people
buried

0
killed



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\$949,200
statewide budget

32%
from federal,
state and
county govts.

68%
private
sponsorship

50%
spent on
education



13
employees

430
field days

1002
avalanche
forecasts
posted



1.6 Million
page views

138
videos
produced

2.4 Million
video views



5345
attended a
UAC class or
presentation

191,500
participants in
KBYG program
since inception

Keeping people on top of the greatest snow on earth for 38 years!

For more season highlights, check out the [UAC 207-2018 Annual Report](#).

Social Media for the 2017-2018 Season

The use of social media spreads the UAC's message and becomes more important each year. We had almost 12,500 new followers between [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) this season. See the [Annual Report](#) for more details.

We had an amazing number of views on a lot of posts.

- Our [top Instagram video](#) that received over 126,500 views.
- Our [top Facebook post](#) received almost 116,000 views.

A Busy Summer at the UAC

What keeps the UAC so busy in the summer? The summer staff (Chad, Paul, Bo, Trent, and Paige) have a lot of projects well underway and we are excited about the impact they will have on all of our users.

- We are rebuilding the UAC website to work better on mobile devices, offer improved navigation, have a more simplified look and incorporate some national standards. We plan to release the new site in early fall.
- We are updating our Backcountry 101 and Introduction to Companion Rescue curriculums. The goal of this project is to make sure the curriculums align with the new American Avalanche Association standards and to update the classroom materials.
- We have received a Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant to build and deploy 8 more trailhead "Are You Beeping" signs. These signs will be deployed from Moab to Logan. The grant also includes 2 transceiver training parks to be installed in Moab and Logan.
- We are continuing to develop our eLearning program. Our goal is to have the first 5 educational modules released in early October. These modules are an expansion of the Know Before You Go program and will be great for new users as well as a way for experienced users to refresh their knowledge each fall.

Meet the Forecaster

UAC Forecasters in the Summer

One question we are frequently asked is, "What do the forecasters do in the summer?" Summer work for the UAC forecasting staff is as variable as early season faceted snowfall.

- **Mark Staples:** As director of the US Forest Service Utah Avalanche Center, Mark splits his summertime between the UAC and as an information manager for wildland fires. His UAC work ranges from special projects (like the website redesign project) to planning for the upcoming season.
- **Craig Gordon:** When he's not chasing patches of snow to ski in the summer, Craig utilizes his craft as an ordained minister and is often found in spectacular mountain settings, performing equally spectacular wedding ceremonies. You can also find him trail running, playing tennis, or at the front row of a Red Butte summer concert.
- **Drew Hardesty:** Drew spends his summer in the Tetons as a climbing ranger. If you find yourself in trouble in the Tetons, you may get rescued by Drew.
- **Eric Trenbeath:** Eric is spending the summer as a ranger at Canyonlands National Park.
- **Evelyn Lees:** Evelyn's spending this summer on road trips to places she hasn't visited in over 25 years and new places she's never seen. She will be spending the summer spring skiing, climbing, and hiking in the Pacific Northwest, followed by more hiking, climbing and peak bagging throughout the western U.S.
- **Greg Gagne:** When he's not trail running, rock climbing or on his mountain bike, Greg spends his time during the summer on research projects related to his work as a professor at Westminster College.
- **Paige Pagnucco:** Paige works part-time for the nonprofit UAC over the summer writing grants. She spends her free time in the mountains climbing, biking and hiking.
- **Toby Weed:** Toby works for the USFS as a wildland firefighter and information officer. When he's not on a fire, you'll find him standing in a river trying to catch fish or following his kids on various climbing adventures.
- **Trent Meisenheimer:** Trent spends his summer working for the nonprofit UAC editing videos and creating content for our eLearning modules.

Education

USAW 2018

USAW continues to grow! In order to continually expand and improve USAW, we have a new format for the 11th Annual Utah Snow and Avalanche Workshop (USAW 2018). We are splitting the pro and open sessions between two days. Due to venue conflicts, we are moving USAW back to Mountain America Expo Center (formerly Southtown Expo Center) and holding it one week earlier on October 26 and 27.

Topics will include a review of last years tricky snowpack and numerous close calls, changing climate and its effects on our snowpack and first-hand accounts of near misses and lessons learned.

- October 26
 - A full day professional workshop for patrollers, guides, department of transportation staff, avalanche educators, and others responsible for the lives of people in the mountains.
- October 27
 - A full day public workshop.....open to everyone
 - A 1/2 day expanded motorized workshop



Summer Transceiver Storage

You may not put summer wax on your skis, but do you take the batteries out of your transceiver? Key steps to "summerize" your transceiver.

1. Inspect the outside of the transceiver for damage.
2. Check to see if all transceiver functions are working properly.
3. Remove the batteries and dispose of them appropriately or use them in a less consequential device. No matter the remaining power level, all battery brands discharge differently and even some batteries of the same brand will discharge over the summer. Always start fresh each season.
4. Check for corrosion on the batteries and in the battery compartment. If there's corrosion in the battery compartment, then clean it off with a Q-tip and rubbing alcohol—especially the battery contacts. Remember, corroded battery contacts are not warranted by any beacon manufacturer as they are considered user error.



Don't forget at the start of each season to check if there is a manufacturer firmware update for your transceiver.

ORTOVOX PRECAUTIONARY RECALL: Ortovox has issued a precautionary recall of all 3+ transceivers running firmware version 2.1. If you have an Ortovox 3+, [check out the recall details here](#)

Giving Back to the UAC

Education Program Donations

Have you replaced your TV or iPad lately? For the upcoming season, we are improving our presence at events. Consider donating your old items to the UAC. Contact Bo@utahavalanchecenter.org if you can help out.

- We are looking for a TV that has USB ports that we can set up at our avalanche awareness table at events. This TV will be used to play the avalanche education videos that the UAC creates. The TV should be 36" or larger.
- We are looking for 2-4 iPads that can be used at events for people to register for classes, sign up for UAC mailings, and as credit card terminals. The iPad needs to be able to run the latest IOS which includes models: iPad Mini 2, 3, or 4; iPad Air 2, any iPad Pro, iPad Pro 2, iPad 5th gen, iPad 6th gen.

Getting Married? - Support the UAC with your Gift Registry



Are you getting married soon? The UAC and Vebo have partnered to help couples skip the traditional wedding registry and instead register for memorable experiences. What is Vebo? VEBO is an experience-based wedding registry that partners with great experience providers across the west. They offer over 1,000 great experiences engaged couples can add to their

registry. When you register with Vebo, you can choose the UAC to receive a portion of the proceeds or have your guests donate directly to the UAC. Check out their site www.Vebolife.com

The Details

Upcoming Classes

The 2018-2019 class schedule will be posted in late summer.

Upcoming Events

September 13: 25th Annual Black Diamond Fall Fundraiser Party. [Buy your tickets here](#) and join us for our silver celebration! Location: Black Diamond Parking Lot, Salt Lake City.

October 25: Boondockers movie fundraiser. Location: Brewvies Salt Lake City.

October 26-27: 11th Annual Utah Snow and Avalanche Workshop. Location: Mountain America Expo Center, Sandy.

- Friday: Pro only session.
- Saturday: Open and Motorized sessions.

November 7: Avalanche education talk (details coming soon). Location: Alpha Coffee Salt Lake City.

November 8: Alpine Assassins movie fundraiser. Location: Brewvies Ogden.

November 15: Alpine Assassins movie fundraiser. Location: Brewvies Salt Lake City.

Update Your Information

We are working to update our contact database. [Please use this link to update your UAC profile.](#)

Stay Connected

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