

NARRATIVE SECTION:

Our office was informed by Aaron Bruderer and Steve Parkin that they had been hiking and snowshoeing in the Little Willow drainage on the front of Lone Peak with Justin Heil. Bruderer and Parkin stated that at approximately 1230 hours Heil decided to descend from the hike at around the 82 to 8400 foot level, Heil telling them he had cold and wet feet and decided to descend. Bruderer and Parkin had made the decision to continue climbing in the Little Willow drainage. Bruderer and Parkin said that as they continued on up a steep shoot an avalanche gave way just underneath them, the avalanche ran approximately 1000 to 1500 feet in a northerly direction and Bruderer and Parkin believed that Heil had been caught in it. They tried to locate Heil. They made a quick cursory search of the avalanche debris area according to them, but they could not find their friend, Justin Heil. They then went out to the roadway and made contact with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Also at our request responding was from Snowbird Ski Patrol Sam DAVIS with his dog Jessee and Ski Patrolman Jim COLLINSON. Responding from Alta Ski Patrol was Ski Patrollers Todd MILLEN, Eric MCCULLEY, and Tyson BRADLEY, with their dog Stella. Responding from Solitude Ski Parol were Ski Patrollers Greg PUCKETT, Shaun SHELTON with his dog Kruser and Keith STENFELS with his dog Josey. Patroller Ian RIDDEL and Patroller Sarah MAROUN.

The above teams after receiving information from Life flight who had flown in Search and Rescue Deputy Darren Hunsaker and also Wasatch Back country Commander Jeff LARSON. Hunsaker and Larson from Life Flight were able to locate the avalanche as described by Bruderer and Parkin. They made an evaluation that it could be reached safely on the ground. They returned and landed, at which time teams from Search and Rescue and also Ski Patrollers from Snowbird, Alta and Solitude started in on foot.

At approximately 1720 hours the initial responding teams made it to the debris field of the avalanche in Little Willow Canyon. At that time Ski Patroller Sam Davis from Snowbird and his dog Jessee started working the avalanche debris pile in an effort to locate Heil. At 1729 hours Search Dog Jessee was able to hit on a hat that was buried at the bottom of the avalanche debris path.

The search was continued by Sam Davis and his dog Jessee and at 1733 hours Search Dog Jessee again made a hit. Davis and other people in the scene dug down at the site of the dog find and were able to locate the body of Justin James Heil.