



Haines Avalanche Center

Supporting and promoting avalanche forecasting, education and research to reduce injuries and deaths caused by snow avalanches.



Dear Sponsor,

The Haines Avalanche Center is seeking cooperate sponsorships to support and promote avalanche safety in southeast Alaska. Your contribution will provide community outreach to prevent injuries and deaths caused by snow avalanches. Specifically, sponsor funds allow us to provide the data and information people need to stay safe: through our mountain weather stations, professional forecast products, and free community avalanche safety classes.

Sponsorships like yours help build stronger southeast Alaska communities by protecting residents and visitors while promoting year-round recreation. By becoming a cooperate sponsor you will help the Haines Avalanche Center reduce avalanche related incidents like the one that claimed the lives of 2 young Haines men in December of 2019.

Last season, our online avalanche safety outreach received more than 70,000 visitor-impressions. We taught 16 local avalanche courses to 176 students. These classes included local residents, industry professionals and out of town visitors. (You can visit our website at www.alaskasnow.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram)

By becoming a Gold level cooperate sponsor you will receive brand recognition on the Haines Avalanche Center website as well as course advertising materials both online and in print.

Sincerely,

Erik Stevens
Director - Haines Avalanche Center
estevens@alaskasnow.org

For corporate sponsors, we are pleased to offer the following options:

Silver

Tax-deductible Donation:
\$1000

- Your logo on HAC webpages
- Your logo on HAC email updates

Gold

Tax-deductible Donation:
\$2500

- All the perks of Silver, PLUS:
- Dedicated sponsorship of 3 local avalanche education classes with direct callout to your organization
- Special Social Media Callout
- Your Logo on our Weather Station webpages

In the last 8 years, 8 people have died in avalanches in Haines. With your help, the Haines Avalanche Center can reduce accidents, prevent deaths, increase our quality of life, and contribute to our local winter tourism economy.



Tax-Deductible Donation Form

Haines Avalanche Center

C/O Alaska Avalanche Information Center

AAIC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

EIN # 80-0674646



You can also donate online by visiting alaskasnow.org/donate and clicking on **Haines**

Date: __ / __ / ____

Person making donation: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address:

State: __ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please write checks to the *Alaska Avalanche Information Center*. Write HAC in the memo.

Amount: \$ _____

Please Mail to:

Alaska Avalanche Information Center

PO Box 665

Haines, AK 99827

Haines Avalanche Center (HAC) is an office of the Alaska Avalanche Information Center (AAIC). The AAIC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. In an effort to foster support for local avalanche centers the AAIC provides insurance, non-profit status and services that small avalanche centers cannot afford. Your donation makes it possible for small avalanche centers like HAC to survive. **100% of your donation will go directly to the HAC.** If you need a receipt, just let us know and we will send one to you.

Thanks for your local support!

Erik Stevens

Haines Avalanche Center

estevens@alaskasnow.org



Alaska Avalanche Information Center

P.O. Box 665
Haines, AK 99827

estevens@alaskasnow.org - www.alaskasnow.org

Haines Avalanche Center 2019-2020 season stats:

HAC online reach: 74,438 impressions

33 Haines forecasts published

16 Haines classes taught

176 Haines students directly reached via hands-on training (all ages)

Haines Avalanche Center Season End Report, submitted to the American Avalanche Association May, 2020:

After years of low snowfall, Haines finally had a "normal" winter this year. Snowpack was deep down to sea level, and the mountains were plastered.

- Haines Customs Border Station (valley bottom): 279" of snow (120% of average)

- Haines Town: 218" of snow (123% of average), with 45" of precipitation from Oct-April (99% of average)

- Total SWE at treeline on April 25th: 70" (at 2,600ft, Maritime zone, about average)

The deep snowpack and consistent storms led to fewer PWL's than in previous years. Recreational Skiers/Riders/Snowmachiners were quite active before the pandemic hit.

We were not without avalanche problems, of course. The Chilkat Pass zone, located in a more Continental climate, had problems with depth hoar and crust-facets all season. Early season rain events drove freezing levels up in elevation and formed melt-freeze crusts, followed by cold air outbreaks. We actively monitored and discussed these crusts throughout the season, and spent extra time trying to map out their elevational distribution.

Tragically, these snow conditions in the Pass created the recipe for a deep, hard slab avalanche that buried three young snowboarders from Haines as they bootpacked up a small hill on foot. Two of them were fully buried and did not survive. The third was buried up to his neck, and was only able to self-extricate after nearly an hour before communicating via InReach.

This event was important, tragic as it was, because it occurred on an unassuming hill just steps from a trailhead parking lot. The hill is approximately 30m tall and has been used by local families for decades as a place to slide on snow. It should serve as a strong reminder to think big when it comes to small, heavily-used terrain. It also underscores the importance of local avalanche forecasting, observations, and education in our town. Avalanche safety is NOT (as one local town Assembly-person put it) just for extreme riders participating in a high-risk sport.

With limited funding for forecasting operations this year, recent accidents motivated an even greater dedication to our growth in education and public outreach. HAC staff taught 16 classes this season (176 students total), ranging from free awareness sessions to A3 Rescue Classes, Snowmachine Avy Awareness, and a Level 1 Rec.

Snow conditions going into the Coronavirus shutdowns were quite good as the consistent winter storm track changed over to steady high pressure. Many recreationalists made the decision to limit their exposure in the mountains, while others continued to take advantage of the spring snowpack without incident. Some local riders

were called out by their peers on social media for skiing risky terrain during this time. Even in Alaska we were hearing about problems with trailhead crowding and SAR resources being stretched in the lower-48.

For our part, it was an easy decision to stop all staff operations by the end of March. For one, we were out of funding due to large cuts this year, and for two, public observations were becoming less frequent. Our end of season messaging stated that limited observations, limited SAR resources, and limited transportation options all warranted extra caution in the backcountry.

See below for a series of photos from this year's season.

Sincerely,



Erik Stevens
Director and Forecaster
Haines Avalanche Center

Haines Avalanche Center would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of its supporters, sponsors, and contributors this year!



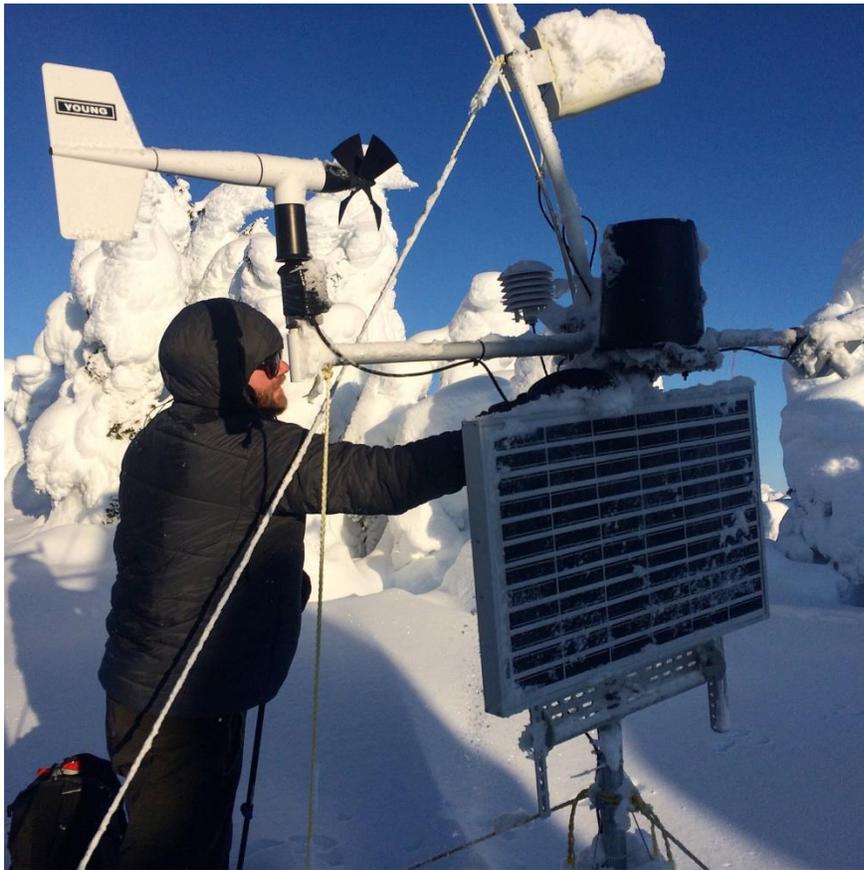
Chilkat Valley Community Foundation
An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation



January 17th, 2020: HAC Director Erik Stevens gathering observations on weak facets 30cm deep. This was the weak layer of interest in mid-January as new storms came in.



Feb 29th, 2020: HAC Forecaster/Observer Jeff Moskowitz prepares an Extended Column Test. These tests evaluate which weak layers are likely to fail, and how much force it takes to cause an avalanche to occur. This kind of information is vital for skiers, riders, and snowmachiners.



HAC volunteer Bart Pieciul performing some regular maintenance at the Ripinsky weather station. January, 2020.



HAC Director Erik Stevens measuring Snow Water Equivalent at the Ripinsky site. April, 2020.



HAC Forecaster/Observer Jeff Moskowitz teaching a Level 1 avalanche class in Haines. February, 2020.



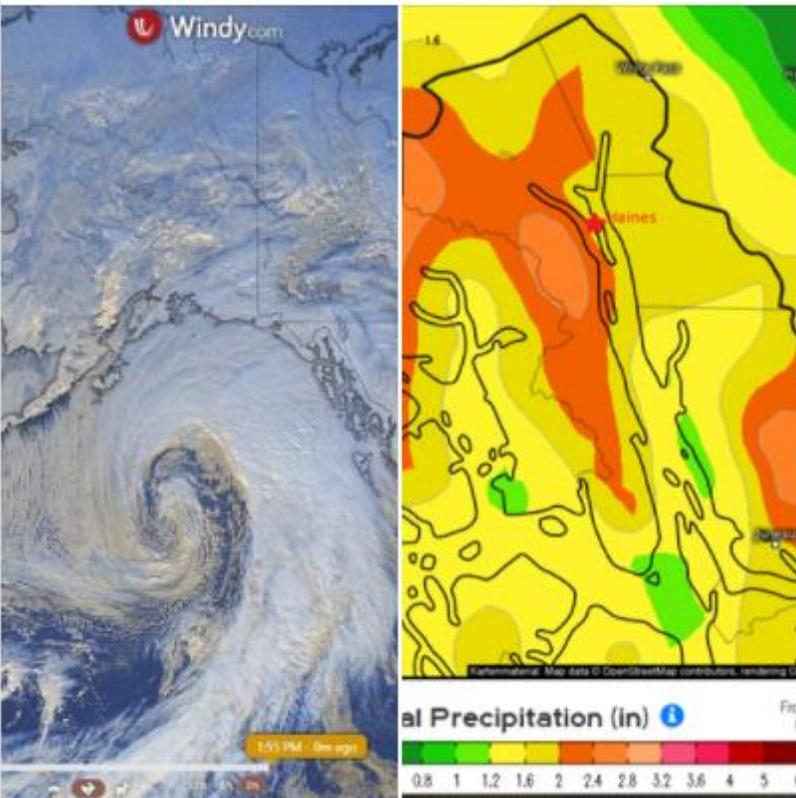
HAC Forecaster/Observer Jeff Moskowitz teaching a free avalanche awareness class at the Haines school. February, 2020.



We had over 20 people turnout for our 8-hour Avalanche Rescue class on January 18th, 2020. It was a great group of folks from a wide cross-section of our community. All ages, all parts of the borough, and all recreation types were represented.

 **Haines Avalanche Center**
January 28 · 🌐

Big storm winding up in the Gulf is about to slam SE Alaska. Expecting 2" of water equivalent over the next 24hours. That should add up to 12-26" of snow in the valleys depending on how much rain mixes in Wednesday. A full 24-36" is likely in the mountains above 1000ft. Don't bother checking the snow depth on the Mt. Ripinsky weather station...it's completely buried from this weekend!



8,377 People Reached 1,249 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

Our Facebook campaign is particularly wide-reaching. Many of our posts reach between 1,000 and 20,000 people each. This one reached 8,300 people with 1,200 engagements.