· **HOW USEFUL ARE COMPUTER GENERATED MAPS?**

Beat vonAllmen and Judi Gooding, Alpentech, 2871 *South 2870 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109*
Liam Fitzgerald and John Stratton, Snowbird Corp.. Snowbird, Utah 84070

Computers have trat:lsformed maps into unusually versatile tools for communication of data. When fed with elevation data, computers can draw oblique views aligned with the major wind directions and can emphasize mountain features. First attempts to model particular avalanche conditions in Utah's Wasatch Front are being tested. Elevation, exposure, slope and winter shadows were weighted to show a particular avalanche condition. Other sample maps show a powder snow index for Snowbird, Utah and terrain attractiveness of high altitude ski slopes near Val Thorens, France. The material introduces a general discussion about the usefulness of software maps applied to snow quality and backcountry avalanche mapping.