SNOWPACK SPATIAL VARIABILITY IN THE CHUGACH MOUNTAIN RANGE

Jerry Hance


A. Techniques for obtaining snowpack data
   - Visually from air
   - Visually from ground
   - Probing
   - Snowpits
   - Descents
   - Ascents
   - Data sharing among different guides and companies

B. Data – Practices in the Field
   - Data assimilation
   - Varying data results per slope
   - Supporting your practice with data (courtroom)
   - Practice – results
   - Wrenches

C. Lessons Learned
   - Simplifying
   - Isolating
   - Adjustments
   - Lessons learned individually
   - Experience, knowledge, level of awareness to self and surroundings
   - Golden rules
   - Care of catastrophic triggers
   - Evolving snowpack
   - Wildcard

D. Summary. I’m not 100% satisfied with my summary at this time . . . but it will include the self creating model of heliskiing practices developed in the past 13 years by the guides and companies that descend slopes regularly in the 10 – 60 range in the Chugach Mtn. Range.

Corresponding author address:

Jerry Hance
Bridger Bowl Ski Area
Bozeman, MT
(406) 587-2043
jerryski@aol.com