

THE AVALANCHE NOTES

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ABSTRACT: Welcome to the Internet version of The Avalanche Notes! For those of you who are unfamiliar with The Avalanche Notes, they were established in 1976 by Art Judson and The U.S. Forest Service West Wide Avalanche Network. The Notes initially started out as a few hand-written documents. In 1970 Art Judson turned the Avalanche Notes over to Knox Williams, who developed blue (weather) and green (avalanche) sheets for ski areas to input their site-specific weather and avalanche data. The sheets, completed with monthly data, were sent to the West Wide Avalanche Network in Fort Collins Colorado by the 10th of the following month. Using these data, Knox Williams compiled a four-page weather and Avalanche summary document that was sent out to ski areas, forecast centers, and anyone who requested them. The Avalanche Notes, however, were discontinued in 1995 when there was no longer sufficient funding for Knox and the U.S. Forest Service.

We have introduced an online version of The Avalanche Notes, which is now in its 5th year running. To maintain these notes we need your help. The New Wan Data software that was given out at the ISSW Big Sky Montana is one way both weather and avalanches can be exported to the West wide Avalanche Network at www.avalanche.org. It is a terrific tool for your areas' record keeping, and it allows for easy data submissions! To input data into the network send a brief message to patrol@skialpine.com and we will continue to update the weather and avalanche page. Write a monthly summary using the old issues' format in the archives. Please try to submit these by the 10th of the month so we can post the notes in a timely fashion.

For those of you who do not have access to a software program such as Wan Data do not be discouraged. All that it takes to make a submission is a calculator for adding end of the month snow, water and avalanche totals. You can then E-mail them to patrol@skialpine.com. Send these submissions by the tenth of the following month and we will try to post them in a timely fashion. If you are unable to submit them within that timeframe, we will still post late submissions as time permits.

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