

Sierra Avalanche Center Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 - 6:00 pm

**Parasol Foundation
948 Incline Way, Incline Village, NV**



	Board of Directors		Forecasters
✓	Chris King - President		Brandon Schwartz
✓	Mark Bunge - Treasurer	✓	Andy Anderson
✓	Zach Tolby - Secretary		Steve Reynaud
	Jonathan Laine		
	Todd Offenbacher		SAC Staff
	Jason Oelkers	✓	David Reichel - Executive Director
✓	David Fiore	✓	Travis Feist - Education Coordinator
	David Bunker		Jason Bilek - Observer
	Peter Stanton		
✓	Tasha Thomas		Advisory Board/Public
✓	Murph		
✓	Sara Davidson		
✓	Kerry Stendell		

- A. CALL TO ORDER - 6:15 - Quorum established
- B. AGENDA AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL - Approved without amendment
- C. APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES - Approved without amendment
- D. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS – Chris King
 - 1. Think about sensitizing users to the fact that the forecast will stop by the end of April given that it's a big snow year and folks may be planning backcountry travel well into the spring.
- E. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE – Andy Anderson
 - 1. Usually plan to stop forecasting the 3rd weekend in April. Forecasters are extended with the FS to May 6. However, Brandon & Steve have work commitments starting April 30. Trying to figure out what to do – if snowpack is isothermal they may just call it, or might go to weekends only. Will decide & announce ASAP when the weather forecast is more clear, at least one week out. Other forecast centers are not extending their season.
 - 2. Steve has been officially permanent for a full pay period now. All is going well.
 - 3. Great support in the FS office right now. JCF asked about a building for the avalanche center. They are looking at infrastructure and view SAC as a long-term commitment/ investment. This may be long-term blue sky thinking, but it symbolizes the FS commitment to SAC. Andy will check with JCF to see if board followup makes sense in the near term.
 - 4. Lots of avalanches and near misses in March. Some people have said they were caught off guard, but all of the avalanche incidents were based on problems that were forecast. Still, this was an unusual March in terms of avalanche problems in Tahoe.
 - 5. Record snow depth at most sensors. Only place it isn't a record is on Mt Rose, where the record tree from 2017 is still a few feet short.
 - 6. **We hit 1.15 million page views already – a new record at this point in the year!** Up 88% over last year. Up 25% over 2016-17 (last record year).
 - 7. Forecaster/observer snowmobile training with Duncan is scheduled for 4/11 and 4/18. Reichel will join if possible. Jason won't be back from AK.
 - 8. Reichel asked if forecasters have talked about changing the forecast to the night before like some centers are doing? Partially to make life easier on forecasters. Andy: they discussed this with other centers (CAIC, NWAC, etc). Morning forecast advantages: weather forecast for the day is more current, overnight wind & snowfall data, get more obs that come in late night. Disadvantages: early mornings for

- forecasters, users who head out early don't have forecast when they leave trailhead. Evening forecasts have less accurate snow, weather, and obs data, plus the forecast is further out, and forecasters usually get up early anyway to check the forecast based on overnight snow & wind. If you revise you almost always revise it up to more dangerous. Bottom line: no change.
9. Mark asked if forecasters will provide a post-season analysis on forecast accuracy per the strategic planning retreat. Andy: they are already doing a lot of this. Will share what they are currently producing.
 10. ISSW is Oct 8-13 in Bend: starting to look at that, travel plans, registration, etc. Dave Fiore & Tasha are attending, Dave is presenting. Chris & Mark considering it.

F. ED REPORT – David Reichel

1. See ED Report in April meeting folder
2. Epic promise, reporting requirements completed
3. CA G21 grant is completed - check received and deposited for \$128,237. This is the second complete grant cycle that David has successfully completed from beginning to end.
4. Preliminary application for next season (G23) was submitted for \$145,392.
5. Split Fest folks agreed to donate \$3,100
6. SugarBowl uphiller – Sarah & Chris volunteered, Andy raced. Good event. Invoiced SB for \$5,000. They'll write a check soon.
7. Granite Chief Shreddit showdown is April 24. We are selling donated beer from Alibi. Need volunteers.
8. Tahoe Sports Hub customer appreciation party on April 29 with SAC as beneficiary. Thanks to Jason for reaching out to Rob. Will need volunteers.
9. Mt. Rose lift tickets just showed up. 100 tickets. Have sold 41 so far.
10. David did an interview with Bay Area TV news that went pretty well.
11. Palisades confirmed they will donate, haven't said how much.

G. EC REPORT – Travis Feist

1. See EC Report in April meeting folder
2. Done shooting the NV video series. Editing should be done soon.
3. Snomo class certifications sent out. Getting comments from students for CA OHV grant.
4. Travis shared positive feedback from student and request for more women's-focused class – "Best thing I did this winter."
5. Bill Foster workshop. Palisades not helping with space. Will probably use Tahoe Art Haus (only \$300 for nonprofits). Mike Ferrari is still taking the lead on organizing it. Travis supporting.

6. Going to pull off the snomo training for staff with Duncan.
7. Also doing in-house training for El Dorado NF. Chip Morrell is contact there (former SAC board member).
8. Beacon & eggs at Alpine Meadows. Travis has it covered but will take help if any volunteers want to join.
9. Discuss potential intro classes for next year – we used to offer 1-day intro classes. Should we bring them back? They've had trouble with Level 1 students not being great riders and holding the group back. Could partner with Lake Tahoe Snowmobilers during their ride days. Travis envisions 4 days – 2 general, 2 women-specific – 2 instructors per day at roughly \$750 per instructor per day. Funding could come from CA OHV, NV OHV, or possibly Polaris (Murph to pursue). Mark suggested starting with 2 days to see if there is interest and instructor availability. Travis will explore options.
10. Tried to expand kids' programs this year but weather got in the way. Travis asked folks to refer school contact to him for next year. Sara has connections at her kids' school and the resort freeride teams. We have insurance for it.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Mark Bunge
 - See balance sheet and P&L in April meeting folder. Will provide a budget to actual next month. Big transaction this month was \$128k check from CA OHV grant.
 - Currently have \$48,460 in checking, \$156,151 in savings (thanks to CA OHV check), and 825,509 in Fidelity reserve account. Will discuss with Finance Committee whether to move \$56,000 from savings to Fidelity reserve and make recommendation at May meeting.
 - So far we are running a \$64k surplus with \$404k in income vs \$340k expenses. This is due to lower expenses, not higher income.
 - We are close to our income targets from individual donors and foundation/nonprofit gifts, but well short of targets on corporate donations (\$50k budgeted, \$9k actual), and event income (\$22k budgeted, \$10k actual).
 - There are still some potential sponsors out there who might come through, but need board and David to finish strong with sponsor outreach.
2. STRATEGIC PLANNING - Chris King encouraged committee to keep moving forward.
3. SOCIAL MEDIA/MARKETING - Tasha Thomas. Committee will meet in April and do report in May
4. DEVELOPMENT - no update.

5. EDUCATION - no update beyond EC report.
6. Chris would like committees to do season recap/look ahead at the May meeting.
Chris will email committee chairs with expectations.

I. MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

NEXT MEETING: Final meeting of the 2022/23 season May 2, 2023 at Parasol Foundation