

**6<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL**



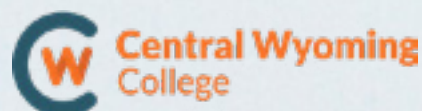
# WYSAW

WYOMING SNOW AND AVALANCHE WORKSHOP



**Friday, October 23**  
**Noon - 5:00pm**

**Saturday, October 24**  
**9:00am - 2:00pm**





# CONTENTS

- 3 SCHEDULE
- 4 LETTER FROM THE TCSAR FOUNDATION
- 5 SPEAKERS DAY 1
- 7 DAY 1 PANEL
- 8 SPEAKERS DAY 2
- 10 DAY 2 PANEL
- 11 PRESENTING SPONSORS
- 12 BACKCOUNTRY ZERO SPONSORS
- 12 TITLE SPONSORS
- 13 GRAND SPONSORS
- 14 VENDORS
- 14 GENEROUS SPONSORS
- 16 RAFFLE PRIZES



Dirk Collins

# SCHEDULE

## DAY 1

Noon - 12:10	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
12:10 - 12:40	<b>JAKE HUTCHINSON</b> – <i>Left of Whoomph</i>
12:40 - 1:15	<b>JENNA MALONE</b> – <i>Betting Your Life</i>
1:15 - 1:50	<b>BUD WHEELER</b> – <i>Crew Resource Management</i>
1:50 - 2:00	VENDOR VIDEOS
2:00 - 2:35	<b>JEN COULTER</b> – <i>Sled Compaction and the Stress Bulb</i>
2:35 - 2:40	MESSAGE FROM FIRST NET BUILT WITH AT&T, GARETT DOYLE
2:40 - 3:10	TETON COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE UPDATE
3:10 - 3:15	RAFFLE
3:15 - 4:30	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> – <i>Ethics of Outdoor Recreation During COVID</i>
4:30	GOODNIGHT

## DAY 2

9:00 - 9:05am	START OF DAY 2
❄ 9:30 ❄	RAFFLE TICKET SALES CLOSE
9:05 - 9:40	<b>MATT STEEN</b> – <i>Common Use Radio Channels</i>
9:40 - 10:15	<b>HEATHER THAMM</b> – <i>Scary Low</i>
10:15 - 10:20	RAFFLE
10:20 - 10:30	BRIDGER TETON AVALANCHE CENTER UPDATE, BOB COMEY
10:30 - 11:05	<b>LIAM FITZGERALD</b> – <i>Lessons Learned from 40+ yrs in the Industry</i>
11:05 - 11:10	VENDOR VIDEOS
11:10 - 11:45	<b>DREW HARDESTY</b> – <i>Forecasting Low</i>
11:45 - 11:50	MESSAGE FROM CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE, SUSAN DURFEE
11:50 - 11:55	RAFFLE
11:55 - 1:00	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> – <i>Snow Business During COVID</i>
1:00 - 1:30	WRAP UP, THANK YOU, & RAFFLE

# LETTER FROM THE TCSAR FOUNDATION

Welcome to the 2020 Wyoming Snow and Avalanche Workshop virtual event. Never would I have thought we would be celebrating the fifth anniversary of Backcountry Zero and the sixth year of WYSAW online, but here we are and I'm grateful and proud to know you all are tuned in to join us. With our speakers having over 200 years of collective experience in forecasting, avalanche science and backcountry safety, our lineup for this year's event is sure to have something for everyone. As all of us are uncertain about the season ahead, this event—and our vigilance as backcountry users—is more important than ever.

Because 2020 has been a year like no other, we can ably forecast that this winter will follow suit. Backcountry use will be up. Users will have a range of education and experience levels and local patience will be tested in more ways than one. Start practicing that yogi breathing now; I predict we all may need it, daily.

Being prepared, practiced and present are key tenants to Backcountry Zero and something we strive to provide through our educational opportunities, with WYSAW being the marquee event leading us into winter. With this event being virtual we are welcoming not only our local guides, recreationalists and educators, but bringing in a wide range of backcountry users from all over the U.S. and Canada who are tuning in to hear from the WYSAW experts. We also extend our sincere appreciation to all of our sponsors, whose support makes this event possible.

Now grab a beverage, make yourself cozy on the couch and listen up. We'll all be needing these extra lessons to keep us safe this winter.

**Stephanie Thomas**  
Executive Director, **Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation**



# SPEAKERS DAY 1, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

## DREW HARDESTY WYSAW MODERATOR

NOON



Drew Hardesty has been an avalanche forecaster at the Utah Avalanche Center since 1999/2000 and a Jenny Lake climbing ranger since 2005; though he hung up his rescue pack last summer. In the avalanche world, Drew has been the lead author on a number of papers ranging from the effects of solar radiation on dry slab release to the avalanche problem toolbox to ethics and responsibility in the backcountry. In the Tetons, he was awarded the Valor Award for his role in the 2010 lightning rescue on the Grand Teton. In addition to moderating WYSAW, Drew will be presenting on "The Nature of Forecasting, and Why We Get it Wrong" at 11:10 a.m. on Day 2.

## JAKE HUTCHINSON

**Left of Whoomph: A Systematic Approach to Situational Awareness in the Mountains** 12:10



Jake Hutchinson has been working as an avalanche professional for nearly 30 years. His diverse background includes 25+ years ski patrolling and avalanche forecasting at The Canyons and Alta, Utah, operational forecasting for the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park, and extensive work with other US avalanche SAR organizations. He is currently the Membership Trustee on the American Avalanche Association Governing Board, and previously served as the Certified Instructor Rep and worked on the committee to develop the current Professional Education Standards. He is actively involved in K9 SAR and detection disciplines, both with his own dog and training others. He has been teaching avalanche courses for American Avalanche Institute for 20 years and works as a mountain safety consultant to various organizations and military groups.



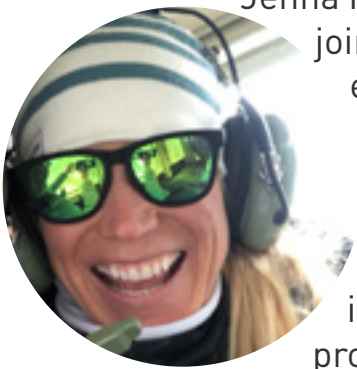
Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation brings you the **2020 WYSAW Raffle!** We have collected a massive assortment of winter equipment, tools, avy prep, and accessories for you to have your best, and safest, winter yet. Each raffle winner will receive their prizes as part of a package, each with their own set of goods. Raffle tickets can be purchased online at [www.TetonCountySAR.org](http://www.TetonCountySAR.org), with a full list of products found online or on page 17 of this program. In the spirit of Daft Punk, "We're up all night to get lucky."

[click to buy](#)



JENNA MALONE

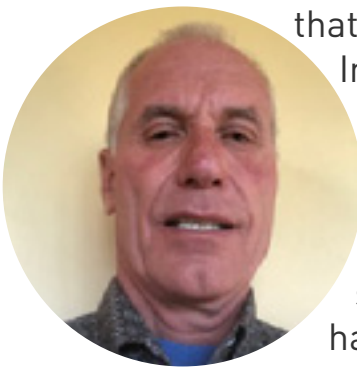
Betting Your Life: Why Avalanche Forecasting is Poker, Not Chess 12:40



Jenna Malone moved to Jackson, Wyoming, in the 1990s, where she joined the ski patrol at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and started teaching for NOLS. In 2004, she attended the University of Utah’s Physician Assistant program, and in 2007, joined the Neurosurgery, Neuro Critical Care, and Trauma teams at Intermountain Medical Center. When not working as a PA, she is a ski patroller at Alta, a guide with Powderbird, an instructor with the American Avalanche Institute, a medical provider on Denali’s West Buttress route, and a newly elected Councilperson for the Town of Brighton, Utah. This past spring, she spent two weeks at New York Presbyterian Queens Hospital during the 2020 pandemic surge, working as a PA in a COVID-19 ICU.

BUD WHEELER

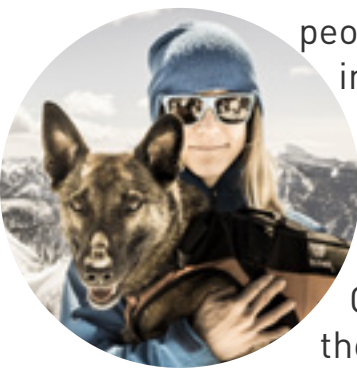
Crew Resource Management: How to Deal with Strong Personalities in the Field 1:15



Bud Wheeler is a 32-year veteran in U.S. Army Aviation. Most of that time, he served as a helicopter pilot. He is qualified as an Instructor Pilot, Instrument Flight Examiner, and Aviation Safety Officer, and has been stationed in Colorado, Alabama, California, Germany, Alaska, Hawaii, and Virginia. He has done combat tours in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. For two years he flew for Lifeteam in Dodge City, Kansas; spent six years flying for Flight for Life in Frisco, Colorado; had two winters as a member of the Armed Forces Recreation Center Ski Patrol in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany; and 14 years on the Breckenridge Ski Patrol.

JEN COULTER

Snowmobile Compaction: What the Pros Know! (A Subject Matter Expert Survey) 2:00



Jen Coulter is stoked if she can spark curiosity and motivate people to be life-long learners when it comes to managing risk in the backcountry. Based in Fernie, BC, she is an avalanche forecaster and field team leader for Avalanche Canada’s South Rockies. Involvement in Search and Rescue allows her to further combine passions of avalanche work and community service. She is the lead instructor for the Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association and represents them at the International Commission for Alpine Rescue. She also teaches professional level courses with the Canadian Avalanche Association and is a member of Fernie Search & Rescue.

DAY 1 PANEL



The Ethics of Outdoor Recreation During a Pandemic

Dirk Collins

TERRY O’CONNOR MODERATOR 3:15



Dr. Terry O’Connor is the chief editor of the Colorado Wilderness Medicine blog. He is a practicing emergency physician and EMS medical director based in Sun Valley, Idaho. Over the preceding decades his passion and enthusiasm for outside adventures have led to a diverse set of roles, including: ski patroller, rural ambulance EMT, expedition manager, emergency physician, National Park Service climbing ranger, expedition doctor, high altitude researcher, EMS director, avalanche educator, DIMM instructor, and a few more.

PANEL MEMBERS:



JAKE HUTCHINSON  
Jake is a ski patroller, avalanche forecaster, avalanche educator, and Membership Trustee on A3 Governing Board.



WILL SMITH  
A member of TCSAR, Will Smith is an emergency medicine physician, clinical assistant professor for the University of Washington School of Medicine, and Medical Director for the National Park Service.



SCOTT GUENTHER  
Scott Guenther has worked for Grand Teton National Park for 29 years, including the last 10 as the Jenny Lake District Ranger in charge of backcountry rescues.



## SPEAKERS DAY 2, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

### MATT STEEN

#### Talk it Out: Common Use Radio Channels in High Use Avalanche Terrain 9:05



Matt Steen has been working in the outdoor industry since the mid-1990s. After earning a degree in outdoor leadership with instructional emphasis, he instructed Outward Bound trips throughout Colorado, Wyoming, and California. He began ski patrolling in Crested Butte, then moved to Telluride in 2001. As a patroller and snow safety supervisor in Telluride, he helped the ski area expand into new and uncharted terrain. He finished his patrolling career with an avalanche and feasibility study mapping Bear Creek, a backcountry playground adjacent to the ski area. From 2011-13, he was the North and South San Juan's backcountry avalanche forecaster for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. In the summer, Matt gets to run through sprinklers as the owner of Telluride Irrigation & San Juan Backflow Services.

### HEATHER THAMM

#### Scary Low: Forecast Challenges with Low Probability, High Consequence Avalanche Problems 9:40



Heather Thamm moved to Alaska in 1998 to attend Alaska Pacific University where she took her first avalanche course. She worked as a ski patroller for Alyeska Ski Resort since 2003 and spent five seasons as an avalanche forecaster for the Chugach National Forecast Avalanche Information Center. She is currently taking a break from forecasting and patrolling to pursue a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science through Oregon State University. She continues to keep her head in the snow by teaching avalanche courses with the Alaska Avalanche School and submitting snowpack observations to CNFAIC.

### LIAM FITZGERALD

#### Lessons Learned from 40+ years in the avalanche world

10:30



Liam Fitzgerald began his avalanche career in November 1968 when he joined the Squaw Valley Ski Patrol. He worked at Squaw for three seasons and then moved to Utah to be a ski patroller during Snowbird's first winter of operation. That winter of 1971, he was appointed the resort's first Snow Safety Director, a role he held for 27 years, until taking a job managing the Highway Avalanche Safety Program in Little Cottonwood Canyon. He remained in that job for 16 years, and retired from UDOT in November 2014. He now lives on Lake Pend Oreille in north Idaho.



Dirk Collins

Dirk Collins



## DAY 2 PANEL



### The Snow Business of COVID

#### MATT HANSEN MODERATOR

11:55



Matt Hansen is the Communications Director for the Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, Matt spent 15 years as an editor for Powder Magazine and was a guest speaker at three previous WYSAWs. While at Powder, he helped elevate the topic of heuristic traps to the national level, and became deeply entwined with how skiers approach mountains, risk and adventurous terrain. He and his wife live in Jackson and spend time with their dog enjoying the mountains, rivers, and canyons of the American West.

#### PANEL MEMBERS:



##### MARY KATE BUCKLEY

Mary Kate Buckley is the President of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.



##### JENNA MALONE

Jenna Malone is a Physician Assistant, Alta ski patroller, guide for Powderbirds & instructor with the American Avalanche Institute.



##### DON CARPENTER

Don Carpenter is a co-owner and instructor at the American Avalanche Institute, and a senior instructor with the NOLS.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS



Established in 2015, Backcountry Zero is a Jackson Hole community vision to reduce injuries and fatalities in the Tetons. Backcountry Zero is a four-season, cross-sport, community-led program created by the Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation to heighten awareness for safer practices in the backcountry.



Teton County Search and Rescue (TCSAR) was started in 1993 by the Teton County Sheriff's Office to provide vital emergency search and rescue services for Teton County and surrounding areas to those in need. The TCSAR Foundation supports TCSAR volunteers through direct support, community education and advocacy. Together, we create an organization that works to keep Teton County residents and visitors safe in the backcountry 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.



Central Wyoming College-Jackson offers education that can take you outside! Degrees in Environmental Science, Outdoor Education, Geospatial Information Science (GIS), or Certification in Wilderness EMT, Avalanche, and Wilderness First Responder are all available through CWC-Jackson. Over half of the requirements for these Outdoor Degrees can be acquired here in Jackson. CWC-Jackson is Jackson's Community College.



The Bridger-Teton Avalanche Center has issued daily avalanche hazard bulletins for over 40 years. The Bridger-Teton Avalanche Center Foundation provides financial support for avalanche center operations.

For the daily avalanche hazard bulletin and information about the Bridge-Teton Avalanche Center, visit [www.jhavalanche.org](http://www.jhavalanche.org).

## THANK YOU TO OUR TITLE SPONSORS

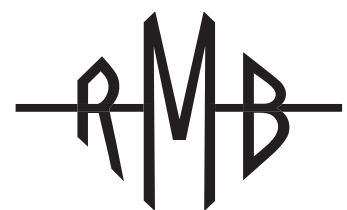


What makes a strong community? Educational and professional opportunities, relief to those in need, and the responsible use of technology. Because empowering your community is what drives us, First Net proudly supports the safety efforts of Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation and the Wyoming Snow and Avalanche Workshop.

### Stephen P. Adamson Jr. Memorial Fund

The Stephen P. Adamson, Jr. Memorial Fund was established in 2015 to honor the memory of Stephen. Stephen was a devoted father and husband. He was a member of the Boards of the Center for the Arts, the National Museum of Wildlife Art, and Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation. He was admired in the valley not just for his competence and kindness with clients and friends, but for his athletic prowess, courage and preparedness in the mountains. Contributions are used to support causes that were meaningful to Stephen.

## THANK YOU TO OUR BACKCOUNTRY ZERO SPONSORS



ROCKY MOUNTAIN BANK

Rocky Mountain Bank is a full-service local Community Bank. We offer a full range of banking services, trust services and access to wealth management advisors. Our vision is to be the Preferred Community Bank in the markets which we serve. We are passionately focused on our communities, customers and on providing a culture which inspires our employees.



Raintree Foundation is a small, family foundation located in Goleta, California. Its focus is on engineering students learning to be entrepreneurs, wilderness youth programs, and Search and Rescue support.



It is the mission of the Teton County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with our community, to preserve the peace, seek justice, embrace our roles as public servants and strive to provide a safe environment for all. We will accomplish this through our commitment to the values of integrity, fairness, compassion, CUSTOMER SERVICE and excellence, forever upholding the constitutional rights of all people.



Grand Teton National Park, through the Jenny Lake Ranger Fund, encourages backcountry recreationists to be prepared and act responsibly while enjoying outdoor activities. Always check avalanche and weather conditions, choose your destination wisely, let someone know where you are going, and think safety.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GRAND SPONSORS



The Steve Romeo Memorial Fund was established by the Romeo family in 2012 to honor the memory of Steve by providing funds to areas associated with his love of skiing, including: ski mountaineering instruction, avalanche education and safety, environmental and conservation issues, as well as general projects that enhance the Jackson Hole and the Teton Valley communities.



EcoTour Adventures provides in-depth naturalist programs into the national parks located in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, fostering a greater appreciation for the parks of Western Wyoming. Our aim is to provide you with a richer and more in-depth experience in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Offering a variety of year round wildlife programs as well as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, with new offerings in Southern Patagonia!



The Arc'teryx Academy is returning for its third season. The community event was created to celebrate the culture of backcountry skiing and snowboarding, focusing on educational backcountry skiing, snowboarding, mountaineering clinics and communal events.



## THANK YOU TO THESE GENEROUS SPONSORS



## VENDORS



*The Fine Line* is a monthly podcast series that tells real stories of adventure, risk and rescue in the backcountry of Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



In its fifth season, *The Fine Line* explores a night rescue during which a SAR member runs up the trail to assist an injured and hypothermic mountain biker, a harrowing crevasse rescue in Grand Teton National Park, misadventures on horseback, and other rescues in the Jackson Hole backcountry. The season also includes interviews with young backcountry users about how they are navigating influence, decisions and wilderness in the time of Covid, and a multi-part series about how people cope in the aftermath of a tragic avalanche.

*The new season drops on November 5.*

Listen to *The Fine Line* on



and every Thursday at 2 p.m. on





# RAFFLE PRIZES

Purchase raffle tickets online at [www.TetonCountySAR.org/wysaw-2020-raffle](http://www.TetonCountySAR.org/wysaw-2020-raffle).

Click to buy

## “RESCUE ME”

CMC Rescue 11mm clutch multi-purpose, Smith Goggles/Sunglasses, Cowboy Coffee swag, D.O.G. gift certificate, Kate’s Bars, New York City Sub Shop gift certificate, Sweet Cheeks Meats 5 punch gift card.

## “TRAINING DAY”

3 Arc’teryx Academy clinics through Exum, Guides Guru, D.O.G. gift certificate, Snake River Roasting Coffee, New York City Sub Shop gift certificate, NoSo Patch Kit.

## “COZY DAWG”

North Face Inferno 0° Summit Series Sleeping Bag, Kurgo leash and seat cover, Snake River Roasting Coffee, New York City Sub Shop gift certificate, NoSo Patch Kit.

## “ACCESSORIES FOR DEEP DAYS”

Mammut Barryvox Package (beacon, shovel, probe), Glade Challenge Goggles, D.O.G. gift certificate, NoSo Patch Kit, Sweet Cheeks 5 punch gift card.

## “LIVE IT, LEARN IT”

Jackson Hole Outdoor Leadership Institute: WFA or WFR re-cert, Pit Viper Kit, D.O.G. gift certificate, Snake River Roasting Coffee, Kate’s Bars.

## “BEST. DAY. EVER.”

Jackson Hole Mountain Guides Intro to Touring Course, Mammut shovel & probe, Snake River Roasting Coffee, Kate’s Bars, New York City Sub Shop gift certificate.

## “ANOTHER BEST. DAY. EVER.”

Jackson Hole Mountain Guides Course, Smith Goggles/Sunglasses, Sweet Cheeks Meats 5 punch gift card, Knife from New West Knifeworks, NoSo Patch Kit, Snake River Roasting Coffee, Kate’s Bars.

## “LIVE TO SKI”

20/21 Dynastar M-Line skis of your choice, James Niehues “Man Behind the Maps” Book, 2 Snow King day passes, D.O.G. gift certificate, Snake River Roasting Coffee, Sweet Cheeks Meats 5 punch gift card.

## “BLACK OPS SHRED”

20/21 Rossignol Black Ops ski of your choice, Pit Viper Kit, 2 Snow King day passes, D.O.G. gift certificate, Snake River Roasting Coffee, NoSo Patch Kit.

## “BENT CHETLER PLAY DAY”

Atomic Bent Chetler 100 skis, 1 Snow King day pass, D.O.G. gift certificate, New York City Sub Shop gift certificate, Snake River Roasting Coffee, Kate’s Bars.

## “3-2-1 DROPPING”

Jones Snowboard Ultra Mountain Twin 160cm, 1 Snow King day pass, D.O.G. gift certificate, Snake River Roasting Coffee, NoSo Patch Kit, Sweet Cheeks Meats 5 punch gift card.

## “10-4, GOOD BUDDY”

Set of 2 BCA Backcountry Link Radios, Smith Goggles/Sunglasses, Snake River Roasting Coffee, Kate’s Bars Swag, Sweet Cheeks Meats 5 punch gift card, New York City Sub Shop gift certificate.



**THANK YOU**  
for attending the Wyoming Snow and Avalanche Workshop.

 **backcountryzero**  
A project of Teton County Search and Rescue