



"Ride for Jake and Susie Green Program"

Proposed Motion: *Approve up to \$2,000 for the purchase of 3 backpacks for the Avalanche Safety Program from the AS Foundation Account.*

Sponsor: *Brian Bates, AS Outdoor Center Equipment Shop Coordinator*

Persons of Contact: *Brian Bates, Jason Davis*

Guest Speaker: *Jason Davis*

Date: 3/11/2014

Attached Document

Excel Expense Document

Jake Merrill Presentation

Background & Context

The Outdoor Center staff are hoping to install an Avalanche Safety Package for the WWU community in the name and memory of former AS employee Jake Merrill. Throughout his time at Western, Jake held multiple AS positions within the Outdoor Center. Sadly, Jake passed away in an avalanche this winter while working as a backcountry guide.

We at the Outdoor Center hope to dedicate this safety package in the memory of Jake for multiple reasons: encourage and incentivize avalanche safety and knowledge, provide another margin of safety for the WWU backcountry community, and provide the community served by the Outdoor Center with the highest possible standard of safety gear.

*We are incredibly grateful and lucky that two companies so far have agreed to work with us in putting together this package. ABS, the maker of the air bag system, has agreed to sell us 3 ABS systems at dealer cost minus 3%, while Osprey Packs has agreed to donate three ABS compatible backpacks **free of charge for the package**. These backpacks are top of the line, brand new, and will be coming out in September – just in time for next ski season, when we hope to have this package assembled and ready. These companies are giving us discounts for top-of-the-line new gear because they support and appreciate the efforts we are making to not only supply avalanche safety gear, but to incentivize certification and dedicate a program in the name of an important figure in the Outdoor Center, WWU, and outdoor community.*

This proposal was unanimously approved by the AS Management Council to be presented to the AS Board of Directors.

Summary of Proposal

*The package will be a **free rental** for those who are able to provide a certificate of completion of an AIARE Level 1 Avalanche Safety course. We are making this free because we believe in the importance of promoting safety knowledge and certification, and want to incentivize and encourage people to take the course. A large part of the Outdoor Center's mission is to provide opportunities to students,*

faculty, staff and alumni and we believe by making this rental program free, we will be able to provide otherwise economically-exclusive life-saving equipment to those who could benefit from it the most.

The safety package we hope to offer will include:

- *avalanche transceiver*
- *snow probe*
- *snow shovel*
- *ABS avalanche Backpack.*

The only thing we need to purchase is the actual ABS airbag system—we already have all of the other necessary gear.

The Susie Green Avalanche beacons, which are currently a free rental for certified customers, will be included as part of this package. These beacons were donated a handful of years ago for a similar purpose – a free avalanche beacon rental for those who can supply a certificate of Level 1 course completion. The Susie Greens do a great job incentivizing customers to become certified. We would use this proposed project to expand on the Susie Greens into a comprehensive safety package that gives the user all the safety equipment considered necessary for travelling in avalanche terrain.

We currently have a large stock of shovels, snow safety measuring kits, and probes for rental in the shop. We would include one of each with each of the packages we rent out. Our fleets are well stocked, and we don't foresee any inventory issues.

These packages would be under strict control by the staff and shop coordinators to ensure they stay in working condition and are only rented out to those who have taken a Level 1 avalanche class and are able to provide documentation having taken the class. This is, of course, a major part of our motivation: to encourage the WWU backcountry community to seek out professional avalanche safety education.

Realistically, we understand that this program won't be in place before the end of this ski season – we want to approach it the right way, work with the right companies, and get the right gear. The Osprey backpacks being donated are coming out in September, and will be in place for the beginning of next ski season. In addition to providing the ABS system at a reduced cost, ABS has offered to provide proper instruction of the use and maintenance of the equipment to Jason Davis (Outdoor Center Assistant Excursions Coordinator) and Brian Bates (Outdoor Center Equipment and Bike Shop Coordinator) at no extra charge.

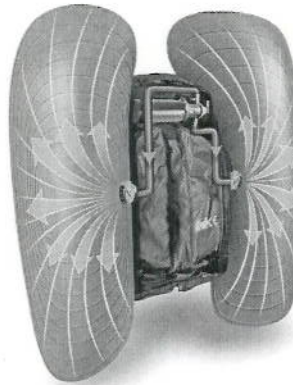
We will put in place a rental agreement that includes a small charge for deploying the system, so that we will be able to re-arm the system at no extra cost. This is only charged if the user releases the air bags, and is a miniscule charge in comparison to the package value, especially in the context of a free rental. In the rental agreement, if the user returns the package in non-usable or unsafe condition, they will be fully liable for replacing the gear.

We hope to have three of these packages in place by next winter. We will continually work with ABS and Osprey throughout this time.

We have aimed to procure three packages because we have three Susie Green beacons and enough probes and shovels to cover three bags.

▪ **ABS Airbag System Details:**

- The Vario Base Unit is purely an avalanche airbag system, which requires a zip-on outer pack cover (This is the Osprey Kode 22+10). The pack covers are easily swappable and replaceable, so it is easy to update a worn-out pack without having to replace the expensive airbag system.
- Two independent, reusable 85L airbags with fill/outlet valves and piercing unit
- Included full nitrogen canister, activation handle with release protection, and internal trigger capsule (all must be replaced after use)
- Requires a zip-on pack cover, available in various sizes (*Which Osprey Packs has donated free of charge*)
- Padded hip belt, height-adjustable chest strap, and safety leg strap



▪ **Osprey Kode 22+10 Pack Details:**

- The Kode 22+10 Pack zips on to the ABS Vario Base Unit to create a fully functional backcountry touring airbag backpack that can carry everything needed for a day of backcountry skiing, snowboarding, or snowshoeing including a shovel and probe.
- The Kode 22+10 also includes a zip on pack frame allowing the bag to be used as a normal backpack outside of the winter season.



Potential downsides to this program:

- We will be adding three very valuable items to the OC rental inventory and this comes with a security concern.
- The nitrogen canisters must be serviced annually, adding a small maintenance cost to the program.

Fiscal Impacts

We are asking the AS Board for \$1,970.66.

• 3 * ABS Vario Base Units @	\$604.31 each	=	\$1,812.93
• Sales tax @			\$ 157.73
Total:			\$1970.66

This will not be impacting the Outdoor Center operational budget.

Annual maintenance will be covered by the Outdoor Center Equipment Shop Budget (FXXOEQ)

• 3 * ABS nitrogen canister servicing @	\$27.00 each =	\$81.00
• Fedex Shipping to ABS service center in Blaine	=	\$10.00
Total:		\$91.00 / annum

Rationale

This program is designed to enhance the safety of WWU students, staff, faculty and alumni. This program has a significant initial cost, however the maintenance cost is reasonable and the value of potentially life-saving equipment is incalculable. We feel that these packages will be incredibly beneficial to students who don't necessarily have the personal budget to purchase this gear. It could allow someone who might otherwise not be able to afford both avalanche education and essential gear to obtain both. A potentially dangerous compromise where someone purchases the safety gear without the knowledge of how to use it is avoided.

Management Council
February 27, 2014

Ride for Jake and Susie Green Memorial Safety Package

Program Objectives



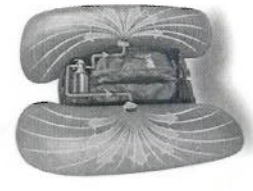
- Dedicate an Outdoor Center Program in the memory of Jake Merrill, a former Excursions Asst. Coordinator, WOOF! Trip Leader, Excursions Trip Leader, and Rental Staff Member
- Encourage and incentivize avalanche safety knowledge
- Provide another margin of safety for the backcountry community with equipment that has proven to increase user safety in avalanche incidents

Program Encompasses

- Expansion on the Susie Green Avalanche Beacon
- A free avalanche safety rental package for customers who present proof of AIARE Level 1 (or equivalent) certification
 - Susie Green Avalanche Beacon
 - Avalanche Probe
 - Snow Shovel
 - Snow Safety Measuring Kit
- ABS Vario Airbag system with a zip-on Osprey Code 22+10 pack

ABS Vario Base Unit

- Two separate 85L airbags for redundancy
- TÜV certified (German safety standards organization)
- Height-adjustable with comfortable, padded hip strap.



Osprey Kode ABS 22+10 pack



- Zip on pack compatible with ABS Vario Base Unit
- Large enough to hold all necessary safety equipment for a full day of Backcountry travel
- Also comes with zip on back panel, for use as a normal backpack.

Airbag Theory and Deployment

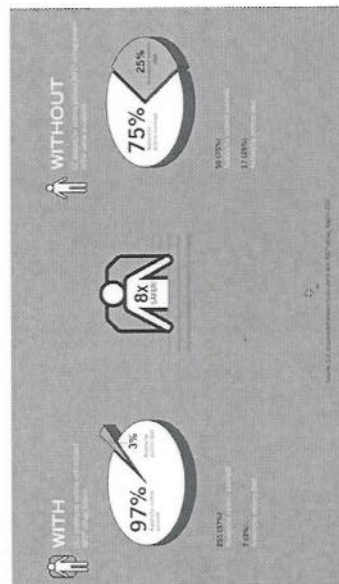
• <http://youtu.be/bTGTGOuM-JE?t=1m59s>

• <http://youtu.be/hR7aAfuAQQQ?t=18s>

- Inverse Segregation:
 - The "Brazil Nut Effect"



Swiss Avalanche Institute Study



Cost of ABS System and Kode Packs

- ABS has agreed to provide 3 Vario Base Units at 3% below Dealer cost:
 - Vario Base Unit MSRP: \$929.95
 - Dealer Cost: \$623.00
 - 3%: \$604.31 Per Unit
- Osprey has agreed to provide 3 Kode ABS 22+10 packs for free!
 - Kode ABS Pack MSRP: \$200.00

Management Council Funding Proposal

Event: Ride for Jake and Susie Green Avalanche Safety Package
Date: Fall 2014
Location: Outdoor Center

Estimated Expenses	
Performers/Speakers/Film Rental/Etc.:	2,789.85
3 x ABS VARIO BASE UNIT	600.00
3 x Osprey Kode 22+10 zip on pack	0.00
VU Event Services	0.00
Publicity/Advertising	0.00
Food	0.00
Lodging	0.00
Transportation	0.00
Equipment Rental	0.00
Parking	0.00
Other:	0.00
Other:	0.00
Other:	0.00
Total Costs	3,389.85

Co-Sponsorship Revenue	
Requested from AS Board	1,812.93
ABS Avalanche Rescue Devices Inc	976.92
Osprey Packs	600.00
Sponsor 4	0.00
Sponsor 5	0.00
Sponsor 6	0.00
Sponsor 7	0.00
Sponsor 8	0.00
Sponsor 9	0.00
Sponsor 10	0.00
Total	3,389.85

Co-Sponsorship Revenue 3,389.85

Estimated Gain/Loss On Event 0.00

Note: Box office fees are only applicable if tickets will be sold through the PAC box office. Actual fees are .50 for free/comp tickets, .75 for tickets under \$10, \$1 for tickets \$10-\$19.99, \$1.50 for tickets \$20-\$29.99 and \$2 for tickets \$30-\$39.99, so actual fees may differ from what is calculated