

Eastern Division Avalanche Award

The Eastern Division Avalanche Award is a newly developed award designed in accordance with criteria from NSP's Montgomery Atwater National Avalanche Award, to recognize Eastern Division's NSP members, or non-members, who have made outstanding and continuing contributions to the Avalanche Program with significant division impact. Examples of such contributions might fall under management, curriculum development, publication, scientific discovery, instruction, or any combination thereof.

Nominations for the award are forwarded to the division avalanche supervisor who selects an ad hoc committee of three active division avalanche instructors to review the award submission. The division avalanche supervisor will serve ex-officio as a fourth member of the ad hoc committee. The award recommendation is then sent directly to the division awards coordinator by the committee.

This year's Eastern Division Avalanche Award recipient:

- Is a Level 1 and Level 2 Avalanche Instructor.
- Is an Avalanche Instructor Trainer and a past Northern VT Section Avalanche Program Supervisor.
- Began his 67-year (and counting) as an Eastern Division patroller in 1946.
- Served in the US Army in Austria from 1951 to 1954 and while serving in the Army patrolled and received avalanche training at St. Anton in the NSP European Division.
- Serving in the Army, returned to the Eastern Division and continued avalanche education in 1959 under Swampy Paris, Mt Washington Ski Patrol Director/Eastern Division Avalanche Chairman, taking NSP's Basic Avalanche Course at Norwich University in December 1959.
- In 1965, became a Registered National Avalanche Instructor (#93) and taught his first NSP Basic Avalanche Course (the "Circle A") in the east at Franconia College.
- Added a day of instruction in avalanche terrain to the NSP Basic Avalanche Course and developed the first Appalachian Mountain Club's annual Avalanche Workshop at Pinkham Notch and Tuckerman Ravine. This course developed into the NSP Level 1 Avalanche Course, which he still helps teach today.
- Initiated the Eastern Division's NSP Level 2 Avalanche Course offerings at Tuckerman Ravine and Whiteface Ski Areas.
- Co-authored a paper for the International Snow Science Workshop, "Contending With Highly Motivated Climbers and Skiers in an Uncontrollable Avalanche Environment" held in Kirvosk, Russia,
- Published "Man Made Snow Avalanches in the Eastern United States" Journal: Proceedings of the 2004 International Snow Science Workshop, Jackson Hole, Wyoming.
- Over his 67-year career with the NSP, this year's Eastern Division Avalanche Award recipient has had direct and indirect involvement in many of the division's avalanche course offerings which make up the Eastern Division Avalanche Program. He has been an NSP avalanche instructor for 48 years, and during that time pioneered avalanche education programs in New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire.
- Within the last quarter century, he received the Yellow Merit Star and Outstanding Instructor in the Eastern Division, and the National Silver Merit Star for his avalanche education work.

Based on his continued dedication and significant contribution to the Eastern Division Avalanche Program for the past 48 years, it is a pleasure to announce that the Eastern Division has named this award as The Roger H. Damon Jr. Eastern Division Avalanche Award and is pleased to present this award to Roger H. Damon Jr. as the first recipient.