Historical Memoir of the Snowbird and Alta Ski Patrols: A Legacy of Safety and Service in the Wasatch Mountains

Origins of the Snowbird and Alta Ski Patrols

The Snowbird ski patrol was founded in 1942 by Ted Johnson, the founder of the Snowbird Ski Resort. The Alta ski patrol was founded in 1957 by Dick Bass, the legendary ski mountaineer and author. Both patrols were established in response to the growing popularity of skiing in the Wasatch Mountains and the need for organized safety services for skiers.

Early Years

In the early years, the Snowbird and Alta ski patrols were small, volunteer organizations. The patrollers were mostly local skiers who donated their time to provide safety and assistance to other skiers. The patrols had limited equipment and resources, but they quickly developed a reputation for professionalism and dedication.

The Influence of Dick Bass

Dick Bass was a major influence on the development of the Alta ski patrol. Bass was a world-renowned ski mountaineer and author. He was also a passionate advocate for ski safety. Bass helped to establish the Alta ski patrol as a professional organization and to develop its high standards of training and safety procedures.

Avalanche Busters: A Historical Memoir of the Snowbird and Alta Ski Patrols by Wayne Stewart



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The Evolution of Ski Patrols

Over the years, the Snowbird and Alta ski patrols have evolved into highly trained and professional organizations. The patrollers are now certified in a variety of disciplines, including avalanche rescue, mountain rescue, and first aid. They have access to state-of-the-art equipment and resources, and they receive ongoing training to stay up-to-date on the latest safety techniques.

Contributions to the Sport of Skiing

The Snowbird and Alta ski patrols have made significant contributions to the sport of skiing. They have helped to develop safety standards for ski resorts and ski areas, and they have pioneered new techniques for avalanche rescue and mountain rescue. The patrollers have also been instrumental in the development of ski mountaineering and other off-piste skiing disciplines.

A Legacy of Safety and Service

The Snowbird and Alta ski patrols have a long and distinguished legacy of safety and service in the Wasatch Mountains. The patrollers are dedicated

to providing a safe and enjoyable skiing experience for all skiers. They are an essential part of the skiing community, and they play a vital role in ensuring the safety of skiers in the Wasatch Mountains.

The Snowbird and Alta ski patrols are two of the most respected and experienced ski patrols in the United States. They have a long and distinguished history of providing safety and service to skiers in the Wasatch Mountains. The patrollers are dedicated to providing a safe and enjoyable skiing experience for all skiers, and they play a vital role in ensuring the safety of skiers in the Wasatch Mountains.



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