

Skiing

[Ski Equipment](#)[Instruction](#)[Where to Ski](#)[Email](#) [Print](#)

Mike's Skiing Blog

By **Mike Doyle**, About.com Guide to Skiing[My Bio](#) | [My Blog](#) | [My Forum](#) Add to: [iGoogle](#) | [My Yahoo!](#) | [RSS](#)

Free Skiing Newsletter!

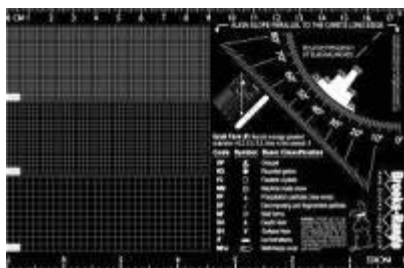
SIGN UP

[Discuss](#) in my Forum

Advertisement

Snow Study Tools for Skiers - Brooks-Range Mountaineering Equipment Company

Friday March 20, 2009



I have often mentioned the availability of avalanche awareness clinics offered by resorts and organizations, both [here](#) and [abroad](#), for skiers venturing into the backcountry. Now, the more I look into the necessity of knowing as much

as possible about staying safe in avalanche prone off piste areas the more useful products and materials I am finding.

For instance, I recently had the opportunity to get a hold of a Snow Crystal Card by [Brooks-Range Mountaineering Equipment Company](#). The Snow Crystal Card is a basic snow safety tool that can help in making an informed decision about the snowpack. The stability of the snowpack is determined by several factors over a period of time, not the least of which is the snow crystals and how they change and interact. I think this can best be illustrated by thinking of the resort snow during a typical spring day - boilerplate in the morning from the cold night, the sun warms it to nice corn snow then keeps warming it to a slush.

Snow Crystal Cards are made by several manufacturers, all come with a set of graphs on which to size and type snow crystals. This information is then related to the results of similar and historically documented studies that give a reliable basis of predicting the stability of the observed snowpack. The [Brooks-Range Snow Crystal Card](#) has a laser etched 1 mm, 2 mm and 3 mm grid, a slope inclinometer in increments of 1 degree, crystal and snowpit

Skiing Ads

- * [Kids Ski Clothing](#)
- * [Alpine Skiing](#)
- * [Avalanche Skiing](#)
- * [Ski Jacket](#)
- * [Avalanche Skiers](#)

Discuss

Recent Comments

Community Forum

- [Skiing Park City](#)
- [Natasha Richardson Ski Accident](#)
- [Bumps For Boomers - Boomers Learn To Ski Moguls With Confidence](#)

"prompt legends" and cm and inch ruler.

In no way do I mean to oversimplify the process of "snow study." Snow Crystal Cards are only one item in the snow study tool box and the backcountry skier can never learn too much about snow stability. Once you understand the accepted techniques and result interpretations any products that can add to, or simplify the process are welcome in the field - the snowfield.

The Brooks-Range Mountaineering Equipment Company is a small company of mountaineering experts providing a selection of top-quality backcountry gear to increase efficiency and safety in the backcountry. The company is strictly backcountry safety oriented - Tom Murphy, Executive Director, [American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education](#) (AIARE) sits on the Advisory Board.

Check out the [Brooks-Range catalog](#) - I'm sure you'll find something to help keep your favorite backcountry skier safe - even if it's you.

Image © Brooks-Range Mountaineering Equipment Company

[Comments \(0\)](#) | [See All Posts](#)

[◀ Prev](#) [Next ▶](#)

Sponsored Links

[New Boots for 2009 at REI](#)

Read Reviews & Compare Hiking Boots At REI. Ship Free To Stores.
[www.REI.com](#)

[Avalanche Tools](#)

Buy a beacon, get free pack, probe or shovel. Free shipping in US.
[www.avalanchetools.com](#)

[Climbing Mt Rainier](#)

Your Gear Source for Mt. Rainier Climbing Gear for Purchase and Rent
[www.WhittakerMountaineering.com](#)

Comments

No comments yet. [Leave a Comment](#)

Sponsored Links

[Skiers](#)

We Got Exclusive Rights To All Skiing Videos- Come Online & Watch!
[www.UniversalSports.com/Skiing](#)

[Love to X-Country Ski?](#)

Find Great Deals on High Quality Ski Gear. Chat with a Live Expert.
[Backcountry.com](#)

[AIARE Avalanche Courses](#)

Level 1 & 2 avalanche safety course for skiers & riders. Colorado snow.
[www.swaguides.com](#)