

SNO-FOO AWARD



TO ERR IS HUMAN, TO FORGET IT WOULD BE DIVINE.

SNO-FOO 2006—Andrew Klein

The Eastern Snow Conference annually bestows this award on some poor hapless snow and ice researcher, who, while striving to push back the frontiers of science, is overcome by a bout of “bone-headedness,” ill planning, or just plain bad luck—in military parlance, referred to as SNAFU.

This year’s winner has made countless questionable decisions when it comes to snow research. Although he professes to know something about mapping snow and ice from satellites, his geographic knowledge of snow must be questioned. He seemed blissfully unaware, when moving to Texas, that the state isn’t all that well known for having snow to study. He also seems to think that the tropics are the world’s hotbed for glaciers, which he appears to strenuously study while hiding in his air-conditioned office from the Texas summer heat.

This individual claims that he actually conducts fieldwork in Antarctica. However, it is rumored (though never proven) that when one of his sampling sites actually is snow-covered, he moves it to a snow-free location so he can more easily sample the soil—and he claims to consider himself to be a snow scientist!

None of this, however, comes close to the egregious mistakes this year’s winner has made while conducting ESC business. The ESC, for reasons still not fully understood, placed in the hands of this individual its most public face to the world, its Web site. On numerous occasions, ESC individuals have frantically pointed out mistakes in the “content” this individual has chosen to post on the organization’s Web site for the entire world to see. Yet knowing full well this individual’s organizational abilities, the ESC executive actually placed the organization of its annual meeting in his hands...!

It probably is not surprising, therefore, that in the course of producing the meeting materials, this year’s winner has not once, but multiple times, shown complete and utter disrespect for the holder of the highest office in the ESC—its President. On numerous occasions, the ESC president has shaken his head at the “interesting” ways his name has been spelled in the program and on the Web site by this year’s award winner. Is it Claude *Dugay*, Claude *Dugaey*, or maybe Claude *Duguay*?

In fact, this year’s winner probably can’t even be counted on to spell the name of this award correctly on the Web site. So, Andrew Klein, is it the SNO-FOO or SNOWFOO Award that has been bestowed upon you?