

SNO-FOO AWARD



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

SNO FOO 2002–Danny Marks

The Eastern Snow Conference has a unique award—the Sno-Foo Award—for those who, in striving for excellence, contrive an event of some notable humour to others, even, or particularly, if it involves some personal discomfort. We were honoured this year to give the Sno-Foo Award to Dangerous Danny Marks, a dangerous snow scientist of long and dangerous experience in dangerous mountain environments and a skier of renown in his own mind who was in the end a danger to himself. Some believe that Danny has spent most of his life on skis, and that he personally invented fully distributed snow sampling by total sampling of all alpine environments. Why this cannot be disproven, the gruelling snow surveys of the infamous Ho Chi Minh Forest Trail in the February IOP1 (Intensive Suffering Observational Period One) of the CLPX experiment in the Colorado Rockies seemed to have put the idea into his subconscious head that a relaxing spring spent with a beer in front of the television was a better use of his time. No one is sure what went on in his head after IOP1 as he skied the “Bunny Slope” of his local resort; some, uncharitably, claim that he thought a “little accident” would get him honourably out of the hard work anticipated in IOP2 and the inevitable lawn mowing and garden chores that the annual demise of snow cover brings on. Others, less charitably, claim that a panic attack brought on by fear of the growing and overwhelming talents of his graduate studies cohort of Kelly Elder and Bert Davis brought back a flash of terror from his student days and the inevitable accident. Whatever the cause, the result was that IOP2 was forced to proceed without Danny March (and a few others with less valid excuses), and his slip on the Bunny Slope caused a rush of overseas investments from the Boise bone surgeons and his restriction to bed, beer, and TV for what must have been an interminable period. Being dangerous, he may have had the last laugh, though, as there are rumours of a desperate outpouring of papers and grant applications e-mailed from his bedside laptop. Welcome back to the world of vertical snow scientists, Danny.

John Pomeroy
(Disreputably compiled from numerous disreputable sources)