

Fairy Lake: Airplane Crash Bowl

Date

Mon, 10/19/2020 - 17:56

Activity

Skiing

Hey again today I went out with 2 partners and skied in Airplane Crash Bowl out of Fairy Lake (so NE lower snowfield under Sac where the Great One dumps into). I've never seen it so good so early. The snow is dense and sticky and the coverage is fine. There was some natural avalanche activity coming down off of the cliffs above, I attached photos. Looks like they came down either yesterday afternoon or last night, there was fresh windblown snow on top of the debris. We did observe some wind activated spindrift coming down the rocks when the wind picked up on the ridge and sent it down, very light sluffs but constant. I dug a few handpits and one deeper pit in the bowl (see attached photos). Similar to what I saw in the Absarokas, thick, sticky snow is bonding well to the ice layer underneath. As you climb higher and the snow depth increases, layers start to appear. There is one about 2" off the ground and another one about 7" off the ground that are very obvious ice crusts with some faceted snow in between. On top of that is the thick dense snow. We were alert for activity above us - sluffs coming down off of the ridge in the rock gullies and point releases coming off of the rocks and cliffs above us. While the bowl seems very stable, there is still slide activity coming down from above that could fall at any time; it was very warm and windy. The natural activity we saw was wet slides and on the surface, it didn't step down into any of the layers underneath just yet. The wind is strong and will continue to load high elevation ridge lines and cross load lower slopes. The skiing is great but winter is here up high and slopes are loading. The surface of the new snow is warm and even the layer between the 2 ice crusts is warm and rotten. The ice on the ground is frozen semi-hard. Thanks for all that you do. Cheers!

Region

Bridger Range

Location (from list)

The Great One

Observer Name

Jeanine Dalimata