QUICK START GUIDE FOR PC-Pilot

All of SnowPilot's data fields use the newly adopted "Snow, Weather, and Avalanches: Observational Guidelines for Avalanche Programs in the United States". Also known as SWAG, you can read or purchase this book at **http://www.avalanche.org/~research/guidelines/**.

1. Click on the shortcut PC-Pilot.jar to open the desktop version of SnowPilot.
2. Click on the <Select> button on the upper left side of the window and click on <Add User>.
3. You will be prompted to enter a username (3 characters minimum), email address, etc. You MUST enter all fields in order to upload your data to the web. This way every pit has a name, email and phone number associated with it.
    1. Click the <Professional> box if you dig snowpits on the job (ski patrol, forecaster, guide, etc.)
        1. If you checked the <Professional> box, enter where you work.
        2. In <Select> click <Save User>.
    2. You can have multiple users for SnowPilot.
4. You will be taken to the *Preferences* page. You will now choose how you want your pits and data to be entered and displayed.
5. Familiarize yourself with the choices under <Select>.
    1. <Add User>: lets you add other users to the program.
    2. <Edit User>: allows you to change any of the fields for a user.
    3. <Preferences>: will allow you to change the preferences of the person highlighted in the first box.
    4. <Locations>: Brings up another window from where you can add a location that you go to frequently. This way you can pull it up on the Locations tab in the Main Menu and not have to enter everything again. This is handy for study plots or frequent snow pit sites.
    5. <Edit Pits> and <Edit Occurrences>: Lets you edit an existing entry.
    6. <Add Pit> and <Add Occurrence> are the same as the buttons on the bottom of the Main Menu window. This is the starting point for creating snow profiles and reporting occurrences.
    7. <Send Data>: Click on this to upload all your Pits and Occurrences to the Web Client (online database). This puts your information into the database and allows others to look at your pit. You need to be connected to the Internet for this to work.
    8. <Web Client>: If you are online, this will show you ALL the pits and Occurrences that have been recently added to the database.
    9. *NEW!* <Search for Pits>: This allows you to search the entire database of pits.
6. Click on <Add Pit>.
    1. *NEW!* Make a TEST pit. Click on the <Test/practice Pit?> pit box.
    2. Your State/Prov will populate from your preferences, but you can change it here.
    3. The time/date is from your current time, but can be manually changed by clicking on the button.
    4. Aspect refers to TRUE North and should be entered as a number.
    5. Always enter angle as a whole number.
    6. Lat and Long must be entered in decimal format, not minutes/seconds.
    7. *NEW!* For <Notes>, you can enter as much as you like. After 2 lines another window will appear with your notes.

7. Click on <Pit> in the upper left corner. This will give us options for other screens to enter data.
8. Click on <Pit Graph> to view the pit and get an idea of the layout.
    1. Click on <Pit> in the upper left corner. From here you have options to:
        1. <Print Pit> which sends it to your printer. Landscape view works best.
        2. *NEW!* If you have a separate window of <Notes>, these will print automatically too.
        3. <Save Pit Image> will allow you to save this Pit as a JPEG anywhere on your computer.
        4. <Save Pit as Text File> lets you save all your data in a raw format.
9. Click on the <x> on the upper right hand of the window to close it and return to the *Add/Edit Pit* window.
10. Click on <Layers> in <Pit>
    1. Fill in the depth of the layer boundaries.
    2. On <Select Grain Type>, pick your crystal type. Close the window by clicking the <x>.
    3. After adding the layer info, click on <Add this layer> at the bottom of the page or from the dropdown menu at the top of the screen.
    4. For *Comments*, keep them to a few words since space is limited to only 15 characters.
    5. *NEW!* For research we are interested in knowing what the weakest or most problematic layer in the pit is. Check the box if you know which layer this is. And if you can identify which interface is the most problematic, check this box too.
    6. If you want to edit an existing layer, you can easily do so by bringing it up in the *Current Layers* drop down. Clicking on it will repopulate the layer info into the *Edit Layer* page. Edit what you need and then <save>.
11. Click on the <x> to close the window and return to *Add/Edit Pit*.
12. Click on <Temp> on the drop down menu. Add data, then hit <Add Point> when you're done. From the drop down menu you can also <Delete Points>.
13. Click on <Test>. Select your test from the drop down menu and it will load the Scores. This uses the test scores as outlined in SWAG.
    1. For *Comments*, keep them to a few words since space is limited to only 15 characters.
    2. If you have an identical test/score/depth, you can bring up the previous test in the dropdown menu and hit the button <same result> at the bottom of the screen. A x2 is put in front of the test on the pit graph.
    3. *NEW!* If you are not familiar with the Extended Column Test (ECT) you can read up on it here:**http://www.fsavalanche.org/NAC/techPages/articles/07_TAR_ECT_Update_Simenhois.pdf**
    4. *NEW!* If you are not familiar with Rutschblock Release Types you can check out page 41 of SWAG.
14. Click on <x> to exit and return to the *Add/Edit Pit* window.
15. Click on <Pit Graph> in the menu to see your pit.
16. If you like it you can save it or print it. Once you close it, you can reopen the pit from the *SnowPilot Main Menu* under *Pits* and chose <Edit Pits> to correct or add anything to your pit. You can also <delete pits> from this page.
17. <Add Occurrence> will take you to a detailed form outlining the data to collect when you investigate an avalanche. If you click on <Crown Obs> on the drop down menu you can

associate a pit with the occurrence. All fields in the *Occurrence* Form follow the new SWAG.

18. From the *SnowPilot Main Menu* window click on <Select>. From here you can <Send data> or go to <Web Client> if you are online.
    1. <Send Data> uploads all your data to the *Web Client* database. All pits in the window get uploaded.
    2. A pop-up window will appear reading "Sending data-please wait". This will be followed shortly by a new window saying "Data Sent". Click OK and you're ready to see your pits in the database.
    3. Clicking on <Web Client> brings up a window with the Master Database List. Your pit will be in here.

19. Using <Web Client>:
    1. Double clicking on any pit will bring up the pit graph or occurrence data. You can print or save it, but not edit it.
    2. To make searching easier you can double click on a specific mountain range or state and see all the pits entered for that area.

20) ***HOT TIP!*** Once your pits are either in the database or saved elsewhere, we recommend <Deleting> them in order to make managing your pits in SnowPilot easier.