

Eastern Snow Conference 2020-2022: The Virtual Years

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ABSTRACT

Like all organizations, the Eastern Snow Conference (ESC) was directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. And like all other organizations, the ESC adjusted and adapted to the range of real and threatened restrictions imposed by federal, regional, and local governments. Thus, the uninterrupted streak of annual ESC meetings over seven decade (1950's – 2010's) was broken, resulting in no meeting in 2020 and virtual meetings in 2021 and 2022. This new format came with a new set of benefits and challenges, many of which played out behind the scenes and were not publicly announced. This presentation will discuss what was lost and gained during these three unusual years for the ESC. Attention will be paid towards the lessons learned in hosting virtual meetings, participating in a large joint conference with other organizations, and the financial impacts on the non-profit organization of the ESC. The results suggest that the cryosphere sciences community is resilient, persistent, and supportive throughout such challenges, emphasizing the importance of organizations like the Eastern Snow Conference as a leading forum for the community.

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