

Official Publication of the Eastern Division of the National Ski Patrol



Division Director's REPORT

by John Kane, Division Director

Are we having FUN yet? Refreshers are under way with most in the rear view mirror and we're just waiting for the snow to fly. In the meantime all of us have been dealing with our national website for course registrations, closing courses, and other tasks. The good news is a lot of learning curves and nagging issues are starting to get resolved. I know I have been asking for your patience over these last few months, but we still have a little more work to do.

The Customer Care Team at our national office is up to speed on most of the issues and has been integrated more into the solving of FAQ problems. However, when and if we see new issues arise, please stay within the Chain of Command (COC). If you have not experienced using this protocol then everything is working well for you. If you have had the experience of using this protocol I want to THANK YOU for all that you are doing to help with this IT process.

Your patrol directors, region instructors and officers have been very busy in managing a lot of the new changes in processes but also taking time to make sure your issues, concerns, and even accolades are being sent to the appropriate parties. We are very much interested in what you have to say. The more we know what is important to you the faster we deal with it.

If you are interested in what is going on week to week, check in with your PDs and region staff. They have the latest updates from national and from the Eastern Division. You can also go to our website at www.nspeast.org. We are linked to all other regions from there. Check it out!

Since my last communication with you some really cool things have happened. We (NSP) just signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Park Service. Rick Shandler, National Nordic Advisor, along with Butch MacQueen, Joe Manna, and Bob Bernatos, to name a few of our division leadership, were on hand to be part of this important and historic signing. This MOU is going to allow us

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to expand NSP programs, service, and events into these great and vast properties. The Nordic, MTR and Avalanche Programs will most certainly be taking advantage of this great opportunity to increase programs into these very unique places and terrain. So look for new events and exciting venues coming up for this year.

The WMASS Region hosted an MTR/Lift Evacuation Best Practices Forum at Ski Butternut in Great Barrington, MA in October. It was a spectacular event with the best of the very best in Aerial Lift Operations, High Angle Climbing & Rescue, Resort Ownership, Legal and Insurance from all over the division attending. Chris Cruz and Dave Childs did an outstanding job putting this event together. Hopefully there will be more coming next year.

The Boston Ski & Ride Expo is now finished. I had the opportunity to serve on the Thursday night shift with patrollers from the EMARI, NH, and Maine Regions. We had a lot of traffic come by the booth where we got to talk about what we do, answer some of the "Safety in Service" questions, hand out some NSP swag, and even got some young adults and adults to sign up to become patrollers. Bernie Valle of Wachusett Mountain did a great job setting up the booth. He was there right through the weekend. If you ever want to work the booth, just give Bernie a call or write him. It is really cool to interface with our skiing and riding public.

We (the Eastern Division) are always looking for great stories about events you have been to, some key information that all patrollers would benefit from, and other valued communication that others might be interested in. *Trail Sweep* Editor Laura Tucker has come up with this great idea to do a story about a patroller doing extraordinary things from your patrol. There are many patrollers that could easily fit into a story line. Please help us to highlight these patrollers and what they are doing to promote Safety and Service at your area or outside.

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With regard to the recent election....OMG! OMG can fall on either side regardless of your vote. It really does come down to doing our part to vote your candidates through. By the time you read this our ski patrol election will be over. Hopefully you all took the time to vote.

Thank you for all you do! I look forward to getting around to a lot of events this year and hope to ski with many of you. Drop me a line to let me know what event you might be at and I will do my best to be there. In the meantime, I wish you the very best skiing and riding this season. I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and I want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season. Be SAFE in all that you do.

HURRIKANE COVE BOOT CAMP

by Frey Aarnio, NVT RD

If you have never gone to bed and fallen asleep to the sound of loons on the water, or awakened to the loon's early morning melody – then you must attend this boot camp on Long Lake in Harrison, Maine.

The boot camp was originally created as a training program for prospective certified patroller candidates but it has morphed into much more than that.

As a first time attendee I found the training content extremely valuable for any patroller at all levels. You will refresh some patroller skills and be challenged in some aspects. There are continuous mini sessions for lift evacuation, hill safety/risk management, low angle rescue, avalanche, and much more. All of these break-out sessions were lead/facilitated by the best and most experienced patrollers in the Eastern Division. They are extremely willing to share their knowledge in order to make well informed members of the NSP, which ultimately benefits your home ski area.

Sunday was primarily devoted to OEC skill scenarios. We were divided into teams to provide medical assistance and each team stayed together throughout the entire process. Each scenario was unique in that they challenged your leadership and management skills. Most scenarios involved multiple victims with varying trauma. Some were lift evacuation incidents, another involved an ATV accident, and still another involved a water skier collision with a dock. You had to be there to get the full impact of each scenario. At the completion of each OEC scenario a discussion ensued to evaluate the successes of your team and this was led by the instructors for that station. Instructors shared their observations and provided constructive feedback for growth and suggestions for potential alternatives for managing the problem. We were definitely challenged by the complexity of each problem, but our problem management skills were much better as a result.

There were several mini discussion groups that addressed questions by attendees. No NSP topic was ignored and each topic was addressed by the most knowledgeable and capable staff instructor.

Fun – don't let me forget about the activities when you are not in sessions. There was water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and bonfires not to mention the companionship and camaraderie with fellow patrollers and their families from all over the Eastern Division.

Main meals were provided and prepared by the boot camp staff, but we all brought something to share. No one went hungry.

Plan on attending for a weekend filled with outstanding educational experiences and fellowship. Bring your tent and sleeping bag. Look for it on the division website calendar.

RECRUITING at its BEST!



Stu Gillard is a recently retired Lieutenant Colonel who has taken on a new title as NJ Region Recruiting Advisor. This was awarded due to his proven success in recruiting not only for his home patrol of Delaware Valley, but for all patrols in the NJ Region. Stu is also credited with having been his patrol's PD, the NJR Advisor to the Nordic Program, the NJR Ski Council liaison, and with being an MTR instructor.

Having certifications in both alpine and Nordic disciplines, Stu put together a recruiting booth reflecting both types of patrolling. The booth has up-to-date patrolling and training pictures rolling through a display screen as well as a set up for a mini, mock chairlift evacuation. Not limiting himself to recruiting at ski gatherings such as Warren Miller movies or NJ Ski Council Fairs, Stu even sets up his booth at 4-H Fairs and Shad Festivals. On occasion, he's even been granted permission to go to a local army base during air shows to search out people there that may have an interest in ski patrolling.

With patroller numbers on the decrease, NJ Region is most grateful for Stu's exceptional recruiting efforts!



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TRAIL SWEEP

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NSP & NPS Form Alliance

by Butch MacQueen, Nordic Committee Chairman

September 17 marked an historic milestone for the National Ski Patrol. On this date, five years of diligent work and perseverance on the part of Rick Shandler, the National Nordic Supervisor, and a group of Nordic patrollers from Valley Forge Nordic Patrol culminated in an agreement between the National Ski Patrol and the National Park Service.

The event, commonly referred to as the AMN meeting, was held at Valley Forge National Historic Park and organized jointly by Eastern Division's Avalanche, Mountain Travel and Rescue, and Nordic Program Supervisors. This venue was a very fitting site in recognition of the signing of the Joint Statement of Understanding (JSOU) between NSP and NPS.

Over 50 participants gathered for the momentous occasion. There was a ceremony acknowledging the new agreement between the two organizations. Andrew Hower, Deputy Chief of Emergency Services for the National Park Service in Washington presented his view of how this agreement would impact both organizations. It was clear that this agreement is characterized as an official recognition of the skills and expertise in first aid, search and rescue, mass casualty incidents, etc., held by NSP members and how much value they may hold in the nationwide system of national parks. In essence, this agreement opens all the parks to the formation of patrols on park lands as well as the acceptance of our programs by the National Park Service. The long range implications of this agreement will come to light in the near future.

A certificate was presented to the National Ski Patrol (accepted by Rick Shandler) in recognition of this agreement. Following this presentation, Mr. Hower and several other park service employees joined the patrollers for lunch and, later, Saturday dinner where they were able to speak one-on-one and answer many questions from patrollers from all over the division.

In the morning, Eastern Division Program Supervisors Chuck Boyd, Avalanche; Steve Devine, Mountain Travel and Rescue; and Phil Galka, Nordic, presented a summary of the changes in each program that had been instituted during the last year and the future

changes as they were projected. Even though this site is set nearby a very urban environment during the afternoon instructors of the three programs rotated through field-based activities that dealt with various facets of each program, best practices in teaching the courses offered, material from the Instructor Development Program, and new procedures for course registration and completion with the new database.

It should be noted that the beginning work on this agreement resulted from the formation of the Valley Forge Nordic Ski Patrol under the direction of Rick Shandler. Rick saw the need for an agreement at the national level and began laying the groundwork for over five years of work with the Eastern Division, the National Board of NSP, and the National Park Service.

It was fortunate that we were able to have Burt Mitchell present at the ceremony. Burt was the Chair of the NSP National Board when work began on the agreement. Also of note, Rick Shandler moved up to the National Nordic Supervisor while this agreement was being drafted and constructed.

Saturday evening concluded the activities with a pot luck dinner at the campground where program advisors, instructors, and interested guests including park ranger personnel discussed a wide variety of topics dealing with the programs. The value of this sharing of ideas and concerns across region boundaries cannot be overstated.



Attendees at AMN Meeting, Valley Forge, PA



Andrew Hower of National Park Service presenting certificate to Rick Shandler, National Nordic Supervisor.



(l to r) Bob Bernatos, EPA RD; Butch MacQueen, WNY RD and Nordic Committee Chair; Rick Shandler, National Nordic Supervisor; Andrew Hower, Deputy Chief of Emergency Services Branch - Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services for the National Park Service; Burt Mitchell, Past NSP Board Chair; Joe Manna, NJ RD & MTR Committee Chair.

Extraordinary NSP Service

by Paul Kelly, NH RD

On May 28, 2016, my wife, Susan, and I trekked up to Tuckerman Ravine on Mount Washington. As many of you know, Tuckerman Ravine is a remote, non-lift serviced, natural area deep in the White Mountain National Forest. To access this terrain, one must hike approximately 2.4 miles over a 2000' elevation change, frequently carrying upwards of 50 pounds of gear and supplies. We made the hike on this day to attend the Mount Washington Volunteer Ski Patrol's (MWVSP) end-of-season activities. It was a beautiful day and, while the parking lot at Pinkham Notch was full, we did not encounter very many skiers/hikers on the trail. A few intrepid skiers headed up into the bowl, but with limited terrain and dangerous icefall, the retreat back down was fairly quick.

The end-of-season celebration included a wonderful meal with food all carried in by the volunteer patrollers manning the outpost on this date. This included snacks, a full meal, and homemade desserts including hand-churned ice cream. It was a wonderful gathering to catch up with some old friends and to discuss the rapidly waning season. However, we made the trip this day not only for the meal, frivolity, and camaraderie, but to recognize one patroller's longstanding and outstanding service to the National Ski Patrol – with awards that I may present only once in my lifetime. Sure, I have presented National Appointments, and conferred many service awards to very experienced, longstanding patrollers. However, what I would do on this evening, I doubt that few in my position will ever have the opportunity or enjoyment of doing.

On this May evening, it was my honor to present to Mr. Roger H. Damon, Jr. National Ski Patrol's Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to individuals who have performed extraordinary service to the National Ski Patrol and the skiing and riding public. And, before you think that this might not be such a monumental event, as there are many of these given out each year, what made this evening so extraordinarily special was the simultaneous presentation of an award recognizing completion of Mr. Damon's 70th season as an active, patrolling member of the National Ski Patrol. Yes, you read that correctly. I did say 70th season!

In my presentation of these awards, I noted the exceptional commitment required to be a member of this particular patrol. As inferred above, it is not an easy place to get to – keeping in mind that we are here in May. There are no lifts to get you and your gear here. While there is snow on the hiking trail, there is the occasional ride in the U.S. Forest Service snow cat. But in a season like we just had, those were few and far between. In Mr. Damon's case, I'm not sure the correct superlative exists to describe his level of commitment, having served the last 48 years of active membership, including this day, as a patrolling

member of the Mount Washington Volunteer Ski Patrol.

In addition to his service, Mr. Damon has been quite active in the avalanche program and is credited with developing and teaching NSP's first basic and advanced avalanche training courses in the eastern United States. He also taught an avalanche workshop for the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) at Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire. This AMC course proved to be popular for the general public as it provided a full day of fieldwork in avalanche terrain including terrain analysis, snow-pack stability assessment, and probe line management. For his contributions to the Avalanche Training Program, the Eastern Division of the National Ski Patrol in 2013 named an award for him, the "Roger H. Damon Jr Eastern Division Avalanche Award," for which he was the first recipient.





MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
MEMBERSHIP TYPES & BENEFITS
MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

SHOP NSP
ONLINE STORE & EQUIP
NSP PRG PRG LOCATIONS

PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
NSP YOUR PARTNER

NSP Modernizes

by Hugh Blocker, Treasurer

I am sure by now most of you have experienced the new NSP website and seen that 2016 has brought about momentous changes to the NSP at the national level and in the way we manage many of our administrative activities at all levels. August 2016 saw the rollout of a new computer system which manages the entire NSP database for all class registrations and membership records.

Eastern Division's own Chris Pringle, a national board member has been the chair of the committee that has worked to bring this change into reality. The committee of six NSP members from around the country has been meeting weekly for almost two years and has put in countless hours of work. The results are looking better each day.

After the rollout in August, several bugs were found and many refinements have been made to the system. What we have now is an online process to manage member registrations and collect dues. The new system also manages all NSP course registrations and course completion records. Members will be able to see all courses they have registered for and completed by logging into the website. This automated process of course record keeping will greatly reduce the error rate we experienced with the old manual system that was previously in place.

The new website will greatly improve the flow of information and allow individual members, by logging in, to keep a handle on their records better and update their own personal information. Also, by streamlining the administrative functions, the national office is able to control the costs to operate NSP which keeps our dues at a very reasonable level. The new website was integrated into the recent election process for NSP Board members.

You are also encouraged to visit the improved Pro Deals page and link to the winter catalogue to purchase NSP logo items. NSP has added a number of new logo items which you should find really exciting.

We just want to say a big THANK YOU to Chris and his whole team in bringing a new IT system online for us and we look forward to even better enhancements to the system for 2017!

Instructor Development and the New NSP Website

by Jim Miller, Supervisor

I am happy to say that the new hybrid online Instructor Development Beta version course has been running since early June. There have been some minor glitches, but it is 100% better than the old version, and it is a free course.

I mentioned that this is a Beta version which means it is not the final version. Your input into the new program is essential for the ID Committee to make the final version an excellent course for all future NSP instructors.

If you are already an NSP instructor, please look over the new online ID course. It will refresh some things you may have forgotten about teaching the adult learner, but your input will be very helpful.

Some of the changes that are planned for the ID online course are to coordinate references to the new NSP website. The *Training the Adult Learner* booklet and *Instructor Development Instructor Manual* have been edited and are being reviewed by the education committee.

Speaking of the new NSP website, it is also much better than the old website. But, with any new system there are bound to be some bugs. The Information Technology Team is continually working on getting these bugs eradicated.

It is the responsibility of each patroller to check his or her profile to make sure it is up to date. To access your profile, log on to NSP.org and click on "Hi, your name" on the right side of the top line. Your "My Profile" will page will pop up. Above "My Profile" is a line of tabs. When you click the "Education/Roles" tab you will see the following:

- My OEC Status
- My Instructor Certifications (with expiration dates)
- My Courses Completed
- My Awards
- My Enrolled Courses
- My Instructor Trainer Certifications (if any)
- My Instructor of Record Participation – Open Courses
- My Instructor of Record Participation – Closed Courses
- My Instructor Trainer Participation – Open Courses
- My Instructor Trainer Participation – Closed Courses
- My Instructor Participation – Open Events
- My Instructor Participation – Closed Events

If you notice any errors, the quickest way to get errors fixed is to shoot an email to customercare@nsp.org or to call the office and ask for Mara or Mackenzie. The NSP Customer Care Department folks are super friendly and speedy at making the edits. They are also the best contacts for password resets, member cards, and questions about navigating the website.

If patrollers have any questions regarding their OEC status and cards, their education profile, dues, or just aren't sure where to direct their questions they can email memberrecords@nsp.org.

NSP wants the transition to this new system to be as smooth as possible for patrollers and the national office is happy to help in any way they can.

Your region is continually looking for new instructors and the Instructor Development course is required for all future instructors. Take the online course and then check with your regional ID administrator to learn when you can do the face-to face portion of the class. If you want to do the full course contact your regional ID administrator for when the next course is being offered.

Incident Reports Go **DIGITAL**

Analytics, Accuracy, and Accountability drove Toggenburg Ski Patrol to adopt electronic incident reporting system

by Liz Kiggins, Toggenburg Ski Patrol

Paper forms. We all know the pros and cons. It is nice to reach into a file for a quick look at information. But inevitably entries are missing, so the information you need isn't there. Or the written incident description is illegible or incomplete, because the patrollers were, rightly, more concerned about treating the injured patient (IP) than filling out lengthy paperwork. And while looking at one report can be helpful, the data contained in all of the reports is worthless unless it is re-entered into a spreadsheet for analysis – a time consuming, laborious, and error-prone task. Finally, there is the concern of patient confidentiality. After all, anyone can grab that file as quickly as you can.

At Toggenburg Ski Patrol, we experienced all of those collection, organization, and safeguarding issues. As we saw all medical records converting to digital format, we concluded that there must be a number of digital solutions for incident reporting as well. So during the summer of 2015 a small team of patrollers began to research available alternatives.

First, we reached out to the large patrols out west, thinking that they would always be on the cutting edge. To our surprise, we couldn't find one large, paid patrol using electronic incident reporting. So we set about searching for a software solution. Again to our surprise, the best product by far came from a company in Australia – Medic52 (www.medic52.com).

Australia? Do they even ski in Australia? (They do, of course). Would a solution built in a culture over 10,000 miles away work for a Central New York Region patrol?

After a brief email exchange, the developer of Medic52 software, Duncan Isaksen-Loxton, offered to do a web call with our team. Within minutes it was clear to us that Duncan was not only a dedicated patroller, but a skilled IT developer. Duncan lived the frustrations of paper forms, and decided to do something about it. So he created the Medic52 platform, and even wrote a book on the topic called *The Smartphone Medic*. Although we are a small patrol, Duncan thought that Toggenburg would be the perfect USA test site for the Australian-based program. He agreed to work with us in return for real-time feedback from patrollers, affording Medic52 more data points with which to improve and update the software based on real world usage.

Working with someone on the opposite side of the globe proved to be extremely simple. Using the program GoToMeeting (www.gotomeeting.com), we were able to have short, productive sessions with Duncan, making minor adjustments to some terminology in the application so that it conformed to our own. The cloud-based Medic52 system updated almost immediately. So before snow covered the ground in upstate New York we were ready to go.

Our final implementation challenge was training our patrollers so they could become familiar with the software before ski

season began. Again using GoToMeeting, we hosted online training sessions that patrollers could conveniently attend from home, so participation was high.

A few patrollers needed some one-on-one training to get comfortable. A seasoned patroller, Bob Hough, thought the software would be difficult to learn and was not quite willing to give up the paper process. But with practice, Medic52 became second nature to use, and he now feels it is more thorough and will improve the patrol's training needs in the future. Tech-savvy patrollers, such as Tristan Julian, embraced the program right away, even saying it made the incident recording process less stressful, because it's quick to use and very user-friendly.

In Medic52, incidents are entered either on an iPad docked in the patrol room, or on a patroller's personal iOS or Android smartphone. The graphical interface is very intuitive, making it simple for patrollers to find and fill specific fields. The app also graphically displays trending vitals as entered. Using a smartphone, the incident can be opened on the hill and continued in the patrol room. Once the report is complete, a patroller signs it using their finger, closes it, and it is then automatically wiped from their personal smartphone for security. At that point only those with the appropriate security can access the report, insuring that the patient's information is secure.

Because certain fields are required, Medic52 ensures that key data is always collected. If important information is missing, the software prompts the user to go back and enter the data. The application also helps streamline the process, for example when you get the patient's date of birth it will figure out their age. The patient's personal statement is entered and saved as an audio recording, which is more authentic and much faster to log. Photos can also be saved as part of the report.

The system is hosted on Amazon Web Services infrastructure. Personally identifiable information is secured using bank-level encryption, and is only accessible with the application. Access is managed with secure login so that only authorized individuals can get to the data, and they can do so right when they need it. No more copies of incident report forms left on an unattended desk!

But the best aspect of electronic reporting is that incident data is automatically aggregated, and can be analyzed based on every piece of data we collect. Using the analytics built into Medic 52, we can adjust patrol schedules based upon the probability of accidents due to day, weather, snow conditions, and many other factors.

Feedback from our inaugural season with Medic52 was extremely positive overall. We are looking forward to our second year spending more time patrolling and less time worried about data collection.

This article reflects the experience and opinions of the author and should not be construed as an endorsement by the NSP or the Eastern Division. Decisions on software should be made in consultation with Area Management as it is their responsibility and thus the final decision is theirs to make.



VERMONT SKI AND SNOWBOARD MUSEUM

by Rick Hamlin, Chairman

One year ago, the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum opened the “Service and Safety, the History of the National Ski Patrol” exhibit. The original plan was that the exhibit would run for one year and then a new primary exhibit would take its place. I am very pleased to report that the museum’s Board of Directors has decided to continue to present the exhibit for another year.

You now have an additional year to go to Stowe and enjoy the exhibit and also see the NSP stone bench that was installed to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the National Ski Patrol. The artifacts on display in the museum tell the story of how an accident and a tragedy planted the seed that was to grow in to the largest rescue organization in the world.

You can also support the mission of the museum by becoming a member. The membership benefits offered this year are the best that they have ever been, especially considering the membership fee of only \$60. Along with reduced museum entry fees and discounts in the museum shop, this year’s member benefit coupon package includes:

- 2 for 1, lift tickets at Bromley, Stratton, Killington, Pico, Burke, Jay Peak and Mount Snow
- \$79 lift tickets at Stowe
- 25% off multi-day tickets at Okemo
- 2 for 1, Vermont Travel Club Cards
- 2 for 1, 18 Holes of Golf at Stratton, Killington, Jay Peak, and Mount Snow
- 2 for 1, Trail fees at Trapp Family, Mountain Meadows, and Grafton Pond cross country centers
- 20% off Killington housing, and stay 2 nights and get the third free at Trapp Family Lodge
- And finally there are 20% off coupons for Equipe, Pinnacle, and SkiRack ski shops for purchases of over \$100.

The use of just one of the coupons will offset the cost of membership and the coupons also make great gifts. Help the museum while saving some of your hard-earned money. Oh, did I mention that your membership is tax deductible?



Our photographer Don Mills



Ian Smith

Killington Patrol Has Them Covered

Not to be outdone by professional photographers with press credentials, Don Mills, Killington Ski Patrol, took some amazing shots for *Trail Sweep*. How’s that for a close-up of Mikaela Shiffrin on her way to winning 1st place in a World Cup slalom on her home turf! And check out the crowd at the base.



Mikaela Shiffrin in winning form.



Front row seats



Ian Smith, Lisa Bassett, Mark Heckmann, Joe Kulina, Rob Bliss

2016-17 Certified Program

by Bill Jordan, Chair



This year's annual Certified Exam and Meeting will be returning to Hunter Mountain, New York. Plans are being finalized for housing and will appear on the division website or via email to members and candidates shortly. Have an interest in the program? Come to Hunter and see what it's all about!

This past off-season we offered two certified events. One was held in Maine at Long Lake, HurriKane Cove, in August. The second event, the Advanced Patroller School was held at Blue Mountain, PA in October. Many thanks to John Kane and Jeff Baker for organizing these events.

For all of you aspiring Certified patrollers, onlookers, and candidates, the Certified Program will be offering several clinics across the division. Pre-registration is required at the email addresses shown. Every event we run requires pre-registration. Precourses require prior approval before attending.

Applications for the Certified Program can be submitted any time of year (actually, the sooner the better). The application can be found on the Eastern Division website. You can download, complete the application, and email it to Credentials Committee Chair Karl Johnson at johnson.building@verizon.net. Please note, the deadline for applications is 30 days before the exam. Submissions have to be made by February 23, 2017 to be considered.

There is a program guide available on the same site that describes each part of the program. Caution! There are some changes that are NOT reflected in the program guide on the website. I strongly recommend that you contact one of the chairs or me to clarify any questions. All the contact information is at: <http://www.nspeast.org/certified-program-chairs.html>.

Training for the program starts whenever you are ready. Just email me at cert169@frontier.com and I will direct you to someone who can help get you started. **REMEMBER**, everyone is welcome to come to the exam, but you must preregister.

2016-2017 CERTIFIED PSPA SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT/CONTACT
Sat-Sun, 1/21-22	Elk Mountain	Intro to Certified Matt Nebzydowski manebzy@yahoo.com
Wed, 1/25	Sunday River	PSPA Precourse Dave Lemieux LNGLEOCHIEF@gmail.com
Thur, 1/26	Sunday River	Intro to Certified/Precourse Dave Walker cert372@yahoo.com
Sun, 1/29	Loon Mountain	PSPA Precourse Andy Novick andykayak@hotmail.com
Wed, 2/1	Hunter Mountain	PSPA Precourse Carl Chaplin Carl.Chaplin@pega.com
Fri, 2/03	Killington	Certified Precourse Ken Kelly cert587@nep.net
Fri, 2/17	Loon Mountain	Certified Precourse Ken Kelly cert587@nep.net
Wed-Thur, 3/1-2	Sugarloaf	PSPA Annual Exam Russ Monast rmonast@gmail.com
Fri-Sun, 3/24-26	Hunter Mountain	Certified Annual Exam & Meeting Sarah Keating cert564@gmail.com



Outstanding Small Patrol

The Maine Region is proud to honor the well deserving patrollers at Bigrock ski area in Aroostook County for receiving the Outstanding Small Patrol Award that has been not given out to a Maine patrol for over two decades. A formal presentation was made on Sunday, November 6 at the area's annual refresher. Review of NSP's core values: excellence of service, strong leadership, integrity, and response to demonstrated needs, show that this 21-member patrol has joined together to meet these qualifications and is well deserving of this Outstanding Award! Great Job Bigrock Ski Patrol!



Lift Evacuation Best Practices Seminar

by Alison McGee

On October 1 the WMASS Region raised the lift evacuation bar with a multi-part seminar to heighten patrol directors' and lift evacuation instructors' skills and knowledge. Split between two locations in Great Barrington, MA—a conference room at the Great Barrington Fire Department and the grassy lift line slopes of Ski Butternut—the seminar included presentations, panel discussions, networking, demonstrations, and hands-on training.

The daylong seminar matched the complexity and risk of real-life lift evacuations with thoroughness, policy examination, program design, and specific areas of expertise. The morning portion saw the sleek conference room of the fire department filled to the brim with more than 55 patrollers and ski and wilderness experts. It began with a keynote presentation by longtime lift evacuation expert Mary Davis from Bromley, followed by a panel discussion with eight wide-ranging experts, and closed with a technical presentation examining the components of a lift evacuation plan.

“None of us in this room are as smart as all of us put together,” Davis stated, honing in on one crucial component of the seminar: collaboration. “It’s all about shared knowledge.” Many attendees were either patrol directors or lift evacuation instructors, the primary targets of the seminar, with the intent being that the depth of knowledge gained could be incorporated into each individual mountain’s lift evacuation training program.

While individual areas offer yearly training and a national guidebook exists, seminars such as this one do not occur often, and this was the first of its kind to be held in this region which is home to 13 ski patrols and within close proximity to more than 30 mountains in adjacent states.

Davis’s keynote kicked off the day with a perfect balance of casual commentary and practical descriptions and analyses peppered with codes, acronyms, and history. “We need to be careful not to mix up the facts, preferences, and opinions.” She stressed the importance of gaining a deep understanding of the policies and correct protocol. Covering everything from personal experiences to federal regulations, Davis called for educational best-practices in lift evacuation trainings that mirror the well-structured Mountain Travel Rescue (MTR) and Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) trainings that already exist. Offering a preview of updated guidelines being put forward in an NSAA guidebook, Davis stressed the importance of information sharing and thoughtful training and plans.

Following a brief Q&A session with Davis, the group rearranged for a panel discussion which brought forward eight

experts to share and participate in a moderated discussion of lift evacuation procedures, training, plans, gear, legal risks, and more. The carefully selected panel included keynote speaker Mary Davis along with John Boburchuk, owner and CEO of the Wilderness Emergency Response Institute; Tim Bruce, Safehold Special Risks for Wells Fargo Insurance; Steve Devine, Eastern Division MTR Program Supervisor; Mark Kendrick, Federal Aviation Administration tower climber and instructor; Paul Maloney, chief operating officer of Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort and Massachusetts Tramway Board Member; John O’Neil, a legal advisor for the WMASS Region (and assistant vice president/counsel and director of insurance risk management at a Fortune 100 company in Massachusetts); and Dave Walker, a veteran patroller and member of the NSP Board of Directors. The panel was moderated by WMASS Region Director, Christina Cruz, PhD, who directed questions from seminar attendees to the various panel experts.

“The plan is only as good as the training that goes into the plan,” said Walker emphasizing the importance of unifying training systems to improve consistency—and as a result, safety—across the NSP regions. Walker is currently assisting with a revamping of the NSP *Lift Evacuation Manual*, which was last published in 1998. “We’re trying to build a program that’s a little safer than what was published in this book,” he added while fielding participant comments, queries, and discussions about the need for rich training content. Panel discussion topics ranged from common mistakes made during evacuations, the implications of those mistakes for patrols and mountains, required knowledge, high-hazard/low-occurrence instances, transitions, common dilemmas (including gear, terrain, and communication), training components, patron populations (those with disabilities, language barriers, medical conditions, or age factors), and financial concerns.

The final indoor component of the seminar reviewed state laws surrounding lift evacuation and examined the components of a lift evacuation plan, while challenging participants to assess all factors of lift evacuations. The presentation began with a video review of a lift evacuation, where the team analyzed the errors and discussed adjustments that could be made to the situation. Presented by Mary Davis and Tim Bruce, this component presented resources for assessing, developing, and improving current plans allowing participants a practical use of the presentation. “There’s no reason to reinvent the wheel,” Bruce explained as he and Davis demonstrated well-structured, thorough plans and the steps to

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create them. However, Bruce urged participants to “challenge the notion of ‘we’ve always done it like this.’”

Following a break for lunch on the deck at the base of Ski Butternut, seminar participants branched into small-group, practical-knowledge exploration that incorporated some hands-on practice and lots of expert feedback and guidance—the kind that is often difficult to weave into mountain-specific trainings. With gear demonstrations by Matt Hunt of Sterling Rope and panel member Mark Kendrick, seminar participants got first-hand experience with highly rated products and tools. The group then split into two large groups that rotated between two dilemma stations, one led by Steve Devine and John Boburchuk to examine rope handling and the gear and safety practices involved in evacuation, and the other led by Mary Davis to examine specific challenges such as evacuations involving adaptive ski gear such as sit-skis. Following the two 30-minute groups the seminar traversed up the ski slope for focused stations that further examined key components of lift evacuations:

- Lowering methods using Rescue Randy
- Line launching and flipping methods and example of a complete lift evac bag
- Tower climbing methods and training requirements
- Live load lowering methods (less than six feet off the ground) including communications
- Night operations, LOTO, harnesses, rope, and other equipment

“You do not have to have a perfect situation to do a good job,” John O’Neil’s words from the morning’s panel discussion rang true throughout the seminar, which took the time and attention to address the myriad situations that even expert patrollers may struggle with when facing lift evacuations. Many of the participants and panel members’ sentiments were summarized succinctly and urgently by RD Chris Cruz, who noted that insufficient training, knowledge gaps, and poor planning all put both patrollers and skiers in danger. She notes that this seminar was meant to allow participants to see, discuss, explore, and think about lift evacuation in a way they hadn’t done before. Cruz noted that the training was developed in the hopes of providing leaders and instructors with inspiration and knowledge to boost their current programs and allow patrol teams to interact directly with experts.

Pictures and videos of this event are available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s3ow7xx-illf0iz2z/AADtY8Cp2wgYtYoBP9vPnk0a?dl=0>

Toboggan Refresher (TREF):

Have you signed up and met requirements?

by Jim O’Connor
OET Supervisor

Yes, everything is better after the first turns of the season. Eastern Division’s OET Staff and Regional Advisors have attended their December annual meeting at Killington. We were excited to be refreshing skiing and riding skills with PSIA and AASI staff, and applying the snowsports fundamentals to patroller skills we use to handle toboggans. The experiences and information from these meetings are being brought back to the regions and ski areas by the advisors and staff.

This season the conversion to the new NSP website and database brings with it the responsibility of every patroller to register for refreshers, both OEC and OET. Every year patrollers are required to successfully complete a toboggan refresher at their ski area with a toboggan instructor (TI) overseen by an instructor trainer (IT). Completion of a TREF course is required to maintain your patroller status.

There are a number of ski and toboggan courses offered regionally and at patroller schools. Go to the Member Resources and Course Schedule on the national website to find a course in the Eastern Division. Be sure to look at the notes on the course to make sure who can sign up, as some courses are specific to regional and divisional events where enrollment is

restricted or limited. The Snowsport and Toboggan Enhancement Seminars (SES and TES) are for all patrollers, especially those training for the Senior Evaluations. Senior Evaluation Alpine Skiing and Toboggan (SASE and SATE) courses are requirements of becoming a senior patroller. Toboggan Trainer Workshops (TTW) are for those refreshing or becoming an Alpine Toboggan Instructor. Speak with your OET Regional Advisor or local Divisional Staff on requirements to becoming an instructor. Snowsport Trainer Workshops (STW) are for Trainer Evaluators (TEs) both new and those refreshing their status. All instructors must take at minimum an Instructor Continuing Education Clinic – OET (OETIC) every three years to maintain their credentials. TEs require a TTW, STW and OETIC course every three years to maintain their credentials. These courses are part of the four Patroller School programs offered around the division this year. Division Staff refreshes each of these three courses every year at the Killington Staff Meeting.

Don’t forget to register for the 2017 Patroller Schools at Elk Mountain (January 20-21), Sunday River (January 27-28), Killington (February 4-5) and McCauley (February 11-12) for advancing your skills and refreshing your instructor status.

In the last *Trail Sweep* we asked for feedback on how we are doing at delivering and meeting the training needs of the local patrol. We have reached out through surveys to staff, advisors, and patrol directors and encourage direct input from all patrollers on what more we can do. Please send your input to your PDs, RAs and Staff; fill out the course evaluation forms completely and honestly. Your input drives these programs.

Laugh Often and Love Snow

Level II *Avalanche Course* by Chuck Boyd, Supervisor



Whiteface Mountain provides premier training terrain and continued support for advanced avalanche courses, with its ample lift-served backcountry access to avalanche-prone slides. Join us for the next Level II Avalanche Course and improve your knowledge and understanding of avalanches and rescue operations. Anyone with aspirations of being an avalanche professional or a patroller in avalanche-prone terrain, or who spends a lot of time in the backcountry should sign up now!

The 2017 Eastern Division Level II Avalanche Course is scheduled for March 9-12 (Thursday through Sunday) at the Atmospheric Science Research Center and Whiteface Mountain, NY. Participants should plan to arrive Wednesday evening, March 8. The purpose of the L2 course is to help prepare patrollers and backcountry users for all aspects of avalanche hazards and rescue operations. Along with the L2 course, we will be holding an instructor refresher, and the Avalanche Module for the Nordic Master certification. More information describing the course will be available on the Eastern Division website.

During the first two days of the course participants will complete the first half of the program by attending a wide variety of presentations by industry professionals, NOAA, our trained staff of L2 instructors, plus many outdoor exercises including ski tours. Two evening sessions include trip planning/navigation, and a rescue simulator session. The simulator is an indoor mockup of a rescue problem designed to provide realistic situations and decision-making typically encountered in avalanche rescue operations. The next two days include the outdoor portion of the course in which participants will ski to field exercises including snowpack and terrain analysis, rescue beacon use, companion and organized

avalanche rescue operations.

Accommodations are available at the KOA Campground (518-946-7878 or 800-562-0368, www.lakeplacidkoa.com) in Wilmington. Make sure that you tell them that you're reserving for the avalanche course. We will be renting heated cabins which hold four to nine persons depending on size. Some cabins have kitchens, but breakfast in the restaurant is available. Lodging will vary in price from \$67.30 for a one room Kamping Cabin which sleeps four, to \$215.25 for the Algonquin Peak cabin which sleeps eight. Lunches will be provided at the ASRC Thursday and Friday, and at a very reasonable price, you can purchase trail lunches for the outdoor sessions.

Completion of both an L1 Avalanche Course, an MTR course, and ICS 100 & 700 within the last three years is a prerequisite. Winter hiking experience, with proper outdoor clothing and ski touring equipment, along with strong skiing skills are also essential. You must be able to ski the black diamond terrain at Whiteface. Interested participants should understand that the outdoor field work is done in a winter mountain environment that involves physical exertion and sustained exposure to winter elements and hazards. Interested participants with physical or medical restrictions must consider these factors before applying.

Attendance is limited, so sign up early! To register for the Level II Avalanche Course, you must email the IOR and complete the prerequisites before registering online at national. Registration cost is \$250 for NSP members and \$350 for non-members. For information, contact L2 Avalanche Instructor of Record, Chuck Boyd at; 860-508-5273 (chucknspavy@gmail.com). Please complete and return the form below along with your check made out to Chuck Boyd by March 1, 2017.

2017 L2 Avalanche Course Whiteface Mountain, NY March 9 - 12, 2017

Chuck Boyd
IOR L2 Avalanche
38 White Water Turn
Tariffville, CT 06081

Name _____

NSP Reg. # _____ Patrol _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

2016 AWARDS



National Appointment

Andrew Hudacs	11752	NVT
David Young	11818	ENY
William Rod	11820	ENY
Hugh Blocker	11824	WAPP
Dave Childs	11826	WMA
David Lemieux	11848	ME
Marc LeBlond	11850	ME
Elizabeth Bell-Folsom	11852	ME
Riley Glanz	11864	NVT

Leadership Commendation Appointment

James Fessia	8509	WMA
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Distinguished Service Award

Roger Damon	NH
Michelle Koons	WAPP
John Toth	WAPP

Yellow Merit Star

Marion Chaplin	NH
Patrick Cusick	EPA
Lucien Daigle	ME
Ron Faff	WAPP
Kristina Hoxha	EPA
Tom Lurz	EPA
Rebecca Moran Rubin	SVT
Joe Pfisterer	EPA
Karen Robos	EPA
John Thompson	EPA
William Vosner	SVT
Rick Warren	ME
Robert Wohlschlegel	EPA

Purple Merit Star

Dennis Davison	SVT
Bonnie Clifton Frisbie	EPA
Eric Scarborough	SVT

Blue Merit Star

Michael Anderson	SVT
Alex Calderwood	SVT
Anthony Clay	EPA
Richard Collo	SVT

Blue Merit Star (cont'd)

Bill Csikesz	WAPP
Ed Eckler	EPA
Glenn Furguson	EPA
Casey Gould	SVT
Justin Guse	EPA
Rick Shaak	EPA
Christian Visdomini	EPA

Patroller Cross

Mark Bartram	NH
Frank Richter	SVT

Patriot Star

Elizabeth Van Winkle	EPA
Angel Pin	
Lee Anna Belovarec	WNY
Maryanne Thornton	WNY
Barbara White	WNY

Patroller Achievement Award

Jeffrey Prime	ENY
Roger Begin	ME
Allison Blackman	ME
Joe Bolton	NH
Chris Chermak	EPA
John Doherty, MD	EPA
Dari Forman	ME
Paul Forman	ME
Alan Fortuner	EPA
Luis Heros	ME
Chip Moyer	ME
Brian Robinson	ME
Anthony Rupe, Jr.	EPA
Bob Sherman	ME
Lauri Smerald	NH
Ben Usatch	EPA

50 Year Eastern Division Award

Peter Areson	SVT
Robert Armstrong	SVT
Raymond Gaynor	WMA
Fred Harder	ENY
Alan Justin	SVT
Dick Kenney	ENY
Jim Krupsky	SVT
Pat Murphy	ME
Don Page	ENY

50 Year National Lifetime Service Award

Peter Areson	SVT
Robert Armstrong	SVT
Alan Justin	SVT
Jim Krupsky	SVT
Al Marini	WMA

2016 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Silver Merit Star Runners-up for 2016

Nordic Patroller	Rob Winter	CNY
Young Adult Patroller	Michael Marx	NJ
Patrol Representative	Steve Devine	NJ
Administrative Patroller	Marty Silverman	WAPP

Silver Merit Star Recipient Profiles

ROB WINTER



A Highland Forest ski patroller from Central New York Region was the runner up for the National Ski Patrol 2016 Outstanding Nordic Ski Patroller competition and received a Silver Merit Star. And just as significant, his 15-member Nordic patrol won three top Eastern Division awards. Rob joined NSP in 2011 and holds dual certifications. He is an alpine patroller at Toggenburg.

Rob Winter was recipient of Eastern Division's Pete Snyder Outstanding Nordic Ski Patroller for 2016. Rob was recognized for his leadership as a training and safety instructor, and for promoting the National Ski Patrol with local medical services. He is an OEC and ID instructor and instructor trainer. Winning the Eastern Division title placed Rob in competition at the National level as well. That's where he came in second place against Nordic patrollers from across the NSP.

MICHAEL MARX



Eastern Division's 2016 Outstanding Young Adult Patroller was this year's runner-up for the National Outstanding YAP. He holds dual registrations at Mountain Creek and the National Winter Activity Center in the NJ Region.

Michael has been a standout since he walked into the Mountain Creek Summit Patrol Shack to inquire about joining. None of his family or friends were patrollers and he was several years too young to join but that didn't deter him. He remained active with the patrol's youth program until his 15th birthday when he officially joined NSP and quickly completed all requirements to become an alpine patroller.

Michael's level of dedication to patrolling and patrollers is evidenced by his serving on two alpine patrols for the last two seasons and coordinating a blood drive and fundraiser for an injured patroller. Michael was motivated by his patrolling experience and has taken this back to his community by joining his local First Aid Squad and completing his EMT. His Eagle Scout project involved arranging funds and coordinating the purchase of AEDs for the local youth football

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and cheerleading programs and arranging for and assisting with AED training for the coaches. Michael has remained on the honor roll at school since he first introduced himself to patrol and hopes to pursue a career as a flight medic.

An aim of Michael's has been to ski out west. He applied for the Eastern Division's YAP Scholarship to Powderfall, and was recently notified he won this year. Besides anticipating great skiing and meeting more wonderful people, Michael is looking forward to learning additional information and patrolling skills he will be able to share with patrollers of all ages when he returns home.

STEVE DEVINE



The runner-up for NSP's Outstanding Patrol Representative is Steve Devine from High Point Ski Center Nordic in the NJ Region. Steve started as an alpine candidate in 1992 and as a Nordic candidate in 1996. He attained senior status in both classifications in 1996 and 2000 respectively. Steve was one of the first two patrollers to achieve Nordic Master certification.

Steve wears many hats in NSP holding instructorships in OEC, MTR, Avalanche, and Nordic Toboggan. He is a Nordic Toboggan and MTR Instructor Trainer, an Alpine S&T TE and the IOR for the Nordic Master Program's MTR Module. He is currently the Eastern Division MTR Supervisor. The NJ Region Representative to the NJ State Search and Rescue Council, he founded the NJR Search and Rescue Affiliate Team and the NJ Region Bike Patrol. In recognition of his leadership skills he was awarded National Appointment #10016 in 2004.

Steve's skills are not limited to the US, but in Europe as well. He has competed in cross country ski competitions in Europe and placed reputably. He also was recognized for his first responder knowledge in helping save an injured motorcyclist in Switzerland.

MARTY SILVERMAN



The National Ski Patrol awarded a Silver Merit Star to Marty Silverman of the Western Appalachian Region as runner-up for NSP's Outstanding Administrative Patroller. Marty served for six years as the Western Appalachian Region Director.

In addition, he served as chair of both the Division Marketing Committee and Communications Committee and as Assistant Division Director for the past two years. A patroller for 43 years at Hidden Valley Ski Patrol, PA, he has served his region as a Section Chief, Senior S&T TE, Lift Evacuation Advisor, Election Advisor, Webmaster, and Historian. The Outstanding Administrative award is presented each year to a volunteer patroller who has made an outstanding administrative contribution to the NSP beyond the patrol level.



Outstanding Awards

by Jerry Sherman, Awards Advisor

Normally announced in the winter edition of *Ski Patrol Magazine* the National Ski Patrol names Outstanding Patrols and Patrollers in many categories annually. Here is an overview of the process.

Outstanding Awards are given in the following categories:

- Large Alpine Patrol (over 40 members)
- Small Alpine Patrol
- Nordic Patrol
- Alpine Patroller
- Nordic Patroller
- Paid Patroller
- Young Adult Patroller
- Administrative Patroller
- OEC Instructor
- Instructor (non OEC)
- NSP Patrol Representative

“...outstanding nominations must be submitted to the Division Awards Advisor by March 1.”

In the Eastern Division we also have an Outstanding Alumni Award. Nomination forms and instructions for these and all other NSP awards can be found on the NSP website. Instructions and criteria can be found in Chapter 12 of the *Policies and Procedures*. Unlike most NSP awards there is a deadline; outstanding nominations must be submitted to the Division Awards Advisor by March 1. They also must come to me via email from Region Awards Advisors (RAAs) in MS Word format and signatures are not required.

Each region is encouraged to submit nominees in all of the above categories and also to submit up to two judges. All nominations are then forwarded electronically to judges. Most judges will receive just two or three categories to review. Judges rank the nominees within each category and return their results to the Division Awards Advisor by April 1. Winners in the division are announced at the Eastern Division Annual Meeting, normally held in Albany, NY the last full weekend in April.

After gathering all the required signatures the nomination documents for those winners are then forwarded to the National Office. A very similar judging process is followed and the results are received by divisions normally by August 1. Winners in the patrol categories will receive a large plaque for the patrol room and the patrol director gets a Yellow Merit Star. Winners in individual categories receive a Gold Merit Star and a granite trophy. Second place winners in the individual categories receive a Silver Merit Star. All other individual nominees receive a Yellow Merit Star. First and second place winners in all categories are recognized in *Ski Patrol Magazine*.

If you visit the Eastern Division website you will find my contact information and much more information including recent winners and a list of the RAAs on the Awards page. If you have any questions about Outstanding or any other NSP awards feel free to contact me or your RAA.

Thoughts Consumed

by Craig Larson, YAP Coordinator

“Trick or Treat. Smell my feet.
Give me something good to eat.
If you don't, I don't care.
I'll pull down your...”

“Stop! I don't want to hear this rhyme again. Together, you must have repeated this five hundred times. The next person who says this will stay in from recess.” My patience was gone. This silly poem was driving me nuts. This silly poem was disrupting my class and distracting me from the day's lessons. I had to regain control of my class. I had to regain control of the conversation and set the tone for the day. I had to. FAST. Halloween was still a week away; five full school days away. It was going to be a long week.

It was early in the day and I knew this would not be the last Halloween conversation of the day. As I returned to the whiteboard ready to continue the lesson, I could hear Billy whispering to his neighbor, “I don't think he celebrates Halloween.”

I calmly and deliberately picked up the orange-colored, dry-erase marker and wrote on the board, H A L L O W E E N – in all capital letters. Without turning to the class, I began.

“One plus one equals?”

“Two” the class echoed.

“One plus two equals?”

“Three” replied the class.

On and on we went; through the ones, twos, threes, and fours. Their attention, for a brief moment, had been diverted. I sat on the table in front of the class. In a slow, quiet voice I opened the can, “Have you ever been so focused on something that thinking about other things becomes difficult?” Heads nodded. I continued. “Class, are you focused on Halloween? Is the talk of trick or treating, costumes, and smelly feet keeping you from learning?” More nods. I decided to push my luck.

Back to the board I went. Picking up a red marker, under HALLOWEEN I began writing “NATIONAL SKI PATROL.” I was winging it. I was veering off the academic path to teach a life lesson. I didn't know if they would understand.

“Boys and girls”...silence. I could tell the words on the board had stumped their little minds. Their faces showed confusion. I've committed to the discussion. I've committed to the life lesson. Here goes nothing.

“Boys and girls, I am a member of the National Ski Patrol. I belong to an organization of men and women who serve the ski and ride community.” Blank stares, but I had to keep going. “I have spent countless hours helping skiers and riders enjoy the outdoors. I have spent countless hours helping those injured while skiing and riding get to safety where their injuries can be treated. I have spent countless hours making turns in the cold, in the rain, during snowstorms, and on sunny days all to help people.”

It was time to make the connection.

I erased the board. “It is hard to learn when your mind is so focused on one thing that it consumes all your thoughts, conversations, and distracts other people. Class, you are so focused on

Halloween that it is consuming your thoughts, consuming your conversation, and distracting those around you.” More silence.

“This is me during winter. I become so focused on skiing, ski patrol, and the mountain. My thoughts are about ski patrol. My conversations are about ski patrol. I become so focused on skiing that I may be distracting and annoying to those around me.” Ask my wife.

The life lesson didn't stop there. Quality discussions ensued. There were discussions on how to balance the things we enjoy doing, the things we enjoy talking about, and the things that must get done. We had discussions on helping people and discussions of how much time is too much time to spend devoted to a hobby.

My academic plans would have to wait. I was enjoying the chatter; the talk of snow, skiing, and the National Ski Patrol. This consumes me. This is me. I throw balance out the window and wholeheartedly embrace winter.

It is here. Embrace it. The snow will fly. Trails will open and close. Turns will be made. Accidents will happen and require your assistance. Winter is here and Ski Patrol comes with it!

Young Adult Patrollers from Maine to West Virginia will gather at Bolton Valley, Vermont, March 17-20, 2017, to participate in the Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar. Bolton Valley has the ability to consume your thoughts, your actions, and your conversation. Bolton Valley has 300 acres of terrain with long, big-turn cruisers, steeps, trees, and a whole lot of fun. With over 1,700 feet of vertical and the largest number of trails open for night skiing in Vermont, this is the place to be. Go ahead, have discussions about this event with all those around you.

Those who have been to a Young Adult Patroller Seminar speak highly of this event and ARE willing to let this event consume them.

“What a great event. I had more fun in three days than the whole season at my home mountain. There aren't other Young Adult Patrollers where I ski. I never knew there were so many. I'll be back next year.” – First year attendee

“I look forward to showing off my patroller skills at this event each year. This event gets bigger and better each time I attend – the friends, the hands-on learning, the skills competition, and the free stuff.” – Third year attendee

If you have never attended an Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar, this is the year. This is the year to participate. Here's what you get by attending the Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar:

- Three nights of lodging (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
- Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday
- Dinner on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
- Lift ticket for Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday
- Hands-on skills training
- Patroller Skills competition
- Mystery events
- FREE swag

And so much more! All for \$375.00!

Cont'd on pg 15

More information regarding the Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar can be found on the Eastern Division webpage, Eastern Division Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter. Check these places often. Event questions can be emailed to easterndivisionyap@gmail.com. Fill out the registration form completely and place it in the mail before February 3, 2017.

I wasn't sure how to end the Halloween chatter. Some would say there was little learning accomplished in that hour of discussion that started with a holiday chant. Others would say a life lesson was learned. We ended the discussion with one final thought. There is a time and a place for all consuming talk, all consuming thought, and activity. Allow the Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar to flood your talk, thought, and activity.

Go ahead, talk about it, think about it, and participate in the best event of the season.

And yes, I do celebrate Halloween!



Remembering & Honoring CADET MITCHELL WINEY



This year was the first OEC refresher since Cadet Mitchell A. Winey of the West Point Ski Patrol lost his life in flash flooding at Fort Hood, Texas. His classmates found that his ski boots were still at West Point and they had them bronzed. They will be on permanent display at West Point to honor his memory.

CDT Mitchell A. Winey
West Point Ski Patrol
5 May 1994 - 2 June 2016
"The best skier on the mountain"



SCHOLARSHIP

by Dan Pascucci, Maine RD

In 2015 the NSP Eastern Division Board of Directors created a Scholarship Fund to assist Young Adult Patrollers with the cost of attending the annual Young Adult Seminar. Each year four scholarships are awarded based on financial need and merit, with the nominations coming from YAP advisers, patrol directors, and training staff who have worked with the young member. The genesis of the scholarship was a recognition that there may be YAPs who would like to attend the seminar but would not be able to attend without financial assistance.

The scholarship will be in the amount of the registration fee for the event. The application will be published on the division website and will contain a description of the application process. Deadline for submitting scholarship applications is January 28, 2017.

At the West Point Ski Patrol OEC refresher, the cadet patrol presented Mike Griffin, outgoing patrol director, with a cadet saber to thank him for the years of service that he has given West Point. Mike started going to West Point to help them out during the 2005 season. Because West Point is much closer to his home in Poughkeepsie he transferred his primary patrol registration in 2007. He has been their primary S&T trainer for more than ten years and has been the patrol director since 2010. He is moving on from these roles and will be sorely missed. Thanks, Mike!



Chris O'Keefe, incoming PD and Mike Griffin, retiring PD

EASTERN DIVISION YOUNG ADULT PATROLLER SEMINAR REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE POSTMARKED February 3, 2017 – NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Registrations received after the deadline will be charged a late fee of \$50, availability permitting, as space is limited

Fill in completely and return with a \$375.00 check made payable to NSP Eastern Division to:

Craig Larson, 46 Brooks Road, Paxton, MA 01612

Please type or legibly print all information except for signatures.

Last _____ First _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Age _____ Male or Female _____ T-shirt Size (circle) small medium large x-large

NSP # _____ Home Mountain _____

I have a dietary concern, please list here _____

I understand my commitment and responsibilities to the National Ski Patrol while I am attending this seminar.

Young Adult Patroller Signature _____

TO HELP US PLAN, FILL IN THE FOLLOWING;

FREE SKI FRIDAY _____

ENHANCEMENT TRACK _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____

REGION DIRECTOR _____

FREE SKI MONDAY _____

COMPETITION _____

DEPARTURE DATE _____

YAP _____ YAP ADVISOR _____ ADULT CHAPERONE _____ S&T TE _____ OEC TE _____ OEC INSTRUCTOR _____ TOBOGGAN INSTRUCTOR _____

*TICKETS WILL BE GRANTED TO THOSE WHO CHECK OFF FREE SKIING FOR THE ABOVE DAYS.
YOUNG ADULT PATROLLERS WILL BE ENROLLED IN THE COMPETITION GROUP UNLESS CHECKED OTHERWISE.*

Advisor/Chaperone attending with Young Adult Patroller _____
Attending adult advisor/chaperone must be at least 21 years of age and be endorsed by the young adult patroller's parent or guardian. No more than 5 young adults per advisor/chaperone

The above named Young Adult Patroller is a registered member of NSP and approved for the seminar.

Patrol Director OR Young Adult Advisor (*Print/Signature*) _____

REQUIRED MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FOR MINORS UNDER 18

This authorizes the ski patrol, EMS personnel, a licensed physician, surgeon, or other recognized hospital staff member to carry out emergency medical care deemed necessary for my child/ward in an emergency, when normal permission is unavailable.

Name of Minor _____ Emergency Contact # _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Physician's Name _____ Physician's # _____

Insurance Company _____ Policy/Plan # _____

Special Emergency Information/Instructions _____

RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT — REQUIRED FOR ALL YOUNG ADULT PATROLLERS

The undersigned, as a participant, or as a parent or guardian of a minor who is participating in the 2017 Eastern Division Young Adult Training Seminar, in consideration for being allowed to participate in such event, hereby releases the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. and the Eastern Division, Bolton Valley Ski Resort and any and all officers, members, volunteers, agents and employees thereof from any and all claims or liabilities of any kind whatsoever arising out of my or such minor's participation in the 2017 Eastern Division Young Adult Training Seminar. I/we further release and waive any rights, causes of action, or claims against said Ski Patrol or Ski Area, and any officers, members, volunteers, agents, and employees thereof which I/we may have arising out of any personal injury, property loss or damage, or any other liability incurred during skiing and related activities of the 2017 Eastern Division Young Adult Training Seminar. As further consideration for being permitted to participate in the 2017 Eastern Division Young Adult Seminar, I, or we on behalf of said minor, hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. and the Eastern Division, Bolton Valley Ski Resort and any and all officers, members, volunteers, agents, and employees thereof from all damages, judgments, expenses (including attorney's fees) and costs whatsoever arising out of any claim or demand by the said minor or by persons acting for or on behalf of said minor in respect of the aforesaid injuries or damages. I also grant permission to the National Ski Patrol to take my photographic image and to use the same for any lawful purposes, including publicity, illustration, advertising and web content.

Participant _____ Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____



Eastern Division Mountain Travel Rescue Challenge

Hosted by Thunderbolt Ski Patrol and Mt Greylock Ski Club on Mt Greylock State Reservation

Sunday, January 26, 2017

(please check the Eastern Division website for any changes)



PURPOSE

- Push instructors and participants beyond standard MTR programming.
- Encourage all to be more efficient and timely employing backcountry skills.
- Improve the efficiency of MTR technicians increasing their skill levels.
- Decrease the chances of injury when traveling in remote areas.
- Increase participation in and visibility of the MTR program.
- Help participants to see skill interconnections creating more rounded skill sets.
- Act as a melting pot for experts drawing people from a large geographic area.
- Exchange of teaching ideas between instructors.
- Make new contacts with likeminded folks.
- Increase visibility and help new programs such as the Nordic Masters Program.

GOALS

- Provide a safe and fun event challenging ski patrollers' skills and physical fitness.
- Promote excellence and reward it through recognition.
- Provide additional challenges beyond Alpine Certified and Nordic Masters Programs.
- Break new ground by piloting not only this program but this multi-disciplinary challenge concept to NSP.

OBJECTIVES

- Fire starting
- Map and compass navigation
- Rope Skills
- Camp stove operation
- Patient access
- Improvised patient transportation
- Backcountry OEC
- Emergency shelter building
- Avalanche beacon search
- Problem solving using ingenuity
- Efficient winter travel (skiing)

EVENT DESCRIPTION

- Timed event on the slopes of Mt. Greylock in western MA.
- Headquarters, registration, start and final destination at Mt. Greylock Ski Club.
- Participants will all start at the same time.
- Climb approximately 4,000' and cover about 11 miles of trail crossing the summit twice.
- Participants will stop and demonstrate skills during the traverse.
- Stations monitored by qualified instructors of appropriate disciplines.
- Participants expected to have well rounded skills.
- All participants will be teamed in groups of two.
- Each participant will be required to have a cell phone and each team will be issued a radio.
- Progress will be monitored as teams proceed to each station.
- Station monitors can report on team progress.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Travel up Roaring Brook Trail to the campgrounds and then to the summit of Mt. Greylock.
- Ski down (conditions permitting) the famous Thunderbolt Ski Trail,
- Climb back up Bellows Pipe Trail to the summit.
- Proceed to the campground and down Stoney Ledge Trail returning to the ski club.
- It is assumed that participants will reach stations at different times.
- Whenever possible provisions will be made to handle more than one team at a time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Participants should be ready for any snow conditions bringing skis and skins, snowshoes, and good winter boots. Most years participants should be able to ski every leg of the route.
- This is not an event that folks can jump into without proper skills and fitness.
- Fitness is up to the participants however, Thunderbolt Patrol and the Eastern Division Staff will offer a number of MTR training classes to support the event. People who attend these classes will have an advantage over those who do not.
- The skill stations will not be tricky in any way but will illicit efficiency in setting up a backpack, abilities, and understanding of personal gear.
- Careful selection of lightweight, multi-use, small form-factor equipment is encouraged. Small, light packs will pay off when traveling between stations.

KEY PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CRAZY IDEA

- Dave Childs, Thunderbolt Patrol Director, thunderboltpatrol@gmail.com
- Steve Devine, Division MTR Coordinator, steve.devine@camfil.com
- Richard Adamczyk, Thunderbolt Patrol.

In Memoriam

CARL SCOTT NEDAL



Carl Scott Nedal (Scotty), 68, of Blakeslee, PA, passed away on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at Lehigh Valley Hospital. Born January 12, 1948 in Philadelphia, PA, he was the son of the late Carl F. and Margaret Dorsey Nedal.

For more than 40 years, he was a member of the National Ski Patrol and was also a ski instructor at Jack Frost/Big Boulder Ski Resorts, where he was a great mentor to many and acquired many friends. He was an OEC instructor

and IT, an alpine toboggan instructor and IT, and both a senior EMM and S&T TE. He was a driving force whose teaching was equal to his performance. Awarded National Appointment #7050 in 1988 he was also the recipient of two Yellow Merit Stars.

Scott always enjoyed the outdoors, landscaping, fishing, and horseback riding, and especially loved being out on his boat. Scott graduated from Neshaminy High School and Pennsylvania Military College, where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Education. He was a High School English Teacher in the Neshaminy School District in Langhorne, PA, retiring after 33 years of service.

Scott will be sadly missed by his only daughter, Kirsten Brie Abrams and his grandson Jaden Noah Abrams-McFarlane, of Mequon, Wisconsin. Also surviving is his sister, Janice Lynn Piechowiak and her husband Wayne of Tampa, FL; two nephews, Jason and Matthew Piechowiak; a niece, Amy Millican; and his companion of many years, Brenda Korpics of Bethlehem.

DAVID PAUL ROWEAN



It is with great sadness that the NH Region reports that one of its longtime ski patrollers has passed. David Paul Rowean, 64, of Frankestown, NH, and a patroller at Cannon Mountain, died Sunday September 11, 2016, at his home with his beloved dog, Tessie, by his side.

David was born September 26, 1951 in Boston, MA, to James F. and Frances A. (Weeks) Rowean.

Joining NSP in 1974, he was a long-time ski patroller who worked at Cannon Mountain, Waterville Valley, Pats Peak, and Crotched Mountain East all in New Hampshire and also Beaver Creek,

Colorado. In 1988 Dave attained Certified #283. He was also a life member of the Professional Ski Patrol Association (PSPA) where he was the past president and first aid chairman. An OEC instructor and instructor trainer, he was an examiner for both NSP and PSPA.

He was a volunteer fireman for the town of Frankestown, NH for over 20 years before his retirement and was a former EMT instructor. David owned and operated Yankee Pools in Frankestown, NH and was in the pool business for over 45 years.

He was survived by his wife, Beverly A. Abbott of Frankestown, NH; sister-in-law Bill-Lee Abbott; mother-in-law Catherine Abbott; one brother, James and his wife Drew Rowean, of Cape Elizabeth ME; one sister, Sherry and her husband Mike Forest of Woburn, MA; two nieces and one nephew.

A celebration of his life was held Sunday, September 18, 2016 at Toll Booth Tavern, at Crotched Mountain Golf Club, Frankestown, NH. Donations may be made in David's name to the Frankestown, NH Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 97 Frankestown, NH 03043.

CLARE D. "PETE" PETERSON



The Brantling Ski Patrol in Sodus, NY, lost a long-time fellow patroller when alumnus Pete Peterson passed away peacefully on October 30, 2016, at the age of 77.

Pete was a member of the National Ski Patrol at Brantling for 37 years from 1977 until his retirement in 2014 and served as Patrol Director from 1983 to 1986. His many contributions to his patrol over the years included service on

the candidate training team, writing the patrol bylaws, recruitment of new candidates, patrol equipment manager, area management liaison, MC for the annual open house fundraising events, renovation of the patrol first aid room, and creator and editor of the patrol's newsletter *The Toboggan*.

Pete was an OEC instructor for many years both at Brantling, where he directed the on-the-hill refreshers, and in the Genesee Valley Region where he taught region-wide candidate classes and refreshers and mentored new OEC instructors. At the region level, he was an Awards Committee member, founded the region newsletter *Valley Views* and served as editor for several years, and was elected Assistant Region Director for three two-year terms from 1991 to 1997.

As a result of his leadership and service to his patrol and region,

he was awarded Leadership Commendation Appointment #2004 in 1992, one of the first patrollers in the nation to receive this honor. Pete was also the official chauffeur of the Genesee Valley Region ferrying many region officers and instructors in the commodious captain's chairs of his conversion van to Eastern Division meetings and Young Adult Patroller Seminars.

Pete was a graduate of Ithaca College, served in the U.S. Army at Fort Devens, MA, and worked for many years at the Xerox Corporation in Rochester, NY. In addition to his many patrol activities, Pete was an avid bicyclist and was proud of the fact that each year he biked his age in miles. He had a role in creating and maintaining the Hojack Biking Trail in Webster, NY, and was a strong supporter of the Genesee Valley Greenway and the Finger Lakes Trail. He was also an inveterate New York Yankee fan and brought many of his fellow fans on annual treks to Yankee Stadium in his conversion van.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane; son Eric; daughters Kristen (Joseph) Becker and Heidi (Richard) Maus; many grandchildren; brother Jeff (Sandy) Harper of Wolcott; sister Becky (Robert) Ceccarelli of North Rose and their families. A memorial service was held on Sunday, November 6, 2016, at the Norton Funeral Home in Wolcott, NY with a reception following the service at the Wolcott Elks Lodge. In lieu of flowers, Pete's wishes were for donations to be made for breast cancer research in honor of his wife.

Pete was a loyal friend, a respected colleague, and a patroller who set an excellent example for candidates and other patrollers to follow. We shall miss his friendship and always remember the fundamental contributions that he made for so many years to ski patrolling and the skiing public.

*Nicholas Schiavetti, Brian Mayou, and Jerry Sherman
Genesee Valley Region*

In Memoriam

KIMBALL WESTNEY "KIM" HOWES



Kimball Westney Howes, a lifelong Florence, MA resident, 89 years young, prominent civic leader and historian passed away peacefully Monday, June 27, 2016, in Greenfield. He was born in Northampton, MA, May 18, 1927, to the late Wallace Addison and Florence Westney Howes.

Kim joined NSP in 1966 serving at Berkshire Snow Basin until it closed and then Berkshire East. He was an active patroller participating in governance and served as the WMASS Region Director for six years. In 1976 he was awarded National Appointment #5014.

He graduated from the Northampton High School in 1944 and received appointment to the United States Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY in May of 1945. He completed his sea duty in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Pacific theaters before graduating in 1948 with a BS in Marine Transportation. He worked for Isthmian S.S. Company as an Engineering Officer and was an active member of the U.S. Navy reserve.

After returning home, Kim attended the University of Vermont where he majored in mechanical engineering with a minor in Engineering Management. He was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, made the Dean's list, and was President of the Fraternity Council and Boulder Men's Honorary Society.

In 1953 he joined the Monsanto Company in Springfield, MA, where he held a variety of management positions. His responsibilities as facilities manager for all phases of a major polymer production plant included labor, financial and external relationships. Significant time was spent in the field of management development and technical recruiting.

Extremely civic minded he served on numerous committees in Northampton, MA He had a very long relationship with the Florence Savings Bank serving on the Board of Trustees overseeing a time of extensive growth for the bank. Kim served as Vice President of the Trustees and continued as an Incorporator for the remainder of his

life. He was a life member and was dedicated to the Hampshire Masonic Lodge.

He had a strong interest in historical preservation serving on the Northampton Historical Commission, Academy of Music Restoration Project. His most astounding accomplishment in historical preservation was his efforts on the Ashfield Historical Society Board of Directors to work to bring together the largest collection of glass plate negatives from photographs taken in the mid-1800s by his relatives the Howes Brothers. He provided a great many lectures on that topic.

A longtime member of the Board of the Hampshire Community United Way, he served as Director, received the Outstanding Volunteer Award, and ultimately had the Howes Volunteer Center named in his honor. He was a member of the Board of the Association for Community Living and the Shriners Hospitals for Children, the Melha Shrine Temple and the Royal Order of Jesters. Closest to his heart was serving as Santa Claus for the Salvation Army each year and performing in the Follies to raise money for the Cooley Dickinson Hospital. He received numerous honors and recognitions including being a recipient of the William Pynchon Award and the Norman H. Drouin Award, the United Way's highest distinguished service award and even had a category for the Paragon Awards named for him.

He met his wife, Ann Fletcher, on a blind date ski trip. They were married on January 28, 1956 and settled in Florence, MA, in the house where Sojourner Truth, a famous anti-slavery and woman's rights lecturer had lived.

Kim leaves Ann, his devoted and loving wife of 60 years. Kimball was the father of three children. His son Kimball Westney Howes II (deceased) shared his love of fishing and hunting. He is survived by his son Paul (Beth) Howes, daughter Florence Howes, grandson Kimball Westney Howes III and granddaughter Kimberlyn Semb. A Service of Remembrance to celebrate his life was held on July 8. The family asks that donations be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104.

