



NEWS RELEASE

National Ski Patrol

70th Anniversary Celebration Honors NSP's Rich History

June 25, 2008—Lakewood, Colorado—NSP members, friends, Board and staff celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the organization at a special evening in Lakewood, Colo., on June 20. More than 100 gathered for the celebration that included guest speakers, a silent auction, and special recognition for some of the organization's brightest contributors.

The evening began with a cocktail reception and an auction with a surprising array of products donated by more than 20 sponsors. The auction was a huge success, raising more than \$3,200 and sending a lucky few home with bounty that included these top prizes:

- Two night's stay at Snowbird's Cliff Lodge: Michael Millin (Eastern Division)
- Hart Fuelie BOSS skis: Rick Hamlin (Eastern Division)
- Salomon 1080 Gun skis: Steve Simi (Far West Division)
- Ten uses of USSA 2008/09 Gold Pass (good for skiing at all U.S. areas): Steve Simi (Far West Division)
- Tecnica Dragon 100 Boots: Larry Stone (Rocky Mountain Division)
- Highgear Altis T1 titanium watches: Cliff Sweetra (Rocky Mountain Division) and Carl Peterson (Rocky Mountain Division)
- Heli skiing with Diamond Peaks Heli-Ski Adventures: Bill Cathey (Northern Division)

NSP Chair Terry LaLiberte and Executive Director Tim White both addressed the crowd, and LaLiberte presented a well-deserved award to NSP Historian Gretchen Besser in recognition of her continued support as the organization's historian for 30 years (and a patroller for almost 40). Later in the evening, Besser gave a great speech about the NSP's roots.

Chuck Schobinger, NSP National Chairman from 1962-1968, also presented an award, this one from the NSP Rocky Mountain Division to former RMD Director Pete Clements to recognize him as "the father of backcountry rescue in the Rocky Mountain Division." The NSP was also honored by the National Ski Areas Association Board with a proclamation noting the significant contributions of the NSP to U.S. ski areas. "The ski resorts would not be enjoying the successes they are were it not for the efforts of the National Ski Patrol," it read.

A highlight of the night was the kickoff the NSP Anniversary Campaign, a five-year fundraising mission that will run through the 75th anniversary of the NSP in 2013. The campaign will play an important role in guiding NSP into the future, and is the first fundraiser to be developed by the NSP in its 70-year history. The goal is to raise \$1 million, and a check was presented for \$31,000 that

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had already been pledged by the time of the banquet.

Special thanks to Hart Axley for the pre-dinner invocation and for serenading the crowd several times. And also for wearing a great, albeit presumably heavy, hat adorned with pins honoring his many years of skiing. And also to event Emcee Dave Esty, NSP national marketing counsel and Sugarbush, Vt., patroller who contributed significantly with his wit and passion for the organization. Finally, special thanks to Jennifer Wesson-Hoon, daughter of George Wesson, one of two members who have been affiliated with the NSP for 70 years. Wesson-Hoon made a special effort to attend the event to speak about her father and his dedication to the NSP.

Thanks to all who attended the 70th Anniversary celebration and to all the suppliers who donated product to the silent auction, as well as to Cascade Toboggan for sponsoring the evening.

About the National Ski Patrol

The National Ski Patrol is a Federally Chartered nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving the public and the mountain recreation industry. For 70 years, the NSP has been at the forefront of safety and emergency care education programs. The association's 27,000 members represent 98 percent of the nation's patrollers. For more information access www.nsp.org.

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