



NEWS RELEASE

National Ski Patrol

Barthel Tapped to Lead New National Women's Program; Cheney Named Assistant

July 23, 2009—Lakewood, Colo.—After a lengthy search and nearly 25 applicants, the National Ski Patrol (NSP) Board of Directors unanimously approved the appointment of Linda Barthel of the Central Division's Mt. Brighton Ski Patrol as advisor to the organization's new National Women's Program. Barthel assumed the role on July 1.

"Linda is extremely qualified for this new position," said Search Committee Chair Larry Bost. "She brings not only excitement and enthusiasm to the role but also nearly two decades of leadership and management expertise. Linda is committed to building a dynamic program that will enhance the skills and opportunities of women throughout the National Ski Patrol."

A certified patroller who holds National Appointment #9268, Barthel has been contributing to the NSP at the local, regional and divisional levels since 1993. She is currently the senior/national patroller rep and Senior Program advisor to Mt. Brighton, an OEC instructor and instructor trainer (IT) and an Alpine Toboggan instructor and IT, and holds PSIA level III certification. She's had numerous past leadership positions and regional advisory roles, and has been instrumental in the development of various programs, including the Mt. Brighton Junior Program, the launch of the Central Division Women's Program and the Central Division *Senior Manual*.

"What an exciting opportunity to spearhead a Women's Program for the National Ski Patrol," said Barthel. "In 1999, during a local on-hill refresher, I had the experience of working with a group that was just women. I realized there was a special kind of dynamic that evolves when women work together with a common objective, especially in a skill-based environment. I look forward to helping create a program in which the focus is the end-user; one they feel has value."

Assisting Barthel is Denise Cheney of Colorado's Loveland Basin Ski Patrol in the Rocky Mountain Division, who's been named assistant program administrator. Cheney, a 10-year NSP member, also brings a range of skills and experiences, and has been instrumental as RMD recruitment and retention coordinator since 2001. Cheney also coordinates the annual RMD Women's Ski and Toboggan seminars.

The National Women's Program was created to determine and meet the needs of female patrollers throughout the NSP. Objectives include creating a database of trainers and examiners qualified to conduct women's clinics at regional and divisional levels, identifying equipment manufacturers that produce quality products for female patrollers, and soliciting information from various sources that will be beneficial to female patrollers and providing these materials to the membership. Barthel and Cheney's first priorities will be to create a committee to determine the needs of individual divisions.

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