



NEWS RELEASE

National Ski Patrol

Sold-Out Patroller Education Conference Earns High Marks

April 22, 2009—Lakewood, Colorado—The 2009 NSP Patroller Education Conference took place in Snowbird, Utah, from April 15-17, and received high marks from the enthusiastic group of NSP members who attended. The sold-out event provided a diverse slate of on-snow and classroom sessions and addressed topics ranging from toboggan handling and ski safety to avalanche rescue, young adult patrol programs and helmet use.

“Our goal was to create an improved conference with more programming and more opportunities to share patrolling experiences and exchange ideas,” said NSP Executive Director Tim White. “The conference was a significant success. We enjoyed a large turnout, great snow, high-caliber speakers and on-mountain programs that were challenging and well attended.”

Two hundred and sixty people representing all 11 NSP divisions, including the European and Pro, attended the event along with special guests from the Canadian Ski Patrol System, the Association of Pro Patrollers and the National Ski Areas Association. In addition to the wide range of clinics and sessions, the NSP Board held its mid-winter meeting during the conference, and most Board members and national program directors were present.

“The NSP staff did a great job putting the conference together, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, both in sessions and on the hill,” said NSP Board Chair Terry LaLiberte. “The accommodations were first rate, the price was right and the programs were very good. We can see that this type of conference is worthwhile, and an event that our members will attend.”

Other highlights of the event included the first annual Patroller Challenge and a trade show/exhibit area that showcased 11 supplier companies. The Patroller Challenge pitted seven three-man teams against one another in an on-hill medical scenario and toboggan handling contest. The winners—Galen Parke, Tyler Hartz and Chas Yonce from the Intermountain Division—were honored at an awards ceremony and each took home more than \$1,000 in prizes along with the Patroller Challenge Victory Cup, which they’ll keep until the next Challenge.

In addition to educational sessions and patroller camaraderie, conference attendees also pledged \$7,465 to the NSP Anniversary Campaign, a five-year fundraising campaign with the goal to raise \$1 million for NSP programs by 2013, and purchased an additional \$1,380 in raffle tickets that will also benefit the Campaign.

The NSP will use feedback from PEC attendees to help shape future programs and consider modifications, including expanded exhibitor presence and additional programming. More information about the 2009 event will be available in the summer issue of *Ski Patrol Magazine* or is available through the NSP.

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