

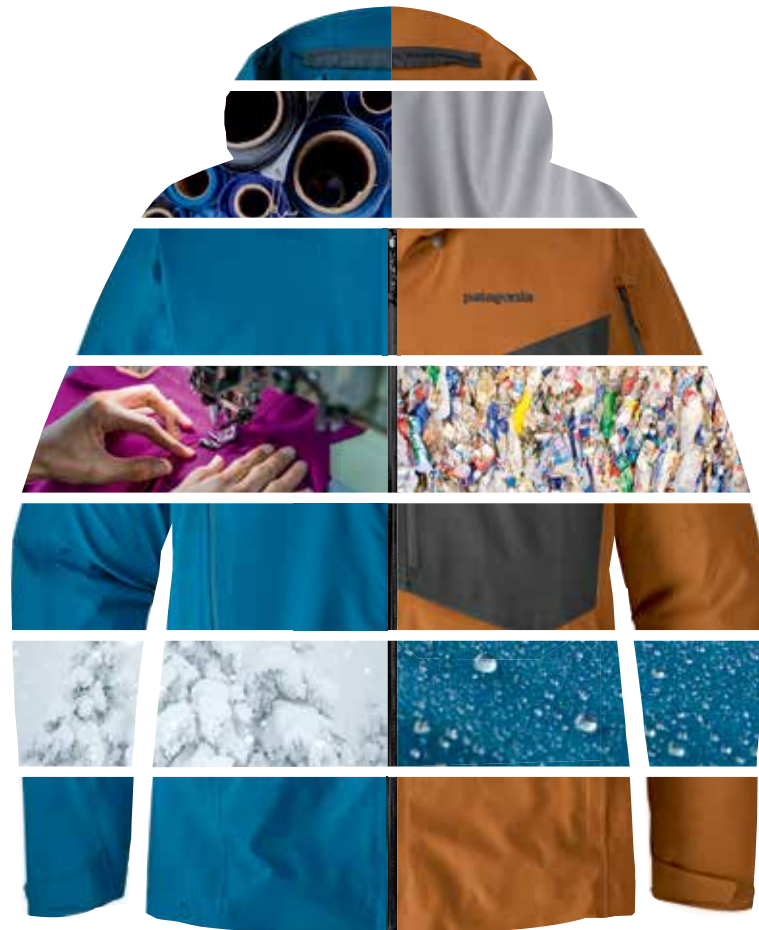


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Official Publication of the National Ski Patrol
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BY CANDACE HORGAN

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The biennial Fédération Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski Congress was held in Bariloche, Argentina, in September 2019. Over 100 patrollers from around the world descended on the resort to celebrate patrolling.

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77 MEET NSP OEC PROGRAM DIRECTOR WILLIAM DEVARNEY

BY CANDACE HORGAN

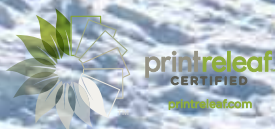
New NSP OEC Program Director Bill Devarney previously chaired the OEC Refresher Committee, and he has a lot to tackle as NSP prepares to release a new OEC textbook.

Cover photo: Will Bruce
Left photo: Dave Engle
Photo above: Justin Watters



The image on page 85 of the fall 2019 *Ski Patrol Magazine* misidentified Eastern Division Nordic Supervisor Phil Galka as Mike Balk. SPM apologizes for the error.

The image on page 114 of the fall 2019 *Ski Patrol Magazine* that was identified as John Vande Castle was actually of George Preston. SPM apologizes for the error.



NATIONAL SKI PATROL MEMBER BENEFITS

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ski patrol magazine

Editor
Candace Horgan
editor@nsp.org

Advertising/Sponsorships
Matt Mears
mmears@nsp.org

Design and Production
Agnieszka Hansen
hansengraphic@gmail.com

Contributors
Chuck Allen, Myron Allen, Marc Barlage, Will Bruce, Bill Devarney, Josie Elting, Laura Friesell, Doug Ginley, Rick Hamlin, Kimberly Henneman, Doug Hill, John Kane, Rick Knight, Meegan Moszynski, Rena Perkins, Mike Schons, Beckett Stokes, Eryka Thorley, Tim Viall, Dick Woolf, Stephanie Zavislan

NSP National Chair
Rick Knight

NSP Board of Directors
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Marc Barlage: OET
Chris Brodersen: Certified
Ed Carlson: Avalanche
Bill DeVarney: OEC
Doug Ginley: Instructor Development
Mark Petrozzi: Outdoor Risk Management
Rick Shandler: Nordic

National Alumni Advisor
Tim Viall

National Awards Advisor
Jerry Sherman

National Historian
Rick Hamlin

National Legal Advisor
Chuck Lollar

National Medical Advisor
Charles Allen, D.O.

National Safety Team Advisor
Mike Husar

National Telecommunications Advisor
Dick Woolf

National Women's Advisor
Tanya Thomas

National Young Adult Advisor
Jason Tamulen

National Office Staff

Meegan Moszynski
Executive Director

Bill Finley
Finance and Operations Director

Matt Mears
Sales and Partnerships Director

Beckett Stokes
Marketing and Communications Director

Steven Binns
Marketing Manager

Kate Blanton
Education Records Specialist

Will Bruce
Brand Manager

Charles Buckman
Registration Manager

Carrie Bulman
Member Services Manager

Juliann Hudson
Senior Accountant

Anna Lindsey
Office Manager and Executive Assistant

Cheri Overton
Alumni and Awards Manager

Geoff Peck
Partnerships Manager

Jeffrey Teft
E-Commerce Accountant

Rob Wilcox
Warehouse Manager

Stephanie Zavislan
Accountant



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Letters

from the Editor

By Candace Horgan, Editor



Winter got off to a quick start here in Colorado, as we had two snowstorms in a matter of a week in late October. So far at least, as I write this, the winter is shaping up to be a good one, with plenty of white gold to harvest. I hope all of you are already enjoying winter's bounty as you kick back and read this issue.

First, you will notice that there has been a change in the publication format, as the magazine's page width is slightly smaller. This change will balance budgetary needs with the desire to best showcase all of what makes NSP the organization it is via articles, features, and program pieces. If you have any feedback on the change, please email editor@nsp.org.

When the snow flies in bunches, as it did during the 2018-19 season, ski area guests are usually at their most happy, and it makes interacting with them all the more enjoyable. However, the professionalism of NSP members comes out when the guests aren't having a good day, either because conditions aren't great and patrollers need to take extra care to promote safe skiing and riding, or because the guests are hurt. This issue spotlights the 2019 NSP National Outstanding Awards winners. These patrollers represent seven of the NSP divisions, and we want to extend our gratitude to them for their work on the hill.

It seems that change is always an aspect of what patrolling is about, whether it's weather changes, gear changes, medical changes, or staffing. This issue is all about change. First, we want to introduce you to the five new staff members who joined NSP's Lakewood office in the first part of the year. We are sure you will enjoy the work they produce and how they will help you, the NSP members, when you need them.

Next, NSP's flagship OEC Program is undergoing change. The sixth edition of *Outdoor Emergency Care* will be published in the first half of next year. We have an FAQ in this issue that answers some of the most common questions patrollers have about the new edition of NSP's flagship text.

The OEC Program also saw two new leaders step in, as William Devarney took over as NSP National OEC Program director, and Dr. Chuck Allen took on the role of NSP medical advisor. *Ski Patrol Magazine* interviews both in this issue to get a deeper dive into how they came to their positions and what they hope to do as they help launch the newest edition of OEC.

One new feature we are launching with this issue is the publication of a condensed version of NSP's annual report. This will help provide a more in-depth review of the operations of the NSP to show members how your dues are helping promote NSP's mission.

In 2018, the NSP became a member of the International Commission on Alpine Rescue (see "Nordic: NSP joins ICAR," *Ski Patrol Magazine*, vol. 36, issue 2). The annual ICAR Congress provides an outstanding opportunity for NSP members to participate in a global gathering of alpine rescue professionals. NSP National Mountain Travel and Rescue Program Director Myron Allen attended the 2019 Congress in Poland and writes about his experiences in this issue.

Also on the docket for global gatherings was the biennial Fédération Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski Congress, which was held in September 2019 in Bariloche, Argentina. Over 100 patrollers from around the world participated this year. The next FIPS Congress will be in April 2021 in La Plagne, France, so start planning now!

Our regular columnists, Eryka Thorley and Kimberly Henneman, are also back in this issue. Thorley profiles International Division Director Micaela Saeftel in her "From the Director's Chair" column, while Henneman offers more tips and tricks to take care of your furry friends.

As always, thanks for all you do out on the hill. Hopefully, our ski paths will cross again soon, preferably in hip-deep powder! +



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Myron Allen

Myron Allen, the national program director for the Mountain Travel and Rescue Program, began patrolling in 1994 with Medicine Bow Nordic and Snowy Range Alpine ski patrols. He is an Outdoor Emergency Care, MTR, Level 2 Avalanche, and Nordic instructor who achieved Nordic Master Number 012. He is also a member of the high-angle rescue team for Albany County (Wyoming) Sheriff's Search and Rescue. With his wife, Adele, he enjoys mountaineering in the Wind River Range, Tetons, Colorado Rockies, and North Cascades. When not in the mountains, he is a math professor at the University of Wyoming.



Josie Elting

Josie was born in Spokane, Washington, and now resides in Eugene, Oregon. She joined the National Ski Patrol in 1993 as a Nordic patroller candidate with the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol (WBSP), beginning many years of volunteer service with the U.S. Forest Service and NSP. She served as registrar, awards director, and patrol director with WBSP and currently is the patrol advisor. She also served the Oregon Region as region director, awards advisor, and on special projects. On the Pacific Northwest Division board, she served as the Northeast Section chief, registrar, and Alumni Program director. She previously served as the NSP National Alumni advisor. Her awards include a Gold Star for NSP National Outstanding Nordic Patroller.



Kim Henneman

Dr. Kim Henneman is a Utah Wasatch Range native. She moved to the Midwest to get her veterinary medical degree from Purdue, but quickly moved back to Utah for the outdoor life. She became certified in acupuncture and chiropractic in the early 1990s and worked on her first avalanche dog shortly thereafter. She has helped form the new specialty discipline of canine sports medicine and rehabilitation. As a veterinarian who is board-certified in both dogs and horses, Dr. Henneman currently writes and gives workshops all over the world, consults regularly with avalanche and SAR dogs, and helps canine athletes competing in numerous disciplines, including as a multi-year Iditarod trail veterinarian. Her goal is to bring knowledge from every discipline to help active dogs everywhere.



Douglas Hill

Doug Hill has served for 35 years on the Big Bear Ski Patrol in Southern California. He is the current Instructor Development Program administrator for the Southern California Region and serves on the NSP National Instructor Development Committee. He is also an Instructor Development instructor and instructor trainer. He served as the patrol representative at Snow Summit for six years. Hill, a contributor to *Outdoor Emergency Care*, 4th ed., was the Outdoor Emergency Care Program supervisor for the Far West Division for five years and the OEC Program administrator for the Southern California Region. He received an NSP Distinguished Service Award in 2007.



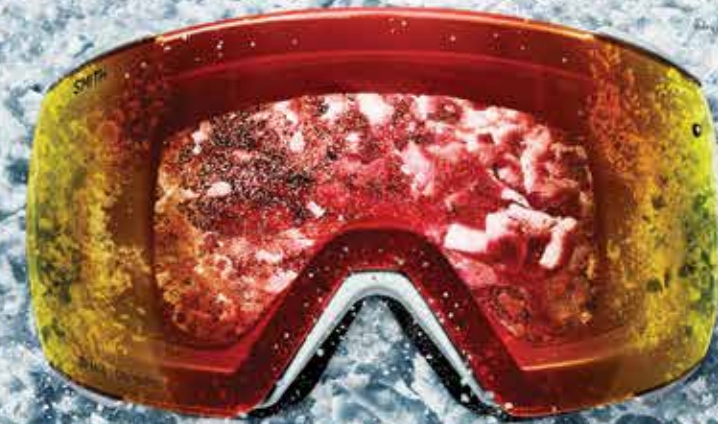
Rena Perkins

Rena Perkins has been a member of NSP since 1998 and has served as a paid and volunteer patroller at Smugglers' Notch and Jay Peak. She is now the region director for the Northern Vermont Region, where she lives with her 11-year-old daughter, 5-year-old yellow lab, and a killer view of the Green Mountains. In her free time, Rena works as a registered nurse and serves as an EMT on her local rescue squad, but patrolling remains her priority and her "real job." When her daughter announced that she wanted to be a patroller when she grew up, Rena shook her head and sighed, "Sorry, kiddo, you can't do both."



Eryka Thorley

A native of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Eryka Thorley first headed to the mountains for college at Montana State and has since hailed the West as home. Fifteen years ago, at Big Sky Ski Resort in Montana, she first began her ski patrol career, from which she recently retired. She lives with her husband, Jake, who is currently a ski patroller, and daughter, Wynter, in Nederland, Colorado. Thorley teaches avalanche courses in the Rocky Mountains and organizes hiking trips in the Alps for Alpinehikers, a U.S.-based company.



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From the of Meegan Moszynski

Thank you, Lakewood!

As I write this, the winter season is almost in full swing. Many areas in Colorado opened record-early this year due to some impressive October storms, cold temps, and favorable snowmaking conditions. There is already snow on the ground in Lakewood, and the excitement for ski season is in the air. NSP members are emerging from their summer activities and engaging with the national office to get ready for the upcoming season. This is busy time for us, and it's exciting!

In my third year at NSP, I have become increasingly proud of the Lakewood staff. As a group of 17 people, we support over 31,000 members who are attending refreshers, updating their profiles, joining rosters, and paying dues all at the same time. We have an absolutely incredible team who are able to multitask and accommodate hundreds of questions and concerns each week to get our members all set for the season. From course closures to updating rosters to re-emailing cards, they do it all. Amid the frenzy, they love talking to members, hearing about their experiences, and solving their questions.

Our busiest employees in the fall are those who work in member services, member records and registration, and the NSP Online Store and partnerships. Each morning, member services and member records face almost 100 emails and a dozen phone calls that all need urgent responses. They handle the needs of our members with grace and professionalism. When they encounter an issue that is unsolvable or merits further conversation with other staff members, we all put our heads together to figure out how best to solve the issue. We recently instituted several system updates that have helped with reports and access. There is still room for improvement, and we are working to bring those changes to you soon.

Around early- to mid-October, our warehouse receives all patrol uniforms, equipment, medical supplies, accessories, and streetwear sold through the NSP Online Store. We want to process these shipments as soon as possible in order to make the products available to members right away. It's a fun time of year to be knee deep in gear! This is when we are reminded about how many amazing partners we have at NSP and the incredible products that we are able to make available to our members through these relationships.

The rest of the staff has been hard at work too. Our finance department closes out the previous year and completes our audit, our fundraising staff works to promote end-of-year giving initiatives for NSP and local patrols, our marketing department continues to enhance our brand awareness through appearances at several Warren Miller movie premieres and by providing new tools like the NSP recruitment kit, and our alumni manager works with patrols and individuals to grow our alumni numbers through members who may no longer be patrolling or hosting this season.



This season has been one of transition for many folks at the national office. While we wish the best for those who move on to new places and positions, the change provides us the opportunity to optimize each person's role and bring in fresh perspectives. We recently brought in strong new talent to our education, marketing, and administrative departments, and I am confident the team will continuously provide great benefits and service to NSP's members.

As you read this issue's synopsis of our fiscal year 2019 annual report, you will notice that about 80 percent of NSP patrollers and hosts are volunteers. Outside of the national office, the entirety of NSP's national leadership structure — our national board, division directors, program directors and advisors, and beyond — is made up of volunteers. We are a unique organization to have that many volunteers in leadership roles. The amount of time and dedication required of these roles is incredible, and all members are grateful for the devotion and expertise that these volunteers put forth to lead the organization.

In addition to our national volunteer leadership, I hope you will join me in extending a huge thank you to my team in Lakewood. These dedicated employees are the grease behind the operations and sustainability of NSP. Their devotion to their work and belief in NSP's mission is paramount to our success as a membership organization. We cannot be successful without them, and I am so happy they are part of our little Lakewood NSP family.

Thank you all for all you do. Cheers to another great winter! +

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Chatting with the

A short look back

BY RICK KNIGHT, NSP BOARD CHAIR



As we start 2020, I am stepping back. I informed the NSP board that I would not run for chair again, and by now there is a new chairperson. I still have another year on the board, and I hope to continue to contribute, but the reins are now held by someone else.

I wanted to look back to see what we have accomplished in the two years I have been chair. I will not attempt to take credit for any of this, as everything the board, the division directors, our program personnel, and the staff accomplishes is a team effort. I will say the team is working amazingly well together.

Among the administrative matters we addressed were creating committees and addressing Code of Conduct complaints. All complaints that came before the board to the date this was written have been resolved. We have opened certain awards to alumni members and selected a new Awards advisor, legal advisor, Young Adult Program advisor, Alumni advisor, and Safety Team advisor. We renamed the European Division to the International Division to be inclusive of all the patrols in the division. We also clarified our conflict of interest policy and rewrote our Code of Conduct procedures, making them more easily understood and followed. Lastly, we completed a member survey and have analyzed the results to see how we can best react to what we have learned.

We provided harassment training for the board of directors and division directors to improve their awareness and sensitivity about this important issue. Each division director was encouraged to push the training down to their division and encourage region directors to do the same.

We updated the *NSP Policies and Procedures* to include many changes that had been approved by the board that were not yet included in the P&P. We also updated the process to ensure that changes are made to the P&P as they are approved by the board. This forces the board to address the details of how we will rewrite the P&P to address any new changes.

We moved our investments to a new investment adviser and rewrote our investment guidelines to be slightly less conservative, allowing our investment returns to improve.

We modified the affiliate and associate dues structures to provide more funding to the divisions to support training requirements. We reorganized the Safety Team, recognizing the importance of safety to our organization. We approved transition requirements for our new spinal motion restriction protocols, and we refined the Aid Room Module course and clarified the Senior patroller requirements.

We required the ICS 100 FEMA course for all patrollers to meet the

requirements for first responders and to allow us to speak the same language if we are required to work with other first responders in an incident command situation that impacts our service areas.

We renewed our memorandum of understanding between the NSP and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). This is important, as many of our ski patrols work on USFS land.

We also completed a memorandum of understanding between the NSP and the Association of Professional Patrollers (APP) that specifies what patrollers must do to obtain reciprocity with each organization.

We worked with the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) to accept their patrollers, developing criteria for these patrollers when IMBA decided to refocus their efforts on other aspects of mountain biking. This has been a very positive relationship for both organizations. Along this line, we also created a new classification of bike hosts to allow bike members with Outdoor First Care to join our organization.

We agreed to join a committee from the National Ski Areas Association to update lift evacuation procedures. More recently, we have agreed to work with NSAA to create a publication, co-authored by NSAA and NSP, providing a guide to how ski areas could set up their lift evacuation procedures. This process is well underway, and again it is something our ski areas have been asking for.

We embraced EMT patrollers who did not have OEC, creating a modified challenge for those who have patrolled as non-NSP members to challenge the OEC evaluation to meet the requirement. EMTs, advanced EMTs, and paramedics new to patrolling can also join NSP through this modified challenge.

We clarified the requirements to add a new program and tested it by adding the exciting new Outdoor Risk Management Program (ORM). We identified the charter program director for ORM and

started identifying the original program supervisors for each division. This is the first new program in as long as I can remember and is a program wanted by our ski areas. It is something we are eminently qualified to be involved with.

We changed the NSP Bylaws to identify the Education Committee as a standing committee to recognize how important this committee is to the NSP. This committee has driven the efforts to identify training for any patroller working with young adult patrollers and with young athletes engaged in interstate competitions. They created a new leadership course and updated the Patroller 101 course.

We updated the strategic plan to refine our objectives, and the staff is working out the details of how to break each objective down to milestones and measure our performance against these objectives. We now require all programs and advisers to set objectives for their programs annually. This pushes programs to think ahead about how they can do a better job and supports our strategic objective of making our programs the gold standard of training.

Lastly, we created a Business Process Committee to begin the process of organizing and streamlining our processes across the NSP. The first effort was to attempt to make all programs consistent across the country. This reduces the number of courses offered and ensures that each program is administered in the same way across all divisions. This committee should simplify processes and procedures, allowing us to automate our processes more efficiently.

Our leadership team is pleased with these accomplishments, and I hope all of you are as well. The entire team of board members, division directors, program directors, and Meegan Moszynski and her staff are all working very well to move our organization forward smoothly. I am very proud to have been a part of the team that has moved us forward so significantly over the past couple years.

I look forward to continuing to contribute for another year as a board member. After that, I look forward to going back to hauling sleds and focusing on more local things. Thank you for your support throughout my term. +



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OFFICE VISITORS



TOM BARRY, OF THE OBER GATLINBURG SKI PATROL IN TENNESSEE, VISITED ON AUG. 23, 2019.



PETER MUSKAT AND KELLEY CREAMER, OF THE BOGUS BASIN SKI PATROL IN IDAHO, VISITED ON NOV. 13, 2019.



GARY FIALA, OF THE ELDORA SKI PATROL IN COLORADO, VISITED ON OCT. 29, 2019.



DONNA GARDINO, OF THE FAIRBANKS SKI PATROL IN ALASKA, VISITED ON SEPT. 17, 2019.



CAILEIN MACDOUGALL, OF THE GORE MOUNTAIN SKI PATROL IN NEW YORK, VISITED ON MARCH 17, 2019.



MICHAEL NAROG, OF THE WELCH VILLAGE SKI PATROL IN MINNESOTA, AND HIS WIFE, MARY JANE, VISITED ON APRIL 8, 2019.



CHRIS OLEJNIK, AN ALUMNI MEMBER FROM CHEYENNE, WYOMING, VISITED ON NOV. 16, 2016.



DAN AND TINA THALACKER, OF THE ALPINE VALLEY EAST SKI PATROL IN MICHIGAN, AND THEIR SON, NICK, VISITED ON MARCH 19, 2019.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS VISITED THE NATIONAL SKI PATROL OFFICE IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. IF YOU'RE IN THE AREA, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO STOP BY!

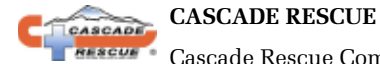


CENTRAL DIVISION

Events showcase Central Division's diversity

New and renewing partners

The following company just started its partnership with the National Ski Patrol. Welcome!



Cascade Rescue Company manufactures the highest quality, most durable, reliable, and technologically advanced rescue gear for those who risk their lives to save others. Cascade Rescue makes the rescue equipment that patrollers know they can trust. Since 1962, Cascade products have proven themselves over the years to be the best in the business. Cascade Rescue continues to seek out ways to improve on their existing excellence so that they can provide you with the best gear possible!



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Since 1958 and the development of the first aluminum ski pole, SCOTT Sports has been an industry leader in technology, innovation, and

design. As a proud partner of the NSP, Scott's goal is to provide NSP members with the best equipment available on the market so they can perform their jobs day in and day out.



Founded in 2003, Keen is a brand born for life outside. They are committed to producing innovative and high-quality footwear products, while also being a change engine for good business. Keen is committed to making the world a better place than they found it. They accomplish this by giving back, taking action, and reducing their impact.

DUCKWORTH DUCKWORTH

The National Ski Patrol is proud to continue its partnership with Duckworth. Duckworth is the world's only source-verified, single-origin, Merino wool apparel company. Duckworth is on a mission to resurrect the lost art and craft of American wool. All products are 100 percent Made-in-USA. +

The Central Division opened in early November for the 2019-20 season. For some resorts, this was the earliest start date ever! Please check out the Central Division Facebook page with the photos and links from when each resort came online.

With the ski season starting, one would think that the biking season would be winding down. Not here! In Northern Michigan Region, the Iceman Cometh Challenge bike event proved that the Iceman did come! There were 4,000 participants in the race that travels 30 miles from the Kalkaska City Airport across two tracks and trails all the way to Traverse City. Division staff member Dick Jacques, along with the members of the Schuss Mountain Ski Patrol, provided several folks for medical support along the snow-covered route.

This was not the only bike event of late here in Central Division. Eastern Michigan Region's Vito Manzella, the bike patrol advisor and a member of the Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association and Patrol, was appointed a member of the planning committee for the Tour de Troit. This bike ride event rode through historic Detroit and also had 4,000 participants, including a number of patrollers from around the division. Vito organized the medic support throughout the event, utilizing ski and bike patrollers from across the division. Thanks to Vito's efforts, the NSP is now a standing partner for this annual bike event.

Not only are bike events taking off big here in Central Division, we were invited and participated in an event with Homeland Security, local law enforcement, EMS, and hospitals from around Oakland County in the Eastern Michigan Region. The event was a full-scale complex coordinated attack on three different locations simultaneously within the county. It was an amazing event, and we had members from multiple regions across the division participate, even from as far away as Wisconsin!

We had the unique opportunity to see ICS 100 in action, and what we did learn in the after-action debriefing was that the use of plain language, as required in ICS 100, was not so plain, as the EMS crews pointed out. The other organizations also had the opportunity to take advantage of our NSP expertise, as we provided members from Michigan Adaptive Sports, enabling local agencies to learn how to deal with the blind and mobility-challenged guests. The realism was unbelievable, as shown in the photos.

Everyone is looking forward to and hoping for a great season here in Central, so if you're traveling through please stop by one of our many resorts and join us for a day (or evening) of fun!

Mike Schons
Central Division director



From L-R: Mike Schons, Vito Manzella, and Brad Metzger.



Eastern Michigan Region Assistant Director Nancy Trout before the action begins.



Mike Schons with NSP members from Western Michigan Region.



Pine Knob patroller Kelly Trinklein showing off her "gunshot wound."

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EASTERN DIVISION

Boston Ski & Ride Expo 2019

The Boston Ski & Ride Expo finished its last year at the Seaport's World Trade Center in South Boston this year. It will be at the Hines Auditorium in the Back Bay of Boston next year and for the foreseeable future.

This show was the busiest I've seen in the many years I have been doing this. Bernie Vallee and his setup crew (me included) did another phenomenal job in making the NSP booth one of the most visited on the floor. As in past years, the centerpiece was the NSP Subaru with the NSP banners in the

background. The new Subaru color scheme was a big hit with our own NSP visiting patrollers, and it also created a big draw for potential new NSP members.

Starting Thursday, we had patrollers from the Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, and Maine regions visiting and working the booth. I had the opportunity to visit the NSP booth on Saturday and Sunday until the show closed. We had a lot of interested skiers/riders and

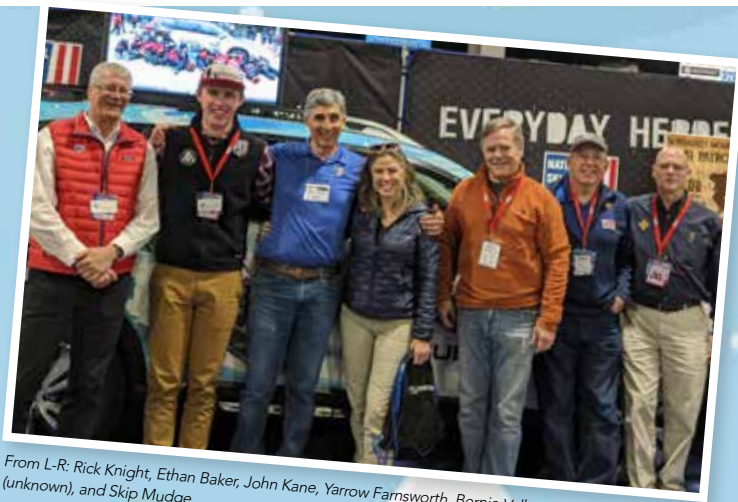
bikers come by the booth, where we got to talk about what we do, answer some of the "Service and Safety" questions, and hand out some NSP swag!

It is incredibly enjoyable to interface with our skiing and riding public. We had a lot of young adults interested in joining the NSP at resorts all over the Eastern Division. It was a great turnout!

John Kane
Eastern Division director



Show guests visiting the NSP booth.



From L-R: Rick Knight, Ethan Baker, John Kane, Yarrow Farnsworth, Bernie Vallee, (unknown), and Skip Mudge.



Answering questions about ski patrol from interested young prospects.



Guests taking a shot with the NSP Subaru.



From L-R: Scott Crofts, Nicholas Crofts, Craig Larson and his daughter, Bernie Vallee, and Andy Bell.

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PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

Flight For Life® Colorado Search and Rescue Conference celebrates 10th anniversary



Group photo after the mock rescue. Photo by Candace Horgan.

Over the weekend of Sept. 27-29, 2019, over 120 search and rescue responders from all over the state of Colorado, both in the mountains and plains, converged on Colorado Mountain College in Breckenridge for the 10th annual Colorado Search and Rescue Conference (SARCON).

The keynote speaker this year was Ethan Greene of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. Greene's presentation looked at the historic avalanche cycle of March 2019 that saw huge avalanches across the state.

After the success of the "track" style event in 2018, the SARCON Planning Committee turned to this method when planning for the 2019 conference and first started meeting in January 2019. Ultimately, it was decided to again offer Friday afternoon outdoor sessions, four tracks on Saturday mixed with all-participant sessions, and two tracks for Sunday.

Friday's lab sessions ran concurrently from 2-4 p.m., and participants could only choose from one of three. The first offering was an avalanche transceiver session conducted by avalanche expert and former Loveland patroller Dale Atkins in the nearby Frisco Transceiver Park, a new avalanche transceiver park in town that enables backcountry users to practice beacon searching techniques. Atkins was assisted by Scott Messina of Mountain Rescue Aspen. On nearby Swan Mountain Road, an outdoor rescue session using PikeNPivot litters for vertical rescue proved popular. The final showpiece session for Friday afternoon was medical using Flight For Life®'s mobile simulation lab, which contains simulation manikins



Giving a pediatric patient oxygen during the fire-based MCI scenario Saturday. Photo by Candace Horgan.

that can actually be controlled remotely to conduct patient conversations between the operator and the practitioner. That manikin also allows for IV insertion, fluid resuscitation, breath sounds, heart sounds, and much more. This session proved very popular.

Saturday's mostly indoor sessions kicked off with a talk about the future of search and rescue in Colorado from Jeff Sparhawk of Rocky Mountain Rescue Group. Sparhawk is the current president of the Colorado Search and Rescue board of directors. Interestingly, like ski patrol the average age of volunteers offering search and rescue service is increasing. Since 2000, the average age at which volunteers start search and rescue with the Alpine Rescue Team out of Evergreen, Colorado, has increased from 28.3 years old to 39.6 years old, and the average age of a team member currently sits at 52.2 years old.

A recent survey in Colorado showed that the 2,800 SAR volunteers contribute 500,000 hours annually, a dollar contribution of approximately \$10 million. The outdoor recreation industry contributes



Evacuating a patient during the Sunday scenario. Photo by Candace Horgan.



Flight For Life® Colorado Flight Nurse Chelsea Hetzel teaching a session on pelvic injuries. Photo by Candace Horgan.

\$62.5 billion overall to Colorado's economy, yet search and rescue members, like ski patrollers, often spend up to a thousand dollars annually of their own money on training, driving, and supplies, and this is making it harder to attract members. One consideration being floated is to include a reimbursement for expenses for equipment.

Other suggestions include the possibility of a pension for volunteers; this has been adopted in nearby Wyoming. Other "retirement benefits" are also being floated. Also of note is the availability of mental health services for team members to take advantage of after difficult calls, child-care services so that members can attend meetings, and a stipend for state coordinators who spend thousands of hours of their time working to make SAR teams successful.

The tracks throughout the day roughly focused on operations, other technical aspects of rescue, and two tracks for medical topics. One of the interesting technical sessions in the morning was on underwater remote operated vehicles. This was

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION



Abdominal "evisceration" during the mock rescue Sunday. Photo by Candace Horgan.



From L-R: Jeff Sparhawk, George Janson, and Patrick Caulfield as Hanson receives the J. Hunter Holloway Spirit Award for Colorado Search and Rescue. Photo by Candace Horgan.

conducted by the Summit County Water Rescue Team and Summit County Sheriff's Office and showcased resources available for water rescue. This is the only underwater ROV in Colorado, and it could prove a valuable resource.

Other fascinating sessions included hoist rescue, GPS navigation, helicopter risk management, and one led by Atkins titled "Improving Avalanche Rescue: Ski Patrol and SAR working together."

The medical tracks featured lectures for one session followed by hands-on for second sessions. For instance, in the first morning session Flight For Life® Colorado Flight Nurse Chelsea Hetzel presented on flying pelvic and abdominal injuries and how the Flight For Life® team treats them while en route to the hospital. After that, there were hands-on sessions for junctional packing later in the morning and a pelvic hemorrhage control hands-on station in the afternoon.

The mobile simulation lab was used for a morning session on airway management where Flight For Life® Flight Nurse Brian Hendrix ran a scenario based on



Stabilizing a patient during the mock rescue Sunday. Photo by Candace Horgan.

anaphylaxis using the sim man in one room that required aggressive airway management up to intubation, while in the other room of the trailer Candace Horgan ran participants through more basic airway interventions, allowing participants to practice BVM ventilations, supraglottic airway devices, and oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal airway management.

One theme of the conference this year was how people can learn from their mistakes and their successes. Just prior to lunch, a "Humblers" medical session convened a panel of various instructors at the conference to talk about incidents from which they had learned something that made them better patient care providers. The panel included Hendrix and Horgan, Dr. Jeremy Dewall, Flight For Life® Flight Paramedic Chad Miller, Flight For Life® Flight Nurse Kristin Lodmill, and Kat Pedersen of Cripple Creek Fire Department. This session evolved into a group discussion where participants asked questions and shared their own stories.

In the afternoon, Flight For Life® team members continued the humblers track with one on helicopter and aviation incidents where something went wrong. At the same time, DeWall and Pedersen started their two-session presentation on burn care, carbon monoxide poisoning, and respiratory emergencies from smoke exposure. After the classroom presentation, the group moved outdoors for a mock fire-based mass casualty incident that ultimately had five patients that needed to be managed, including one who was hidden in a vehicle. This patient had driven to the site of the "campsite" to warn a group of an approaching fire before succumbing to carbon monoxide. This session ended with



Evacuating a patient during the fire-based MCI scenario Saturday. Photo by Candace Horgan.

a debrief about what was learned in such a chaotic scene.

Sunday's session included a presentation on mental health and community crisis support from Laura McGladrey that was broken into two parts, one on stress injuries in rescue culture and one on psychological first aid and critical incident support in search and rescue. As demonstrated in the fall issue of *Ski Patrol Magazine*, this topic is gaining traction in the rescue community.

The other Sunday session was the mock rescue, which in this case involved five patients initially from a party in the woods gone wrong. Among the injuries treated were a snake bite, an opioid overdose, pulmonary edema, and two traumas. Because the team worked so efficiently at finding, treating, and transporting the patients, the session managers decided to work something extra in, having one of the team members have a hypoglycemic episode while returning toward the scene. This patient had to be found near the end of the scenario, showcasing how important it is to keep a tally of the number of rescuers. A separate mock rescue was more technically oriented, involving hoists and lowers of two patients. As always, at the end a Flight For Life® helicopter landed, and the participants got practice on giving handoff reports to the arriving flight team.

The Search and Rescue Conference continues to grow and improve. In January 2020, the SARCON Planning Committee will again meet to look at topics for the 11th annual conference. Stay tuned for details on Flight For Life® Colorado's website, as well as from the NSP.

Candace Horgan



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Mt. Crescent Ski Patrol practices MCI drill

Mt. Crescent Ski Patrol had its refresher Oct. 19, 2019. After the required skill stations, they had their annual patrol meeting. During the meeting, a surprise mass casualty incident (MCI) was staged. Unbeknownst to them, instructors created a mock lift malfunction that simulated patrons being thrown from the lift, as well as injured patrons still on the lift. Approximately 25 patients were used in the scenario.

As the area MCI/triage equipment was being deployed, Crescent Fire and Rescue arrived to help. A unified command was set up, with the patrol and fire working together, and an incident commander for the ski patrol was assigned. The triage team leader and treatment officer were selected. Triage started while others helped to set up the green, yellow, and red tarps for medical.

As other patrollers arrived to help transport patients off the hill, Crescent Rescue helped set up treatment stages on the tarps and called in extra resources such as

ambulances and found out which hospitals had room for the injured. As patients were brought off the hill, a team of patrollers and Crescent Fire and Rescue paramedics worked together to treat and re-triage them to see who got transported first.

While triaging was taking place on the patients on the ground, a separate crew was setting up and implementing lift evacuation for the people still on the chairs. To attend to injured patients on the lift, a ski patroller was hoisted to the patient and transferred to the seat to assess and treat the patient. The patroller then helped the injured patient get strapped into the lift evacuation chair and lowered to the ground.

The total MCI, with triage, treatment, and transport, took two hours to complete. Afterward, a debrief was held by Ray Mehaffy, an EMT and firefighter for Crescent Fire and Rescue who is also the patrol director for Mt. Crescent Ski Patrol. The right, wrong, and places of improvement were brought to the group, and all

involved were included in the discussion.

MCI and triage are tough and go against everything a rescuer is taught. Chain of command is critical, and officers must understand their role in an MCI. Crescent Fire and Rescue commented this was the largest and most realistic scenario they have been on. The area and ski patrol not only train with the local fire department, but the fire department also is trained on lift evacuation and even has their own lift evacuation equipment on the hill. A special 911 call has been created so they can assist with lift evacuation.

We wish to thank Mt. Crescent Ski Area, Mt. Crescent Ski Patrol, and Crescent Fire and Rescue for a successful training, as a lot was learned.

Ray Mehaffy
Mt. Crescent Ski Patrol



A ski patroller is raised up to a guest stranded on the lift. Photo by Teri Hammon.



An overview of part of the MCI scene showing rescuers and patients. Photo by Teri Hammon.

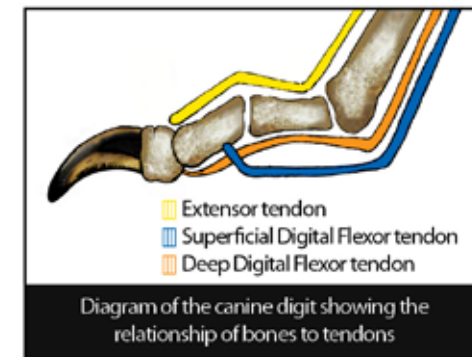


The triage area. Photo by Teri Hammon.



Treating an injured guest who is tagged red by the triage team. Photo by Teri Hammon.

TIPS from the VET!



Anatomy of the toe (Courtesy of Clean Run Magazine).

TAKE CARE OF THOSE FEET AND TOES

BY KIMBERLY HENNEMAN, DVM, DIPLOMATE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SPORTS MEDICINE & REHABILITATION (EQUINE, CANINE)

ANATOMY

There is very little soft tissue in the canine digit, but what is there plays a critical role in maintaining foot shape and function. The bones of the canine digit are not aligned straight and flat as they are in the human. Rather, they are held in a spring shape, delicately balanced between elastic extensor and flexor tendons. Besides tendons, there are also paired, non-retractable, dorsal ligaments attached between the end of the middle toe bone (phalanx) and the beginning of the last phalanx (encased by the nail) that act to keep the nail pulled up off the ground. The nail should contact the ground only during movement when tension in the bottom flexor tendons is enough to overcome the elastic resistance of these dorsal ligaments. Nails should not touch the ground in a dog standing in a neutral, stacked posture.

The springy, elastic tendons suspending the rigid toe bones allow energy to be absorbed and retransmitted whenever the foot impacts the ground. This energy recoil is created by the careful balance of stored tension between the dorsal extensor tendon (pulls the toes upwards) and the two ventral flexor tendons (flex

“No foot, no horse” is a common saying in the horse world. So, why don’t we say “no foot, no dog?” Shouldn’t the same emphasis be given to the biomechanics of the working canine foot? How the canine foot with its five (or four) separate toes lands, absorbs loads, handles changing terrain, and generates movement should be an important focus for both working dog handlers and veterinarians. Yet, working dog lameness exams often concentrate more on shoulders, elbows, hips, and knees, completely bypassing those tiny, but critical, digits.

Any human who has ever stubbed a toe or gotten a sole blister can attest to how quickly a little foot problem can interfere with easy movement, leading to compensations that can swiftly cascade into other lameness problems. Canine foot and toe problems can be difficult to identify and treat because of the small sizes of the toe bones and soft tissue structures, yet left unaddressed, these injuries and subsequent problems can be career ending. Handlers (and their vets) should recognize that early identification and prevention of toe and foot problems should be an integral part of caring for working dogs.



Ruptures of the deep digital flexor tendon. Note how the nails are tipped up and the toe pads are shifted forward.



A rupture of the superficial flexor tendon. The toe is elongated and flat (the nail and pads are at the same angle as the other toes).



Torn pad from running on hard snow with ice crystals.



Photo showing the difference in feet with different nail lengths. On the left, all but the inside nail can pass the credit card test; note how the knuckles are taller and the foot is narrower because the flexor tendons aren't engaged. On the right, the nails all touch the ground, leading to flatter toes and a wider foot. Left like this, the foot on the right will be more likely to rupture a tendon or develop arthritis.

or curl the toes). The two ventral tendons are the superficial digital flexor tendon (which attaches in the middle phalanx or toe bone) and the deep digital flexor tendon (which attaches near the nail to the last digit). The two flexor tendons not only flex the toes and wrist, they also resist the stretching and flattening (extension) that happens when the foot stops suddenly during ground impact. Additionally, flexor tendon recoil after foot impact creates the rebound that starts a new cycle of motion.

Opposing sides of joints are held

together by two collateral ligaments (medial and lateral). The elasticity of these ligaments stabilizes the joint from side to side and absorbs the small shifts of joint surfaces as they make contact during landing. In a toe joint that is fully dislocated, one or both of these ligaments is usually fully ruptured; a partial dislocation means that at least one ligament is stretched or torn. These injuries can heal, but the uneven joint laxity over time can eventually lead to significant arthritis and pain. In larger dogs, injuries to these ligaments can be surgically corrected.



Foot crack in an avalanche dog.

In many toe joints there are small, sesamoid bones. These bones are usually paired and present either above or below the joint. Sesamoid number and presence can vary greatly among individual dogs. Sesamoids occur wherever a tendon has to make a sharp bend and help to deflect the concentration of forces that occurs when the tendon changes direction. In the dog, these digital sesamoids are embedded in fibrocartilage and can be bruised, injured, or fractured over time, especially in Labradors.

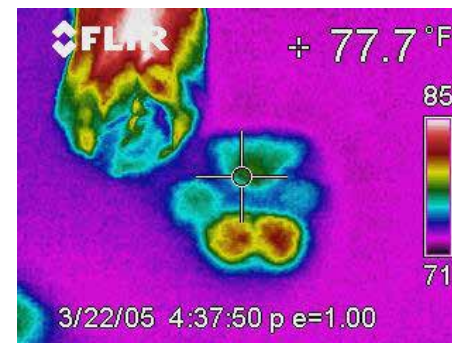
Pads protect the ground contact surface of the foot and toes. They contribute to the absorption of landing, movement recoil, and protect the foot from cold temperatures as well as hard or sharp objects. They have a special network of blood vessels that prevents frostbite.

DIGITAL INJURIES

When a working dog dislocates or breaks a digital bone in a sudden traumatic event, it is pretty easy to diagnose. Fractures are usually accompanied by significant lameness, pain, or swelling, which can be easily confirmed with X-rays. Subtle soft tissue injuries from repetitive stress can be more difficult to identify since the only symptom in a high-drive dog can be poor performance or mild, periodic limping.

Injuries to the flexor tendons can easily happen when a dog contacts anything sharp on the ground or the toenail is consistently left too long (e.g., touching the ground even at rest). A full-thickness foot cut, especially from a sharp ski edge, can easily involve the tendon or tendon sheath, leading to loss of the flexor spring. An injured deep digital flexor tendon leads to the toe kicking up; superficial tendon injuries can create a flattened toe. Both injuries create toes that stick out further than other, nearby toes.

Chronic sesamoiditis is also a problem in many working dogs and seems to occur more often in Labradors. Serious cases have the sesamoids surgically removed.



Snow crystals sticking to an avalanche dog's foot.

While there might be genetic factors at play with some of these cases, any force that stresses the flexor tendons (long nails) will also affect the sesamoids.

Cracked or cut pads can be a significant hazard to dogs working on uneven snow and ice surfaces. Ice and snow crystals adhering to fur create small ulcers and lacerations to pad edges; also, pads can suffer partial- or full-thickness cuts on sharp ski and ice edges. Handlers should check pads regularly for damage and be trained in the application of protective moleskin to foot pads. Snow packing during training and searches can be minimized by spraying the feet with a spray cooking oil or by using inexpensive nylon booties such as those used in sled dogs.

THE ROLE OF THE NAIL

There is controversy among performance and working dog handlers regarding whether it's better to make nails short to prevent excessive leverage on the end of the toe or to leave the toe longer in order to assist in grip and traction as a dog moves over uneven terrain such as dirt and grass. It makes biomechanical sense that any stress that excessively makes the flexor tendons repetitively stretch and retract will eventually weaken them over time. A longer nail that actually touches the ground constantly will increase the amount of stretch on the flexor tendons, even at rest. On the other hand, toes that are too short will never touch the ground, no matter how much the flexor tendons contract trying to get them there. This could lead to muscle fatigue of the forearm flexor muscles and propagate overuse injuries to wrists, elbows, and shoulders as the dog tries to maintain traction on slippery terrain.

While there is currently no research on ideal nail length, I tell handlers to trim somewhere in the middle so the nail is short enough to be retracted off the ground in a neutral standing position but long enough that moderate contraction of the flexors during motion can get

those nails into the ground when they are needed for grip. The quick test is just barely being able to pass a credit card between the end of the nail and a hard surface with the dog standing squarely.

MAINTAINING TOE HEALTH

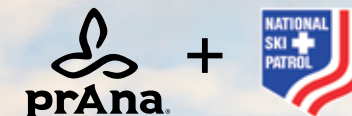
Be proactive! Don't just check your dog's nails or wait for an injury to occur.

- Know foot anatomy and what is normal for your dog.
- Look at foot shape and width regularly; take pictures from above and compare them over time for any changes.
- Toes showing minor strains can be supported by wrapping the foot with Vetwrap or taping with horse kinesiotape.
- Trim nails on a regular basis. Can your dog's nails pass the credit card test?
- Palpate individual toes from the nail to the metacarpals (the bone equivalent to the human palm or foot). Feel for the small changes. I encourage handlers who want to improve their examination abilities to close their eyes and softly feel along the digit until they can identify all the normal structures in their minds. This teaches a handler to recognize normal, making abnormal changes more easily recognized. The added benefit is this acts as a foot massage (if done gently) and feels good to the dog, thus making them feel better about having their feet handled — a win-win for all.

Last, but not least, if you happen to be lucky enough to have a veterinarian with a thermal imaging camera, have toes regularly scanned for temperature deviations that can precede lameness. If the dog is standing on a smooth, firm surface, scanning the paw print can also provide clues that a problem might be starting and point the way toward further interventions. +

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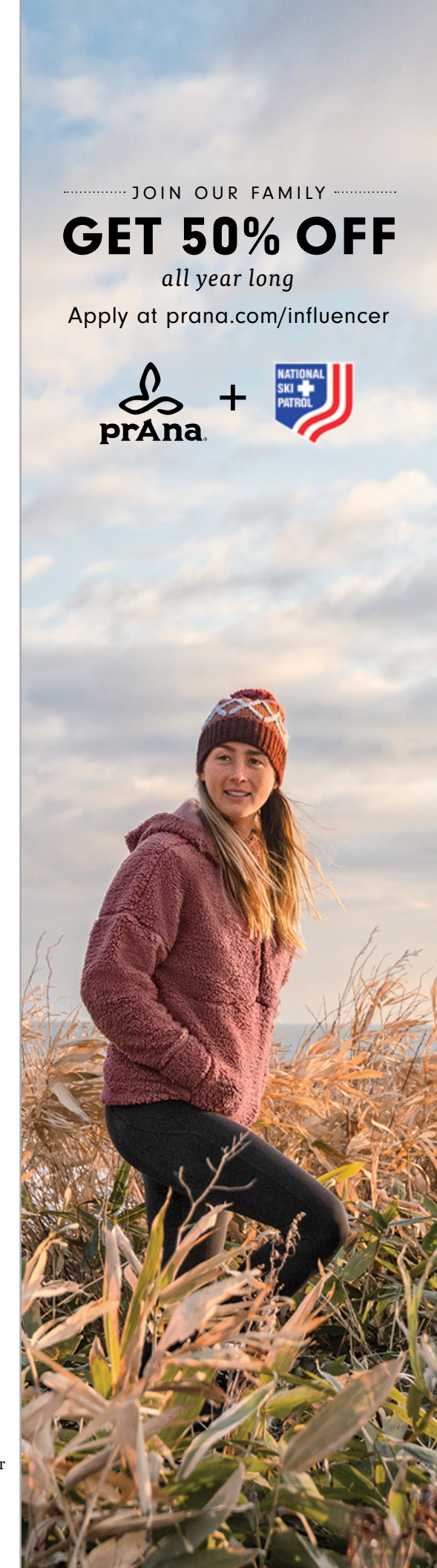
THE SPITFIRE S POLE AND COPPER S GLOVE FEATURING THE PRO-G GRIP AND TRIGGER S FOR A SEAMLESS INTEGRATION OF POLE AND GLOVE.



Photo: Cam McLeod



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FROM THE *Director's* CHAIR

MICAELA SAEFTEL

BY ERYKA THORLEY

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN WATTERS



Patrollers ready for the day after being flown in for the MTR training event. The Matterhorn is in the distance.

For this issue's "From the Director's Chair" column, *Ski Patrol Magazine's* Eryka Thorley turns to International Division Director Micaela (Micky) Saeftel to discuss the ins and outs of patrolling outside of the United States. With the fewest members of any NSP division, the International Division is also the largest geographic-spanning group, with patrollers traveling from as far away as Mongolia and the U.S. to attend the annual refresher in the Austrian Alps.

Growing up in the German Alps, Micky started skiing at 4 years old and hasn't stopped since. Based in Zurich, Micky travels all over the Alps and even to Africa to teach Outdoor Emergency Care courses and conduct various NSP trainings. Luckily, we were able to track her down for an interview to hear about the

amazing and often tricky logistics of coordinating NSP's International Division.

SPM: How long have you been patrolling? And how long as a director for the NSP International Division?

Micky: As of this year, it's been 22 years that I've been patrolling, so quite a while. I've been the director since February 2015. I started at the Heidelberg Ski Patrol, but that no longer exists. Originally, it was the International or European Division, as Heidelberg was a big military base at that time. When Heidelberg closed, so too did their ski patrol. One day I was going to get Baskin-Robbins ice cream and I saw a recruiting booth for ski patrol. Because I have always had an interest in skiing and medicine, I spoke

to them and they said that I could join.

SPM: Where are you originally from?

Micky: I'm originally from Heidelberg, Germany. Now I live in Zurich.

SPM: Did you move up the ranks within NSP, or start at a specific ski resort?

Micky: We are a small division with a relatively small core team. When our previous OEC supervisor moved back to the U.S., I became the OEC supervisor. In 2015, our previous division director also retired, and we started looking for someone to take this role. I was asked to step in and eventually did. We had an election, and I've been the DD since then.

SPM: How did you start skiing? Was it a family affair?

Micky: I started skiing when I was 4 or 5. I went skiing with my parents several times a year and always enjoyed it.

SPM: Do your parents still ski?

Micky: No, not anymore. Their knees aren't doing that well anymore.

SPM: How is OEC recognized internationally?

Micky: In Europe it's different. There is no overarching ski patrol program. In Germany they have something called mountain rescue, and they do a lot of winter rescues, mostly at the ski resorts where lifties were getting people off the mountain without providing first aid. The bigger ski resorts have their own ski patrollers, and because of this they are not part of the OEC system. Instead, they work with the International Red Cross or other organizations for their medical training.



Helicopter flying into the glacier with the Matterhorn in the background.

SPM: How did you get involved with Dubai and Egypt?

Micky: Ski Dubai and Ski Egypt are part of the International Division. They are indoor ski areas, and when they originally looked into opening their ski operations, their insurance companies said that they had to have full-time ski patrollers. The OEC training through NSP was one of the options that was suggested, so they came to us and that is how they became part of our division.

SPM: Have you skied in Dubai and Egypt?

Micky: I've been there several times to do their OEC and Outdoor Emergency Transportation training and to help with their initial program. I've gone back several times to do quality control with them and to train their new patrollers.

SPM: What is it like ski patrolling in the desert?

Micky: It's definitely different. In the desert you feel like you're skiing in a freezer, unlike typical skiing where you go inside to warm up. It's the total opposite of what you usually do.

SPM: What is the thing that keeps you coming back year after year to patrolling?

Micky: It's the people. It's the community, the camaraderie really. Different from most patrols in the U.S., we are a very international group and you always get to meet new people. We are mainly a training division. For example, military personal that have transferred over to Germany or Italy will train with us, and if we are lucky, they'll stay for one or two years before they transfer again. On one hand, it's always nice to meet new people, but on the other, it's hard to see them go.

SPM: Can you describe your program and operations for those of us not familiar with them?

Micky: I would say one thing that is different is how international and spread out we are. We have Egypt and Dubai, but once a year we have our big refresher in Austria. The furthest patrollers are traveling is from Mongolia; patrollers also travel from the U.K., Scotland, Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. We are quite the international group in regard to where people live. Often, we have people coming from the U.S. We don't have a specific mountain now that the military bases have changed. Another reason for this is that the low altitude ski resorts don't have snow anymore. We tend to go up from the real mountains right from the start.

Because we don't have a resort, we have different trainings that we go to. We have training weekends in Italy, Austria, or Switzerland where we train new candidates. Usually it's 3-4 weekends every year, and we rent a big house and all stay together. On these weekends we cook together and have breakfast and do all the OEC scenarios and toboggan training. I would say this is different from what other patrols experience. Also, we get to ski the Alps. Another thing that makes us unique is our Mountain Travel and Rescue training. This is a 4-5 day training where we take a helicopter to a hut with an official Alps mountain guide. We stay at the hut and do the MTR training from there. It's always a nice event for people to join. Typically, it's at the end of April. There are usually two huts that we go to: the Mutthornhütte, and this year we went to a hut between Saas Fee and Zermatt, the Täschrütte. It was absolutely beautiful.

SPM: What is this MTR training?

Micky: We train with different mountain guides each year. This year we worked with a mountain guide who teaches other Swiss mountain guides. Our guide teaches crevasse training, and then we have our own instructors that assist as well. It's interesting to see how the Swiss



International Division Director Micaela Saeftel.



Participants in the MTR training event.

mountain guides teach various topics, and we always learn a lot from them.

SPM: How many patrollers do you have in the NSP International Program?

Micky: We have 201 patrollers in our program. We really are the smallest division. I think Alaska has twice as many as we do. Because of this everyone is a volunteer except for the ones who work at ski resorts. Our division is a volunteer division, but people can and do get paid

separately through their specific resort. The only paid patrollers we have are from Ski Dubai, but they have other roles there as well.

SPM: How do patrollers become involved with your program?

Micky: People become involved by either coming over from the U.S. where they are already a patroller or maybe a university student who is in Europe for a semester. A couple of years ago we had

a professor who was over here for a few years. Or it's military people who are stationed over here. Mainly it's military or civilians working for the military. In Zurich we recruit people from the expat community. These people tend to stay longer, making things a bit easier on us.

SPM: What does your rookie training typically entail?

Micky: You can split it into two parts. We do the classroom OEC training



Participants in the MTR training skinning up toward the rope work site from the Täschhütte.



Helicopter drops off participants in the MTR training event.

beforehand in our local patrols; for example, the Vicenza group in Italy or the Zurich or Bern patrol in Switzerland. It really depends on who has enough candidates training to do the full course. Usually OEC starts in September. We offer screening of the candidates at our annual refresher in November in Austria. The actual on-hill training (once candidates pass their ski exams) takes place in Austria, Italy, or Switzerland. Most candidates go to one of two of these locations, and we offer 7-8 weekends of training total.

SPM: Do you have rookies, or are most people transfers from another patrol?

Micky: In Zurich alone we have 13 candidates this season. We could have more if we had the instructors to run the training. In Switzerland we are split into Basel and Zurich, and we only have two OEC instructors to run candidates through the training. It's not easy for us to help each other out, as it's a couple of hours travel between patrols. I would say we usually have 20-30 candidates total each year.

SPM: Who's the longest-serving patroller in your division?

Micky: The longest-running patroller has been patrolling for 60 years. The longest active patrollers have 33 years.

SPM: What's the average years of experience in your program?

Micky: Our average years is five, and that is due to such a high turnover within our division, with most leaving after 2-3 years.

SPM: Do you have young adult patrollers in your program?

Micky: We have one. It's challenging for high school students as it takes at least five hours to get to the hill for most patrollers. Often, you have to drive to

Austria or Switzerland for training on Friday and drive back on Sunday. Our young patrollers need to catch a ride, making it very challenging for them.

SPM: How else do you engage with the local communities?

Micky: We help out at different events on the military bases. In the past we've provided first aid for hiking events. We

are the main first aid provider for the Swiss Alps 100, an ultramarathon with distances of 50 and 100 kilometers. This year for the first time they ran 160 kilometers. One of our patrols has been providing first aid for roller derby events. We are always looking at different ways to find new opportunities to engage with the public.



After a long day, participants in the MTR training event enjoy dinner at the Täschhütte.

SPM: Do you have a primary ski resort?

Micky: I always go to Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland, and ski the Schilthorn. We always stay in the valley in Lauterbrunnen, and we rent 2-3 apartments and go up on the Schilthorn side of the valley to do our training. For our refresher we always go to the Hintertux Glacier in Austria in November. We usually have 50-60 people at the refresher from all over.

SPM: When is typically the best time to ski in Lauterbrunnen?

Micky: January can be really, really cold. Late February or early March is the best time. If you want to ski tour, then it's April or May when we head to the Mutthornhütte.

SPM: What kind of continuing education or duty days do your patrollers engage in?

Micky: Our patrollers have to do the

regular OEC refresher to stay current. They volunteer as well, but that can be teaching a class or helping out at other events. I don't know how many days most patrollers fit into a season. Everyone volunteers their time. Our patrollers pay for their own lift passes, so we don't have this carrot to hold up to patrollers to get them to work a specific number of days. We also have active military people who are deployed to different areas around the world. For these people, we take different things into consideration, like perhaps they're not able to do the refresher or they cannot help teach a class. We are very flexible with requirements.

SPM: What is the required medical certification?

Micky: Everyone has to be OEC.

SPM: What are some of the traditions in your division?

Micky: Our traditions are mainly around our events, like all of us coming together

at the annual OEC refresher in Austria. We've had patrollers flying in from the U.S. even after they move back home. Almost everyone tries to participate in the MTR where you fly up in a helicopter and stay for a few days.

SPM: What' are some of your traditions?

Micky: During our annual refresher we have an awards banquet. This is where we do the regular awards like patroller of the year, or if we have any National Appointments that is usually the time and place that we do that. You have to qualify and get nominated, and it's a big deal.

Last year one of our patrollers saved someone's life. He was ski touring and saw an avalanche happen. He raced over to the debris with the other person he was with and they were able to dig the buried skiers out. We showed our appreciation to this patroller during our annual awards dinner. In this case he also got a merit star. It was in Austria, and due to weather they had changed their route. This other group had not, but luckily they were close by and able to help.

SPM: Do you have summer operations that you assist with?

Micky: This summer for the first time we started mountain bike training. We did a weekend of mountain bike patrolling and OEC related to mountain bike injuries and practiced with mountain bike rescue. This is a new thing, but usually it's the Swiss Alps 100 race or helping out with other various events, but nothing organized.

SPM: Can you explain a bit more about how the International Division was initially established?

Micky: The International Division was

established in 1952. Mainly it was established due to the military presence in Europe. At that time, Heidelberg had over 40,000 Americans living there, and they had their own ski club. They had patrollers travel with them to provide first aid if something happened during their ski trips. The same thing was organized at other bases. That was how it was initially established in Europe. It's not that easy to explain, as we are so different from divisions in the U.S. because of how we are set up and how we are spread across so many countries.

SPM: For our readers that haven't skied in the Alps, what do you recommend? Where should they visit?

Micky: You must ski the Alps at least once in your lifetime. If you were to come to the Alps just once, I would say you have to go to Zermatt. You would have to go to Chamonix too, as there are so many great ski areas here. If you ski tour, I would say that's definitely the location to go to. The Haute Route is another amazing tour where

you ski from one hut to the next. In the winter in Zurich when you go to the main train station you always see people with skis either going to the mountains or coming back from the mountains. Even taking public transportation you see people with their touring skis and their avalanche backpacks on their way to somewhere. It's definitely a different ski experience than it is in the U.S.

SPM: We've been chatting for a while now and we haven't yet mentioned fondue or raclette?

Micky: Always. When we do the training weekends in Lauterbrunnen, often fondue plays a role. And rösti for breakfast. We always go to the same hut on the mountain and have breakfast there. The traditional breakfast is rösti with bacon and eggs. We usually start the weekend very early at 7:30 or so, have breakfast on the hill at Winteregg railway station, and then start training. We'll stay up until close and then ski back down into the valley. +



Applying skins before leaving the Täschhütte.



Practicing rope work during the MTR training.

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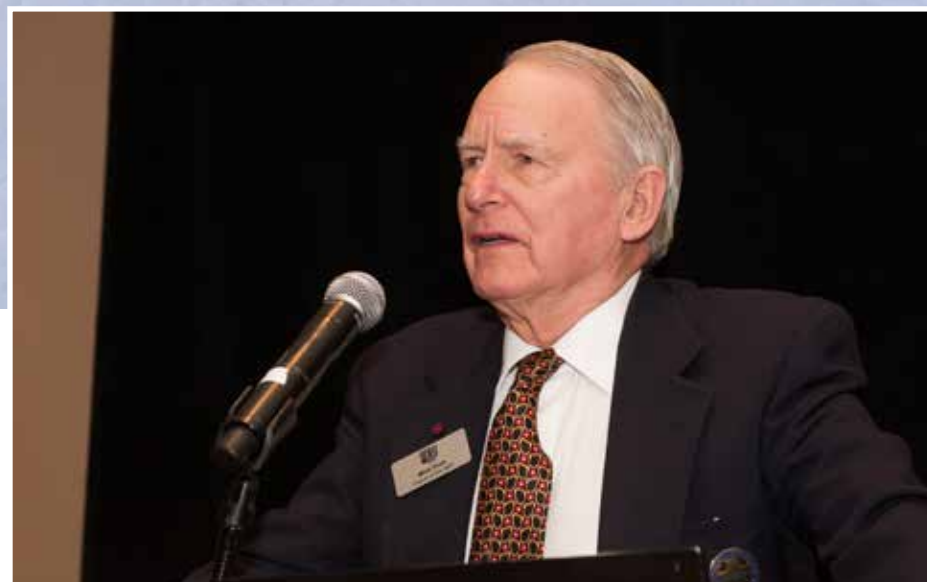


Mint leads patrollers on a sweep at Ski Cooper in Colorado during the NSP 75th Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Candace Horgan.

REMEMBERING Charles Minot “Mint” Dole Jr.

SON OF NSP FOUNDER WAS ALSO A PATROLLER

BY RICK HAMLIN, NATIONAL SKI PATROL NATIONAL HISTORIAN



Mint at the NSP 75th Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Candace Horgan.

CHARLES MINOT “MINT” DOLE JR. DIED PEACEFULLY AT HOME IN ESSEX, CONNECTICUT, ON JULY 19, 2019. MINT WAS THE SON OF NSP FOUNDER CHARLES MINOT “MINNIE” DOLE AND JANE ELY DOLE OF GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT. HE WAS 85.

Born on Nov. 2, 1933, in Greenwich, Mint spent his formative years in Greenwich and New York’s Adirondack Mountains. Given his parents’ love of the sport, it is not surprising that skiing was an important part of his life starting at a very early age. His first ski experiences nearly coincided with the founding year of the NSP in 1938. Prior to the war years, ski trips to Vermont were a regular occurrence.

Mint graduated from Middlebury College in 1956 with a degree in geography. While at Middlebury, he co-founded the celebrated men’s a cappella group the Dissipated Eight with Pete Baldwin, continuing a family tradition of joyful song. In his postgraduate years, he continued to sing with both the Middlebury Alumnae group and the Yale Whiffenpoof Alumnae group.

A member of the Army Reserve Officer

Training Corps, he trained at Fort Bragg and served with the 1st Armored Division at Fort Polk, Louisiana, as a first lieutenant tank commander.

After military service, Mint found what was to become his life’s work in industrial design. A master’s from the Illinois Institute of Technology became a launching pad for a career in which he was an early and lifelong champion of user-centered product design. After working under Amos Houghton at Corning Glass Works, he left to start Dole Associates, a virtual corporate industrial design consultancy. Mint managed a stable of independent engineers and designers who stood at the ready to address the many projects that received his creative input.

The range of those projects was incredibly broad, including converting several

scientific medical inventions into working products for Becton, Dickinson and Company for the medical device market, an in-home mononucleosis test for Burroughs Wellcome, and the initial line of flashlights for Duracell Inc. Outdoor enthusiasts can appreciate the improved line of Silva compasses, and we can all rejoice when we assemble our tents in the dark and the tent pole sections magically assemble themselves in the proper order because while problem solving for the Eureka Tent Company, Mint developed the idea for elastic shock cord inside the tent poles.

Whether flying ultralight aircraft in a squadron of pilot friends, driving his classic Porsche, deep water sailing out of Essex on a 35-foot sailboat that he had rebuilt, or upland bird hunting with his

Gordon Setters, outdoor activities filled his free time. Summer trips to Tortola to visit his good friend, Bob Bushnell, were also a regular occurrence.

The anchor for the family outdoor experiences centered on their 120-year-old Adirondack Great Camp, “Pot Luck.” With its many buildings, repair and maintenance kept Mint and the family very busy every summer. Even here, his creativity found a home; creating a motorized brush hauling device from various field equipment parts is just one example.

Skiing was a constant throughout his life. A member of the Middlebury and Westchester-Putnam County Ski Patrols, ski trips with his family to Big Birch, Bromley, Mount Snow, and Stowe were regular occurrences. A week of heli-skiing in the Bugaboos was the high point of his skiing experience. After sampling skiing in Colorado, his skiing trips became focused on attending the annual 10th

Mountain Division ski-ins, where skiing and the camaraderie of the 10th Mountain Division members was an unbeatable attraction. Because of the relationship between the 10th and his father, Minnie Dole, the members of the mountain troops were like uncles and cousins to Mint, especially Earl Clark.

While never a member of NSP leadership, Mint was very much a friend to patrollers. His appearance in the Rick Moulton film *Ski Sentinels* gave all of us a personal look into Minnie Dole’s life. His presence, along with his family, at the NSP 75th Anniversary celebrations in Stowe, Vermont, and Denver was a singular honor. Later, he authorized the reprinting of his father’s book, *Adventures in Skiing*, which contains so much of the story of the founding of the National Ski Patrol and the 10th Mountain Division, with the proceeds from the book sales going to the NSP. Thanks to Mint’s generosity, and patroller

Marty Silverman’s tenacity in seeing the reprint concept to fruition, NSP members can immerse themselves once again in the many wonderful stories of Minnie Dole’s life, efforts, and our rich history.

Meeting with Mint at his homes in Colchester and later, Shelburne, Vermont, I spent several afternoons coordinating with him on both the *Sentinels* film and the book reprint. Mint was always a gracious host, and our discussions ranged across many varied topics. Discussion with Mint was always more than just engaging. A conversation with Mint was more like observing the creation of art, and he was a master of the form. I will miss my many discussions with Mint.

Mint is survived by his younger sister, Susan Dole Armstrong; his wives, Istar Mudge, Barbara Dole, and Burgess Russell; and his two children, Erika Hemphill of Maine and Trux Dole of Oregon. +

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ICAR'S 71ST ANNUAL CONGRESS

OCTOBER 2019



Lowering a rescue litter using a two-tensioned rope system.

ANNUAL EVENT DRAWS EXPERTS IN MOUNTAIN RESCUE TECHNIQUES

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MYRON B. ALLEN, NSP NATIONAL MOUNTAIN TRAVEL AND RESCUE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This past October, I had the privilege of joining NSP National Avalanche Program Director Ed Carlson and former NSP National Medical Advisor David Johe, M.D., in representing the National Ski Patrol at the annual congress of the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR). The meeting spanned four days in Zakopane, Poland, beneath the rugged Tatra Mountains, and included a practical field day as well as three days of indoor meetings.

ICAR is the world's premier professional society for mountain rescue. Founded in 1948, it has 109 member organizations from 37 countries. At the congress in Zakopane — NSP's first as a member organization—we met representatives

from most European countries, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and Chile. Other delegates from the United States included representatives from Mountain Rescue Association, Wasatch Backcountry Rescue, Teton County Search and Rescue, and the National Cave Rescue Commission. Other ski patrol organizations represented included the Canadian Ski Patrol, the Australian Ski Patrol Association, and the Fédération Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski (FIPS).

ICAR has four separate commissions, covering terrestrial rescue (TERCOM), avalanche rescue (AVACOM), alpine emergency medicine (MEDCOM), and air rescue (AIRCOM). A separate

sub-commission covers dog handlers. At the meetings in Zakopane, Ed, David, and I focused on avalanche rescue, emergency alpine medicine, and terrestrial rescue, respectively. We did not have time to attend AIRCOM-specific meetings or the meetings for dog handlers. Each of us came away from the meetings excited to see NSP contributing to and benefiting from the state of the art in mountain-oriented rescue disciplines.

For me, the practical field day was a highlight of the meetings. Over the course of 10 chilly, rainy hours amidst the limestone crags of the Tatras, internationally recognized experts presented the latest rescue techniques for a wide range of settings. The stations covered:

- Control of severe bleeding, a topic of heightened importance in the upcoming sixth edition of *Outdoor Emergency Care* (see “Stop the Bleed,” *Ski Patrol Magazine*, summer 2019).
- Emerging technologies for finding search subjects by tracking their mobile telephone signals.
- Litter-lowering techniques appropriate for lightweight Dyneema ropes, including the use of two-tensioned rope systems and Munter-mule-overhand knots (see “MTR: The Munter-Mule-Overhand Knot,” *Ski Patrol Magazine*, summer 2019) to pass joining knots in long-line lowering operations.
- Battery-powered lightweight winches suitable for steep-angle raising systems in remote settings.
- Rope ascending techniques for cave rescue.

The field day ended with helicopter rescue demonstrations in which rescuers and gear were lowered from helicopters. Once on the ground, they applied an automated CPR machine to a manikin, then were winched with a loaded litter back up to the helicopter for transport.

The remaining three days involved indoor sessions, many of which focused on the refinement of formal ICAR recommendations, a library of which resides on the ICAR website. The TERCOM sessions covered a variety of topics related to equipment standardization, including:

- Uniform coloring systems to distinguish dynamic, low-stretch, and static ropes;
- Rigging-plate standards;
- Standards for avalanche rescue probes and snow shovels;
- Protocols for testing side impacts on mountaineering helmets; and
- Standards for manufactured prusiks.

TERCOM is developing international recommendations for the use of self-locking carabiners, static-rope knots and connections for rope extension, redundancy in raising and lowering systems using fiber ropes, and static-rope brake systems. We also heard presentations on the need for better data management and data logging in the Incident Command System (ICS) and discussed recommendations for implementing the ICS in alpine settings. All these topics have implications for the future of NSP's Mountain Travel and Rescue curriculum.



Raising a rescue litter into a hovering helicopter.

AVACOM held internal working-group sessions on several topics in avalanche rescue. Most notably, ICAR delegates increasingly recognize the importance of avalanche education in the avalanche rescue arena. Every avalanche rescue places rescue team members at risk, owing to the wide range of hazards associated with avalanche terrain. Avalanche education helps reduce the number of avalanche incidents requiring rescues and helps rescuers in evaluating scene safety. NSP has a long history of delivering high-quality avalanche education, both to ski patrollers and to the public, so our organization needs to play a central role in this conversation.

MEDCOM held sessions on a variety of topics. Two of the topics most relevant to ski patrollers included (1) vital signs and emergency care in hypothermia; and (2) multiple trauma management in alpine environments.

The presentations on hypothermia emphasized the use of clinical indicators, instead of core temperature, in the assessment of a hypothermic patient. The Swiss staging model includes the following stages:

1. Patient is conscious and shivering.
2. Patient has impaired consciousness and is not shivering.
3. Patient is unconscious and not shivering; vital signs are present.
4. No vital signs are detected.

Although this model associates core temperature estimates with each stage, core temperature is difficult to measure in the field, and the correspondence between

clinical indicators and core temperature is imperfect.

The discussion of multiple trauma emphasized a point made during the field day: the need to control critical bleeding as early as possible during the primary assessment, using direct pressure, pressure bandages, and, where necessary, tourniquets. One proposed mnemonic device for this protocol is XABCDE:

- X:** Prevent exsanguination by controlling critical bleeding.
- A:** Ensure an open airway.
- B:** Make sure the patient is breathing.
- C:** Check for adequate circulation.
- D:** Check for disabilities, especially traumatic brain and spine injuries.
- E:** Expose injuries and manage environmental threats.

Placing the control of critical bleeding at the top of this list helps rescuers remember to “treat first what kills first.”

MEDCOM also reinforced the importance of the NEXUS criteria in making decisions about spinal motion restriction. These criteria are based on the following five questions:

1. Does the patient exhibit any focal neurologic deficit?
2. Does the patient have midline spinal tenderness?
3. Does the patient have an altered level of responsiveness?
4. Is the patient intoxicated?
5. Does the patient have a distracting injury?



Searching for a mock subject by tracking a mobile telephone signal.

This decision-making tool correlates well with NSP's emphasis on determining the mechanism of injury, gauging the reliability of assessment, and taking exam findings into account before applying spinal motion restriction.

Dr. Johe attended a research session on medical assessment and care of the patient in the field. The upcoming *Outdoor Emergency Care*, 6th ed., uses nearly the same protocol that many international rescue agencies use. Dr. Johe volunteered to work with the research group as they write a formal paper on best practices in assessment and patient care.

For Ed Carlson and me, the highlight of the MEDCOM sessions was Dr. Johe's presentation on NSP's medical program, focusing on *Outdoor Emergency Care*. Many attendees from other countries were impressed by the rigor, depth of coverage, and emphasis on practical skills in NSP's most prominent discipline.

The convention included many plenary sessions covering topics of interest to all ICAR commissions. The following

summary covers the high points:

- A discussion of the determination of death in the field, which can facilitate decisions to abort rescue missions for safety reasons and reduce the risks and workload associated with patient transport.
- Recommendations for the treatment of suspension syndrome (also known as harness-hang syndrome), including criteria for distinguishing acute from subacute cases and a proposed recommendation to keep patients in a supine position once on the ground.
- Rescuers' need for "emotional rescue" after critical incidents, including measures that go beyond standard critical incident stress debriefings, such as exit interviews, opt-out options, de-escalation strategies, and cognitive behavioral therapy.
- The benefits and risks of using drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) in search and rescue, especially the risks of collisions with helicopters.
- An update on Galileo, the European Union's global navigation satellite system and the first such system to offer a global search and rescue service, along with SAT406M and SINSIN, two projects currently underway to develop enhanced personal locator beacons for use with the Galileo constellation.

After four busy days, the congress closed with a business meeting of ICAR delegates and a banquet. Each of the commissions now has a year's worth of work to do, including developing and refining recommendations and exploring additional emerging issues in mountain rescue, before next October's meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece. +

Acknowledgments

I owe many thanks to NSP National Avalanche Director Ed Carlson, Dr. David Johe, and NSP Executive Director Meegan Moszinski for suggestions that improved this article.

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FIPS 2019 CONGRESS

EVENT IN ARGENTINA BRINGS LARGE CONTINGENT FROM NSP

BY RENA PERKINS

When you're in the middle of your patrol season, working your day job while trying to squeeze in as much time as possible on the hill, you're probably not thinking about next winter. I certainly wasn't during our very snowy 2019. As summer arrived, thoughts of powder were replaced by thoughts of swimming holes. In the back of my mind, however, I knew that my upcoming winter would start early in September at the FIPS Congress in Argentina.

Fédération Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski (FIPS) is an international organization of ski patrol, snow safety, and emergency management professionals that seeks to bring together these professionals from around the world to exchange information and ideas, discuss differences and commonalities, and collaborate on ways to advance safety in snow sports. FIPS holds an international congress every two years, each time in a different country and at a different ski area. In recent years, the Congress has been held in France, Canada, Italy, and Russia, and it has, in the past, been held in such diverse locations as Sweden, Korea, Japan, Australia, and Chile.

This year, the FIPS crew traveled to Bariloche, Argentina. I arrived with a group of 15 patrollers from our tiny region, as the word has gotten out in Northern Vermont that this event is not to be missed. When we got to the hotel, we joined over 100 patrollers from all over the world. Some we knew from past congresses, and many more were new to the event. On the first night, there was a happy hour at the hotel complete with appetizers, cocktails, and a live band that played energetic covers of old favorites. We introduced ourselves, ate, drank, and danced. Then we went to bed in anticipation of a busy day on the hill.

Each day at FIPS started with indoor sessions at the hotel, either lectures on operational or medical topics or chalk talks preparing attendees for the afternoon sessions on-snow. Lunch was available at



Delegates enjoying the Argentine party. Photo c/o FIPS.



On the hill at Bariloche for the first run of the day. Photo c/o FIPS.

several different lodges on the hill, and following lunch were the outdoor sessions on avalanche safety and operations, in-sled CPR, and search and rescue, to name a few.

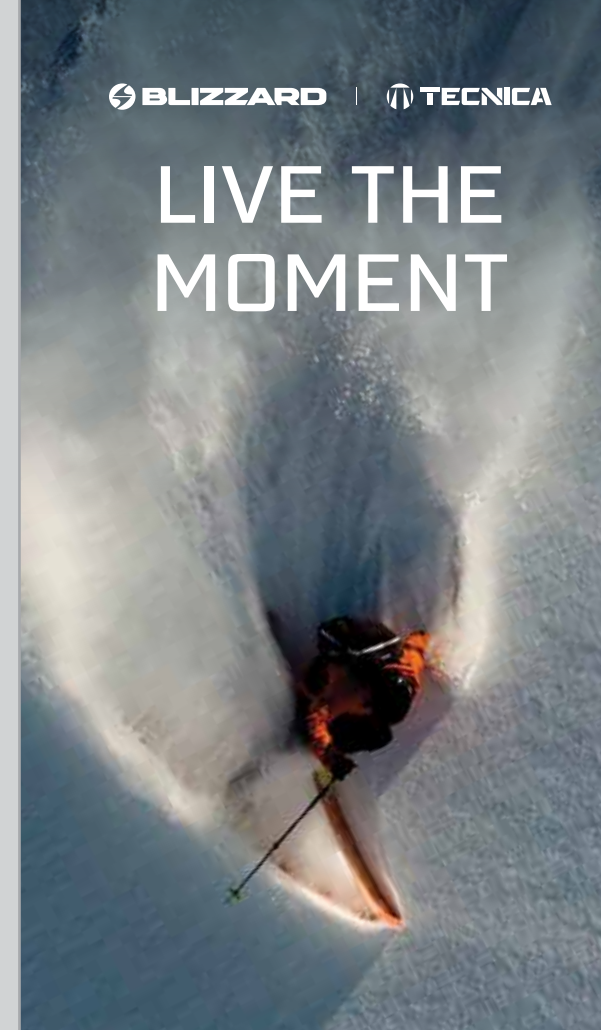
Of course, there was skiing as well, and lots of it. The conditions were spring-like: firm until the sun arrived, then, given the pitch and aspect, rapidly progressing through corn to mashed potatoes as the day went on. The ski area is enormous by my Northern Vermont standards, but we had no problem finding excellent skiing at any time of day. The highlight of the on-snow activities was the international Akja race at the end of the week. Teams of three patrollers of different nationalities maneuvered Akja toboggans through an obstacle course, with mixed results.

The best part of the FIPS Congress is, in my opinion, the chance to connect with patrollers from different areas of the world. Each day I skied with a different group of people, getting to know them on the lift rides and as we planned our runs. After skiing each day, patrollers from different areas would get together in the hotel's great room and chat, sometimes about patrolling, but more often about life in general.

Each evening a different country's delegation put on a party for the rest of the group. The Scots educated us on their whiskey, and the traditionally overly apologetic Canadians greeted us at the door with "Welcome to Canada, I'm sorry!" The Americans predictably went over the top with a live band and dancing past the time that quiet hours were supposed to start. The camaraderie among the participants was evident in the easy way we interacted with each other, even when speaking different languages. We left with invitations to visit patrols in California, Washington, Canada, Scotland, Chile, Russia, and many more. Of course, invitations were also extended to everyone to visit Vermont.

The next FIPS Congress will be held in La Plagne, France, in 2021. I hope to reconnect with the people I met in Argentina, and even more, I hope to see new faces, especially from National Ski Patrol. We have much to offer this event, and FIPS has even more to offer us. +

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OEC6 FAQ

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING *OUTDOOR EMERGENCY CARE*, 6TH ED.

WITH THE FORTHCOMING EDITION OF THE NATIONAL SKI PATROL'S *OUTDOOR EMERGENCY CARE* TEXT NEARING ITS RELEASE. HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

When will the sixth edition of *Outdoor Emergency Care* be released?

May 2020.

Who is the publisher?

Jones & Bartlett Learning (J&BL).

How much will it cost?

Most likely around \$100. The final cost will be determined by the publisher closer to the release date.

Will it be available in electronic format?

Yes.

Will it be available in audio format?

TBD (but most likely, yes).

What will be new in OEC6?

A few new topics, including spinal motion restriction and new methods for controlling bleeding. Additional information will be outlined during the 2020 OEC Refresher Cycle A.

What if my OEC course takes place before or during the release, i.e., April or May 2020?

The National OEC Committee encourages instructors of record not to finish their course during the rollout of the book but to, instead, finish beforehand.

What will the online course look like?

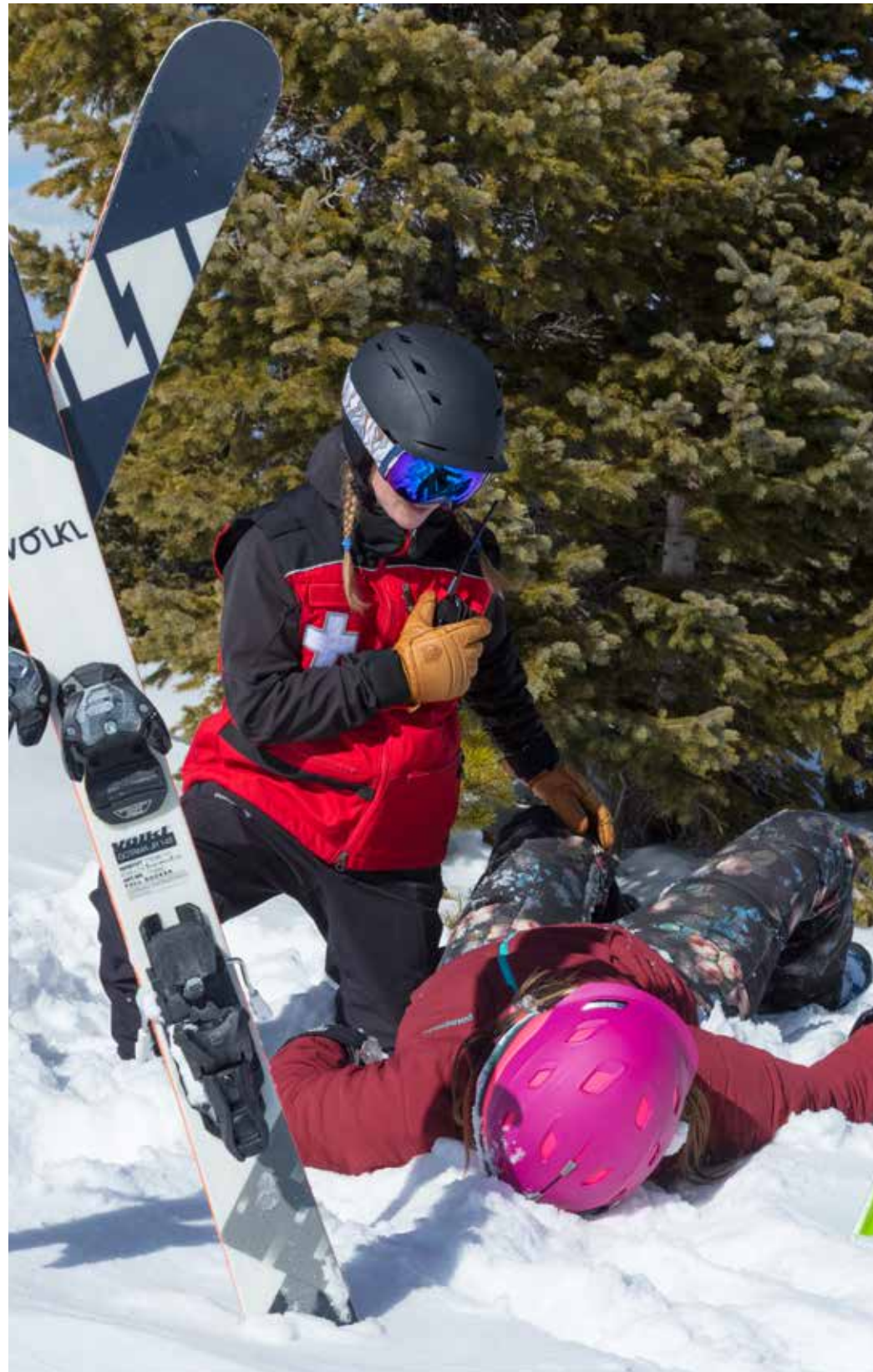
J&BL will provide online course materials, which will be released in summer 2020.

When is the rollout?

The OEC Refresher Committee met in fall 2019 to discuss the rollout and will communicate further with members as soon as information is available. There will be an instructor rollout, as well as what is covered in the OEC refreshers. The release date of Cycle A refresher materials will take place in early summer 2020.

What will OEC Refresher Cycle A look like?

In addition to the standard Cycle A materials, a focus on the knowledge-based materials and skills that are significantly different between OEC5 and OEC6. +



Radioing for assistance. Photo by Scott Brockmeier.



2019 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING AWARD WINNERS

BUSY SEASON SEES EXCEPTIONAL PATROLLERS STEP UP

BY CANDACE HORGAN



Wachusett Mountain Ski Patrol

THANKS TO MEDIA COVERAGE OF AN EPIC SNOW YEAR, SKIER VISITS FOR THE 2018-19 SEASON WERE UP 11 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS SEASON, TOPPING OUT AT OVER 59 MILLION. SNOWFALL ITSELF WAS UP 31 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS SEASON. IN TERMS OF SKIER VISITS, 2018-19 WAS THE FOURTH BEST SEASON SINCE THE NATIONAL SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION STARTED TRACKING SUCH DATA IN 1978-79.

“The strong snow year has driven increases in visitation, and many of our ski areas have reported record years in that regard,” said Adrienne Saia Isaac, NSAA director of marketing and communications, in an NSAA press release about the numbers. “It will be important to continue this trend by engaging new participants in skiing and

snowboarding, continuing to improve the guest experience, and mitigating the effects of climate change to ensure the health of our industry.”

The areas that saw the largest increases were the Pacific Southwest and Rocky Mountain regions, which increased by 22.9 and 15.6 percent, respectively, over previous season. The Rocky Mountain region also saw the greatest total number of visitors, with over 24 million, a new record for that region. The Northeast was second with 12.7 million skier visits.

While everyone was out enjoying the snow, it was up to NSP patrollers to help get the resorts open during the ongoing snowstorms. Many challenges arose due to the snow and the increasing numbers, but patrollers were out doing what they always do, keeping guests safe and helping them when injured.

The 2019 Outstanding Awards saw winners and runners-up from seven

divisions. NSP wants to extend its thanks and congratulations to all the nominees from this past season and thank all patrollers for their continued efforts.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING LARGE ALPINE PATROL
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
Division: Eastern
Year Activated: 1962
Total Patrollers: 139
Total Lifts: 8 (chairlifts and surface lifts)

Serving the state’s largest vertical drop at a very busy ski area, the Wachusett Mountain Ski Patrol numbers 140 volunteer members who promote “Service and Safety.” On busy days, patrollers are often out on the hill educating guests about Your Responsibility Code and promoting safe skiing and riding. Certain trails are also designated “Slow” zones and are patrolled more frequently so that families teaching youngsters can enjoy the slopes as well. The efforts of this patrol in recent

years have seen a steady decrease in the accident per skier ratio.

“Wachusett Mountain patrollers have long been active in all facets of patrolling, whether that be at their own mountain, the region, the division, or at the national level,” states Wachusett Ski Patrol Director Jenn Laitala. “This award is proof of the dedication Wachusett patrollers have to the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area and to the National Ski Patrol. We are incredibly proud to have received this distinction for our third time. It is an acknowledgement of the hard work performed by a great group of people.”

One special education task the patrol has undertaken relates to skiing outside the boundary in old growth forest that is state protected. Guests are not allowed to ski in the forest, and the patrol educates guests, especially young skiers and riders, about the protected forest.

These patrollers also worked with the mountain’s ski school to provide an education program on ski patrolling to young skiers, educating approximately 120 youngsters about what the patrol is and what it does. This proved a very popular training program.

Of the 190 members of the patrol, six are either Certified or Nordic Master patrollers, and 60 have achieved Senior. Additionally, 16 have received National Appointment Numbers, one has received the coveted Minnie Dole Award, and four have been inducted into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame. Two have received Meritorious Service Awards, and four have received the Distinguished Service Award.

Each year, this patrol gets approximately 10-15 candidate patrollers. The patrol runs an annual Outdoor Emergency Care course for these candidates that is also open to patrollers from other resorts in the region. Candidate patrollers are



Santiam Pass Ski Patrol

also assigned mentor patrollers who work to provide instruction and guidance on OEC, Outdoor Emergency Transportation, and patrol procedures. In the last four years, 100 percent of candidates have successfully completed the mentoring program.

Members of this patrol also work to share their knowledge with the rest of the NSP, holding leadership positions including national board member and board chair, Eastern Division director and assistant director, Eastern Division Young Adult Program advisor and assistant advisor, Eastern Division OEC supervisor and assistant supervisor, Eastern Division Women’s Program advisor, Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island Region director and assistant director, and region advisors in OEC, OET, Certified, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Women’s Program, Awards Program, and Legal. Members of this patrol have also served on multiple NSP national committees, as well as the NSP Safety Team.

This patrol is also very active with events outside the mountain. Its

patrollers have worked the annual Boston Ski & Snowboard Expo, and several of its patrollers staffed the Big Air Stadium Event in Fenway Park, with NSP members exclusively handling the on-snow emergencies. The patrol has also provided support for local marathons and Special Olympics Massachusetts.

RUNNER-UP: Santiam Pass Ski Patrol, of the Pacific Northwest Division, received a Silver Unit Citation as the runner-up for National Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol.

Recognizing some of the challenging weather conditions their area receives, the Santiam Pass Ski Patrol funded, purchased, and set up a weather station at the top of the mountain that monitors temperature, humidity, wind speed, and wind direction. The patrol then generates webpages with weather and video monitoring and uploads the pages to the internet through the ski area’s data network, providing a valuable resource to skiing guests about the conditions they may encounter.



Soda Springs Ski Patrol

**NATIONAL OUTSTANDING SMALL ALPINE PATROL
SODA SPRINGS**

Division: Far West
Year Activated: 1980
Total Patrollers: 12
Total Lifts: 2

This patrol is in many ways defined by a family environment, as many of its members came to the patrol when looking for a place where their young children could learn to ski and snowboard and enjoy the outdoors in winter. Several of the members of the patrol have started families themselves.

“What a great honor to receive the Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol Award,” said Soda Springs Patrol Director Kevin Rautenstrauch. “I am very thankful for all the time and energy that the Soda Springs patrollers put into the patrol daily duties every year. Thank you to National Ski Patrol for recognizing the hard work from the Soda Springs patrollers.”

It may be a small patrol, with just 10 registered NSP members, but two of its members have gone on to achieve Senior. One of its members serves as the Mother

Lode Region webmaster, and several members participate in the region board of directors meeting twice annually.

Only two of the patrol’s members are paid patrollers. The volunteers have carved out a role with ski area management by demonstrating their expertise and their commitment to doing the work needed to keep resort guests safe.

One role the patrol has taken on is providing event support for resort events like the “Legends of Snowboarding” contest that features many entrants for the halcyon days of snowboarding in the area.

RUNNER-UP: There was no runner-up for National Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol.

**NATIONAL OUTSTANDING
ADMINISTRATIVE PATROLLER**

RICHARD JACQUES
PATROL: SCHUSS MOUNTAIN
Division: Central

As an NSP patroller for over 50 years, Richard Jacques certainly has the experience to know how best to manage NSP education courses. He is very active in providing quality assurance to OEC

instructors. During the review period for his nomination, Jacques oversaw quality assurance for Outdoor Emergency Care classes, OEC refreshers, and OEC Module of the Senior Program sessions. He also served as instructor of record for two separate OEC classes, is the lead



Richard Jacques

instructor for the Northern Michigan Region OEC refresher, and a trainer/evaluator for the region’s OEC Module of the Senior Program test.

“Wow, what an honor,” states Jacques of receiving the award. “I was asked to help with local patrol and section administration in the Eastern Michigan Region over 40 years ago. I planned to be ‘just a patroller’ when I moved to Northern Michigan Region. I soon found myself training OEC candidates and fostering recognition for deserving patrollers. Returning to administrative offices and committees just seemed natural. I never dreamed that it would lead to this recognition.”

Jacques previously served as director of the Northern Michigan Region. In that role, he suggested that the Central Division expand its program of allocating funding for the Central Division on-hill trainers’ meetings to include the OEC Program. This led to the creation of an annual Central Division region OEC administrator meeting held during the spring division meeting, during which most recently they met for two days. He also helped create a calibration meeting for the Northern Michigan Region OEC instructors that looks at various needs for instructors and methodologies for delivering course content.

In addition to OEC, Jacques has served as the instructor of record for Instructor Development classes and has taught several different OEC Enhancement Seminars, including one for upper extremity immobilization and another for hip and pelvis injuries.

Jacques first joined the NSP in 1965 as a candidate, received his Senior in 1970, and in 1987 was awarded a National Appointment Number. He also received a Yellow Merit Star for serving as the Northern Michigan Region director.

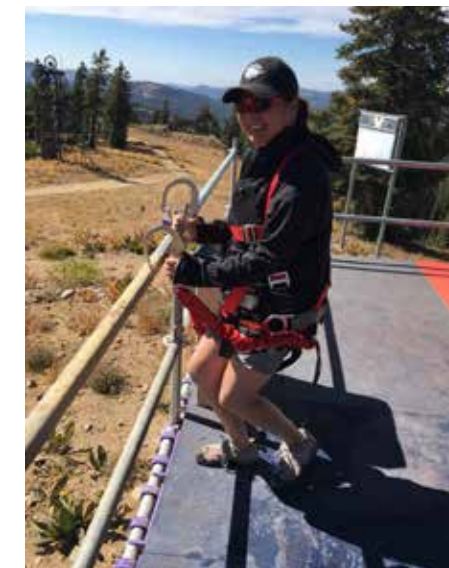
Because of his long affiliation with the

NSP, Jacques successfully researched and nominated five members of the Central Division for the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame.

Outside of NSP, Jacques has worked as a liaison and patrol director for the Special Olympics Michigan State Winter Games and as the lead team captain for the Special Olympics Michigan State Summer Games.

RUNNER-UP: Ri Chan, of the Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol in the Far West Division, received a Silver Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding Administrative Patroller.

After serving as treasurer of her patrol for two seasons, during which time she used her experience as a CPA to implement a new accounting system for the patrol’s budgetary needs, Chan was tapped to serve as treasurer for her region, and then later as registrar for the Far West Division, in which role she worked with over 50 patrols and 1,300 patrollers to coordinate registration and dues collection, streamlining the process.



Ri Chan

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NATIONAL OUTSTANDING ALPINE PATROLLER

COLLEEN FINCH

Patrol: Great Falls

Division: Northern



Colleen Finch

Patrolling is often a family affair, with the children of patrollers following in the footsteps of their parents. To facilitate this at her patrol, Colleen Finch created the “Snow Rangers” program. This takes middle-school children of patrollers and shows them what patrollers do on their duty shifts, from opening the hill to safety efforts on the hill to first aid to closing the hill. These Snow Rangers enjoy being part of the team and offer their help when it is within their ability.

Finch, who started patrolling in 1998 and achieved Senior in 2016, is an Outdoor Emergency Care and Outdoor Emergency Transportation instructor. She was the IOR for the most recent OEC class offered by her patrol. She has also taught Avalanche Level 1 at her resort, for which she was recognized with the Northern Division Outstanding non-OEC Instructor Award in 2018.

“No one gets an award like this on their own; every step of the way, my fellow patrollers have encouraged me, supported me, laughed with me, and made me a better person and a better

patroller,” states Finch. “This is more their award than mine. Also, never underestimate the lucky chicken,” Finch laughs, referencing a small toy chicken she has carried in her patrol vest since 2015 as a conversation starter.

Another major effort Finch tackled was on chair evacuation. She reviewed the training procedure and increased it to a full day, building in sessions on line setting equipment, adaptive and special needs skier evacuations, sheave unit issues, children and infant evacuation, in-chair medical emergencies, using rope ascending equipment, and the communication protocols for a lift evacuation. This increased training paid off when the patrol recently had to do a real chair evacuation, for which Finch served as the leader, orchestrating the evacuation of 89 skiers from the chair in just over an hour.

Outside of NSP, Finch has liaised with the American Red Cross to get her patrol to assist with blood draw drives and works for Special Olympics and Spartan Race activities. She is also a first responder for club and high school soccer teams.

RUNNER-UP: William Borelli, of the Dodge Ridge National Ski Patrol in the Far West Division, received a Silver Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding Alpine Patroller.

As first assistant patrol representative,



Bill Borelli

Borelli created a written Outdoor Emergency Transportation curriculum for the candidates that incorporates elements from the Ski Patroller's Manual and the needs of the mountain. He invested countless hours into this project, and because of its success he has helped expand the candidate OET Program, creating a binder for each candidate that outlines requirements, the teaching progression, and space for the instructors to note the candidate's progression throughout the year. Further, this organization expanded the stable of OET instructors who work in the candidate training program.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING PATROLLER

KAY SEIDEL

Patrol: 49 Degrees North

Division: Pacific Northwest



Kay Seidel

During her eight years on the patrol, Kay Seidel has been a big component of Outdoor Emergency Care training, helping almost 40 patrollers finish their candidate class. She also organizes the annual OEC refreshers for the patrol and has served as the instructor of record for multiple OEC refreshers and OEC candidate classes.

“It is a wonderful honor to be recognized as the 2019 Outstanding Patroller,”



Joseph Hourclé

Seidel says. “I follow in the shoes of wonderful, caring patrollers who believe in what we do. Although this is an individual award, it wouldn't be possible without a great team at the local and all levels of the ski patrol.”

Seidel is also a big booster of the patrol by recruiting candidates, helping the patrol grow by almost 15 percent. She has also helped boost retention of experienced patrollers at her mountain. In recognition of her efforts, her patrol named her Outstanding Patroller in 2018.

RUNNER-UP: Joseph Hourclé, of the Massanutten Ski Patrol in the Southern Division, received a Silver Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding Patroller.

In an effort to be a better asset to the patrol, Joseph Hourclé completed Outdoor Emergency Transportation training and will soon start as an alpine patroller. However, his presence as an aid room patroller was invaluable, as he demonstrated a wonderful sense of humor and compassion while treating patients. Hourclé also joined the ski school staff to improve his skiing skills and become a better patroller and to teach safe skiing from the patrol standpoint to new skiers visiting the hill.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING PAID PATROLLER

LESLIE CARTER

Patrol: Massanutten

Division: Southern



Leslie Carter

A patroller for nearly 50 years, Leslie Carter's support of the National Ski Patrol has been expressed in many ways. She achieved Senior and then Certified, and also holds a National Appointment. She has also received a Purple Merit Star and a Meritorious Service Award.

“I am incredibly honored to have been selected as the 2019 recipient of the Outstanding Paid Patroller award,” says Carter. “The saying ‘find a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life’ sums up how I feel about being a ski and bike patroller at Massanutten Resort. I especially want to thank all the people who have supported me in my ski and bike patrol career, particularly my family and all the patrollers I have worked with over the years.”

On the hill, Carter is an instructor in many NSP disciplines, including Outdoor Emergency Care, Outdoor Emergency Transportation, Mountain Travel and Rescue, and the Certified Program. She is also an instructor trainer for the OEC Program and Instructor Development and has previously served as the Southern Division OEC supervisor.

Currently, she is the Southern Division Certified Program supervisor. In her support of the Certified Program, she has served as the instructor of record for Certified

sessions in risk management, a Certified pre-qualifying event, and a Certified evaluation. Carter travels to other divisions to support the Certified Program as well, and she also frequently shares her knowledge gleaned from her years as a Certified patroller in daily continuing education sessions for rookies and experienced patrollers alike.

She has served as the lead instructor for OEC refreshers and teaches Intro to Patrolling, OET toboggan refreshers, Senior OET, and a Toboggan Enhancement Seminar for the Women's Program. She works all over the Southern Division as an instructor trainer for different clinics and events.

Carter also serves as a bike patroller at her resort during the summer, helping out with bike races and special events.

RUNNER-UP: Thomas Brickley, of the Dodge Ridge National Ski Patrol in the Far West Division, received a Silver Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding Paid Patroller.



Thomas Brickley

After starting at the ski resort as a lift operator, Thomas Brickley quickly joined the patrol and never looked back. He began training with the paid patrol after completing the Outdoor Emergency Care course and instructed at the on-the-hill refresher in his second season. His interest sparked in emergency medicine, Brickley became an EMT and started working on the local ambulance service. In addition to teaching OEC, he also instructs continuing education credits for the patrol's EMTs.



Rick Shandler, patrol rep of Valley Forge Nordic/Backcountry Patrol, receiving the Outstanding Award from Eastern Pennsylvania Region Director Sharon Friedel.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING NORDIC PATROL
VALLEY FORGE NORDIC/BACKCOUNTRY
Division: Eastern
Year Activated: 2012
Total Patrollers: 24
Miles Patrolled: 15

Formed in 2012, the Valley Forge Nordic/Backcountry Ski Patrol was a key part of the initiative to create a Joint Statement of Understanding between

the National Ski Patrol and the National Park Service, making its mark on NSP early. On NSP's 75th anniversary and the 100-year anniversary of the National Park Service, this patrol hosted a top National Park Service official to receive a citation upon the signing of the JSOU.

"I am honored to accept the National Outstanding Nordic/Backcountry Patrol award and the Gold Unit Citation on

behalf of the dedicated patrollers of the Valley Forge Nordic/Backcountry and Bike patrol," states Valley Forge Nordic/Backcountry Patrol Director Rick Shandler. "This group of hard-working patrollers represents what is so very special about our organization. With more than half of the patrollers instructors in one or more disciplines and holding leadership positions, this patrol provides outstanding service to both NSP and the public. I'm grateful to be able to represent these patrollers and this revolutionary patrol."

All 24 of the patrol's members are also registered as alpine patrollers. The patrol has 13 Outdoor Emergency Care instructors, three OEC trainer/evaluators, and one OEC instructor trainer. The patrol also has four Outdoor Emergency Transportation instructors and one OET trainer/evaluator. There is also one Instructor Development instructor.

One member of the patrol has achieved Nordic Master, while several have their Senior. Many have completed both Avalanche Level 1 and Level 2 and

Mountain Travel and Rescue I and II. The patrol also promotes the importance of these certifications by hosting region and division OEC programs, Nordic Senior clinics and evaluations, Avalanche, MTR, and Nordic/Backcountry events, and a Patroller School.

The patrol covers 3,500 acres of mixed ground that includes woodland, meadows, and historic landmarks and monuments. Patrollers learn the background of these monuments to provide better service to guests in the area.

Prevention is the mantra of this patrol, as its members work to educate the public about outdoor recreation and recognize potential problems early, preventing the problems from becoming major issues later. The area also includes bike trails in the summer, so the patrol is kept busy with patrolling year-round.

Outside of the NSP, members of this patrol contribute their time to the American Heart Association and American Red Cross. Additionally, four of the patrollers work as EMTs with a local ambulance service. Five contribute to a dive rescue team, three are current or former law enforcement officers, and four have served in the military.

Among the events the patrol covers are Boy Scouts winter outings, Tough Mudders, cross-country ski races, and more.

RUNNER-UP: Mammoth Basin Nordic Backcountry Ski Patrol, of the Far West Division, received a Silver Unit Citation as the runner-up for National Outstanding Nordic Patrol.

Before the last season started, this patrol participated in an interagency meeting with local law enforcement and the U.S. Forest Service to better understand recent changes and how they could affect the patrol's duties. These changes included new trail boundaries. The patrol also visited the dispatch center to discuss communications, including how to notify the dispatch center and the public when the patrollers come across recent signs of non-hibernating black bears in the area, such as fresh tracks and sightings.



Mammoth Basin Nordic Backcountry Ski Patrol

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING NORDIC PATROLLER
JACK BROOKS
Patrol: Summit at Snoqualmie — Central
Division: Pacific Northwest

After many years of focusing on alpine patrolling, Jack Brooks has shifted his efforts almost entirely to Nordic patrolling. He advocates for telemark and Nordic skiing to other patrollers when he puts in alpine patrolling days.

"Winning the National Outstanding Nordic Patroller Award is both humbling and mind-blowing," says Brooks. "It's not something you can decide to achieve. This award is something that is only possible with the support, guidance, camaraderie, sharing, and love from your team, both local and beyond, all of whom helped me reach this level. In my case, huge thanks are also due to my biggest supporter and life partner, my wife, Susan, who while not a patroller is an NSP Angel and has been at my side for 20 years of ski patrol life. The achievement of this award and the resulting recognition is wonderful; what is most important to me is seeing the awesome Cascade Mountains in the pre-dawn light, greeting my fellow patrollers, donning my patrol coat, and getting back out on the snow for another day of adventure and fun serving the skiing community."

In 2015 and 2016, Brooks completed Nordic Senior Outdoor Emergency



Jack Brooks

Transportation modules in an effort to enhance his alpine patrolling skills. Following that, he began working toward achieving Nordic instructor certification. He has subsequently taught Nordic OET refreshers, low-angle rescue skills as part of a Mountain Travel and Rescue clinic, and telemark skiing as part of a Snow Sports Enhancement seminar.

After being named Northwest Region Nordic advisor in 2017, Brooks started working on one of the newer Nordic patrols, attending their fall refresher that also was attended by National Park Service rangers.

Outside of NSP, Brooks has taken it upon himself to be the designated volunteer emergency responder and CPR/AED provider at his employer.

RUNNER-UP: Eric Geisler, of the Alyeska Ski Patrol in the Alaska



Eric Geisler

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Division, received a Silver Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding Nordic Patroller.

Geisler, who serves on the Alaska Avalanche Information Center and is the patrol's representative to both the Alaska State Parks and U.S. Forest Service, helped the region avalanche center increase its public education on avalanche dangers by installing "Are You Beeping?" signs at certain trail-heads. He further promotes avalanche safety efforts by encouraging the public to attend Avalanche Awareness classes, and he also is an instructor for the National Avalanche School.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTOR

PAMELA WELCH
Patrol: Bristol Mountain
Division: Eastern

Pamela Welch is an instructor in multiple National Ski Patrol programs and serves as a trainer/evaluator for the Genesee Valley Region's Outdoor Emergency Transportation Program. She instructs OET on both skis and snowboards and is currently working toward being able to instruct the program on telemark gear as well.

"Ski patrol is family!" says Welch. "I love encouraging and supporting others to be the best they can be. I have been really lucky to have incredible people



Pamela Welch

help me along the way and can only strive to touch others as these amazing folks have influenced and touched my life and patrol experience."

Among the clinics Welch has taught are Snow Sports Enhancement Seminar, Toboggan Trainers Workshop, Snow Sports Trainers Workshop, instructor continuing education clinics, Intro to Patrolling, Instructor Development, and Senior evaluations for alpine skiing and OET.

Welch has also taught Women's Program clinics in the Eastern Division. For her most recent one, she organized a program for 25 trainees, working in a group of teams on skills ranging from ropes and knots to toboggan handling to chairlift evacuation to gully extrication. This clinic, which ended with a social hour, proved a great success.

In addition to OET, Welch supports the Instructor Development Program. She created a workbook that the program uses that has been adopted by the program advisor.

The Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol has twice recognized Welch as hill chief of the year, and twice she has been named Genesee Valley Outstanding non-OEC Instructor. She also received the Genesee Valley Region Outstanding Patroller Award in 2018. She received her

National Appointment Number in 2015 and her Senior in 2009.

Outside of NSP, Welch serves as the coordinator for a middle school ski club and has fostered a relationship with her county rope rescue team.

RUNNER-UP: Eric Cannon, of the Anchorage Nordic Ski Patrol in the Alaska Division, received a Silver Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding Instructor.



Eric Cannon

Cannon leads a Mountain Travel and Rescue course each year, a course often held on U.S. Forest Service and state park lands, necessitating engagement with the agencies to get permits. As part of the course, he prepares a DVD of all the lectures that he then gives to the other instructors and helps so that presentation of the class material can be continually improved. Cannon, who has mentored several patrollers into becoming MTR instructors, also teaches Avalanche Level 1 and Nordic Senior clinics

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING OEC INSTRUCTOR

CARL RICHTER
Patrol: Dodge Ridge National
Division: Far West

Just two years after joining his patrol, Carl Richter became an Outdoor Emergency Care instructor, and he has been active with OEC instruction ever since. After being a lesson instructor for almost 20 years, Richter took over as



Carl Richter

instructor of record for his patrol's OEC candidate class and changed its methodology, focusing on a four-month weekly seven-hour class format that creates in-depth understanding of the material. His approach creates successful candidates who can not only pass a test but be confident medical responders who can adapt to a variety of situations.

Richter goes above and beyond the weekly classroom sessions by offering a nightly session at his home where candidates can focus exclusively on practical skills application. He often uses OEC Module of the Senior Program scenarios at these nightly sessions so that the candidates have even more confidence when they take the OEC class final.

In addition to his own work as an instructor, Richter has led efforts to increase his patrol's stable of OEC instructors. In 2017, he helped set mentors for nine candidate instructors, and he has similarly paired instructor candidates with experienced OEC instructor mentors the last two years. He also runs his patrol's OEC instructor refresher.

Richter also works with the paid staff at his resort, many of whom are EMTs working in fire and ambulance companies. Richter leads OEC sessions for these paid patrollers to help them with splinting and rapid transport techniques. This has also benefitted the OEC candidate class, as the local ambulance company provides Richter with equipment he may be out of and sends county medical providers to speak at the OEC candidate class.

Richter annually attends the Far West Division OEC instructor recertification, as he believes it is important to stay abreast of the latest training and teaching techniques to better his patrol's OEC candidate class. He frequently travels as a Far West Division OEC instructor trainer to provide quality assurance on OEC refreshers and candidate testing days at other patrols.

Richter received a National Appointment in 1999 and achieved his Senior in 1993. He received a Purple Merit Star in 1995 and a Blue Merit Star in 1998. In addition to OEC, he is also an Instructor Development instructor.

"I love what I do for the National Ski Patrol," said Richter. "I am dedicated to instructing our members in their development and retention of OEC skills so that we can help people in need of care. It was an honor to be recognized and nominated for the Outstanding OEC Instructor by Dodge Ridge Ski Patrol. I am very proud to also be recognized by the Mother Lode Region, the Far West Division, and the National Ski Patrol. Thank you."

Outside of NSP, he has volunteered his time at the horse show at the county fair, where he frequently used his OEC skills in medical response. He also was an assistant soccer coach for 18 years and sometimes needed to use his OEC skills with the young athletes. Because of this experience, he always has new scenarios to challenge the OEC candidates with.

RUNNER-UP: Jane Bickerstaff, of the Mt. Brighton Ski Patrol in the Central



Jane Bickerstaff

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Division, received a Silver Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding OEC Instructor.

As an OEC instructor trainer, Jane Bickerstaff is very active with multiple OEC classes. In season, she performed quality assurance for three OEC finals, four OEC instructor refresher, and three refreshers. She often covers at the last minute when other ITs have been unable to serve quality assurance duties. She covers all OEC Module of the Senior Program training for her patrol. In 2017, she taught OEC to nine new young adult patrollers, successfully guiding them through the program, and she also teaches Outdoor First Care to the patrol's junior patrollers.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING PATROL REPRESENTATIVE

TOM CIRANNA

*Patrol: Boston Mills/Brandywine/Alpine Valley
Division: Central*

His patrol loves his leadership so much that Tom Ciranna has served as its patrol representative for 13 years and counting. This patrol is large and supports three different ski areas, which creates a challenge in managing the needs of the resorts and the patrollers

Ciranna advocates to area management for the patrol, and when management has considered changes that might negatively affect patrol operations, Ciranna is quick to respectfully point out why those changes might cause difficulty with patrol operations. When changes do take place, he helps the patrol understand the rationale for the changes and adjust to them accordingly.

"I am humbled to receive this prestigious award, but the real credit goes to the 285 Boston Mills/Brandywine/Alpine Valley ski patrollers who continuously demonstrate their dedication and professionalism," says Ciranna. "Their efforts make my job easy, and

I'm honored to receive their continued support as patrol director these past 14 seasons."

Ciranna has been recognized as Ohio Region Outstanding Patrol Representative twice and also as runner-up for Central Division Outstanding Patrol Representative. The patrol frequently hosts Ohio Region and Central Division patrol events, including Outdoor Emergency Care and Outdoor Emergency Transportation seminars, and Ciranna works on the planning committee to ensure those events go off without a hitch.

The patrol also operates near a busy national park and is often called upon



Tom Ciranna

to provide first aid coverage for park events, and Ciranna helps the patrollers who do so find the experience enjoyable. Recently, the area hosted a juried art show that drew thousands of visitors. The patrol provided coverage of the opening night festivities and the two long days of the show, and Ciranna made sure the patrol had the equipment and support needed for that event.

While the management of such a large patrol, one which in 2018 won NSP National Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol, requires constant oversight, Ciranna is also a constant presence on

the hill, serving as a hill captain for a regular shift.

Ciranna also coordinates ski patrol relations with the Special Olympics Ohio and a local adaptive skier program for lift evacuation training. He also builds relationships with local ski shops by hosting them for events and helps with CPR training for a local Boy Scout troop.

RUNNER-UP: Heidi Strader, of the Fairbanks Ski Patrol in the Alaska Division, received a Silver Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding Patrol Representative.

During a transition in mountain ownership and management, Heidi Strader served as an intermediary for the patrol, introducing the many changes to mountain and patrol operations and explaining these changes to her patrollers as they were implemented by mountain management. She was also a sounding board as the patrollers adjusted to these changes, which sometimes were confusing to the patrol. She also defended the role of volunteer patrollers to the management that was considering going to an all-paid patrol, demonstrating to management the dedication of the volunteer patrol to ensuring smooth operations.



Heidi Strader



Madeline O'Connell receiving the Outstanding Young Patroller Award from NSP National Young Adult Program Advisor Jason Tamulen.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING YOUNG PATROLLER

MADLINE O'CONNELL

*Patrol: Nashoba Valley
Division: Eastern*

For Madeline O'Connell, patrolling has a personal connection beyond working on the hill. At the age of 10, she was in a sledding accident and shattered her femur and patella, requiring advanced life support and transport to a large city hospital. Just a year later, at the age of 12, she started shadowing her local young adult patrol to learn more about patrolling.

"It is an honor to be recognized for doing a job so close to my heart," enthuses O'Connell. "Throughout my involvement with the National Ski Patrol, I have been working to become the best patroller I can be in order to help those in need in the most effective and meaningful way. I am incredibly grateful for the endless hours of time and support that all of my mentors have given me. I could not have done it without each and every member of my patrol family."

Within a year of completing Outdoor Emergency Care and becoming a young adult patroller at her mountain, O'Connell attended Powderfall at Snowmass, Colorado. She then wrote about her experiences there for *Ski*

Patrol Magazine, praising the event and encouraging other young adults to attend. She also cobbled together a PowerPoint presentation that she gave at the Eastern Division Young Adult Seminar to showcase the event and explain why attending offers excellent growth opportunities. O'Connell followed that up by attending Powderfall in April 2019 at Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, Utah.

Her attendance jump-started her patrolling career, as she quickly completed Instructor Development. She then taught soft tissue injuries and face, neck, and eye injuries at an OEC course. While teaching, she also completed

the OEC Module of the Senior Program and also attended three Snow Sports Enhancement and Toboggan Enhancement seminars. With this experience, last season she became a full alpine patroller.

A four-year member of her high school soccer team and a varsity letter-winner and co-captain of her school's track team, O'Connell has also excelled in school, where she is the co-leader of the Biology Club and the Science Team. She was also selected to attend a state STEM Summit. With a 4.0 average, she is considering college options, where she plans to major in biology and pre-med.

PATROL MEMBERS!
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Her love for patrolling and promoting safe skiing has led her to volunteering at a booth during Safety Week.

Her patrolling nature is perhaps best shown by her hospital stay when she was 10. As the holidays approached, O'Connell was going to be released and allowed to go home for a short time, but she knew two other children in the ICU would not be able to go home. She purchased large teddy bears for those children and gave them to them before going home.

RUNNER-UP: Isabella Vazquez, of the Wild Mountain Ski Patrol in the Central Division, received a Silver

Merit Star as the runner-up for National Outstanding Young Patroller.

In her efforts to help her patrol grow, Isabella Vazquez has planned and participated in two open houses to attract new young adult patroller candidates. She has furthered these efforts by creating a group of young adult patrollers. She attended a Western Region Women's Program seminar and was also one of the four Women's Program Powderfall Scholarships winners in 2019. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and her patrol experience has led to her considering medicine as a career. +



Isabella Vazquez



NATIONAL SKI PATROL

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



UNIT CITATIONS FOR DIVISION AWARDS

OUTSTANDING LARGE ALPINE PATROL

- Fairbanks Ski Patrol — Alaska
- Mt. Holly Ski Patrol — Central
- Northstar National Ski Patrol — Far West
- Great Falls Ski Patrol — Northern
- Wintergreen Ski Patrol — Southern

YELLOW MERIT STARS FOR DIVISION AWARDS

PATROL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OUTSTANDING LARGE ALPINE PATROL WINNER

- Jennifer Laitala — Eastern

PATROL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OUTSTANDING SMALL ALPINE PATROL WINNER

- Kevin Rautenstrauch — Far West

PATROL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OUTSTANDING NORDIC PATROL WINNER

- Rick Shandler — Eastern

OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE PATROLLER

- Nancy Mayberry — Eastern
- John Fradette — Northern

OUTSTANDING ALPINE PATROLLER

- Donna Gardino — Alaska
- Alex Herrmann — Central
- John Laitala — Eastern
- Aaron Stavens — Pacific Northwest
- Desmond McGlade — Southern

OUTSTANDING PATROLLER

- Thomas Meitzler — Central
- Maureen Oakes — Far West
- Jeff Littlepage — Northern

OUTSTANDING PAID PATROLLER

- James DeWeerd, Jr. — Central
- John Doremus — Eastern

OUTSTANDING NORDIC PATROLLER

- Melinda Mingus — Eastern
- Mark Cohen — Far West

OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTOR

- Katie Flanagan — Central
- David Reed — Far West
- Gregg Rydquist — Northern
- Rick Schoonmaker — Pacific Northwest
- Matt Weitz — Southern

OUTSTANDING OEC INSTRUCTOR

- Eric Dale — Alaska
- Glenn Gebhard — Eastern
- Kathleen Olsen — Intermountain
- David Freeman — Pacific Northwest
- Theresa Varner — Southern

OUTSTANDING PATROL REPRESENTATIVE

- Bob Zande — Eastern
- Jon Harvey — Far West
- Joseph Lustik — Northern

OUTSTANDING YOUNG PATROLLER

- Nathan Whisler — Far West
- Sage LeMay — Pacific Northwest



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



This was another strong year for NSP. The organization continues to be in a solid financial position, with member dues and sponsorships as our main source of income. We saw growth in fundraising revenue and our partnerships remain steady.

NSP turned 80 last year. As one of the nation's oldest nonprofit organizations, our long-standing contribution to the outdoor recreation industry is a source of pride and accomplishment. In an effort to leverage our renowned legacy toward a successful and sustainable future for NSP, at the 2019 Annual Meeting the National Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan. This 2030 plan is clear and concise, and it tasks NSP with focusing on three main pillars: programs; brand awareness, identity and value; and information technology and infrastructure. The five-part vision that accompanies the plan provides direction on where we hope to be in ten years, while we continue to adhere to our core values and remain the gold-standard in outdoor emergency care education and training.

A year-over-year analysis of our membership numbers shows that membership is stable. Our alumni numbers and our host numbers continue to be our largest sources of membership growth. The total number of patrollers has remained steady, while the number of volunteer patrollers has declined slightly and the number of paid patrollers has grown. The Eastern, Central and Professional Divisions continue to be our largest, while Colorado and New York go back and forth as the state with the most NSP members.

Our work as an education and training organization continues to expand, most notably with the addition of our new Outdoor Risk Management (ORM) Program and the reorganization of our Safety Team. From a marketing perspective, this year brought several enhancements, including a new public-facing website, a cleanup of the member site, new tools for recruitment, and several talented additions to the national office staff. The fall 2018 member survey - the first in seven years - will provide feedback and guidance for leadership and staff to continuously improve the organization and its benefits to members.

Among NSP's upcoming challenges and opportunities are recruitment and retention; the release of the sixth edition of Outdoor Emergency Care in May 2020; continued efforts to increase brand awareness; enhancement of NSP's identity throughout the industry; and improvements to our technology platforms.

Thank you to our volunteer leadership and the national office staff, who together make the strategic vision and daily operations of NSP work, and our valued members, partners and external stakeholders, who remain paramount to the success and sustainability of NSP.

Cheers to another successful season!

Meegan Moszynski
Executive Director

Our mission is to help keep people safe on the mountain and during other outdoor activities.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2030

National Ski Patrol's new Strategic Plan, adopted in 2019, contains three pillars to develop for the organization's future.

THE THREE PILLARS

1

PROGRAMS

Our programs meet the current (and future) needs of our members, customers and other stakeholders. These programs (both curriculum-based and non-curriculum based) are relevant, high quality and available.

2

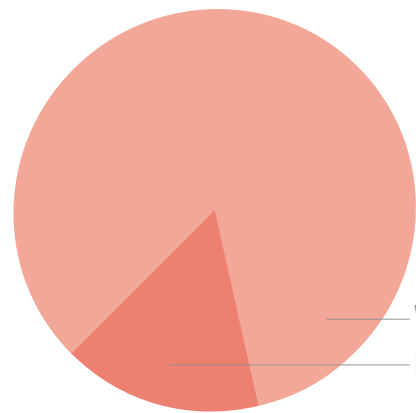
BRAND AWARENESS, IDENTITY, & VALUE

Communicate and enhance NSP's value to our members, customers and other stakeholders.

3

TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Our technology and infrastructure allow us to accomplish our mission and goals. We will use standard operational procedures and accommodate multiple user interfaces to provide target group(s) specific content, best practices and institutional knowledge to our community.



MEMBERSHIP REMAINED STABLE	- 3%
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP INCREASED	+ 1%
VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP DECREASED	- 1%



82%
RATE NSP MEMBERSHIP FAVORABLY

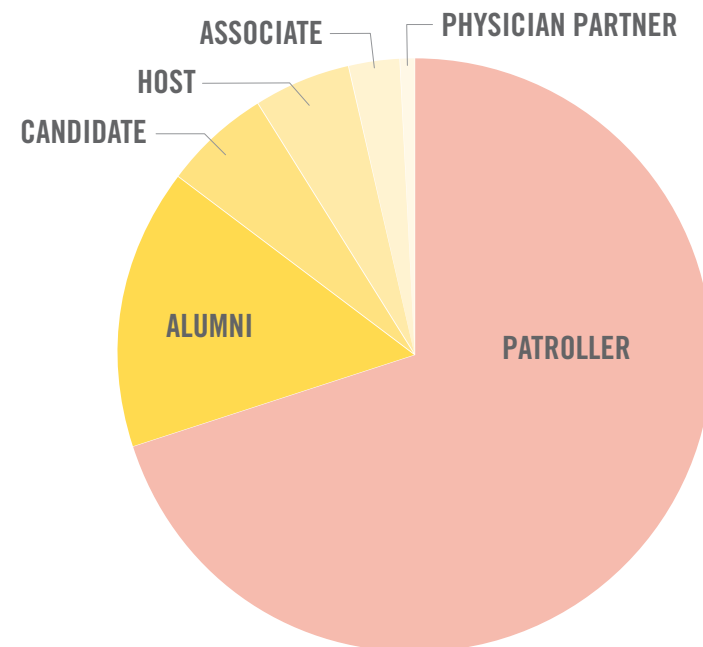
MEMBER SURVEY
94%
FEEL MOST CONNECTED TO LOCAL PATROL
Rather than Region, Division, or National Office

76%
FEEL NSP PROGRAMS MEET THEIR NEEDS

MEMBERSHIP

SKI PATROL IS A FAMILY AND OUR MEMBERS FEEL THAT STRONG CONNECTION.

Alumni membership is growing, which measures NSP's retention of members through life transitions or retirement. Associate memberships provide an opportunity to expand NSP's membership beyond traditional patrollers to enthusiasts who wish to be connected to NSP but who do not have the time and/or interest to be a patroller. While patrollers remain the bulk of NSP membership, alumni and associate memberships provide NSP opportunities for diverse and long-term growth.



PATROLLER 21,701
ALUMNI 4,742
CANDIDATE 1,799
HOST 1,617
ASSOCIATE 879
PHYSICIAN PARTNER 234
TOTAL MEMBERS 30,972



19%
UNAWARE OF POWDERFALL

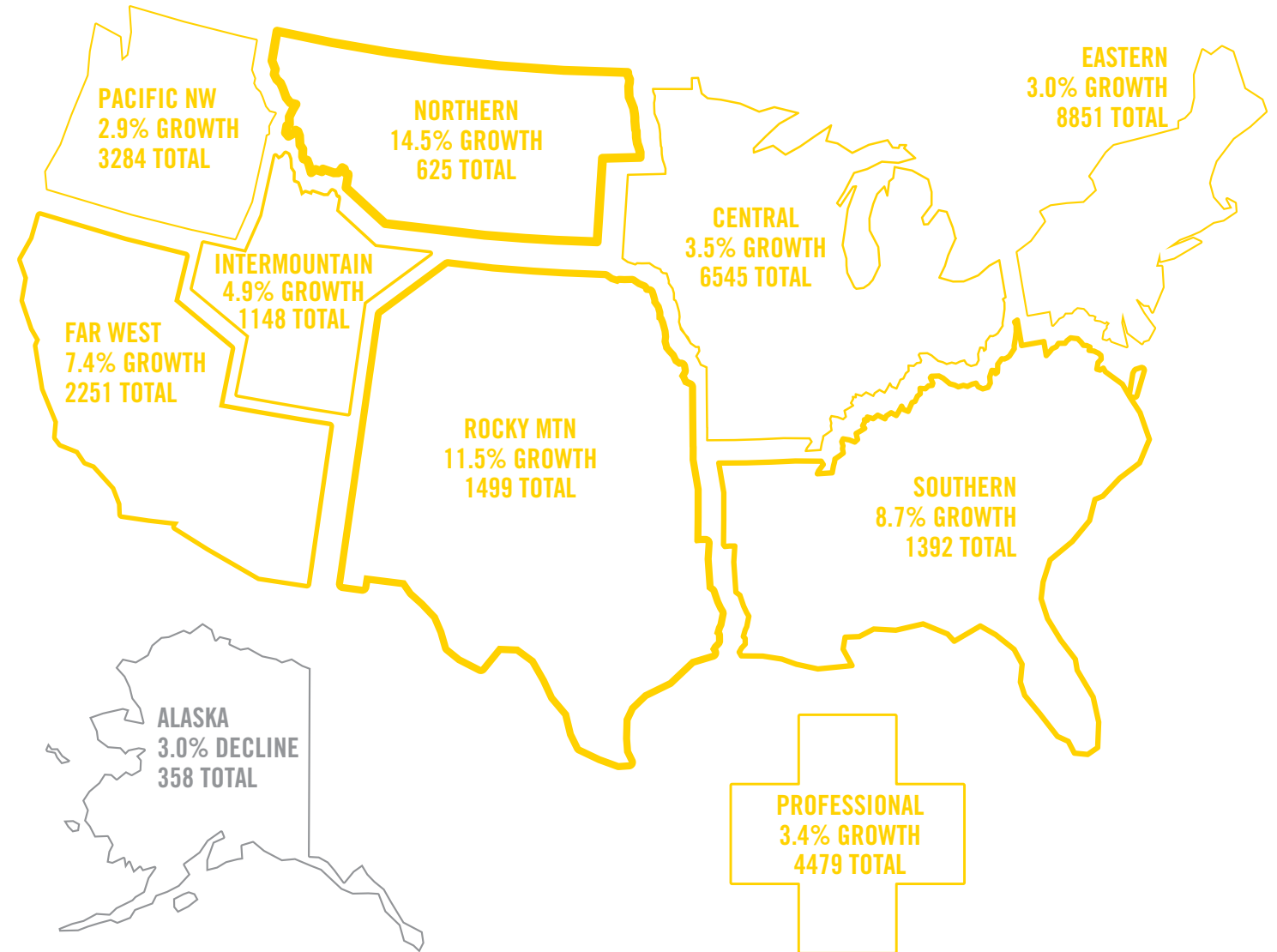
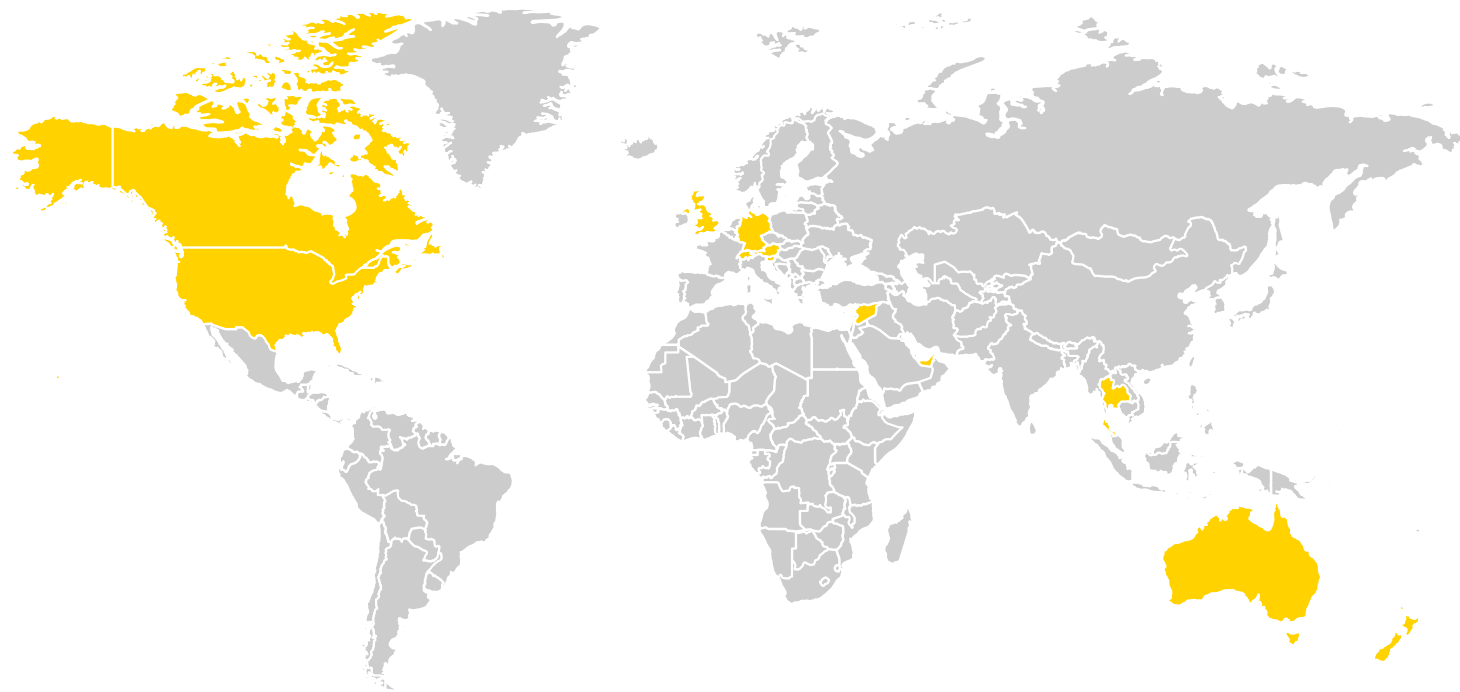
53%
INTEREST IN RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT



65%
DO NOT USE NSP TRAINING IN SUMMER

GEOGRAPHY



175

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS IN 16 COUNTRIES

17%

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

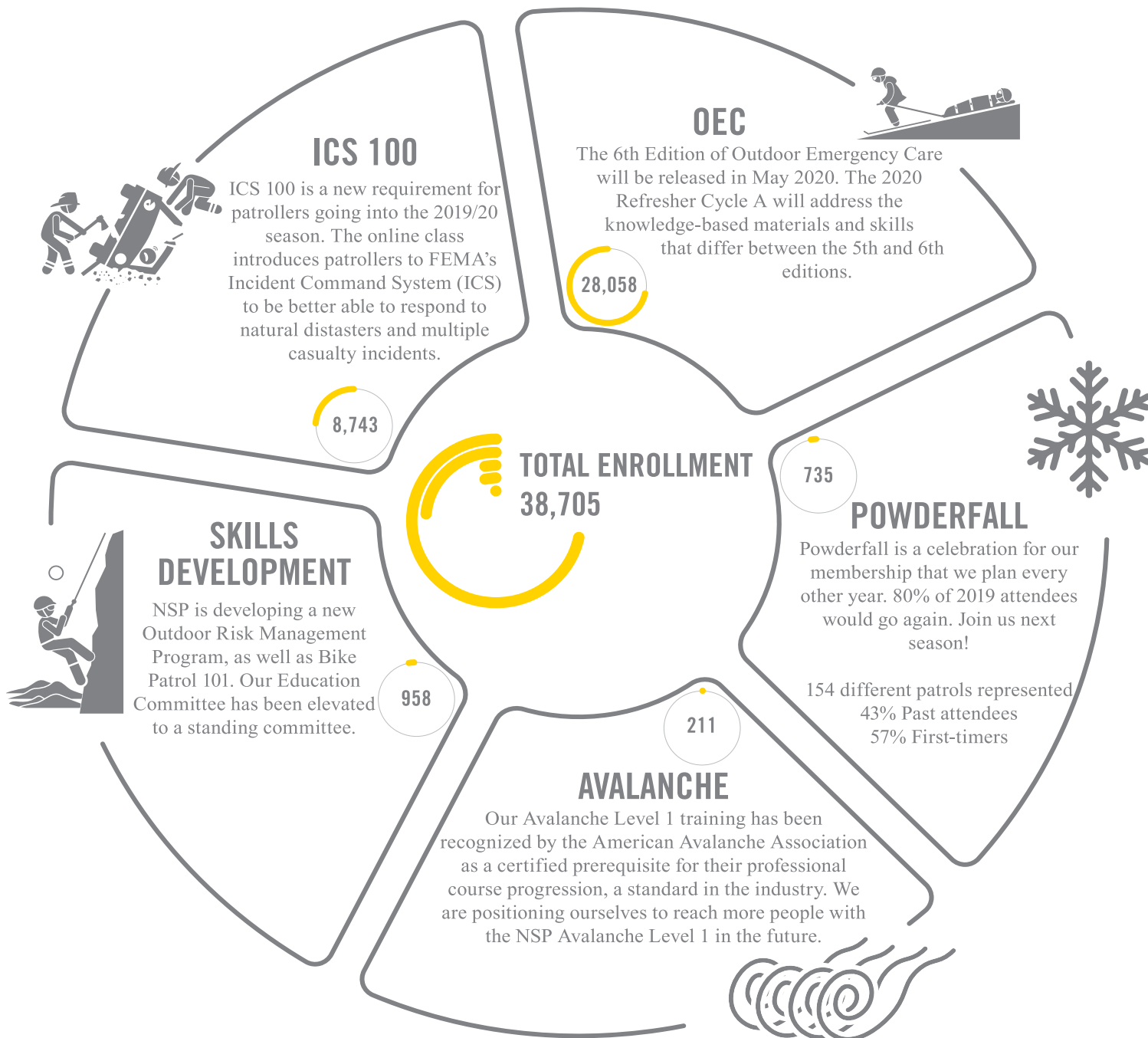
9/10

NINE OUT OF TEN NSP DIVISIONS GREW

TOTAL NUMBER OF PATROLLERS BY STATE

Alabama	14	Kentucky	98	North Dakota	68
Alaska	344	Louisiana	3	Ohio	846
Arizona	225	Maine	480	Oklahoma	12
Arkansas	3	Maryland	331	Oregon	931
California	1999	Massachusetts	1089	Pennsylvania	1866
Colorado	3051	Michigan	1837	Rhode Island	85
Connecticut	649	Minnesota	1297	South Carolina	65
Delaware	33	Mississippi	0	South Dakota	44
District of Columbia	23	Missouri	154	Tennessee	175
Florida	125	Montana	639	Texas	85
Georgia	79	Nebraska	57	Utah	1258
Hawaii	15	Nevada	244	Vermont	730
Idaho	1247	New Hampshire	638	Virginia	579
Illinois	507	New Jersey	518	Washington	1842
Indiana	142	New Mexico	313	West Virginia	249
Iowa	150	New York	2758	Wisconsin	1466
Kansas	48	North Carolina	502	Wyoming	456

PROGRAMS & EDUCATION



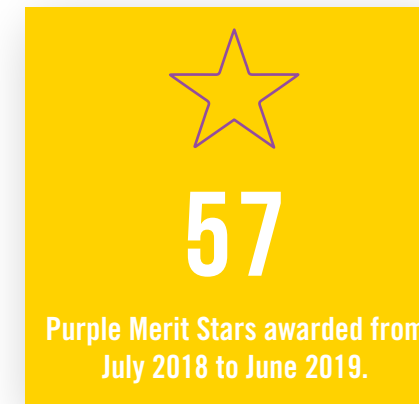
*Numbers above are from 6/30/2019

AWARDS & HALL OF FAME

Every year, to recognize the exceptional accomplishments of our members, the National Ski Patrol presents several awards.

Purple Merit Stars are awarded to patrollers who save a life through emergency care and use of patrol skills. From July 2018 to June 2019, 57 patrollers received Purple Merit Stars.

NSP's Hall of Fame recognizes people who are important in NSP's history and development. Nineteen members were inducted into the Hall of Fame.



- HARTMAN AXLEY
- HELMUT "HAL" BECHTLE
- NELSON BENNETT
- CHARLES WILLIAM "BILL" BULLEN
- WILLIAM T. CLINE
- WILLIAM J. DEVARNEY
- HOWARD HOLZ
- ROBERT LIVERMORE, JR.
- CHARLES LORD
- CHARLES E. MARTSCHINKE
- LOUIS BERNARD "BARRY" MCNABB
- JOSEPH H. MCQUEEN
- BURT MICHAEL, III
- LINDA MURPHY-JACOBS
- ROLAND PALMENDO
- LARRY PEASE
- NANCY G. PITSTICK
- CHRIS G. ROSS
- RICHARD THALACKER





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\$1,000 - 5,000

Anonymous
Morgan R. Armstrong
Leslie Megyeri

\$500 - \$999

Mitzi Chan (in memory of Harry D. Bunker, Jr.)
Dayem Family Foundation
Eric Hoertdoerfer
Andrei Kalousdian
M.E.T. Foundation, Inc.
Chris Pringle
John Prizer

\$200 - \$499

Wendy Aarnio
Timothy Aune
Nicole Bubeare
Gary Clark
David Dillard
Lee Dixon
Nathan Enfield
Joe Ferrero
Cheryl Hazle
Elise Humes
Mike Husar
Rick Knight
Ed McNamara
Meegan Moszynski
James Quinn
Stephen Rath
Brian Rull

Owen Saunders
Alissa Segal
Tom Sherry
Rob Silbaugh
Robert Smith
Duke Speer
Mark Stein
Stephen Vincent
Jeffrey Weitz
Jeffrey Zalkind

\$100 - \$199

Wendy Aarnio
James Anderson
Jennifer Banacki
Andy Belcher
Frank Borin
Tracy Buchanan
John Byrnes
Tom Byron
Melissa Callender
Clifford Chewing
William Cline
Donald Close
Ed Conoway
Irene Counts
Ty Damon
Mitch Dann
Susan Deming
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Brad Donna
Jim Eiberger
Sallie Evans
Regina Gade
John C. Gee
Niels Giddins

Mary Godofsky
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Joseph Hall
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Brett and Amy Harsch
Josh Herchl
Richard Heyman
Dave Hickey
Mike Huber
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James Jmieff
David Johe
Kevin Johnson
Dana Jordan
John Kane
Paul Kelly
John and Kin Kircher
Kathleen Klage
Kenneth Kramer
Walter Lamkin
Harry Lewis
Mike Longfellow-Jones
Maryann Manion
Sarah Mann
Lyn McMurray
Carol and Russell Meals
Tricia Mencin
James More (in memory of Herbert Lloyd)
Paul Mraz
Cheryl Nickolaou
Roger Norberg
Jeffrey Olsen
David Olson
Trudy Olsson
Paula Osorio
Wendell Overcash

Deborah Pierce
Joni Porter
Rob Poseley
Kenneth Post
Charles Povlitz
Elizabeth Reeves
Mindy Royster
Flo Rutherford
Ronnie Salvador
Bob Scarlett
Laura Schauer
Seth Shanahan
Lisa Skelley
Emily Stanitz
Teresa Stewart
Patrick Trimm
Mike Vaerewyck
Andy Waterous
Stephen Welsh
Richard Yercheck
Meng Yin
Jisun Yoo
Jay Zedak

< \$100

Teri Albus
Clifford Amundsen
Eric Brandon
James Bucklaew
Community First Foundation
Jeffrey Condon
Louise Crispen
Christopher Cuthbert
Sara Darga
Jessica Davis
Jeff Dossin
Jeff Eckenhoff
Don Eden
Edward Elze
Jeffery Erickson
Harley Gamel
Stephen Hart (in memory of Jack H. Vining, Sr.)
Emily Hyde
Andrew Kanetsky
Alex Karamatsoukas
Charles Katz
John Keith

Chris Kenefick
Patricia Keppner
Laura Kostyk
Ben Long
Warren Lutes
Jeff McLeRoy
Ashley Marvin
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Francois Mortier
Vincent Naughton
Peter Navarra
Harry Need
George Newell
Walter Paiko
Lisa Patmor
Tracie Poniatowski
John Powell
Scott Reese
Jean F. Rowley
Michael Rose
John Schultz
Ralph Silkensen
Kathryn Simoncini
Trent Stumph

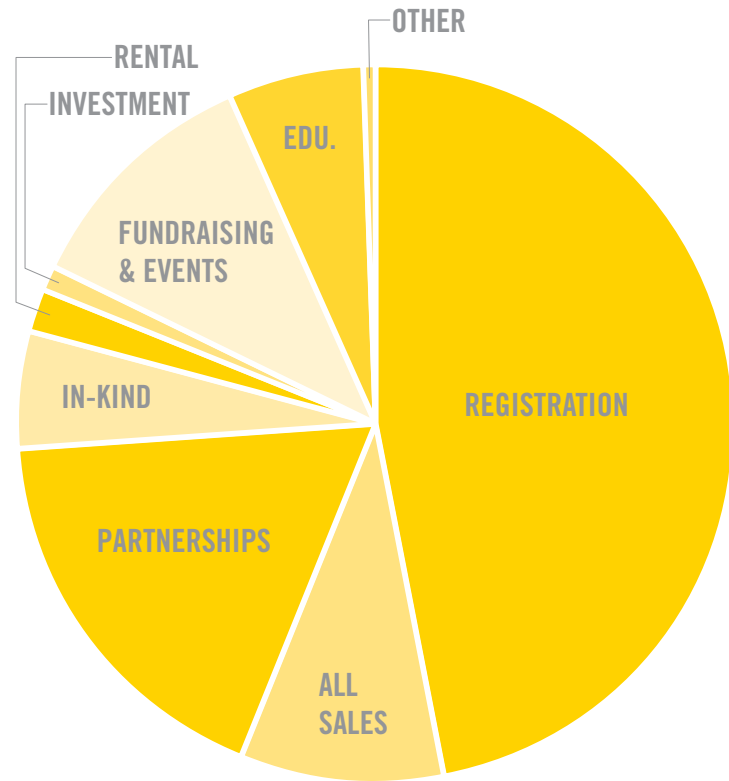
Sheila Summers
JoAnn Takasaki
Karen Westlake
Michael Wendelin
Laurie Wohlfeil
Jeremy Wolf
Norris Woody
Stephanie Zavislan

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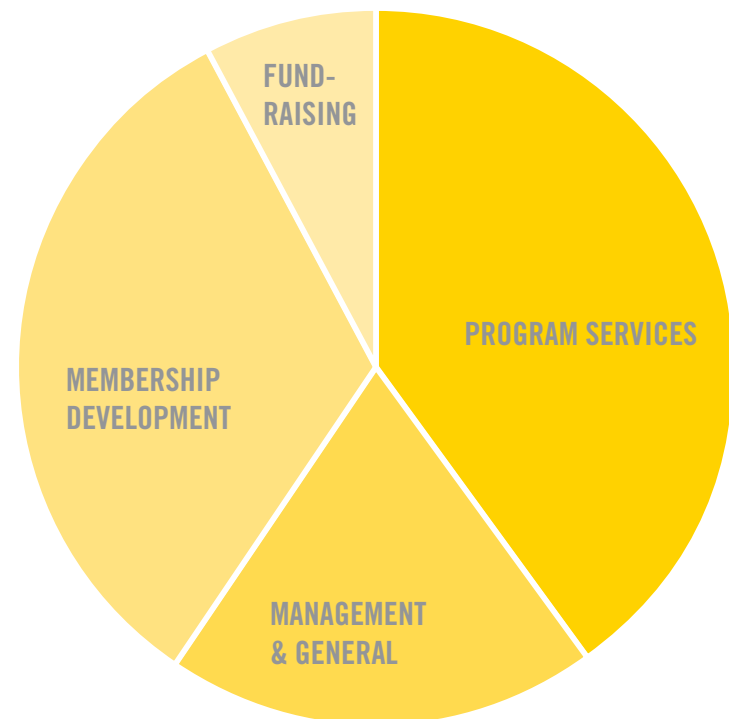
FINANCIALS



INCOME (\$)

REGISTRATION 1,424,759
 PARTNERSHIPS 532,473
 FUNDRAISING & EVENTS 361,463
 ALL SALES (GROSS PROFIT) 280,987
 IN-KIND 181,550
 EDUCATION 161,826
 RENTAL INCOME 56,445
 INVESTMENT 44,532
 OTHER 16,243

TOTAL 3,060,278



EXPENSES (\$)

PROGRAM SERVICES 1,248,607*
 MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT 1,015,163**
 MANAGEMENT & GENERAL 601,624
 FUNDRAISING 234,857

TOTAL 3,100,251

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITON (\$)

CURRENT ASSETS

CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	517,698
INVESTMENTS	1,181,206
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, NET	69,119
INVENTORY	504,585
PREPAID EXPENSES & OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	62,693

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 2,335,301

NONCURRENT ASSETS

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	790,558
-----------------------------	---------

TOTAL ASSETS 3,125,859

CURRENT LIABILITIES

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	44,049
ACCRUED LIABILITIES	117,276
DEFERRED REVENUE	838,936
DUE TO AFFILIATED ENTITIES	54,692

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES 1,054,953

NET ASSETS

WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	1,947,481
WITH DONOR RESTRICTION	123,425

TOTAL NET ASSETS 2,070,906

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 3,125,859

THANK YOU TO ALL NSP MEMBERS!

* Program Services includes expenses related to delivering, tracking and supporting education programs. These include education support, program expenses, online learning and ski area relations.
 ** Membership Development includes expenses related to recruiting, retaining and supporting members. These include the online store, member records, marketing, member communications and pro deals.

MEET NEW NSP STAFF

FIVE NEW STAFF MEMBERS JOINED THE NSP LAKEWOOD OFFICE OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. WE ASKED EACH OF THEM SOME BASIC QUESTIONS SO YOU CAN GET TO KNOW THEM BETTER.



WILLARD (WILL) BRUCE, BRAND MANAGER

Will joined NSP in September and has already designed many items — including program logos, webpages, and the 2019 Annual Report — to build NSP’s brand and message. He grew up in a rural area in New York, just over the hill from Willard Mountain (no, he wasn’t named after the ski area).

His professional background is in urban planning, and he has worked for cities and nonprofits. Most recently, he worked as a professional ski patroller at Arapahoe Basin, Colorado.

Name three words that describe you.

Adventurous, motivated, and tiquismiquis (a Spanish word that means fussy, or a nitpicker).

What are your outdoor interests?

All of them? Downhill skiing and back-country touring in the winter, BMX and mountain biking in the summer, and trout fishing for when I’m injured. I really like to travel to experience new cultures and places while skiing and/or biking. To add to the list, I just started elk hunting.

Tell us about your previous patrol experience.

My introduction to patrol was working alongside Arapahoe Basin Ski Patrol on the trail crew and in the rental shop there. So, over the next three years, I took part in Outdoor Emergency Transportation at Loveland, got my EMT at Denver Health, and then was hired on full-time patrol at Arapahoe Basin. I’m delighted and grateful to be able to continue patrolling at Arapahoe Basin this season while I am supporting the work of NSP in the main office.

Why you are excited to be at NSP?

NSP has been around since 1938, but the outdoor sports industry is constantly changing, especially right now. I’m excited to be part of an organization with such a significant role and history and to be part of ensuring its continued relevance in the evolving landscape.



ANNA LINDSAY, OFFICE MANAGER/ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Anna manages communications between the national office and the board of directors and national committees. She keeps the office in Lakewood working smoothly, from making sure office supplies are stocked to distributing important information and pitching in on ad hoc projects.

Anna has worked in many areas, from corporate finance to contract negotiation. For the last few years, she worked in sales, buying, and inventory analysis for one of the largest ski and outdoor retailers. Anna is even a certified master ski boot fitter!

Name three words that describe you.

Inquisitive, adventurous, and funny.

What are your outdoor interests?

Skiing, camping, and anything in the water or with my pup.

Why are you excited to be at NSP?

As a lifelong skier who grew up in the ski industry, I feel very privileged to learn more about and support the heroes of our sport.



MATT MEARS, SALES AND PARTNERSHIPS DIRECTOR

Matt is leading NSP’s partnership efforts and operations for the catalog and NSP Online Store. He came to Denver from New York, where he was the owner/operator of a small retail business. There, he honed his retail and ecommerce skills.

He grew up in New York and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in economics and a passion for small business.

Name three words that describe you.

Adventurous, entrepreneurial, and relatable.

What are your outdoor interests?

I spend most of my free time hiking, backpacking, and climbing in the warm months. In the colder months, I prefer snowboarding and alpine touring.

Tell us about your previous patrol experience.

After graduating in 2014, I joined the Hunter Mountain Ski Patrol as a volunteer patroller. I continued to patrol until I relocated to Denver in 2018.

Why are you excited to be at NSP?

NSP is a rare culmination of everything that I enjoy and seek in my professional career. I am excited to be working at the NSP Lakewood office because I get to further develop my retail and communication skills while working for a nonprofit in the outdoor industry. It doesn’t get much better than that.



BECKETT STOKES, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Beckett is responsible for internal and external communications and marketing for NSP. She is a Colorado native and lifelong skier and has worked in communications and marketing for a variety of for-profit and nonprofit organizations, including most recently a Denver-based community foundation and the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado.

Name three words that describe you.

Chatty, level-headed, and persistent.

What are your outdoor interests?

In addition to skiing, I love to snowshoe, hike, and ride a bike. I have very recently been introduced to fly fishing and look forward to learning much more about rivers, flies, and trout.

Tell us about your previous patrol experience.

Being a volunteer patroller at the Middlebury College Snowbowl in Vermont was a high point of my college education. I got to work with some of the best people on campus and learn and practice skills that were useful on the hill and in my summer work as a lifeguard. I also got to exercise my skiing skills in very different terrain and snow conditions than I’d grown up on in Colorado.

Why are you excited to be at NSP?

I am really excited to be working in service to a sport that has given me so much. Patrollers have so many stories to tell that are important to skiing and outdoor enthusiasts. I look forward to sharing stories about our members’ dedication, hard work, and outstanding training.



JEFFREY TEFT, E-COMMERCE ACCOUNTANT

Jeffrey works as a bridge between the sales and partnerships team and the finance team. He handles all of the accounting for the NSP Online Store and keeps the finance and accounting systems moving smoothly. He graduated from college last year with a bachelor’s in accounting.

Name three words that describe you.

Quiet, consistent, and calm.

What are your outdoor interests?

I enjoy hiking and dog carting. (*Author’s note: according to the American Kennel Club, dog carting is just what it sounds like — dogs of any breed pulling carts, sometimes carrying weight.*)

Why are you excited to be at NSP?

I am excited to be at NSP because it is an important part of mountain safety. +

MEET NEW NSP MEDICAL ADVISOR CHUCK ALLEN, D.O.

LONG-TIME EMERGENCY
MEDICINE PHYSICIAN APPLIES
HIS TALENTS IN NEW ROLE

BY CANDACE HORGAN

This year marked a major transition for the National Ski Patrol, as long-serving NSP Medical Advisor David Johe, M.D., who had shepherded the NSP's flagship Outdoor Emergency Care Program through two textbooks and countless improvements and helped develop the Outdoor First Care course, stepped down from his position.

Luckily for patrollers and the NSP, waiting to step in was Chuck Allen, D.O., who has been a patroller for most of the current century. More important, he has an extensive background in emergency medicine, having worked in emergency rooms in both community and rural hospitals, including working at a Level II trauma center.

Ski Patrol Magazine sat down to talk with Allen about his medical background and his future goals for the OEC Program, as well as many topics related to emergency medicine.

SPM: *Let's start by getting some of your background. How long have you been doing ski patrol? What got you involved in it? And what do you enjoy most about it?*

Chuck: I joined NSP in 2002. I had tried out for a position back in the 1970s in college, but I missed that selection. Some nurses and paramedics found out that I skied, and North Dakota had just reopened a ski area and they asked me to join. I went thinking I was going to be a blessing to them. Turned out they were a blessing to me because I just fell in love with ski patrol.



Chuck Allen in his element in the hospital.

SPM: *So, you've been doing it consistently since then there?*

Chuck: Yep. I'm an alpine and snowboard patroller, and I'm an OEC and OET instructor trainer, and I got my Senior level I think four years ago.

SPM: *When did you get involved with the OEC Program? How soon was it after you joined the patrol?*

Chuck: I've been on since 2002, so I'm going to say somewhere in that 10-to-15-year range for being involved with OEC. I started out just teaching because I was a physician, and they asked me to get a little more involved. A year before the fifth edition came out is when I got involved with the NSP National Medical Committee. I met Dr. Johe for the first time when they had Powderfall in Snowbird to go over how to do the rollout. I was teaching OEC a little bit before that, but that's when I officially got on with the NSP National Medical Committee.

SPM: *What about becoming an instructor trainer? What do you like about being an IT in your area?*

Chuck: You know what I really like? I enjoy teaching. I enjoy seeing new people come on and they have learned something

that I haven't seen before. We work through the problem together, and both of us learn something new about it. I've just always enjoyed working with paramedics, EMTs, and ski patrollers. When you teach physicians, they already know everything in their minds and they're looking for what you made a mistake on or what they know that you don't. When you teach prehospital people, they're just hungry. They're just looking to learn, and I just really enjoy the interactions with them.

SPM: *So, it sounds like you also teach doctors as well?*

Chuck: I'm an instructor with Advanced Trauma Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. I've taught for a long time. Up until a year and a half ago, I was very active with medical students and residents with the University of North Dakota.

SPM: *When did you go to med school, and what field did you gravitate to initially?*

Chuck: I graduated medical school in Kansas City in 1986. I went on and did an ER residency and graduated from Michigan State in Lansing in 1989. The government paid my way through medical school, so I owed the government three years, so I was in South Carolina, a very

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Chuck Allen on the hill.

small community, an under-served area, for three years. I've been in Bismarck, North Dakota, for 27 years.

SPM: Do you have any experience in busy urban hospitals, or has your experience mainly been in rural areas?

Chuck: Bismarck's population is approximately 100,000. The hospital I was affiliated with is a Level II trauma center, 100 heart hospital, and a stroke center, with 30,000 annual ER visits. I'd say it's a community, not rural, hospital. I worked in an urban ER in residency.

SPM: But the South Carolina one was more rural?

Chuck: Oh, that was that was very rural (chuckles).

SPM: So, what was the main difference between those two? I've heard mixed things. Some people say when you work rural medicine, you actually end up doing more, especially if you're in the prehospital realm, because they don't have the same resources.

Chuck: You know, there's a mixture of both. For the last year and a half, I've been semi-retired. I've been doing locums or part-time help. I still work at one really busy ER, and I work at three lower-volume ERs. I'm actually working in Big Sky Medical Center in Bozeman, Montana, this week. When you work in the rural area, there are a lot of procedures that you don't have someone to come and help you with. You have to be a little more self-sufficient, and you have to be a little more confident in transferring patients rather than just having someone walk down the hall. I'd

say there are challenges to both.

SPM: Do you have a preference? Obviously, you must like the more community hospitals since you've been in Bismarck for a couple of decades now.

Chuck: I just really enjoy visiting with patients, and whatever avenue that is, wherever I'm at, I enjoy both of them. It's nice to be in the smaller area and be able to utilize some of the procedures and skills that I don't use elsewhere. It's also really nice when you really need somebody to have them right down the hall.

SPM: Do you have any sort of specialty in your emergency medicine field? I mean, do you specialize more in trauma? Do you do deal more with cardiac or strokes, or is it kind of a mixed potpourri?

Chuck: I'd say it's more of a mixed potpourri. ER, we're kind of jack of all trades and master of none more type of approach. Nobody wants to work nights, weekends, and holidays, so more clinics are closed during those hours and emergency medicine is becoming more the safe harbor, the place where there's always someone to help. I like that part, that we are a safeguard.

SPM: Let's discuss what you think of the OEC Program in general and how it fits into prehospital care. What is your general perspective on the OEC Program and how it compares to, say, a National Registry EMR or some other courses like Wilderness First Responder? Also, what is your perspective on running a challenge for OEC for more advanced providers? It seems counterintuitive to me as an OEC instructor and IT and someone who works on an ambulance as well.

Chuck: I appreciate your perspective. The OEC course requires the training necessary to become an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) as defined by the National EMS Educational Standards for EMRs, and it adds additional information pertinent to ski and bike patrollers. I have heard many patrollers call it equivalent to EMT training, but this is not true. EMTs spend upward of 200-500 hours in training, and a paramedic spends over 1,000 hours in training. My goal is to continue to offer an excellent level of training at the EMR level and slightly above geared toward care provided by ski and bike patrollers.

I like the challenge testing arrangements for those with advanced medical training.

I had the opportunity to work in the back of an ambulance as an advanced first aid responder in college. I delivered a baby in the back of one once. Many physicians and advanced prehospital providers do not get the same exposure to the equipment used by ski and bike patrollers, particularly that used on the hill. The challenge allows a provider to attend portions of the OEC class and to learn those skills, but not have to repeat the medical teaching that they already have. They are allowed only one chance to challenge and must take the entire OEC course if they fail before re-testing.

SPM: The new text is coming out next year. How involved are you in the process right now? More importantly, how involved are you with the structuring of the course in relation to the new text and in integrating those two?

Chuck: The new text was written prior to my appointment. Dr. Johe, Ed McNamara, and Deb Endly have worked tirelessly on this project. I have been invited to many meetings with the publisher and to read the chapters for final editing. The NSP Medical Committee met in March 2018, and our goal was to spend two days going over anything that was evidence-based medicine that had changed since *Outdoor Emergency Care*, 5th ed. We spent a great deal of time doing that. There was a panel of 10-12 of us going over what changes needed to be made.

There are many people working on the OEC refresher right now. I have appointed Dr. Johe as my assistant. It's kind of funny to think of him as my assistant, as he's been the leader in the field for the last 19 years. He's going to be by my side for this next year to let me see how he's been doing it, to ask questions and formulate with the other educators and Bill Devarney, the new OEC Program director, on our approach to OEC. Dr. Johe will be helping with the OEC refresher this year since he was very involved with OEC 6.

SPM: One of the things I've always thought is interesting is OEC has a challenge because it's a national program. How do you as a national medical advisor address the differing needs of different regions and different ski patrols to provide the best balance?

Chuck: I've been asked that question a fair amount the last month, and I'll compare it to something. When people go for training as an accountant, whether it be college or high school, and then they get their first job as an accountant, they find it's different

than what they were trained on, but they had the fundamentals. Then depending on what that accounting firm needed, they started to learn their role.

I think the national board's goal is to have the NSP Medical Committee and NSP OEC Committee develop the standard of training at that EMR level and slightly above. Some areas may have physicians, paramedics, or nurses that might be carrying medications, doing procedures, doing interventions, but that's under the protocols established by that area. Those patrollers would have the additional training, an agreement between ski area manager, patrol director, medical adviser, and most likely insurance agent, for that local area to develop their own culture of their needs. As you're well aware, in some areas in Montana it's 45 minutes to even get a rig to meet you there, another 45 to get back to their base, and probably 45 after that to get to a Level II hospital to be able to take care of them. Others are 15 minutes from that. It's a huge wide variety of needs across the country.

SPM: In terms of staying on top of best practices, I think that's another area where the textbook can have issues. How do you see your role in keeping up with the rapidly evolving field of medicine? As one example, spinal precautions, when I took OEC in 2008 if the patient had head pain, it was backboard immediately. Now more and more we're finding out that's not a good thing. How do you kind of steer that big ship and keep our newer students who are signing up for the class updated on these new things, and then also push those new advances down to the people who've been doing it for 20 years?

Chuck: When I graduated medical school, I couldn't wait till I'd been out 10 years, because then I'd know everything. I guarantee that medicine changes every year, and things that I used to do that we would swear were the right way are now looked upon and thought to have a lot of challenges and we've changed things. Change is the only constant that we'll find in medicine, which in a way is exciting

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because we're constantly learning. I think the best way to do it is not to try and do it as an independent person, but to surround yourself with a bunch of people who have that information, people that are in connection with EMS, EMT, paramedic, hospital level, RN, OEC, to find out what patrollers, the area, the National Ski Areas Association, associates, and our sponsors see as a need and able to understand and be a resource to the board of how that affects the teaching.

I think we did a really good job with backboarding and spinal precautions. That started a couple of years ago. Dr. Johe got the NSP Medical Committee on a phone conference. We reviewed a lot of journal articles over about three to six months, and then we prepared a paper that Dr. Johe and Dr. Jim Hamilton, the Pacific Northwest Division medical advisor, presented to the board, and they accepted it. Then we had the challenge of how we get it out to all patrollers. We did it with an article in the NSP magazine, and we did it by introducing it into the refresher.

One of the issues facing OEC is how to keep the patrollers current with the best

training practices. The Medical Committee will continue to meet regularly and discuss changes in prehospital care and provide new information about these training techniques to the board. If accepted by the board, this training will be provided to both OEC students and active patrollers.

Instructors and the ITs, once you get that title, it doesn't mean you hold it forever; you also need to be refreshed. I believe now every instructor must undergo some form of a refresher every three years, and the ITs are supposed to have some form of a refresher every year. I think through that structure is how we keep ourselves up to date. I forget what year the OEC fifth came out, but it's like every six years, seven years, that we come out with a new text, but we've got to find a way to every two years be able to update that information, and I think it's a challenge.

SPM: *The last question I want to ask is what are you hoping to accomplish as the national medical advisor? What are some of your big goals going forward for the OEC Program?*

Chuck: I think in the next year or next several months, it's just to interact and

learn the needs of the board of directors, division directors, program advisers, the NSP partner companies, and NSAA, and particularly the everyday patroller, pros and volleys, what do they see as their role? What are their needs? What are their thoughts? Where do they want to take this? I'd like to hear from them.

I think my goal, and probably where I find my talent useful, is how to take a group of people with varying ideas and be able to pull out the strength of each of those ideas and foster that culture to move in a positive direction. We want to be the leader in education resources like we are with the NSP magazine, with the OEC textbook, and with our training methods. I want to be able to continue to be a leader in that and be on the forefront of that. I want to be able to be a resource to patrollers and be able to educate and help make their jobs easier. We want to make it a more positive experience for everyone that's on the ski hill, the customer, the patroller, the everyday partner companies, and NSAA. I want to develop that positive culture of teamwork at the national level and be able to have that filter down. +



OEC Program Director Bill DeVarney.

MEET NEW NSP NATIONAL OEC PROGRAM DIRECTOR *Bill DeVarney*

EXPERIENCE ON OEC REFRESHER COMMITTEE
WILL BE VALUABLE IN NEW ROLE

BY CANDACE HORGAN

This year, Bill DeVarney stepped in as the program director for the Outdoor Emergency Care Program, replacing Deb Endly, who termed out. Bill has a long list of experience with OEC, including chairing the OEC Refresher Committee, so he is well up to the task of being director for the NSP's flagship program.

Ski Patrol Magazine sat down to talk with Bill about his previous experience with patrolling and OEC, his experience on the OEC Refresher Committee, and his goals for the OEC Program.

SPM: *How long have you been patrolling, and what got you into it originally?*

Bill: I think I need to work this question in reverse. I grew up in a small town in Massachusetts known more for the plastic industry, pink flamingos, and football. However, the town had a ski area called Pheasant Run. I grew up on those slopes and helped the patrollers whenever I happened to be on a trail where they were working. After graduation from college, friends who were patrollers from a nearby town who knew my family and background encouraged me to get involved as an EMT at Wachusett Mountain. When I finally became a patroller, it was actually the patrollers from Pheasant Run who had moved to Wachusett Mountain who I first worked with. I started with the patrol as an EMT in 1985. On my second or third day of work, it was a rainy day and only one patroller showed up for the night shift. The patrol director asked me if I wanted

to go out on the hill to help out and they would cover the base. So, off I went with a borrowed pack and directions to call if I needed a sled. I spent the rest of that year doing both and went to solely patrolling the following year.

SPM: *Have you been with the same patrol your entire patrol career?*

Bill: My entire patrolling career was with Wachusett Mountain. I transferred to the Eastern Division patrol when I started getting more involved with OEC at the division and national levels.

SPM: *When you took OEC, did you have any prior medical background?*

Bill: I started patrolling before Winter Emergency Care and later Outdoor Emergency Care was initiated. I was a Massachusetts EMT and an NREMT-B at that time. I also worked for the Department of the Army as an EMT in an emergency room on an Army post where I treated plenty of injuries and illnesses and was also taught additional skills. I worked duty weekends in the ER directly with the physician on duty.

SPM: *Let's talk about your involvement with the OEC Program. When did you first become an instructor and instructor trainer, and what was the impetus for becoming an instructor?*

Bill: I have been teaching OEC since the program started. Even before the original programs I was involved with teaching first aid and CPR courses. When the initial rollout occurred, everyone was brought into the program through



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Athlete: Andy Wienberg
Location: Vail Backcountry. Photo: Jeff Crisco

ACTIVE AND CONTRIBUTING ALUMNI

ALUMNI SUPPORT PATROLS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

BY JOSIE ELTING, WILLAMETTE BACKCOUNTRY SKI PATROL ADVISOR

NSP alumni are very active in a variety of roles with the National Ski Patrol. Active and contributing alumni include patrol directors; Seniors; National Appointment and Leadership Commendation Award recipients; Outdoor Emergency Care, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche, Nordic/Backcountry, and Instructor Development instructors and instructor trainers; and region and division board members.

THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING AN ALUMNI MEMBER

Becoming an alumni member offers many benefits to long-time members of the NSP. Among them are:

- The opportunity to return to active patrolling by meeting area and patrol requirements;
- Social connections;
- *Ski Patrol Magazine*;
- Discounts through the NSP Online Store and pro deals;
- *Alumni E-Newsletter*, *Sweep*, and *Sweep Deals*;
- Continuation of membership years without a break in service;
- Voting rights in board elections;
- Access to the NSP member website;
- Opportunities to participate in NSP-sponsored events, training, and education programs; and
- Staying active and connected to your patrol.

I joined the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol (WBSP) in fall 1993, having been recruited by a knowledgeable, friendly, and “ton of fun” Nordic patroller, Roger Stephen. The Nordic training, with overnight camping and nighttime searches in the snow, avalanche training, and what was then called Winter Emergency Care (now OEC), was made fun by many dedicated and knowledgeable patrollers.

Our small patrol operates from a rustic log cabin in the Willamette National Forest

that was built by the U.S. Forest Service and our patrollers in 1983. While lacking electricity and running water, we operate with a passion to help others enjoy the snow and the backcountry safely. Our patrol values our members’ knowledge base and expertise and successfully retains many valued members as alumni. We currently have nine dedicated alumni supplementing a dozen Nordic patrollers and additional Forest Service volunteers.

Our outstanding alumni members include five past patrol directors, providing a continuity of leadership. Our alumni also stay active in roles such as serving on the fundraising board, liaising with the Forest Service to coordinate radio frequency changes, and creating the patrol newsletter.

Our alumni include several National Appointment recipients; Oregon Region, Pacific Northwest Division, and national administrators; instructors and instructor trainers in most disciplines; and National Outstanding Nordic Patroller award winners.

It would be impossible to list all the ways our alumni contribute, or all the positions they have held or the awards they have received. Their knowledge and expertise are invaluable to the patrol and its new and continuing members.

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

If you are a former NSP member with a year of service after your candidate year, you are eligible to become an alumni

member even if you have a break in service. The Alumni Program provides many opportunities for the NSP patroller but also provides many more opportunities for the patrol. We are truly an outstanding patrol by having retained our members as alumni.

ALUMNI CELEBRATION WEEK

NSP Alumni Celebration Week, at Whitefish Mountain in Whitefish, Montana, will be held Feb. 2-9, 2020. Our first Alumni Celebration Week in Whitefish last February drew over 35 alumni and friends for fun, good food, and great skiing. This year, participants receive discounts on rooms at the Grouse Mountain Lodge and substantial skiing discounts for veteran skiers age 62 and older. Mark your calendars for Feb. 2-9, 2020, and email NSP National Alumni Advisor Tim Viall at tviall@msn.com for additional details. You can also download the event flyer from the NSP website under the Alumni Program tab.

RENEW YOUR ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!

You can renew your alumni membership online. Here’s how: a) Login to the NSP website, then click “Hi, (member name),” in the upper right corner of the screen. That takes you to your My Profile page. At the bottom left of the profile, click “Renew Now,” and it allows you to pay with credit card. +



Gathering of alumni at the first Alumni Celebration Week. Photo c/o Tim Viall.

specific clinics. I attended the first clinic, and there were three or four more that I taught at; that was back in 1988. I have been an OEC instructor since the beginning and an Instructor Development instructor and IT the next year or so. I became the region Instructor Development advisor around 1989-90. Although I was not an IT for the original OEC rollout, I became an IT the following year with Ed McNamara, editor of the fifth edition and forthcoming sixth edition of *Outdoor Emergency Care*.

SPM: What other OEC leadership roles have you held?

Bill: I have been an OEC instructor trainer, Senior OEC trainer/evaluator, Eastern Division OEC assistant supervisor, Eastern Division OEC administrative supervisor, NSP National OEC Program assistant director, and NSP National OEC Program director. I also served on the OEC Refresher Committee and chaired that committee for six years. I chaired the committee that rewrote the *OEC Instructor Trainer Manual* and was the assistant chair for the OEC Senior Training Coordinators Guideline document. In 2013, I presented the OEC trainer/evaluator training to the National OEC Committee, certifying all of them as OEC Module of the Senior Program trainer/evaluators and supporting the rollout of that national program.

SPM: When did you get appointed to the OEC Refresher Committee, and how did that happen?

Bill: I actually turned it down once, but when Deb Endly took over the program as the OEC Refresher Committee chair, as part of her responsibilities as NSP National OEC Program assistant director she asked me to join the team. I took over the following year as the committee chair when she became the NSP National OEC Program director.

SPM: What did you find most enjoyable about being on the OEC Refresher Committee?

Bill: The most enjoyable part about being on the OEC Refresher Committee was the excitement that the team brings to the project. From the time we started looking at what objectives to cover in a cycle, this team was full of excitement. Tim Thayer, Kathy Glynn, George Angelo, Jason Erdmann, Deb Endly, David Hemendinger,

and Dr. Johe are a great mix of people that work very well together.

SPM: Can you think of a challenge that you met with putting out refresher materials, and how did you meet it?

Bill: There were two major challenges. The first was the total volunteer development of the online piece and getting into the Learning Management System the first time. That process was a challenge from the beginning, and each year we have run into different issues. The second was changing the basic direction of the *OEC Refresher Workbook* from a tool that covered the knowledge-based information to one that focuses almost exclusively on skill review for the hands-on portion of the refresher.

SPM: Outdoor Emergency Care, 6th ed., (OEC6) is coming out in the spring. What can you tell patrollers about the process as it stands so far?

Bill: It is a long process, and the book is scheduled to be completed in May 2020. Currently, the editors and publisher are in the final chapter editing for the written pieces, but there are still graphics and other items that will need to be completed before it is ready to go to publication.

SPM: You were recently appointed OEC Program director; what are your goals in that position?

Bill: Commitment, consistency, and communication. My first goal is to ensure that everyone who is involved in the program is committed to keeping to the standard of training and committed to the patrollers who we provide training for and the NSP. Consistency in that everyone must be training from the same material. What I have been finding is that we have some great instructors and they want to make everything their own, but in doing that they are leaving out valuable information and missing some context that goes with original programs. By focusing on the instructor trainers and the quality assurance process, I hope to set up a one-stop shop to get materials cleared through. Finally, I want to focus on communication with the OEC leadership in the divisions. I think they all know they can reach out to me and I am as open as I can be, and many have done that even in the first few months of my being in this position. I want to push that out further as we go along.



Bill Devarney out on the hill.

SPM: What do you think the value of the OEC Program is?

Bill: The value is in what people take away from it. I have yet to meet a patroller that doesn’t care about others; that is why most people get into patrolling. OEC gives you those fundamental tools to help others that are in need on a personal level, and honestly having that first person come back to the resort or patrol room after you treated them on the hill and got them safely off the hill and they say thank you is what it is all about.

SPM: What do you like most about patrolling and OEC?

Bill: The part I like the most about patrolling is starting the day on top of the mountain looking over the valley and feeling the fresh air and preparing for the day ahead, the quiet before the storm, and the first run to check the trails before opening. The second part I like the most was the end of the day when I was called off the mountain because of relief from the night shift or at the end of the day calling the groomers to tell them we were in and the mountain belonged to them. OEC is part of my life. The part I like the most is teaching others what I have learned, what the material is, and how to make it work for them. +



FUNDRAISING RECAP

LOOKING BACK AT FY19 AND AHEAD TO FY20

BY STEPHANIE ZAVISLAN, NSP ACCOUNTANT



The pavers in the NSP office. Photo by Will Bruce.



NSP's GivingTuesday ad. Created by Will Bruce.

The NSP Fundraising Committee is proud to announce great achievements in fiscal year 2019, and even bigger and better plans for this current year. Thanks to you and your efforts, NSP is still trailblazing and engaging people all over the world.

Our biggest dollars last year came into the Education Endowment Fund by asking donors to fund a brick base for a chairlift that will be placed in the Lakewood office in Colorado. We sold 102 pavers for a total of \$10,200 for this restricted fund. The engraved bricks are in place at the Lakewood office. The refurbished chairlift that will soon sit atop the bricks was crafted to represent the foundation of NSP — our alumni — and the future of NSP, our young adults. All funds in the Education Endowment Fund go toward NSP's education programs.

In July 2018, NSP started to develop a pro bono donor management system with Acumen Solutions and Salesforce. One of our Fundraising Committee members, Tom Sherry, is an employee with Acumen and recommended us for this in-kind project, which was valued at over \$80,000 after completion. This new software includes an improved online donation site and a donor management database. Salesforce donates user licenses to NSP as a nonprofit. This is a savings of several hundred dollars per month in software licensing fees and provides a modern way

for NSP to collect direct donations and pass-through donations for local patrols. NSP purchased an online plug-in for our donation site called "Double the Donation," which informs donors about employer donation match opportunities and helps them initiate the match process. Do you know if your employer might match your donation to NSP? Employer and volunteer matches are a very easy, efficient, cost-effective way to raise money both for national programs and operations and local patrols. The Lakewood office receives many employer matches and last year passed through more than \$25,000 to local patrols, most of which were corporate donations. This was a 90 percent increase in pass-through donations over the previous year and a noteworthy way the Lakewood office helps support local patrols all over the country.

Finally, NSP held its first-ever silent auction at Powderfall in April and exceeded its fundraising goals for the evening. Thank you to everyone who participated in the auction and walked away with exceptional gear from our partners.

This year, the sky is the limit! NSP encourages members to share their passion by continuously educating the skiing, snowboarding, and biking public that NSP needs donations to manage operations, keep dues low, and maintain the gold standard in Outdoor Emergency

Care training.

We have planned several exciting ventures to boost awareness and garner support in the new year: as a partner of Warren Miller Entertainment for the premiere of their new film, *Timeless*; on the floor of the Outdoor Retailer + Snow Show in Denver and as the co-host of one of the week's main evening festivities; on informational materials in gear shops along Colorado's Front Range; and in various other capacities with current and future partners.

NSP also participated in GivingTuesday and Colorado Gives Day in December 2019, increasing awareness among donors and the general public.

You can now fundraise for NSP via our Facebook page, which is a great way to encourage your friends and family to support the organization. So far, seven individuals have personally raised almost \$2,000 through Facebook fundraisers for NSP and local patrols.

In future *Ski Patrol Magazine* issues, look for profiles of some of our prolific donors and how their gifts have furthered NSP's mission.

If you have any fundraising expertise that would benefit NSP, please reach out to finance@nsp.org or Stephanie Zavislan, the Fundraising Committee staff liaison, at szavislan@nsp.org. +

READY, SET, GO ... OR NOT???

PREPARING FOR YOUR NEXT NSP COURSE

BY DOUGLAS HILL, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



Preparing for a toboggan session. Photo by Andre Gonsalves.

As I sit here on the eve of my latest Instructor Development course, I am reflecting on all it takes to prepare and put on an NSP education course for any of our disciplines. For those of you instructors who teach but are not necessarily the instructor of record for the courses at which you teach, or for those that don't teach that often, I thought that a brief review of what the instructor of record (IOR) must do to prepare and implement a course, aside from the obvious lesson planning, might be good for all of us.

My preparation for this all-day Instructor Development classroom course started about six weeks ago when it was determined from requests and emails that many patrollers were interested in an ID course prior to the start of the season. My first chore was selecting a date and finding a classroom location that would accommodate 10-20 students for the day with facilities for a PowerPoint presentation and sufficient space for group discussions and practice teaching. Your venue may be very different, perhaps an alpine or Nordic area, a backcountry location, a deep forest, or a snow-covered forested slope.

Once my location was confirmed and a date set, I logged into my NSP page and registered the course in the "Instructor Resources" section under "Course Tools" and the "Register a Course" tab. I added

the instructors that I invited to help teach the course. NSP provided me with a course number at that time, and I was ready to publicize the course to my region of approximately 500 patrollers.

I wrote a brief article with all the course essentials the students needed to know, such as the time, location, what to bring, how to register for the course, the course number, any prerequisites, and a map link of how to get there. I sent the article to all the patrol representatives in the region for their newsletters and to our region webmaster to post on our region webpage, our social media pages, and to email blast the region membership regarding the upcoming course.

A one-day classroom course in the city is fairly easy to plan relative to other courses where you have to be concerned with weather forecasts, travel and road conditions, area management or forest service interface, and safety and risk management concerns. Many of those items are extremely time-consuming when working through the logistics of a course.

Once my course was publicized and enrollments were coming in, I turned my attention to preparing all the class material and equipment. For my little course in a nice warm classroom, it was mostly computers, audiovisual equipment, and paperwork such as NSP liability releases,

course handouts, testing materials, evaluation forms, course sign-in rosters, course completion certificates, outlines, and lesson plans. I also planned lunch, snacks, and nutrition. Your preparation may be much more ambitious and include alpine or Nordic toboggans, avalanche transceivers and probes, communication devices, and backboards and traction splints.

So here I sit on the night before the class. I log into my webpage and see that I have 13 students enrolled, an instructor trainer, and one assisting instructor. I export my sign-in roster from the "Enrollment" tab in the "Course Tools" section to Microsoft Excel. Other export options include Microsoft Word (text file), PDF (portable document file), CSV (comma-separated values for storing tabulated data), and XML (extensible markup language for internet or network use). I prefer Excel, because it allows me to easily add or delete columns and data and customize my roster. I delete the columns I don't need, create columns for student sign-in and for my notes (like "didn't attend"), and print it out for sign-in the next morning. Finally, after almost six weeks of preparation, we get to meet the students and share the class with them.

When our class is complete, my role as IOR is not over. I file our course completion roster in a timely manner on the "Close A Course" tab in the "Course



Instructor supervises a test. Photo by Candace Horgan.




Practicing taking pulses. Photo by Candace Horgan.

Tools” section, noting any instructors or students who did not attend and adding any assisting instructors who weren’t originally listed. We clean and sanitize the facility we used for our class, send thank you notes to those who provided the classroom space and to the assisting instructors, follow up with students on any unanswered questions from the course, send out course completion certificates to the students if they were not handed out at the end of the course, and review our course evaluations from the students to see if we can improve our class for the future.

This is a brief list for my Instructor Development course and certainly not complete. Your list for your course may be similar or much more detailed, but the basics are essentially the same. I hope this review makes it a little easier for you to teach your next course.

If you are not currently an NSP instructor and have thought about teaching in one or more of the NSP disciplines, take the challenge and begin your NSP teaching career by enrolling in an Instructor Development course in your region. You can change patrollers’ lives, and I think you may

change your life as well.

For more information on the Instructor Development Program, or if you would like an Instructor Development course offered to your patrol, contact the Instructor Development Program administrator in your region or the Instructor Development Program supervisor for your division. If you have questions or comments regarding this article, or ideas for future articles related to the Instructor Development Program, you may contact me at dch@cadwest.com. 

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Chest Pain = Heart Attack, Until it Doesn't

KEEP DIFFERENTIALS IN MIND WHEN RESPONDING TO CHEST PAIN

BY CHUCK ALLEN, NSP NATIONAL MEDICAL ADVISOR



Sled prepped for CPR response.

NSP bike and ski patrollers will mostly experience trauma-related injuries but should be well-prepared to provide care for those with a medical illness. Chest pain can indicate a patient with a serious medical condition requiring rapid recognition and transportation, or a less-concerning cause. Women, the elderly, and diabetics may present with more subtle heart attack complaints, requiring a high degree of suspicion.

Case Study

A 75-year-old female presented to the emergency room with nausea, weakness, and diarrhea. She denied any chest pain but felt a little winded from weakness. She appeared to not feel well, and was slightly pale with warm, moist skin. Heart and lung exam were unremarkable. She had good bowel sounds with mild epigastric discomfort. Vitals were pulse of 111, respirations of 19, blood pressure of 105/65, and a 92 percent SpO2.

Statistics

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) reported that in 2016, approximately 18 percent of skiers were over the age of 55. The risk of coronary artery disease (CAD) increases over the age of 55, as do the risks of many other illnesses. Chest pain is the second most common presenting complaint to U.S. emergency departments, trailing only abdominal pain in patient numbers. The 2016 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey reports 7.6 million ER visits for

patients with chest pain out of the 146 million ER visits annually in the U.S. (5.2 percent). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports diseases of the heart as the leading cause of death (635,260) in the U.S., accounting for one out of every four deaths.

A 2005 survey by the CDC reported that while 92 percent of the respondents recognized chest pain as a symptom of a heart attack, only 27 percent were aware of all major symptoms and knew to call 911 when someone was having a heart attack. Almost half of sudden cardiac deaths occur outside a hospital.

Pathophysiology

The cardiovascular system consists of three major components: the heart, blood vessels, and blood. This system is responsible for carrying oxygen and nutrients to tissues and cells and removing waste products in the blood. The heart pumps oxygenated blood to the many organs and tissues of the body, including itself.

MAJOR SYMPTOMS OF A HEART ATTACK

- Chest pain or discomfort
- Upper body pain
- Discomfort in the arms, back, neck, jaw, or upper stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Lightheadedness
- Cold sweats (diaphoresis)



Not all chest pain is cardiac, but just because they do not have chest pain, it does not mean they are not having a heart attack. Photo by iStock.com-Motortion.

Blood vessels can become narrowed and hardened over time with the buildup of fat, cholesterol, and other substances, a condition referred to as atherosclerosis. When significant exertion occurs and the narrowing of the coronary arteries prohibits adequate blood flow to oxygenate the tissues (ischemia), symptoms occur.

Stable angina is defined as chest pain or discomfort that comes on with exertion and resolves with rest or medication. Unstable angina is chest pain that does not resolve with rest, or a changing of stable angina where the condition worsens. Angina can only be diagnosed by a doctor.

Plaque in the vessel wall may rupture with formation of a thrombus or clot through activation and aggregation of platelets, further compromising blood flow. The American Heart Association (AHA) describes acute coronary syndrome



Bagging a patient on the hill. Photo by Scott DW Smith.



CPR in progress. Photo by Scott DW Smith.



Analyzing the heart rhythm. Photo by Scott DW Smith.



Preparing to shock. Photo by Scott DW Smith.

(ACS) as an umbrella term for situations where the blood supplied to the heart muscle is suddenly blocked. Unstable angina is unexpected chest pain from ischemia that usually comes on at rest. Acute myocardial infarction (AMI), also known as a “heart attack,” occurs when the ischemia lasts long enough to cause damage to the heart muscle.

The term STEMI (ST-elevation myocardial infarction) is used to describe an MI that has classic changes on the EKG. Time is of the essence when treating and transporting these patients, as a hospital may be able to provide thrombolytic medication or a procedure to re-establish blood flow to the area of the heart involved, reperfusing the heart muscle and preventing or limiting the damage.

Microvascular heart disease or involvement of the smaller coronary vessels leads to more uncommon symptoms. Patients may present with little or no chest discomfort, but complain of nausea, diaphoresis, syncope, jaw or arm pain, and profound weakness. Atypical presentations may occur more commonly in diabetics, the elderly, and women. One must be vigilant searching for clues in patients with chest pain to capture those with life-threatening conditions.

Causes of chest pain (Differentials)

Just because your patient has chest pain does not mean they are having an MI, and just because they don't have chest pain does not mean they are not having an MI. The organs in the chest and abdomen share nervous system pathways, so signs and symptoms can be very similar for cardiac, gastrointestinal, and respiratory conditions. The role of the OEC provider is not to diagnose the condition, but we need to have an awareness so that we act efficiently in our evaluation and involve advanced life support early.

Life-threatening causes of chest pain besides ACS include aortic dissection, pulmonary embolism, tension pneumothorax, pericardial tamponade, and esophageal rupture (mediastinitis).

Gastrointestinal (GI) causes of chest pain may include peptic ulcer disease, gallbladder attack, gastro-esophageal reflux (GERD), or pancreatitis. Patients with pneumonia, bronchitis, and asthma may present with chest pain. Patients with pericarditis, an inflammation of the lining that surrounds the heart, often present with chest pain. Costochondritis, or inflammation of the cartilage in the chest wall from a muscular strain or injury, is a common cause of chest discomfort. Shingles may present with chest pain with or without a rash on first presentation.

Recognizing Life-Threatening Chest Pain

When we arrive on scene, we naturally form an overall impression or gestalt of a patient as we make sure the scene is safe. Obtain a brief history (MOI or NOI) with your primary assessment. If the ABCDs are stable, begin the secondary assessment by taking a SAMPLE history. The OEC provider should pay close attention to any complaints of chest pain and any cardiac medications that the patient may be taking. Obtain an OPQRST history.

While you are obtaining the history, palpate their pulse and appreciate if it is fast or slow, weak or strong, and regular or irregular. Is the skin wet or dry as you feel for the pulse? The

patient may appear pale, ashen, cyanotic, or normal. You should appreciate whether the patient appears to be having trouble breathing and if they are anxious or confused. You should complete the secondary survey and pay special attention to the lung sounds and vital signs.

Treatment

Oxygen: Consider using oxygen if the patient appears pale, ashen, sweaty, or in respiratory distress. If pulse oximetry is available, our goal is to administer oxygen only if needed to keep oxygen saturation above 94 percent.

Comfort: It is best to have the patient minimize activity or exertion. Provide a blanket for warmth, and speak in a calm manner.

Medications: Ask the patient if they carry any heart or breathing medications. The OEC provider may assist the patient with taking their own nitroglycerin, aspirin, or asthma inhaler. Be aware that nitroglycerin can precipitously drop a patient's blood pressure, so you should always take a blood pressure before assisting with the administration of nitroglycerin. Aspirin

can complicate GI bleeding, so ask the patient about hematemesis or hematochezia (blood in vomit or stools). If the patient is experiencing an MI, albuterol will increase the workload on the heart, so ask questions to determine the nature of the chief complaint.

Resources: Consider calling for additional patroller assistance. Locate and acquire an AED.

Trust the training: If you suspect a serious illness or injury, call for assistance. Activate ALS early, as well as other patrollers and area management. Our role is not to diagnose, but to care for the patient in the best and most efficient manner.

Case Update

IV fluids were started, and blood drawn for routine labs. An EKG was ordered that showed ST segment elevation (STEMI) consistent with an inferior MI. The patient was taken to the cath lab for successful stenting of the right coronary artery.

I did not suspect that this patient was having a heart attack, but I trusted my training that an elderly female with fatigue, nausea, and diaphoresis was

RISK FACTORS FOR HEART DISEASE

- High blood pressure*
 - High cholesterol*
 - Smoking*
 - Diabetes
 - Obesity
 - Poor diet
 - Physical inactivity
 - Excessive alcohol use
 - Age over 55 years old
 - Family medical history
- *key risk factors

a concern. Using the EKG, I made the diagnosis. Chest pain is a serious problem. As an OEC technician, you do not have an EKG on the hill, but you are well-prepared. Trust your training, take basic steps to help the patient, and keep your index of suspicion high for atypical presentations. It is best to quickly arrange transportation using ALS to a hospital when a patient appears seriously ill or injured. +

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Tips and Tricks

ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS TO TAKE ON THE HILL THIS WINTER

BY MARC BARLAGE, NSP NATIONAL OET PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Ski and toboggan tips are a timeless part of patrolling. Whether you are sitting in the top shack, taking a fun run, or trying to pass an upgrade exam, tips to improve are almost always offered. Some of these are golden, such as “bend ‘ze knees,” “get out of the backseat,” “hands forward,” etc. They are usually offered with the best intentions.

Following are some ski and toboggan tips from NSP Outdoor Emergency Transportation instructors. Some of these may be applicable to you and some may not, but hopefully you can relate to something offered below to further your skiing/tobogganing toolbox.

Don't Lock Your Hands

When working outside the handles in the bumps, I personally like to think of the handles as a piano keyboard. Your hands are never locked on any one place on the handles. Rather, move fluidly up and down the bar to adjust as you move through the bumps to steer the sled and feather the chain. I'm also a trained classical pianist — the analogy makes sense to me!

Sarah Keating, trained classical pianist, Eastern Division OET instructor, Certified Number 572, Elk Mountain Ski Patrol

Let them fly

I always say each of us has a different footprint in the snow but possess the same fundamentals that make us good skiers. I teach to those fundamentals. At the end of the day, it all comes back to having fun. When it doubt, “Ski ‘em like you stole ‘em!”

Marty Blaszkowski, Central Division PSIA Ski School director, OET instructor, Certified Number 830, Pine Knob Ski Patrol

Improving routes

A great training technique for someone who is struggling with being pushed through the moguls, causing them to struggle with route selection, is to have them run an



Controlling the toboggan on steep terrain. Photo by Dave Engle.

empty toboggan with horns locked. This will allow them to run the toboggan as if it were loaded, giving them the opportunity to improve their route selection skills.

Chris Deigert, Rocky Mountain Division OET instructor, Winter Park Ski Patrol

Bumps tips

I think this special forces slogan is very appropriate to operating toboggans: “Slow is smooth, smooth is fast.”

When operating toboggans in moguls, the best way to know if the toboggan is tracking in the trough of the mogul is to look back at the toboggan. Is it banking on the side of the mogul? Seeing is believing!

When first learning to operate a toboggan in the moguls, make sure the candidate gets to ride in the toboggan. The perspective from behind the front operator is very helpful to someone who is learning.

Tail-roping a toboggan can be surprisingly difficult and deserves as much practice as operating in the handles of a toboggan. You can't underestimate the value of a strong tail-rope in difficult terrain and conditions.

Tracy Amidon, Rocky Mountain Division OET supervisor, Ski Apache Ski Patrol

Finesse is best

To prove the point that muscling the toboggan isn't necessary, have a capable smaller

patroller (male or female) operate the toboggan to demonstrate that finesse over muscle is preferred for a smooth and efficient toboggan run.

J.B. Brockman, Rocky Mountain Division OET instructor, Winter Park Ski Patrol

Cords and carries

1. Carry in your pocket a 6-foot piece of 6-millimeter cord pre-knotted as a brake chain hold-back. It doubles as a back saver when you need to drag a loaded sled without handles a short distance. Tie a loop in one end and a series of overhand knots. The loop allows you to girth hitch the cord to the chain.
2. Loosely coil the tail-rope and tuck it under the toboggan pack. This allows easier retrieval for use than a coil that is secured with a knot and/or strap.
3. Save your back by picking up the sled at the end, standing erect, dragging the sled to be centered in front of you, and then bending your knees to lift the sled without twisting.
4. When doing tail-rope training, insert a breakaway in the tail-rope to prevent the tail-roping patroller from applying too much pressure.
5. When stopping to lift the chain brake, angle the sled out of the fall line so



Moving smoothly in the bumps. Photo by Dave Engle.

that you don't need to push the sled and passenger directly up the fall line.

John Maji, Southern Division OET instructor, Snowshoe Ski Patrol

Don't forget up and down

When in the bumps, “Up is go, down is slow.” It can be utilized in and out of the handles.

Linda Barthel, Central Division OET instructor, Certified Number 556, Mt. Brighton Ski Patrol

Be smarter

Think smarter, not harder. Jane Williams of the Eastern Division has a great tip on how to pick up the toboggan by flipping it onto the nose and walking it up versus clean snatching it.

Remember, you are a team (if two-person) but the handles is in charge — like holding the cervical spine, be a confident driver!

Tanya Bruce Thomas, NSP National Women's Program advisor

Don't lock out until ready

Do not have the tail-rope tied or fixed to the tail person in any way. Do not lock the handles when horizontally positioning the Cascade toboggan to load a patient, as that is a good way to see if your runaway toboggan recovery skills are up to date.

Tom Worley, NSP National OET Assistant Supervisor (East), Certified Number 179, Perfect North Slopes

Four-handed tips

On a four-handle toboggan, the front and rear operators should drift toward the

uphill handles in sync prior to initiating the turn to avoid having the rear operator whipsawed through the arc of the turn.

Jeff Weitz, NSP National OET Assistant Supervisor (West), Mt. Hood Ski Patrol

Consonants

Just remember consecutive consonants: “Loaded Locked/Unloaded Unlocked.”

Jay Zedak, NSP board member, Central Division OET instructor, Certified Number 572, Boston Mills/Brandywine/Alpine Valley Ski Patrol

Grinding bumps

One of my favorites is what I call “bump grinding.” The idea came to me watching people in our Jib Park at Crystal Mountain. Grinding is sliding sideways on a feature, man-made or otherwise. Finding a patch of moguls and grinding down the top in a power stance is great for improving the basic movement skills of skiing. It is also great for maintaining a proper line both in the front and rear of a toboggan. In order to keep the toboggan in the trough, the operators need to be able to slide up on and around the bumps. I use the drill in my warm-up routine to start most of my classes.

Jack Ramsey, Pacific Northwest Division OET supervisor, Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol

Get to the basics

1. Get all your equipment right before you go.
2. Ski slowly, to train your movements and muscles. There's always time to ski fast later!



A smooth ride down the hill. Photo by Candace Horgan.

3. Be conscious of your movements and use the 5 fundamentals of skiing.

4. Breathe!

Jimmy O'Connor, Eastern Division OET supervisor, Certified Number 626, Nashoba Valley Ski Patrol

Front and back

For the patroller in the handles:

1. Keep your hands situated at and just forward of hip joint level. This affords the best middle position while providing a stance extension and compression range of motion. Pulling “up” on the handles provides downward ski/board edge/braking pressure. Pushing “down” on the handles lessens edge pressure, transferring more contact to the nose of the sled. A lighter edge allows easier ski/board movement around obstacles, moguls, and/or snow accumulations.
2. The Cascade center bar can be your friend. The weight and gravity inertia of a loaded sled creates a formidable projectile if control is compromised. The averaged-size patroller can slide all the way back so their uphill thigh/hip contacts the center bar, allowing the loaded sled to “push” the driver down the slope. In this position, the patroller controls the direction of the “push” and inertia of the loaded sled. This is far more energy efficient for the front patroller.
3. Use more “falling leaf” and “transitions,” rather than remaining in static straight sideslips. Staying in a static straight sideslip position for any extended period can lead to premature muscle fatigue. Using more falling leaf's, coupled with transitions,



A solid tailrope on steep terrain. Photo by Candace Horgan.

employs different leg muscle groups that can keep the leg muscles fresher. It also engages the sled runners more efficiently.

For the tail-roper:

1. Look 20 to 30 yards ahead of the sled driver to better anticipate your best future tail-rope position. Looking far

enough ahead allows the tail-roper to anticipate where their next best position needs to be before they need to be there to keep the tail-rope in the fall line for best braking assistance should the front patroller require it.

Mike Staszewski, International Division OET supervisor

Get tall

Reduce the loading on your knees by reducing excessive angulation and deep knee flex. Using a tall, athletic stance allows you to maximize edge control, fine-tune handle pressure, reduce knee and thigh strain, and increase control. What's not to like about those returns?

Ski like you are holding a credit card between your butt cheeks, as you end up taller in the handles. Standing taller activates your core, gets your hips up and engaged (open), gets you centered, maximizes edge surface control contact, reduces knee loading, and lessens leg fatigue. (Plus, you know where you left your credit card!)

Lance Vaughan, Far West Division director, Certified Number 550, Dodge Ridge National Ski Patrol

Stay safe, while being aggressive

Never say never, never say always. Remember, SAFETY FIRST! When analyzing safety, first ask if it is dangerous. Don't do that (D.D.T.) must always be an option in those circumstances if the answer is yes. Get smart, don't get hurt.

When teaching, two minutes for a break, then move! Remember that every run is a training run.

The guest in the sled is broken, so don't make it worse. Skills and technique don't wear out, muscles do. So, use it or lose it!

Daryl Witcher, Far West Division OET supervisor, Dodge Ridge National Ski Patrol

These are all great tips. Here are mine.

1. Ski with someone better than yourself. If possible, mimic what they are doing. Mirroring someone with great technique is an excellent tool to improve your skiing.
2. Give a ski lesson to someone else. This can help you remember the basics of skiing.
3. Take a lesson at least once a year.
4. Use the chain brake on more difficult terrain. If more braking is needed, ask the tail-roper. Adjust your route as necessary.
5. Have someone video your skiing or tobogganing.

Now it's time to get out and use a tip or two you may have picked up, because in the immortal words of Warren Miller, "If you don't do it this year, you'll only be one year older when you do." +



Ems Communications Technology Advances

NEW DEVICES SHOW FUTURE POTENTIAL FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

BY DICK WOOLF,
NSP NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR



ECG machine applied for CPR. Photo by iStock.com/Chalabala.

In fall 2017, I wrote an article for *Ski Patrol Magazine* that described a report issued by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, the umbrella organization for public safety radio users in the United States, and the National Association of State EMS Officials, covering rural EMS and how mobile data could potentially improve patient care.

Two years have passed, and while many of the problems associated with rural EMS — which include lack of population density, lack of ALS staffing, lack of initial and ongoing training, and lengthy transport times — have not changed, the technology available to aid EMS and rural healthcare providers to enable better patient care has evolved.

The term “telehealth” is defined as “the use of digital information and communication technologies, such as computers and mobile devices, to access health care services remotely.” While ski patrollers do not perform invasive patient interventions, advanced care is often not immediately available at the ski area. What patrollers and other first responders can do, however, is to communicate the patient's symptoms, vital signs, and other diagnostic information to a higher level of care. The higher level can then potentially make an informed decision as to the patient's priority and guide the ski

patrollers on how to proceed. For example, is the patient's condition serious enough to warrant a helicopter, or can the patient go by road? This is not intended to change any existing protocol or to contravene Outdoor Emergency Care training.

The secure and HIPAA-compliant FirstNet system permits providers to send 12-lead ECGs, live video, and even ultrasound images from the field to the next point of care. Patient information such as name/address, medication lists, and medical conditions can be securely transmitted.

New devices are being developed, introduced, and refined for EMS use. While some of them have not been approved for use at the first responder level, their appearance in field “smartphone-sized” packaging is an indication that the medical device industry is moving toward in-the-field diagnostics.

The inclusion of any manufacturer name here is not to be construed as an endorsement of any particular product by the National Ski Patrol. Philips Lumify ultrasound, Butterfly iQ ultrasound, and the Littmann Bluetooth Stethoscope are examples of new telehealth tech.

Questions/comments on this topic may be directed to telecom@nsp.org. +

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Les Berg

We are sad to report the loss of a beloved lifetime member of the National Ski Patrol as Leslie C. Berg, 74, of Vernon, Vermont, passed away on Aug. 3, 2019.

Les was born on Sept. 22, 1944, in Newport, Rhode Island, to Carl and Eleanor (Zimmerman) Berg. He was raised and educated in Brattleboro, Vermont. He was a proud Vietnam War era veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and served around the world, including Japan, Hawaii, and the Arctic Circle. On Oct. 11, 1969, Les married Mayda Jane Jasienowski, who predeceased him.

Les joined the Pine Top Ski Patrol in Vernon in 1958 as a junior patroller. When Pine Top closed, he joined the Brattleboro Ski Patrol, which serviced Maple Valley, Hogback Mountain, Harris Hill Ski Jump, Latchis Ski Jump, and Living Memorial Park. After returning from his tour of duty with the Coast Guard, Les became very involved with the Brattleboro Ski Patrol as a training officer and avid supporter of the Young Adult, Senior, Outdoor Emergency Care, and Outdoor Emergency Transportation programs. Les was a remarkable patroller with a warm smile, outstanding instructional skills, and a deep devotion to training across multiple educational disciplines. His commitment to "Service and Safety" was at the forefront of his entire ski patrol career.

In 1971, Les was appointed to the Southern Vermont Region staff as a Senior Ski and Toboggan (now OET) trainer/evaluator. During this time, he was an American Red Cross First Aid instructor, a CPR instructor, and an OEC instructor in the earliest stages of the OEC Program. He was recognized by the National Ski Patrol and awarded National Appointment Number 4167 in 1973 for his contributions to the Brattleboro Ski Patrol and the Southern Vermont Region.

Les was elected assistant section chief for Southern Vermont in the mid-1970s and continued his service as the Brattleboro Ski Patrol director from 1984-86. In 1991, Les became an Avalanche instructor, serving for many years. He was also an EMT and an active volunteer with Rescue Inc. in Brattleboro.



Les Berg

Les was a very kind, modest, and humble servant whose legacy was forged by his love for skiing and helping others and his distinguished service to the National Ski Patrol at Hogback Mountain and Maple Valley in Vermont and the Berkshire East Ski Patrol in Western Massachusetts.

Les was predeceased by his wife, parents, and his son-in-law, Adam Vergobbe. He leaves behind a son, Christopher, of Dummerston, Vermont; daughter, Emily Houle, and her husband, Josh, of Vernon; brother, Francis O'Donnell, and wife, Lois, of Seminole, Florida; as well as six grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Frey Aarnio
Southern Vermont Region Director

Leslie Bex

The patrollers at Camden Snow Bowl in Camden, Maine, would like to share the celebration of life of a fellow NSP patroller, Leslie E. Bex Jr., who passed away on Oct. 19, 2019, at the age of 81. Les was a true legend on the mountain.

Les became a member of the Camden Snow Bowl Ski Patrol in 1993 and soon became a mainstay. He patrolled full-time, including a stint as patrol director. Les also taught Outdoor Emergency Care and Outdoor Emergency Transportation classes for many years. In his "free" time, he created and built patrol shacks, exam tables, sled packs, quick splints, and backboards. He hand-carved trail signs, hand-spliced trail closure lines, and much more. Many of the hot-shot youth skiers of the '90s still remember his iron hand at controlling reckless skiing and jumping on the slopes. Times have changed, but his spirit and the many tales of his patrol days live on.

In the patrol shack, while drinking vast quantities of hot chocolate, he would always say "I was born upside down — my nose runs and my feet smell!" He had quite the personality.



Leslie Bex

In addition to ski patrol, Les made a big impact on our small coastal town of Camden. Les fell in love with sailing and the sea while on vacation in Camden. In 1969,

he purchased Maine Windjammer Cruises, including the ships Grace Bailey, Mercantile, and Mistress. He spent many years as captain, sharing his love for the outdoors and sailing with others. Les was also a long-time youth swim coach and officiated at many regional conferences across Maine.

Another skill Les had was as a talented circus model builder. He owned a full-size circus wagon commissioned by the Circus World museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Les enjoyed displaying his Bex Bros. miniature circus layouts.

Our patrol and the town of Camden all miss him and his contributions to our community.

Galen Todd
Ragged Mountain Ski Patrol, Maine

Walt Bunge

The Southern California Region lost one of its devoted former patrollers on Aug. 28, 2019, with the passing of Walt Bunge at age 91. Walt had been battling cancer for several years.

Walt started patrolling in the early 1950s at the Blue Ridge Ski Area, now known as Mountain High Resort, in the San Gabriel Mountains near Los Angeles. When the June Mountain Ski Area opened in the late '50s, Walt transferred there and became the area's first patrol leader. At June Mountain, his wife, Reta, also joined the patrol.

June Mountain, while organizationally part of the Southern California Region, was really a High Sierra mountain resort with steep runs and avalanche-prone terrain. It also presented a logistical challenge to Walt and Reta that tested their dedication, as they had to commute the 700 miles round trip each weekend from their home in Orange County.

For many years, Walt served as a region Ski and Toboggan judge/instructor for the Senior test, earned both the Avalanche and Ski Mountaineering rockers, and was elected section chief of the San Bernardino Mountain Section, which included



Walt Bunge

June Mountain. In recognition of his leadership and contributions to the region, Walt was awarded National Appointment Number 3128 in 1967.

Walt retired from the ski patrol in 1985 after 35 years of service and became ski school director at the Ski Sunrise Ski Area in the San Gabriel Mountains.

In 1995, following his retirement from the aerospace industry, Walt and Reta moved to Parker, Arizona. Walt continued to snow ski into his late 80s and water-skied until he was 90. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Reta; sons, Bill and Mike; daughters-in-law, Melanie and Xiaoyun; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Walt will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Ron Chandler
Southern California Region alumni

George Felis

After 55 years of active patrolling, George Felis passed away on June 19, 2019, following an eight-month struggle with organ failure resulting from a systemic infection subsequent to a minor medical procedure. We know George is now effortlessly skiing the "white smoke" of the Wasatch, always with crisp temperatures and blue bird skies.

George was extremely proud of his heritage. He was born in 1931 of Greek and Turkish immigrant parents in Salt Lake City and remained an active member of the Greek Orthodox Church. He was a graduate of Westminster College and was on their ski team, as well as a graduate of the University of Utah where he also taught skiing. George served in the U.S. Navy from 1951-55 aboard the USS Point Cruz and USS Jupiter during the Korean War.

Following his military service, George found himself in California, where he met the love of his life, Gloria Tannlund. They were married in 1964, and George pursued a career in the electronics industry.

It was also in 1964 that George joined the NSP patrol at Snow Summit in California and quickly attained Senior alpine patroller status. In 1973, George and Gloria moved their family to Salt Lake City, and he immediately signed-on with the Brighton Ski Patrol, serving with distinction for 45 more years.



George Felis

"George of the Jungle," as he often reminded us, was a cheerful soul, with never a cross word about anyone. That's not to say that we didn't know something was

askew! His influence was deep within the patrol and always presented in a positive manner.

George focused his leadership on becoming an American Red Cross First Aid and CPR instructor, patrol historian, and awards adviser, roles he faithfully fulfilled until his illness sapped his strength in fall 2018.

George was one of the first to create a long-standing and supportive relationship with new candidates during their training. At the same time, he gathered their personal history and that of transfers to Brighton, creating a page for each in the "Book of George." George kept the patrol history, but more importantly, he prompted for the preparation of awards at most appropriate times. The Brighton Ski Patrol was prolific in preparing award nominations and tremendously successful through his tenure, having received innumerable individual awards and twice being named NSP National Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol (1988 and 2016).

George was elected volunteer patrol director at Brighton in 1980. He further transitioned to Winter Emergency Care and Outdoor Emergency Care instructor, Senior OEC trainer/evaluator, and Brighton CPR training advisor, serving to the end with the commitment and dedication of the stellar team member that he was.

The NSP honored George with National Appointment Number 5099 in 1977 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1994. He was also selected to serve as a Salt Lake City Winter Olympics volunteer.

George is survived by his wife of 54 years, Gloria; their children, Melissa (Edgar Webster) and Peter (Klistia); grandchildren, Alexis, Zach, Cole, and Halle; and the deeply respectful members of the Brighton Ski Patrol.

Nancy Pitstick
Brighton Ski Patrol, Utah

Phillip Firl

On Oct. 24, 2019, the Canaan Valley Ski Patrol lost one of its most senior, experienced, and avid members when Phillip C. Firl passed away suddenly at his home. Phil was one of the first members of the paid staff at Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center, and he served Canaan Valley Resort, the Canaan Valley Ski Patrol, and the skiing public for over 40 years.

During that time, Phil held many positions with the patrol, including Outdoor Emergency Transportation instructor, first aid instructor, Outdoor Emergency Care instructor, lift evacuation adviser, skills evaluator, ski patrol director, and patrol board member. He also achieved Senior.

He served as the ski patrol director twice. One of his tenures was during a tumultuous time for the patrol. Under his guidance and his working relationship with the volunteer and paid members of the patrol, a successful solution was found and implemented.

Phil was a veteran of the U.S. Army who served in Vietnam. During a tour of duty in Vietnam, Phil earned a Purple Heart, as well as many other military awards, and he attained the rank of first sergeant. He served his country for 26 years in the Army, special forces, and the West Virginia National Guard. One had to only listen to his stories of his service to understand his ability to teach and mentor, his values, and his passions.

After serving 26 years in the Army, Phil retired and spent his time with his family, horses, and ski patrolling at Canaan Valley Resort. He also encouraged his three daughters to become members of Canaan Valley Ski Patrol. One of his daughters, Amy Fry, is still on our patrol. Two of his grandsons and one granddaughter assist the patrol, and it can be envisioned that when they are old enough, they will follow in their grandfather's footsteps.

As a patroller, he will be remembered as a leader, teacher, mentor, and friend to all. Phil had the knack of using his special operations military training to teach and mentor young patrollers. He had a seemingly unending knowledge of ways to splint and stabilize patients, no matter their injuries. He was especially



Phillip Firl

good at teaching patrollers how to think outside the box when either the situation was not going as planned or did not fit a conventional solution. He encouraged patrollers to treat and package a patient utilizing only the supplies that were available in their pack or vest and what was readily available at the scene. Many patrollers found that they could provide great care to an injured skier with limited resources.

Phil was involved with the Guitars for Vets, an organization that teaches guitar playing to veterans who are referred by doctors, and the Gathering of Mountain Eagles, an organization for wounded warriors.

He was small in physical stature, but he made up for it by being larger than life itself. He was often heard on the trails at the resort yelling, "I love my job!" He has left a large pair of ski boots that will be very difficult to fill, and he will be missed by all.

Bryant Hall

Canaan Valley Ski Patrol, West Virginia

Don Gilson

It is with regret that Christie Mountain Ski Patrol announces the passing of Donald Gilson on July 25, 2019, of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, at the age of 77.

Don began his patrol career in 1977. Due to his passion for the sport, a shared vision, and having a background in metal fabrication, he helped with the clearing and construction of the hill and lift for the opening of Christie Mountain in Bruce, Wisconsin.

As patrol representative, Don was influential in recruiting and maintaining patrol membership. His character and judgment has influenced fellow patrollers as he managed situations with extraordinary diplomacy. He initiated and strengthened the patrol through NSP-credentialed programs while maintaining the traditions of family and community.

Don was unable to attain Senior status due to multiple health issues; however, he volunteered for countless hours of on- and off-hill projects. He served as an inspiration to all while never using his health as an excuse and was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award and



Don Gilson

40-year service award.

In addition to being instrumental in the building, and years later remodeling, of the patrol/first aid hut, Don built a rescue sled specialized for traumatic injuries and built reels for closed trail ribbons. He also trained and instructed lift evacuation and tobogganing, was active in fundraising, and was the go-to guy for equipment maintenance and repair.

Each spring, Don looked forward to big mountain skiing, heading west with his friends. He also enjoyed horseback riding and dancing the night away with the love of his life, Linda.

He was buried in Hutchinson, Minnesota, on his 50th wedding anniversary. He is survived by his wife, Linda; daughter, Brenda; and son, Tom.

One of Don's greatest attributes to the patrol was his mentoring skills. He has mentored all past and current patrollers at Christie Mountain. For many years, Don used his wisdom to provide leadership and shared his ability of exceptional patrolling. Don's quality of character and leadership has left a lasting legacy for Christie Mountain.

Julie Kenyon

Christie Mountain Ski Patrol, Wisconsin

Mike Gooderham

On Sept. 24, 2019, Mike Gooderham, NSP National Appointment Number 3455, passed away after a long battle with cancer and complications from a very unfortunate auto accident. During his illness, Mike taught us all how to endure with strength, tenacity, and great courage. At his side, and a full partner in all his activities, was his beloved wife, Patty. Mike claimed that they had been sweethearts since second grade and were married shortly after graduating from LaGrande High School. They celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary earlier this year.

Mike could be direct and often blunt when dealing with people, but underneath was a kindness and gentleness. This was always evident when he handled accidents on the hill, especially when the accident involved a young skier. He treated all his patients with the utmost professionalism, but with the kids there was always an exceptionally kind and gentle touch.

Mike loved his horses and mules, especially a mule that he had raised named Wenaha. He rode that mule for 30 years, and their

dispositions matched perfectly.

Mike liked to attend all of granddaughter Kara's home softball and soccer games, and some of the closer out of town games as well. He also held a soft spot in his heart for his great-granddaughter.

Mike's public service record is extensive. He cared for the people in his community, the skiers at Anthony Lakes, and the patrollers he taught in first aid, CPR/AED, and Avalanche courses as an instructor and instructor trainer. Over the years, he taught many American Red Cross courses.

Mike held numerous leadership roles. He was patrol director with the Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol, Southern Idaho Region director, Pacific Northwest Division director, and served as a member of the NSP board of directors. He was first aid adviser at the patrol, region, and division levels, was instrumental in establishing Senior clinics in the region, organized the first Pacific Northwest Division Mountain Rescue Clinic, and was an instructor of record for his patrol's refreshers and the Winter Emergency Care and Outdoor Emergency Care courses conducted by his patrol.

Mike's community activities included 37 years as a member of the board for his local American Red Cross chapter with three years as chair, three years as district representative to the Oregon EMS Committee, and chair of the Union County Ambulance Advisory Committee for 29 years. He was appointed by the governor of Oregon to the Rural Health Care Council and the Rural Health Coordinating Council Grant Review Committee.

In recognition for his service, Mike received two Yellow Merit Stars, the Anthony Lakes Patrol Claud Anson Distinguished Patroller Award, the Southern Idaho Region Ed Orbea Award, and a Blue Merit Star. In 1992, he was honored with the NSP National Outstanding Alpine Patroller Award presented at the national convention hosted by the European Division in Chiemsee, Germany. That award was even more special as at the same ceremony his wife, Patty, was awarded the NSP National Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller Award.

Mike was a complex individual, a little eccentric, but a caring person with strong beliefs that to a great extent inspired his life of service. He is survived by his wife, Patty; son, Eric; daughter, Gretchen, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We wish Mike sunny skies, a good mule to

ride, Champagne powder, and good friends and family to enjoy them with.

Arthur J. Greer

Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol, Oregon

Leif Hansen

The Mt. Shasta Ski Park and the greater Mount Shasta community are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Leif Convers Hansen on May 9, 2019. Leif died in a fall from a cliff while descending a steep trail to access a kayaking run. We take solace in the fact that Leif was happy until his last moments, laughing with his friends on their way to do something he loved.

Leif was born in Pasadena, California, on Sept. 10, 1957. After high school, he served in the U.S. Navy as a corpsman. He moved to Northern California in the 1970s to attend college, graduating from the College of the Siskiyous and Southern Oregon State College. In 1989, Leif and Stefanie Woods founded Cutting Edge Adventures, an advanced rafting and adventure travel service, and operated it for many years.

More recently, Leif worked as a local contractor and was an expert craftsman in all aspects of construction, building and remodeling homes, building bike trails, and more. Leif was also a passionate outdoorsman with an amazing array of talents. He loved to ski, kayak, raft, mountain bike, paraglide, surf, kitesurf, dive, sail, pilot airplanes, and ride snowmobiles and motorcycles. He somehow managed to master anything he tried.

Leif was instrumental in the early development of the Mt. Shasta Ski Park and was its first patrol director, serving from 1985-88 after having patrolled at Mt. Ashland. Leif helped build many of the facilities, including the chairlifts and many of the buildings, and patrolled up through the 2018-19 season. He was loyal and dedicated to the Mt. Shasta Ski Park and was one of its greatest advocates in the community.

Leif was also a Mount Shasta Avalanche Center snowmobile ambassador and frequent donor. He held certifications from the National Ski Patrol and the Association of Professional Patrollers, was an



Leif Hansen

EMT, and was always pursuing new training in emergency medicine and technical rescue.

In more recent years, Leif also began to focus on personal betterment. He took steps to deepen and strengthen his relationships with his family and friends and increase his compassion and respect for others.

Leif leaves behind a son, Zach Pfeiffer-Hansen; father, Al Hansen; brother, Dor Hansen; ex-wife, Justi Hansen; Zach's mother, Sandy Pfeiffer; many aunts and uncles; and hundreds of friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Corinne Joy Matser.

Always first to respond to a report of an injured or lost guest, over the years Leif came to the aid of thousands of skiers in their time of need. His strong, decisive, calm, and caring manner was a huge asset in these emergency situations. He had a special talent in mentorship and would find time to help train and develop new staff, selflessly sharing his years of wisdom and expertise. Much of our collective knowledge of how to operate our patrol comes from Leif. He was always driven and passionate about his ideas to improve the Mt. Shasta Ski Park and make our patrol the best it could be.

Our patrol will never be the same without him, and we hope to carry on his legacy of being an incredibly hard worker, his passion for helping and teaching others, and his always having more fun than anyone else. He was always there for opening day, closing day, special events, difficult projects, search and rescue, first chair, closing sweep, and last call. Anytime the snow was deep and conditions great, you could find Leif skiing run after run. We'll miss you Leif, and your booming and distinctive laugh will continue to echo around our slopes for many years to come.

Nick Caselli

Mt. Shasta Ski Patrol Director

Ken Harrison

On Feb. 13, 2019, Mission Ridge ski patroller Ken Harrison passed away unexpectedly in his sleep at only 55 years old. He was a husband, father, grandfather, son, and a ski patroller that was loved and respected by all.

Ken was born in Wenatchee, Washington, in 1963, and graduated from Eastmont

High School in 1981. He played football and did the pole vault on the track team while in high school, and he grew up skiing at his local ski area of Mission Ridge. After high school, he attended and graduated from Eastern Washington University with a bachelor's in finance and economics.

Ken worked many years in the insurance industry, mostly in Spokane, Washington, and had taken a new position with the Spokane County Assessor's office as a property appraiser just prior to his death.

He married his wife, Barb, in 1988, and the eternal joke about "Barbie and Ken and their dream house" began. The couple was fortunate enough to celebrate 30 years of marriage in July 2018, and during those 30 years the couple raised two wonderful kids, Courtney and Jack, that brought Ken more joy and pride than he ever thought possible.

Ken was an active guy and throughout his adult life played a lot of golf and cycled. However, he literally lived for two activities: sailing on Lake Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) and ski patrolling at Mission Ridge Ski Area.

Ken was a proud 20-year "senior" member of the Mission Ridge Volunteer Ski Patrol. Even after moving three hours away to Spokane, he remained a regular working patroller at Mission Ridge. As a patroller, he felt like he really could make a difference and maybe save someone's life, and if not that, enjoy a lot of great skiing and fellowship with all his friends on the patrol.

Ken was always the life of the party. He almost always had a smile and laugh with whomever he was with. He was very quick-witted and had a wonderful sense of humor. Everybody loved to work with Ken, as his funny stories made the time fly. When called upon, he was a great patroller who knew his stuff and was great with people that were having a bad day, making them laugh and helping them enjoy their ride to the aid room.

All of the Mission Ridge Ski Patrol was shocked and saddened by the passing of Ken Harrison and miss him deeply. He will be remembered as a very good friend to all that knew him. His tremendous humor was a joy to be around.

Warren Clark

Mission Ridge Ski Patrol, Washington

Susan Himeles

The Hidden Valley Ski Patrol lost a true gem with the passing of Susan Himeles on Oct. 2, 2019. She succumbed to peritoneal cancer and left us much too early.

Susan was recruited into the Hidden Valley Patrol in fall 1995 and served over 23 years as an NSP volunteer alpine patroller. She was on her way to Senior, having passed the OEC Module of the Senior Program. Her background as a nurse working with firefighters and lay people made her a natural patroller. She was a great colleague — someone you wanted at your side at an accident scene — and like all of us put her time in with cold, wet, and muddy scenarios. She did all of this as a mother of four while holding a full-time nursing position.

Susan held the record for being the longest active OEC instructor for our patrol. She could always be counted on to use her skills teaching OEC classes and assisting and leading annual refreshers.

When it came to treating patients, there was no one who could match Susan. Her medical training started early when, as a child growing up, she would go with her physician father on his evening house calls. A few years later, she graduated with a bachelor's in nursing from Saint Louis University. Susan's skills were always tempered with tender compassion, kindness, and warmth. Her soft, soothing voice, ready smile, and excellent care were so important when comforting her patients. We all learned so much by watching her approach and interactions with patients in the patrol room. She was a pro both on and off the hill.

Susan retired a year ago from SSM Health after a 46-year nursing career. She and her husband, Dave, enjoyed her short-lived retirement with an Alaskan cruise. She was so full of life and excited about upcoming family activities, including her youngest daughter's wedding.



Susan Himeles

Unfortunately, she developed health issues in January 2019 and faced numerous tests, hospitalizations, procedures, and bad news. Her family rallied around her, caring for her the

whole way.

Susan leaves behind her husband of 44 years, David Himeles, and four children, Abby (Dylan) Black, Andrew, Margaret, and Emily, as well as her mother, sister, granddaughter, two brothers, and their spouses.

Her patrol family misses her greatly.

Suzanne Morganti, Ernie Mueller, Ralph Klink, and Gary Maroon
Hidden Valley Ski Patrol, Missouri

T. Hume Laidman

After more than 50 years of membership in the National Ski Patrol, Thomas Hume Laidman died on Oct. 4, 2019. His quiet demeanor belied the kind of leader he was in patrol and business.

Hume switched from active patrolling to alumni as his health was beginning to deteriorate once he was in his 80s. He had just received his 50-year recognition and lifetime membership in the NSP when he found out he had Alzheimer's disease and his ability to remember things started slipping away. It was the after-effects of a fall combined with the Alzheimer's that ultimately claimed his life at the age of 87.

He was a long-time member of the Song Mountain Ski Patrol of the Central New York Region in Eastern Division, where he participated in a number of leadership roles over the years. For many years, Hume also belonged to the Cazenovia Ski Club Ski Patrol and the Toggenburg Ski Patrol. Hume was awarded National Appointment Number 3922 in 1971.

Skiing was one of Hume's passions. He and his wife, Peggy, a former ski patroller herself, raised their three children on skis at the Cazenovia Ski Club. The children became life-long skiers and ski racers and became active in the ski industry.

Hume was faithful to his ski patrol obligations and made sure he showed up for his duty days. With 50 years on patrol, you'd think everyone would know all about their fellow patroller's career. It was always entertaining to ask from where he had just returned to meet his schedule. You knew his professional life was far from typical when he

noted his return from places like Singapore, Korea, Russia, and England. It was because this quiet man was actually a key player in the leadership of Carrier Corporation, one of the top air conditioning companies in the world. He was the person setting up factories and joint ventures in 52 countries!



Hume Laidman

He spent 44 years with the company, retiring as vice president of Carrier® Refrigeration Worldwide Operations. He was one of the founders of Carrier Transicold, which became the world's largest supplier of transport refrigeration equipment. He then helped start Carrier Refrigeration in 1997, which grew to \$22.3 billion in sales in just three and a half years.

Still, Hume managed to find time to take part in his other sporting interests of sailing and racing, tennis, and golf. He was particularly proud of once having in the family Lightning #1, the first Lightning class sailboat built, which was inherited by Peggy from her father.

In retirement, Hume belonged to many clubs and organizations, including SCORE, where he helped numerous people start and grow businesses, and started a Cazenovia-area program to provide resources for independent seniors.

Hume is survived by his wife of 61 years, Peggy; daughter, Lisa (Chip) Hodgkins; daughter, Barclay (Josh) Rapoport; son, David (Chris) Laidman, and seven grandchildren.

Jeff Paston
CNY Region Historian

Michael Rhode

Michael "Rowdy" Rhode, 53, of Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, passed away on Aug. 29, 2019, from complications related to the acute spinal cord injury he suffered in 2010.

Rowdy grew up in Carteret, New Jersey, graduating from St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, New Jersey, and



Michael Rhode

the New York School of Sound Engineering, where he worked with hip-hop duo Eric B. & Rakim. Rowdy also graduated from DeVry Institute in New Jersey, becoming a

network engineer. He was sales manager for Leisure Fitness and a certified fitness trainer and personal trainer.

Mike's nickname, "Rowdy," was spot on because he was, well, rowdy. Rowdy had the ability to immediately make friends everywhere he went. From New Jersey to New York up to Maine and even as far away as Kashmir, people knew Rowdy.

Rowdy was very proud to be one of the first responders after the towers collapsed on 9/11. He loved skiing, biking, surfing, and softball, just anything to be outside.

A long-time regular at Hunter Mountain in New York, Rowdy joined the patrol in 2000 and worked as both a pro and volunteer ski patroller. He also spent a season at Sunday River in Maine as a pro patroller but came back to his family at Hunter.

After his ski crash in 2010, which left him a quadriplegic, Rowdy never lost his sense of humor or his desire to help others. He was on his way to becoming a social worker specializing in helping spinal cord injury patients. Rowdy's determination to overcome his disability was genuinely inspirational!

A dedicated sports fan, Rowdy loved the New York Giants, New York Mets, and his very special New York Rangers.

Rowdy was predeceased by his sister, Kathy Rhode Wilson, and his brother, Kevin Rhode. Surviving are his cherished children, Dylan and Hunter Elizabeth; parents, James and Mickey; uncle, Will Ryan; aunt, Pat Short, and her husband, Dennis; aunt, Josie Fields; and his cousin, Luke Short, and his wife, Jenna Glendye.

Fare thee well my brother.

Bill "Lumpy" Rod
Hunter Mountain Ski Patrol, New York

Ted Richardson

Ski Sawmill Ski Patrol in Pennsylvania lost a great friend and founding member when Theodore L. "Ted" Richardson, 97, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, passed away on Aug. 4, 2019. He is survived by his three children, Polly Richardson Renfro, Andy Richardson (Janey), and Mike Richardson (also a ski patroller), as well as six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Always an interesting and intelligent conversationalist, Ted received a bachelor's from Williams College and a master's in forestry from Yale School of Forestry. Besides skiing, he enjoyed tennis and was an avid paddler, forester, draftsman, carpenter, and hunter.

Like many avid skiers of his generation, Ted served in the 10th Mountain Division (and the 11th Airborne Division) during World War II. He helped start a ski patrol at Highland Lake, where a rope tow provided the first skiing in this area. When Oregon Hill Ski Area opened in 1969, Highland closed and Ted and the handful of patrollers from Highland, including his son, Mike, moved to Oregon Hill and registered there.

At Oregon Hill, Ted designed our ski patrol building and took the lead in building it. He also built backboards and the quicksplints that we still use today. Oregon Hill subsequently became Ski Sawmill Mountain Resort, where, in 1993, Mike Richardson, following in his father's footsteps, played a major role in the construction that tripled the size of our patrol building.

Ted was an active patroller for 30 years and a lifetime member of the National Ski Patrol. Ted received National Appointment Number 4325 in 1974. He served as patrol director during the '70s and, with his wide-ranging knowledge, instructed us in everything from Outdoor Emergency Transportation to ropes and everything in between. He was very



Ted Richardson

proud of his association with the NSP. When he decided he could no longer patrol, he became an alumni member and, in 2008, a lifetime member of NSP. He skied well into his

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80s and was a welcome visitor to our ski patrol building, whether skiing or watching the grandkids ski.

Mike tells us that even in the last few years, when Ted had become ever more confused, he would sometimes say, “C’mon, we’re going skiing aren’t we?” You were a great skier, Ted, and a great patroller. We miss you. Rest in peace.

Michelle Koons
Ski Sawmill Ski Patrol, Pennsylvania

Phil Resch

Phil Resch was a man who put community service above all else. When it came to community, he was always there to help, as evidenced by the organizations for which he volunteered. The ski patrol, fire department, and Scouting lost a leader and dedicated servant when Phil passed away at the age of 91 on May 4, 2019.

A 60-year member of the NSP, Phil — known as “Phip” to his friends — joined the Toggenburg Ski Patrol in the Central New York Region (Eastern Division) when the patrol became affiliated with the National Ski Patrol System in 1958. He served as Toggenburg’s patrol leader from 1962-65. For his service to the NSP, Phip was awarded National Appointment Number 3135 in 1967.

When the call came out for volunteers to serve on the 1980 Winter Olympic Ski Patrol in Lake Placid, New York, Phip responded and was selected for the honor of membership.

During his last few months, health problems impacted Phip’s independence. Thanks to his family, he was fortunate to have been able to attend Toggenburg’s 60th anniversary dinner in November 2018, and the patrol was indeed blessed to have had him there. He took the opportunity to briefly address the gathering, reminding them of the patrol’s heritage.

Phip was an outstanding skier. His love and knowledge of the sport prompted him to take a part-time job for many years with a local ski shop, where he advised skiers on the latest and best-suited boots and skis for their needs.

His main job was as a mathematics



Phil Resch

Manlius Pebble Hill School.

In addition to skiing, Phip was an avid bicyclist, hiker, and outdoorsman. These attributes complimented his leadership in a local Boy Scout troop and at national BSA events. He also served the DeWitt (New York) Historical Society and the local Meals on Wheels program.

His greatest service to the community was his 69-year membership in the DeWitt Fire District. He spent countless hours at the fire station in his spare time, and also took duty shifts. Over the years, he served in various administrative roles in the department. In his memory, the fire station was draped with black bunting to proclaim Phip’s long and meaningful tenure there.

A memorial service was held on May 18, 2019, for Phip. Ski patrollers attended, wearing their patrol parkas, and firefighters showed up in uniform to honor a man who gave so much and to thank him for a lifetime of caring for his community.

Jeff Paston
CNY Region Historian

Hank Steiner

The 49 Degrees North Ski Patrol lost one of its founding fathers when Henry “Hank” Steiner passed away on Sept. 6, 2019. His contributions to his community, both in the field of education and ski patrolling, will cast a shadow for generations to come.

Hank was born in 1932 in Chicago. He started down the path of academia at Grinnell College, only to have his career there interrupted by service to his country during the Korean War. When he returned, he continued his college career, eventually settling in at Eastern Washington University when he was recruited to fill the position of dean of undergraduate

teacher for the suburban Fayetteville-Manlius Central School District in Syracuse, New York, where he taught for 22 years. He also taught for a number of years at the private

studies in 1968.

In 1973, he took his love of skiing and joined it to his love of helping people by becoming a member of the National Ski Patrol. Hank then joined forces with several other members of the NSP on the faculty to help found the ski patrol at a newly built ski area north of Spokane, Washington, 49 Degrees North.

This action led him to a lifetime of skiing, patrolling, and teaching the value of being involved by assisting others. His skills as a teacher, a communicator, and a leader affected generations of patrollers. Hank held every position possible at one time or another on the 49 Degrees North Ski Patrol. He served as director twice, as an Outdoor Emergency Care instructor for many years, as an instructor trainer for the Inland Empire Region, and made countless other contributions too numerous to count.

During his career he received a Distinguished Service Award, three Yellow Merit Stars, and National Appointment Number 5751. It is still generally felt that his favorite part of patrolling was instructing (outside of first tracks on a powder morning). He loved teaching new candidates and continuing education for current patrollers. It would be fruitless to try to count how many OEC courses, refreshers, and other classes he taught over the years. Throughout, he smiled, treating people with a level of dignity and compassion that was a benchmark for the rest of us to work toward.

His influence on the 49 Degrees North Ski Patrol was incalculable, as there will be patrollers on the roster that he helped train for generations to come. His passing leaves both a legacy of service and a hole that will be impossible to fill. Hank Steiner was truly one of a kind and a gentleman the likes of which we will not see again.

Gary Deaver
49 Degrees North Ski Patrol, Washington

Fritz Worosz

Federick (Fritz) Worosz, a member of the Cockaigne Ski Patrol for over 45 years and the National Ski Patrol for over 50 years, passed away suddenly on Feb. 14, 2019, at the age of 86.

Fritz and a few others founded the Cockaigne Ski Patrol in 1964, the year the area opened. The lodge at that time was

a giant circus tent, and the first aid room, also a tent, contained a bed comprised of two saw horses and a sheet of plywood. A formal lodge (originally the Austrian pavilion at the 1965 World’s Fair in New York City) was added the following ski season.

Fritz served as the training officer for the patrol for over 20 years and eventually became the patrol director, serving two separate two-year terms. He would spend every Sunday morning training candidates, often tangling himself around trees, between rocks, and at times holding a mouthful of soup that would eventually soil a candidate’s cravat. He believed in over-training, and in all the years he was the first aid training officer he had only one candidate fail an evaluation. He was an Outdoor Emergency Care and CPR/AED instructor, as well as an OEC trainer/evaluator.

The Cockaigne Lodge was lost in a tragic fire in 2010, and the area closed the following year. For the next few years, Fritz continued to do ski patrol duty at Peek’n Peak, a ski area 50 miles away, and it was there that Fritz completed 50 years of membership to the NSP. He was acknowledged for his 50 years of service by proclamations from both New York State Assemblyman Andrew Goddell and New York State Senator Cathy Young, and was also awarded an NSP lifetime membership.

Fritz also loved to hunt and fish, and in his later years would spend many afternoons on a golf course. Although Fritz would at times appear to be gruff, noncaring, and even have an “in your face” attitude, when you got to know him you had a friend for life.

He was a Korean War veteran who served in the U.S. Navy, an EMT, a member of the Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department, Dunkirk Rescue Squad, Murray Hose Company #4, and belonged to many social clubs. He will be missed by his son, Gary; daughter-in-law, Liz; granddaughter, Michaela, and his many friends.



Fritz Worosz

Patricia Kaus
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Send *Ski Patrol Magazine* your captions for the photo to the right. Scribe of the winning caption will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the NSP Online Store and recognition in the next issue. Send entries to editor@nsp.org, or mail them to 133 S. Van Gordon St., Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80228. Only NSP members are eligible. Remember *SPM* if you have a humorous photo for next issue's caption contest. Send it in high resolution (at least 225 dpi) to editor@nsp.org.



Congrats to our winner, Shannon Wilcox, a mountain host at Bogus Basin Recreation Area in Idaho, and thanks to everyone for their submissions. Thanks to Erick Jensen, of the Ski Patrol in Wisconsin, for the photo.

WINNER

"No more black diamonds for you, young lady, until you tell me where you buried your brother."
— Shannon Wilcox, Mountain Host, Bogus Basin Recreation Area, Idaho

RUNNERS-UP

"Go that way, very fast. If something gets in your way, turn."
— Shannon Wilcox, Mountain Host, Bogus Basin Recreation Area, Idaho

"I know you're just a future candidate, but it's never too early to get between the handles."
— Joe Aulino, Plattekill Ski Patrol, New York

"No Mom, we talked about this. Purple is the color of royalty. I'm the princess and ride in the back! You wear red and do the work. You're up front."
— Scott Walker, Winter Park Ski Patrol, Colorado

"The Double-YAP pilot program is proving successful in attracting young, preadolescent patrollers. Double-YAP advisor Lil Tyke observed, 'Teaching toddlers to run a sled and walk at the same time improves skills rapidly.'
— Craig Spear, Bradford Ski Patrol, Massachusetts



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