

HALL WORTHY

NSP HALL OF FAME A WAY TO HONOR STANDOUT PATROLLERS
BY CANDACE HORGAN



In January 2013, the National Ski Patrol held its 75th Anniversary Celebration in Denver. As part of the three-day celebration, at Saturday's banquet dinner, the first class in the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame was inducted. The class included NSP founder Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole, former National Ski Association head Roger Langley, former NSP National Director Harry Pollard, Warren Bowman, M.D., and Gretchen R. Besser, Ph.D.



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Bill Boulter presents an NSP Hall of Fame plaque to Mint Dole, son of NSP founder Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole, at the NSP 75th Anniversary Celebration in Denver. Photo by Candace Horgan.

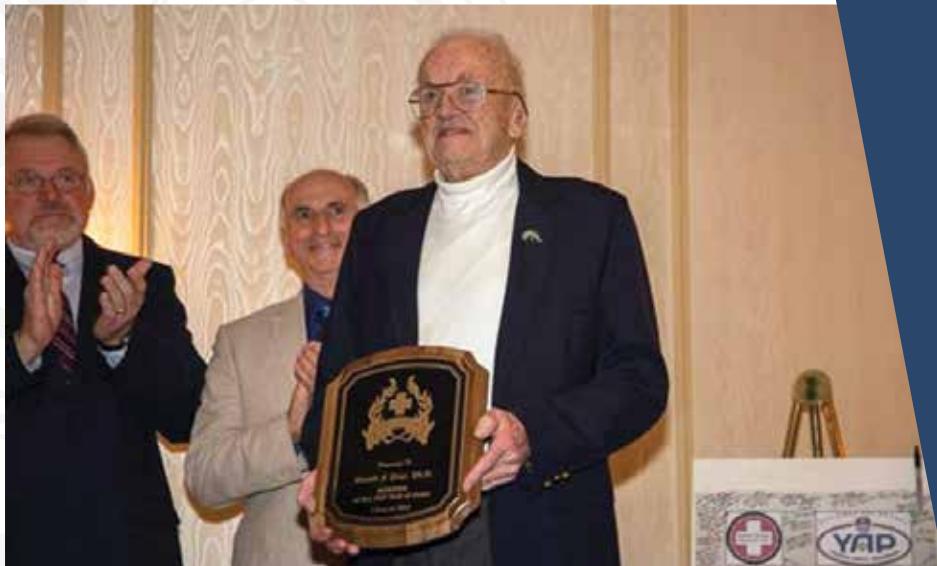
Langley was recognized in part for his suggestion to Dole to form a national patrol based on the idea of the "super patrol" Dole had organized for the National Downhill at Stowe, Vermont, in 1938. Pollard was the fifth director of NSP and brought the NSP into American Society for Testing and Materials Standards; he also promoted the development of Nordic patrols. Bowman authored the first emergency care manual specific to the nonurban rescuer and oversaw four versions of *Outdoor Emergency Care*. Besser was the first-ever National Ski Patrol historian and the former international liaison for NSP; in addition to her award-winning book about the NSP, *The National Ski Patrol: Samaritans of the Snow*, she has written hundreds of articles related to patrolling for *Ski Patrol Magazine* and its predecessor, *National Notes*.

Minnie Dole's son, Mint Dole, was on hand to accept the award for his father, and Besser her

self was there and gave a speech (see sidebar) about being inducted. Bowman could not make it to the induction, and instead was called on a cell phone by NSP Medical Adviser David Johe, M.D., to accept. Johe held the phone up to a microphone at the podium so that Bowman could give thanks for being inducted to those gathered at the 75th.

The idea for the Hall of Fame came about early in 2012, in conversations between former NSP Executive Director Tim White and National Awards Coordinator Bill Boulter, who wanted some way to recognize people at the 75th.

"I think the goal of it was to recognize people in similar ways that the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame and the Pro Football



Don Page receives his NSP Hall of Fame plaque. Photo by Peter Neefus.

Hall of Fame do and just kind of keep history at the forefront for people,” says Boulter. “When a Hall of Fame person gets nominated, people say, ‘Oh yeah, I remember so-and-so.’ We wanted to open it up at the 75th as something that we are doing for the past to move forward.”

Since the original class, two others have been inducted: Donald Page was inducted in 2014, and Charles Herbert was inducted in 2015. Boulter also currently has one nomination for the 2016 class.

Page, who this year celebrated his 60th year with NSP, served on both his division and region bylaws committee, and was appointed by Pollard in 1979 to serve as NSP liaison to the Whiteface Mountain Ski Patrol in preparation for World Cup events in 1978 and 1979, and for the 1980 Winter Olympics. He has a National Appointment and was awarded two Merit Stars.

Herbert has served the NSP for 59 years, and has been recognized with four Merit Stars, a National Appointment, a National Chairman’s Award, and a Distinguished Service Award. He helped rewrite the *NSP Quality Management System Manual*, and developed the Eastern Sierra Region Web page, acting as regional webmaster.

The criteria for the Hall of Fame are listed in the *NSP Policies and Procedures* in Section 12.8.10. The criteria state:

- The National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame is presented to individuals whose association with the NSP has had a positive effect on the organization. NSP patrollers and non-members are eligible to receive this award and may be deceased at the time of nomination.
- One to 25 nominees can be inducted in a year.
- Inductee will be announced by the National Board at a meeting of their choosing.

The requirements for each National Ski Patrol

Hall of Fame nomination, as stated in Section 12.8.10.4 of the *NSP Policies and Procedures*, are:

- Nominations are submitted on the Hall of Fame award form.
- The positive effect of each nominee will be the leading factor in all judging. This recognition is open to everyone who has positively affected the NSP.
- Approximation of dates may be used; however, the sponsors must make every effort to accurately list the dates and achievements.
- Each nomination must contain a Letter of Recommendation stating why the nominee merits election into the NSP Hall of Fame. The letter must be 250 words or less and can contain additional dates, anecdotes, etc., that the sponsor feels are pertinent to the nomination. Support for the nomination is allowed from individuals who are not members of the NSP.

While those inducted have all been NSP members, membership is not necessary for being honored in the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame.

“It could certainly be a non-NSP member who has influenced in a positive way the National Ski Patrol,” says Boulter. “For instance, if an area owner has been affiliated with the National Ski Patrol for 50 years and everybody on the patrol thinks this guy or gal is the most fantastic person who always helped with promoting NSP and fought to keep them, an individual like that would certainly be eligible to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.”

The nominations process itself is not complicated, and involves a formal submission to Boulter outlining the reasons and qualifications for the nomination.

“It’s very simple,” explains Boulter. “It requires a short letter, and just a quick history of the individual and a description of what they’ve done for the National Ski Patrol at the local, division, and national levels,

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if they've had anything to do with the national level. It's kind of a ski patrol as a whole, what they've done to warrant being in the Hall of Fame and what they've done for the National Ski Patrol."

After Boulter receives nominations, he sends them on to a selection committee whose criteria are also outlined in the *NSP Policies and Procedures*.

"We take the head of each discipline of the National Ski Patrol, the national historian, the national Outdoor Emergency Care Program director, the national Outdoor Emergency Transportation Program director, all of the heads of the programs. They get sent the information and then we have a phone meeting. It's all listed in the

Policies and Procedures. We vote on each individual nomination and they are either inducted into the Hall of Fame or thanked for their nomination and asked to resubmit at a future time when there is more information available.

"We haven't yet not inducted any of the nominations that have come forth, but we haven't had very many yet. I'm anticipating that we will have enough in a year where we'll be more selective in our process, but the people we've had so far have been so overwhelmingly eligible that there hasn't



The Hall of Fame plaque at the NSP office. Photo by Candace Horgan.

been a question about it. There hasn't been much of a conversation since they have been so well qualified."

Those who are inducted get their names engraved on a plaque that hangs in the NSP Museum at the national office. They also receive a personal plaque when they are inducted.

"They also receive a plaque for their home, quite smaller than the one in the office," laughs Boulter. "We have just developed a National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame pin, which I just ordered recently. We spent several months developing that; each of the nominees receives a pin with the year that they were inducted."

Boulter and the selection committee, which in addition to the program directors includes a member-at-large from each division, meet by phone once a year to vote on inductees. They are hoping to grow the awards group, and feel the Hall of Fame is an important way to recognize people who have been important to the NSP over the years.

"It hasn't really been promoted much," says Boulter. "It's been promoted through the divisions a little bit. I'm afraid as large as we are, sometimes people don't get all the information they ought to be getting. The deadline for the nominations is the end of November, which I would like to change to the end of October so I have time to do everything in time for the January meeting."

If you have any questions about nominating someone for the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame, or want to submit a nomination, please contact Bill Boulter at wboulter@twcny.rr.com. +

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HOW IT FELT...

Having served as NSP historian from 1978 to 2010, it was only natural that I would plan to attend the 75th Anniversary Celebration in Denver in February 2013. After all, I had been present at the 40th, helped plan the 50th, and been invited as banquet speaker at the 70th. Moreover, I had spent the previous summer feverishly updating my book on NSP history, *The National Ski Patrol: Samaritans of the Snow* — initially published in 1983 — to cover the intervening 30 years. The Eastern Division had kicked things off in October 2012 with an all-out celebration in Stowe, Vermont, where a handsome stone bench, embedded with the NSP logo, graces the entrance to the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum.

The 75th anniversary festivities in Denver, tucked around the winter board meeting, featured a timeline and historical display booth at the SnowSports Industries America Snow Show held at the Colorado Convention Center, a day of skiing with the Winter Park Ski Patrol, and for me, a chance to reconnect with a raft of old friends and make some new, younger ones as well. The capstone was to be the Saturday night banquet.

Prior to dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, I sat at a table alongside Minnie Dole, son of our distinguished founder, as we signed copies of our respective books. By the time I arrived in the banquet hall, I was too late to be seated at the table of dear friend Ken Bradford, former assistant national director, who had first supported my appointment in 1978 as national historian. Instead, I was ushered to a table close to the dais, next to former National Chairman John Clair, a very old acquaintance, and close to Administrative Assistant Frankie Barr, who had helped me unstintingly over the years.



Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser accepts her NSP Hall of Fame plaque from Bill Boulter at the NSP 75th Anniversary Celebration in Denver. Photo by Candace Horgan.

The evening's program, featuring patroller/astronaut James F. Reilly II, Ph.D., was fascinating. Tributes and appreciative comments abounded. My ears pricked up when I heard mention of a National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame (I had missed reading the program). After more than three decades of attending national meetings and writing up every new development in NSP history, it was strange to learn after the fact of a brand-new initiative of this scope.

I listened closely to hear who might be named. When founder Minnie Dole was specified as inductee no. 1, I nodded with satisfaction. Roger Langley, president of the National Ski Association, who had asked Minnie to organize a Ski Safety Committee that ultimately morphed into the NSP, was a perfect no. 2. National Director Harry Pollard, whom I first met at International Ski Patrol meetings in Europe in 1975 and 1976, was a natural as no. 3. Dr. Warren Bowman, whom I had known and admired for decades as medical director and originator of the OEC Program, was a much-deserved no. 4, and the first living inductee.

Recalling the stellar contributions of these honorees to the development of the NSP, I was only half-listening when the next name was called.

What? Had I heard it right? Could it be? Eyes were turning toward me. I looked around. People were smiling and urging me to stand. Was it true? Half-stunned, I stumbled to the dais. Never in my life have I been so astounded, dumbfounded, and deliriously happy as when I ascended the podium to receive the plaque of the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame from the hands of National Awards Coordinator Bill Boulter, whom I hugged with joy.

Not only was I amazed and elated at having received this significant honor, but I was dazed

to find myself in the heady company of Dole, Langley, Pollard, and Bowman, my heroes. The 45 years of volunteer hours I had given to the patrol, seeking nothing beyond the satisfaction of serving, had been crowned by the honor of a lifetime.

Nearly two and a half years later, I'm still agog and aglow.

Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser
NSP National Historian, 1978-2010

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