

Official Publication of the Eastern Division of the National Ski Patrol



Division Director's REPORT

by John Kane, Division Director

Is it winter here yet? When is it coming? This seemed to be the reoccurring question by our skiing and riding guests and yes, our patrollers as well. Certainly the value of snowmaking operations became the lifeblood of many of our Eastern Division resorts. So an extra THANKS to all the snowmakers that persevered when all their hard work was washed away with rainstorm after rainstorm. Without them most of us would have had a year off! Let's hope that Mother Nature remembers her recipe for the 2014-15 season and brews up another sampling of that for next year.

For some of you that I have not met, you probably would like to know a little bit about me. I started my patrolling career at Blue Hills Ski Patrol (BHSP) in Canton, MA in 1979. I started patrolling because it was a way to cut lines and ski for free. Little did I know about the "catch and NO release" that came with it. Before I knew it, I caught the bug. What I mean is that I got involved. I started at the BHSP as their Junior Advisor. I became a Senior Patroller in 1983 and immediately became an S&T and OEC instructor. In 1984 I joined the famed EMARI S&T Staff traveling to other area resorts helping to train others. I became a Section Chief in 1987 and then served as the EMARI Region Director from 1988-1992.

My love is with ski and toboggan training. When I retired from the RD position, I served on the Eastern Division S&T Steering Committee from 1993-2007. In 1995 I transferred to the Sunday River Ski Patrol in Maine. I was looking forward to gaining more experience at a larger resort so I could train for the Certified Exam. In 2000 I entered into the "program" at Jay Peak (yes, it was a humbling experience) and successfully passed at Gore Mountain in 2002. I thought that was it-nothing else to do. I could coast the rest of my patrol career. Was I WRONG!

In 2006 I became the Central Section Chief for the Maine Region and then served as the Maine Region Director from 2008-2014. We had a great time delivering programs all over

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the state. It is absolutely true when they say "You can't get theya from heya." But we did it! The region now has a great instructor core of individuals and the team spirit is awesome! Once again I thought it was time to coast but the new RD appointed me as the Central Section Chief. I soon started to help out at the Division level.

After a lot of poking and prodding by several of my best NSP friends to run for Division Director, I decided to go for it. Well, here I am ready to serve all of you. I am so looking forward to it. We have a great team of Region Directors, Section Chiefs, and program staff. They want to make sure that every member has the opportunity to participate in our outstanding programs and to be represented at National headquarters with your personal views about how you think NSP can best serve you, your patrol, and the membership at large.

Great people and new friends are made in and with every program I have participated in. From S&T, OEC, MTR, Avalanche, ID and, yes, the Certified Program, there are so many talented and giving people, you can't help but want to contribute and give back to those who have helped you along your way. How can you not want to pay it forward!

I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our Past Division Director John Shipman on behalf of the entire Eastern Division Board, Section Chiefs, Program Committees and the membership at large for his guidance, support, and an all-around job well done. The Eastern Division is in excellent shape because of John's tireless dedication and stick-to-itiveness in seeing the hard challenges of the day-to-day operations of the NSP business through while under his care. You will still find John at Wachusett Mountain where he patrols during the week. In the meantime, and between seasons, we hope that he and Susan find the winds at their backs and hope that the ocean offers a gentle path as they sail up and down the coast of Maine this summer.

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Keeping with the changing of the guard, we also have two new Region Directors to welcome:

- **Bill Smith (IV)** – Western Appalachia
- **Rena Perkins** – Northern Vermont

I have personally worked with Bill and Rena in the S&T and Certified programs over the years and look forward to working with them in their new positions.

In line with their arrival we naturally have two departures from these posts:

- **Marty Silverman** – Past Region Director, Western Appalachia. In addition to Marty's RD duties, he served for two years as Assistant Division Director and six years as the Marketing and PR Chair. Marty's passion is contagious. This year he received the Eastern Division's Outstanding Administrator's Award. Congratulations!

- **Rob Lunn** – Past Region Director of Northern Vermont. Rob's passion was to seek out and train the best people for his "Vermonsters." He delivered and built a great team. He also chaired the Long Range Planning Committee for four years. We appreciate his contributions during his term with the Eastern Division.

We have a lot going on right now and a tremendous amount of work ahead of us. The Eastern Division team is ready to do the good work for you! Help them by communicating what you like about patrolling and what it is we need to work on to make your job more interesting and productive. We take the very best information we have to work with to provide program support locally and make decisions based on your local and region representation but we need your input. Please let your Patrol Directors, NSP Representatives, Section Chiefs, and Region Directors know what is on your mind. Contrary to what you might think or know about your leadership, we really do care about what is on your mind. So please help us to help you.

Elsewhere in this issue I will be discussing the new registration process and the elections. In the meantime, on behalf of the Eastern Division, I hope you are all having a wonderful and SAFE summer with family and friends.



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TRAIL SWEEP

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Introducing Jim O'Connor – OET Supervisor



The new Eastern Division OET Supervisor, Jim O'Connor, started patrolling as a junior over 40 years ago and has been training patrollers in the east since 1985. He is an OET Instructor Trainer, an OEC Instructor, and patrols in the EMARI Region at Nashoba Valley. In 2004 he became

Certified Patroller #626, was awarded National Appointment #8372 in 1997, and received a Distinguished Service Award in 2003. As a member of the Eastern Division OET Staff and Steering Committee he has skied, delivered OET programs, and trained with patrollers in the northeast for nearly 20 years. He supports his skiing with a career in the medical device industry.

Nordic Programs by Phil Galka, Supervisor

I am very pleased to announce that the agreement between the National Park Service and the National Ski Patrol is complete and has been published in the current edition of the *Ski Patrol Magazine*. Congratulations to all of the people who worked so hard to complete this agreement. This increases opportunities for both the current and new Nordic ski patrols who operate in the National Park system.

The National Nordic Master Program guidance document is completed and has been posted to the National Ski Patrol website. In addition the beta draft edition of the National *Nordic Senior Program Manual* has also been posted to the website. Progress on these national projects has been good and the national staff continues to keep the division stakeholders involved in the process.

Basic Nordic – Work is in progress to develop a Nordic Patroller program in the Maine region. An organizational structure is being designed and several training milestones have been identified by the Maine Region. The Maine Region plans to have the foundation for two new Nordic patrols completed in the upcoming season.

Nordic Senior – The division supported a Nordic Senior Evaluation that was held at Highland Forest, New York. The patrol did a great job ensuring that the event had proper snow conditions to conduct the senior evaluation. Highland Forest is a great Nordic facility and the Highland Forest Nordic Patrol did a great job hosting the event. Several regional Nordic senior programs had to cancel evaluations due to improper snow conditions. These regions were able to send candidates to the Highland Forest venue or reschedule their evaluations for the upcoming season.

Nordic Master – Nordic Master candidates continue to work hard to complete the certification process. Deb Cowell is coordinating this season's Nordic Master candidate evaluations.

We're keeping our fingers crossed for a great snow season next year. Many 2016-2017 Nordic Program event dates have been set and we will be adding more. All the information is available on the calendar on the division website

On behalf of the Eastern Division I would like to thank all who have helped bring you these wonderful Nordic Program events. Have a great summer.

NSP HALL OF FAME Honorees

Four new members of the Hall of Fame were announced at the Eastern Division Annual Awards Banquet on April 16. National Chair Ed McNamara and National Awards Coordinator William Boulter made the presentations.



WILLIAM BALLEK – National Appointment #5423

Bill Ballek's impact on the Camelback Ski Patrol of the EPA Region and NSP is significant and long-lasting. "Uncle Bill" served the NSP and patrollers for over fifty years until his death in 2013. His advocacy for "sled pulling" patrollers established mentors for Senior programs, Patroller Schools, Ski with a PSIA Instructor programs and the creation of the Snowboard Alpine Patroller status. His efforts on the National Board gave him wide visibility across the entire organization and he gained the respect of all who came in contact with him. Bill was known for his ability to ski longer than most patrollers including his peers on the board when meetings were held in Colorado. Perhaps Uncle Bill's greatest legacy and contribution to the NSP are the hundreds of patrollers he touched and inspired with his love for skiing and helping others. No one skied with him without learning a new skill and becoming a better patroller and person from the experience. Bill Ballek's devoted service to patrollers and the National Ski Patrol will never be forgotten.



DR. DAVID JOHE – National Appointment #8690

This name should be familiar to all patrollers as he is the Medical Editor of *Outdoor Emergency Care 5th Edition* and author of the *Outdoor First Care* curriculum. Dr. David Johe began his ski patrol career in the fall of 1990 when he joined the Holiday Valley Ski Patrol. He was appointed Holiday Valley Ski Patrol Medical Advisor in 1993, Eastern Division Medical Advisor in 1997, and National Medical Advisor in 2000, a position he still holds today.

David was awarded a Blue Merit Star for assisting in life saving in 2003, a Purple Merit Star for saving a life at a football game in 2009, and Yellow Merit Stars in 1999 and 2001. Dr. Johe was presented with NSP's National Service Excellence Award at the June 2011 Board of Directors meeting. He won the WNY Region's Patroller of the Year award in 2003, the WNY Region Ambassador of the Slopes award in 1997, received National Appointment #8690 in 1998, and the Distinguished Service Award in 2015.



HOWARD WYANDT – National Appointment #6584

A 47-year NSP member Howard served the Elk Mountain Patrol, the EPA Region and the Eastern Division in many capacities. A former APD, PD, Section Chief and Assistant Region Director his major contributions have come as a member of the Division OEC Steering Committee and the Senior OEC Program. When the National Board was considering elimination of the first aid component of the Senior Program Howie was one of the first TEs to go from outrage and defiance to constructive criticism and then commitment to a new and better program. He is recognized for several innovations including: morning practice problems to give candidates time to get rid of the "butterflies," the introduction of the advocate role, and making the Senior WEC/OEC training oriented with the evaluation just another step in the continuing upgrade of OEC skills.

Howard was recognized twice as the Eastern Division Outstanding Patrol Representative, once as the Division Outstanding Administrator, and once with a Silver Merit Star as the National Outstanding Administrator runner-up.



JERRY W. SHERMAN – National Appointment #7222

Over the past 38 years Jerry has had a distinguished career that has touched just about every facet of the NSP. Jerry began his career in 1978 when he joined the Brantling Ski Patrol, Genesee Valley Section of the WNY Region. Jerry's leadership skills were recognized almost immediately and in 1981 he was elected Assistant Patrol Director. Since then he has been elected to virtually every level within the NSP. He served as the Brantling Patrol Director and when the Genesee Valley Section became a Region he was the first elected Region Director. Soon after being elected to his second term as RD he was appointed as an Assistant Division Director and later elected to the the National Board of Directors. He served as the Eastern Division Director from 1999 to 2004

Jerry was awarded National Appointment #7222 in 1990, Yellow Merit Stars in 1996, 2004, and 2010. In 1996 he was selected as the Eastern Division Outstanding Administrator which was followed up with a Gold Merit Star in 1997 as the National Outstanding Administrator. In 1999 he was presented with a Distinguished Service Award. In 2010 Jerry received the ED Outstanding Paid Patroller Award and also received a Blue Merit Star for assisting in saving a life. He received a Purple Merit Star for saving a life in 2014 and as a result of that event was awarded the William Gross Award in 2015. Jerry also has the distinction of having a division level award named after him. The Jerry Sherman Award is presented by the Division Director to a member who they feel made a significant contribution during the season.

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NSP Hall of Fame History

Established in 2012 the Hall of Fame idea came about during conversations between former NSP Executive Director, Tim White, and National Awards Coordinator, Bill Boulter. They wanted some way to recognize people at the 75th anniversary celebration.

The first class, announced as part of the celebration in Denver in January 2013 included:

Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole, NSP founder; Roger Langley, former National Ski Association head; Harry Pollard, NSP's 5th director who promoted the idea of Nordic Patrols; Warren Bowman, M.D., author of the first Winter Emergency Care text who also oversaw four versions of *Outdoor Emergency Care*; and Gretchen Besser, NSP's first historian and author of the award-winning book *The National Ski Patrol: Samaritans of the Snow*.

In 2014 Donald Page, former Eastern Division Director and a member for over 60 years and Charles Herbert a 59-year member from the Eastern Sierra Region, Far West

Division were inducted.

For more about the HOF go to the 2016 Winter Edition of *Ski Patrol Magazine* or go to the NSP website under the "For Members" tab and then *Ski Patrol Magazine*.

The NSP HOF is still in its infancy. The article on the previous page recognizes the contributions of the four most recent Eastern Division members to be inducted. There are many more members in our Division who have made similar or even greater contributions to the National Ski Patrol during their careers. If you patrol with someone you think is worthy of this incredible honor please contact your Region Awards Advisor for help with a nomination.

The process for nomination can be found on the NSP website in the *NSP Policies and Procedures* near the end of Chapter 12. It is currently under review by the National Awards Committee and members of the HOF Selection Committee. Some changes are anticipated but for now the current process is being followed. Nominations are reviewed once a year with new members from the Eastern Division announced at the Awards Banquet of the Annual Officers Meeting in April.

New MTR Supervisor

Hello fellow patrollers. My name is Steve Devine and I would like to introduce myself as the incoming Eastern Division MTR Supervisor. Once again I find myself standing on the shoulders of giants. Jim (JC) Cowell has completed his maximum term of six years. As outgoing supervisor, through the dedicated assistance of his contemporaries, MTR Region Administrators, Instructor Trainers and Instructors, he built a strong and healthy MTR program. Thanks JC for a fantastic job!

I have been a patroller for 23 years. When I moved to New Jersey 25 years ago I didn't know a soul. But I knew how to ski and Hidden Valley was kind enough to take me on as a candidate. Within a year I had about 100 new friends (all before Facebook even existed!). I kept training and as quickly as possible took MTR 1, AVI Level 1, and Senior OEC. I became a Senior Alpine Patroller, OEC Instructor, Alpine S&T Instructor and served as an Assistant Patrol Leader.

When High Point XC Ski Center reopened, I decided to explore new horizons in balance and speed control and took up Nordic skiing. Under the guidance of the greats, Butch MacQueen, Greg France, Phil Galka, Greg Banner, and Pete Snyder I managed to survive Nordic Senior, MTR II, and eventually became a Nordic S&T, MTR and AVI-L1 Instructor. I served as the NJ Region Nordic Administrator.



I was shocked and humbled when I was awarded National Appointment number 10016.

Chuck Boyd and I decided to pursue Nordic Master and were the first two "guinea pigs" to make it through the entire new program. With help from JC and Deb Cowell and many others we established a Bike Patrol in the NJ Region and later a Search and Rescue Team made up of patrollers from six different patrols across three regions. Also following in the footsteps of JC, I became Patrol Director for High Point Nordic Patrol and three years ago, when Hidden Valley closed, I transferred my alpine affiliation to Mountain Creek.

I thank everyone who recognized my raw potential and taught me so much along the way. It is with great enthusiasm that I take on the responsibilities of MTR Supervisor for the Eastern Division, and I promise to do my best to serve the needs of all our patrollers and programs. I look forward to working with everyone involved in the MTR program to continue the journey, focusing primarily on the basic programs of MTR 1 and MTR 2 that other programs depend upon, while making it fun for everyone to expand their skills further through MTR Enhancement Seminars, the YAP program, and the very new, and very fun, MTR Challenge Race. I hope to see you at the Avalanche, Mountaineering and Nordic (AMN) meeting in September.

Hello everyone, it is a pleasure to be asked to lead the program so many of us have built over the years. Thank you Bob Bluff for your leadership in shaping our program into the strongest it's ever been.

When Bob introduced me to the rest of the members of the National Transportation Committee on monthly conference calls earlier this year, it became clear just how amazing our ski and toboggan programs are here in the Eastern Division. They are like that because of our Toboggan Instructors, Trainer Evaluators, Regional Advisors, Division Staff, Instructor Trainers, and Steering Committee members. These dedicated patrollers make up the group who deliver the programs to more than 165 ski areas and over 7,500 patrollers.

We have to develop instructors for more program delivery than the other divisions. Here in the east our regions have a category of instructor no other division has, the Trainer Evaluator or TE. The Regional Ski and Toboggan Advisors rely on TEs to deliver the senior alpine ski and toboggan programs. The Steering Committee, with the help of Staff Instructor Trainers, develop TEs to train both toboggan handling and the skiing and riding skills used by patrollers. TEs have become the backbone of our programs.

There is now growing emphasis on the Toboggan Instructor (TI). Attaining this category is not only a senior elective, but a resource to the patrol. These instructors work at their local mountains and at regional programs as they do in other divisions. Our division goal is to have a TI at every mountain (ok, maybe it's a hill like my home base) so that the requirement for annual toboggan refreshers by the local patrols can be met using the guidelines we set for the division.

So how do we do set up these programs for instructors?

Every year the Steering Committee meets during the summer to set the plan and dates for the upcoming season. Each member of the Steering Committee reads course evaluation forms filled out by those who attended division events. This feedback is combined with new directions from the national level and our emphasis for the upcoming season. Over the seasons we have emphasized things like teaching-the-teacher, ski/snowboard skills for toboggan handling, and skiing skills drills. The past two seasons we have emphasized the fundamentals of skiing in an effort to adopt PSIA's new perspective on skiing's fundamentals. We continue to build on what we started over all these years and shape things based on your feedback.

The Eastern Division Steering, Staff, and Regional Advisors' meeting at Killington in early December is where we practice and put plans together to recertify the staff's ski and toboggan training and evaluation credentials. The December on-the-snow meeting sets the tone for Staff instructors who recertify TEs and TIs, which is required every three years, and mint new ones. The division's patroller schools are the forums where most of this takes place. Remember, the patroller schools are open to every patroller and are some of the best programs ski patrol has to offer. All can benefit from the variety of groups that are set up at these schools. Patrollers pick what they want to work on, but they especially just go out there and have fun.

So, how are we doing? Do the local TIs, TEs, and Staff instructors you work with know what you think about their efforts? Is what you want to see for ski and toboggan training happening at your area? Talk to your patrol leaders and get with your regional advisors and division staff. Their contacts are on the division website. Let us know how we are doing and what more we can do for you and your patrol.

Laugh Often and Love Snow!

HOW ARE WE DOING?

by Jim O'Connor, Supervisor



Phil Hosmer, Gunstock Ski Patrol

National BOARD ELECTIONS

by John Kane, Director



The National Board is in the best shape ever! Many of you have called me and other RDs around the Division asking about who we would vote for. Yes, the biographies can be long-winded to read and sometimes unrelated to what you do at your patrol. “How is this guy/gal going to have an impact on me at my mountain?” A lot can, and has, happened based on your vote. Because of your support of the people you know like Ed McNamara, Dave Walker, Rick Knight, and Chris Pringle are some of the great talent we have at National working on your behalf. Other National BOD directors like Morgan Armstrong, Norris Woody, and Bill Sinykin have made the time and paid their own way to visit our division and introduce themselves to our members. Why? Because they want to know what’s on your mind so that they can represent what benefits the membership as a whole. This year you will receive another publication listing candidates interested in your vote. You should read through it and try to discern which candidate best serves your interests and aligns with what you believe will take NSP in a positive direction. While I do not know all of the candidates at this time, I do know a couple of proven candidates that you might know and another that really needs to be working on the National platform.

Dave Walker is up for re-election to the National Board of Directors. He chairs multiple committees (Education, OEC) and also serves on the Finance Committee. He has chaired committees instrumental for hiring our National Instructor Development Program Director, National Certified Program Director, and

National Avalanche Program Director, and lastly was involved with hiring the National Education Director. Most of you know what he has done for the Eastern Division in all categories. One would assume that he is going to get a lot of votes so “mine isn’t going to matter.” IT MATTERS! He needs your vote to continue the great work on all of our behalf. You will be hearing from Dave soon enough. And if he is not doing great things on the National stage he is running programs for the Eastern Division like S&T, OEC, Instructor Development, and Certified during the winter and summer.

Wendy Aarnio is running for a National Board seat. She deserves to be there for many reasons that you will read about. A great educator, she has been instrumental in delivering high-quality programs throughout the Eastern Division. Her experience is in nearly all program disciplines with many years of training in S&T, OEC, Senior, and Certified. She is a high-level achiever which translates to high satisfaction reports from all that work with her. She understands the needs of the “one” where not everyone learns the same way and has creatively developed programs to ensure positive progression with all patrollers, at every level. Wendy ran for the National Board last year and fell short by just 162 votes. Wendy deserves every opportunity and your vote.

Morgan Armstrong is also up for re-election to the National Board of Directors. Morgan is from the Southern Division and will make another visit to our Fall Meeting to hear what we have to say on behalf of our Eastern Division members. He chairs the National Governance Committee and has done a phenomenal job in this position. Morgan not only represents his Southern Division patrollers’ interests, he represents balance and fairness in all NSP affairs. These views serve the entire NSP membership with the best intentions for getting things done in a way we can all be proud of.

Something to think about

The Eastern Division has just over 8,000 members. In the last election we, collectively, were only able to come up with 1,669 votes. We can and should do better than that. I’m not asking – I’m begging – for this Division to get involved! All of the candidates selected by the National Elections Committee have been vetted to provide you the very best choice for leading the NSP in a positive direction.

Please VOTE and be counted!

Ski patrollers are some of the best people out there and our support for each other is humbling and amazing.



“I learned that skill at ski patrol...” is a pretty normal response for any ski patroller and one that we all have given at one point or another. The only thing not normal was the situation that precipitated the question. I was standing with another flight medic in the middle of nowhere Afghanistan wearing all my gear in the middle of the night. We had just finished a MEDEVAC training flight aboard a Blackhawk helicopter in order to prepare for upcoming patient care missions. Standing there covered in sweat, holding my helmet, and debriefing the mission it hit me; ski patrol has helped me prepare for this deployment experience.

I was asked to write a brief article about my recent deployment and how it relates to ski patrol and at first I didn't know what to say. I just spent the last nine months in the middle of a desert as a nurse with a forward surgical team doing trauma surgery in an austere environment (imagine M.A.S.H but minus all the Hollywood drama and fun). There was no snowboarding in the fresh powder and no busy weekend patrol room shifts this year. I wasn't sure what to write about and how to bring the two experiences together, but the more I thought about it the more I realized that ski patrol and the amazing training and people have been a vital part of this whole experience.

Starting my candidate year with the OEC trainers working alongside me to try to finish all the check offs between pre-deployment training. Progressing to the care packages and updates my ski patrol team sent me while I was over there. It has been proven over and over there is no better team to be a part of. Kneeling covered in blood next to a patient

Ski Patrol in the Sandbox: Thoughts and Reflections

by 1LT Elizabeth Van Winkle, USAR

in the back of a blacked out helicopter over hostile territory and reaching for my scissors next to the tape on a toboggan pin brought me back to the ski hill for a split second and it was so comforting (patrol friends if you are reading this I may have borrowed an extra toboggan pin for the trip...sorry). Finally stepping off the airplane the day I came home, I was completely blown away that standing there amongst my family and friends were members of my ski patrol team. In how many other organizations would people take time out of their day to be at the airport on a Friday afternoon to welcome someone home? I am humbled and honored beyond belief to be counted among the patroller team. We, as patrollers, are blessed to work with amazing people and to have the camaraderie that we do. Additionally, the training that we receive is phenomenal and if it can be used in Afghanistan I am guessing it has got to be good. Every patroller on the hill should be confident that they are amazingly skilled providers and that they are a part of an incredible organization.

In conclusion, here is what I have learned. Ski patrollers are some of the best people out there and our support for each other is humbling and amazing. Tourniquets really do work and sharp trauma scissors combined with tape are essential no matter what the situation. Most importantly, I am proud of each patroller and confident in the skills that they have. I have been on the Ski Roundtop Patrol in EPA for two years and have loved every minute of it. Every person that wears that red jacket with a white cross should be confident that they are a member of an incredible team and I am proud to be counted amongst them!

I have been in the Army Reserves as a nurse for almost four years and was on a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan with a forward surgical team. As a civilian, I am a flight nurse and a pediatric ICU nurse.

CERTIFIED by Bill Jordan, Supervisor



The 2015-2016 season was a challenging one for the Certified Program, as it was for many others. One of the high notes of the season was another outstanding Certified Boot Camp run by John Kane. The many attendees received training in OEC, low-angle rope rescue, hill safety, as well as patrol management. Everyone came away from the weekend glad to have attended.

We ran two precourses with 11 patrollers participating in the events and six successfully completing them. Unfortunately, we had to cancel two other precourses due to lack of terrain or interest.

Our annual meeting and exam was held at Sugarbush, April 1-3. The weather and conditions were a challenge but the event went well. I'm pleased to be able to congratulate the following for attaining their Certified status; their hard work and perseverance definitely paid off!

Deborah Gordon #803

Richard Brewer #804

Justin Regan #805

We all know how important it is to recognize the time and effort spent by patrollers working in and enhancing all NSP programs. This year the Certified Program created two new awards to recognize some of our members who have gone above and beyond during the years since they originally passed the exam. Jon Wilson, #661, was the first recipient of the Gordie Bell Certified Patroller of the Year Award for Unparalleled Service and Contribution to the 2016 Eastern Division Certified Program. The Certified Chair's Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Eastern Division Certified Program was presented to John Kane, #585, and Tom Maroney, #304. I look forward to these awards being presented annually.

We are planning ahead for the 2016-2017 season and crossing our fingers that the weather gods will favor us with plentiful snow! Please watch the division website as we will be posting information about all of next year's events.

If you know of any patroller who is considering our program please have them contact their Regional Certified Advisor to help them get started. The sooner training can begin the more successful the candidates tend to be.

ID Hybrid Online Launches and Electronic Signatures

by Jim Miller, Supervisor

I am happy to say that the new, hybrid online Instructor Development course is up and running. The antiquated user-unfriendly version was pulled from the NSP website May 31, 2015. It has taken almost a year for the NSP Division ID Supervisors; Sheila Summers, our National Education Director; the NSP Education Committee; and other dedicated staff to make this new version available to our patrollers.

The new, hybrid online ID course format will look very similar to the OEC hybrid refreshers that many patrollers used last year. This means that patrollers looking to take Instructor Development will again have two options for completing this course. The traditional full course, which is usually run one day for five to eight hours, and now the online hybrid which will allow patrollers to work on the ID lessons at a more leisurely pace that fits their time frame.

The hybrid course is a two-part program that both need to be completed for the patroller to be accepted into the Instructor Mentoring Program. The first part of the hybrid ID course is the online portion and the second part is the face-to-face with an ID instructor where the patroller's six-pack lesson plan will be presented to a group of other future instructors. This face-to-face is the same as part of the full-day ID course.

I would also like to address all past patrollers who have taken the Instructor Development course. Without you taking the

time and effort to be mentored into the NSP educational programs, we would not be as knowledgeable an organization. I thank you for all the work you have done.

The Instructor Mentoring Form is NSP's way of verifying the ability of future instructors in the discipline they wish to instruct. The mentoring process is analogous to a college student doing their student teaching in a primary or secondary level school. The patroller will be assigned a mentor who is an instructor in their discipline and go through a series of steps toward becoming an instructor. Each step needs to be signed. NSP will only accept actual signatures or electronic signatures.

There are several programs that allow electronic signatures. Adobe allows for one person to fill in and sign their signature as many times as necessary to one form. This is a free version for Adobe customers. If other people need to sign, they will have to download the mentoring form, sign, and re-scan to send it forward.

With most people having smart phones, there are apps that allow you to scan documents using your phone. I currently use Scanbot which I find to be very useful. There is a free version and for a small one-time fee, the more deluxe version. You should check out the app store and find one that fits your needs. It can save you time in the long run.

Training for the MTR CHALLENGE Or How 'Team 2-Ton' Prepared to Win

Training for the challenge actually began before they even knew the event existed. Chris Mazza, an avid trail runner and telemark skier, has his own obstacle course in his back yard. Steve Devine, an active bicyclist, has trained for sprint and Olympic-length triathlons. Both exercise on a fairly regular basis. That's just the beginning.

At the AMN meeting in September, 2015, Dave Childs and Jim "JC" Cowell described an exciting backcountry excursion requiring a variety of travel skills and methods depending upon conditions – the MTR Challenge. The course could be as long as 11 miles with up to 4,000 feet of total ascent and 10 survival skill stations along the way. It would be run in a race format. Experienced patrollers and instructors would be challenged to raise their skill levels, not just by demonstrating skills, but doing it with speed and efficiency; pushing beyond normal MTR standards. Steve and Chris were psyched.

After kicking the idea around for a couple of months, they got serious. Ten weeks before the event they registered along with friends and fellow ski patrollers, Matt Karpinecz and Rod Schmidt. Now they had friends to train with and local competition as well.

Steve continued his pre-ski season workout routine but amped it up focusing more on leg strength and stamina. He attended indoor cycling (spin) classes two or three times a week; did leg-strengthening exercises twice a week, including about a hundred lunges with dumbbells in hand, squats, presses, leg curls and extensions; plus, toe raises for tibia and calf and abductor and adductor work as well. Upper body training including pull-ups, curls, bench press, rowing, countless planks, and push-ups were included on alternate days. He included core-strength exercises including sit-ups and, the most dreaded, burpees! His gym had a lap pool so he jumped in for 1,000-yard swims twice a week. He woke up very early and went to bed at night before most 12 year olds.

Chris combined his early morning weight training with a noontime run. Saturdays consisted of intervals mixed in with body weight exercises including burpees, pull-ups, push-ups, planks, squats, lunges, and whatever else could be thrown into the mix. Sunday mornings were scheduled for long trail runs with his dog. During the week, on days that were not conducive for training outside, he would use the double stairwell at work to run up and down. He would also mix in the bodyweight exercises that he would do outside, which made for a killer workout.

Once ski season started, Chris and Steve skied all their duty shifts on telemark skies. Their weekday patrol shifts were at night and they skied under the lights. Despite après-

sweep socializing, Steve was stubborn about getting up early and hitting the gym before work. Chris had his own workout routine, running each day during lunch with a full pack on his back.

On cold, dark, early Sunday mornings, Chris and Steve would meet at the base of a local mountain, change into ski boots, don headlamps, and skin up. At first they did it with light packs but soon graduated to full back-country packs. A couple of weeks before the race they met extremely early with all the gear they planned to bring on the challenge and skinned up, traversed, and skied down four peaks and back again. This approximated what they expected on race day but without the survival stations.

Now they were really beginning to work together as a team; falling into a steady, synchronized pace, reminding each other to lock their boots into ski mode, and digging for things in each other's packs to avoid having to take them off to look for something. They assisted each other during transitions and were constantly checking on each other's status. The key to the physical conditioning part of the training was starting early and sticking with it. To have fun on race day, they had to be in good shape.

Physical conditioning was only part of the training; there were skill stations to prepare for. In addition to OEC, the stations included navigation, knots, shelters, a ropes course, avalanche transceiver search, and matchless fire-starting. They organized their gear and chose what pieces to bring and alternative options. They re-familiarized themselves with everything. They practiced working with different stoves in 4°F darkness, measuring which stove could boil water the fastest, and deciding if the slight extra weight was worth the significant time advantage. It was!

After sweep they pulled out ropes, carabineers, and descent control devices and practiced munter hitches and z-drags; first getting the techniques right and later working efficiently breaking out gear, rigging it, tearing it down, and stowing it again. The clock doesn't stop ticking when the skill is done; you still have to clean up your gear and put it away. And it better not be a "bird's nest" in your pack or else the next station is going to be a disaster.

Chris is a fire-starting wizard and together they practiced making fire using just basic tinder box items, like a Ferrocium rod, steel, oakum, and whatever they could find for tinder and kindling. They built improvised shelters in different environments with what they had in their packs and thought about the best ways to do it. To their advantage, Steve attended a Nordic Senior test a week before the challenge and received a last minute refresher on what makes a good shelter and what makes a bad one. They practiced with avalanche transceivers and made sure they remembered how to use a map and compass. They practiced with the GPS, entering coordinates and finding waypoints.

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Part of the preparation was gathering intelligence and planning. Having never been on Mount Greylock they searched the web for information. They stared at Google Earth and made a reconnaissance trip to become familiar with the terrain. They spoke with locals and dropped in at a nearby outfitter to obtain maps. Based on their observations of terrain and the lack of snow pack, they modified their strategy and adjusted the remainder of their training to de-emphasize skinning and skiing and focus more on micro-spike travel. Because of Steve's tenaciousness and skills with mapping and a GPS they were able to know the ins-and-outs of their route and what to expect along the way. He made sure nothing was overlooked.

It is no secret that the last winter was challenging in terms of snow cover and conditions. Not knowing exactly what they would encounter on the day of the event, they threw everything they owned into the car and arrived a day early to get one last look at the terrain. The final gear decisions were made in a motel room the night before the event.

What they were not prepared for was the warm welcome they received by the Mount Greylock Ski Club on the eve of the race. They had lots of fun eating a potluck dinner, listening to club members crank out tunes not heard since college days on their guitars and mandolins, and trying to coax fellow competitors into overindulging. "What? Your team doesn't have a name yet? Well, you better start drinking lots of beer and come up with one by morning!" There was a lot of good natured trash-talking and intentional bad advice being offered between participating teams that evening.

According to Steve and Chris, 'Team 2-Ton' named after their favorite beer, came in first place because they trained, they practiced, and they made fewer mistakes. The other team from New Jersey, Matt and Rod, were right on their heels as Chris and Steve entered their last station and managed to capture second place. Throughout the skills stations they employed the motto "slow is smooth, smooth is fast, and fast is good," and they did everything safely and by the book.

Steve and Chris said "This event was the highlight of our winter season, and we had more fun than we ever imagined. We were lucky to meet some of the coolest people on the planet." Many other patrollers became interested and excited watching them train and hopefully they inspired others to realize that they can do it too. "As with every adventure, we each have dozens of funny stories to tell now that it's over."



by Chuck Boyd, Supervisor

This Eastern Division Award, based on the NSP Monty Atwater Award, is for outstanding work in the field of avalanche education, public service, and scientific advancement. This year's award went to Brooke Taber and Conor Lahiff of NOAA in Burlington, VT.

In 2003, Roger, who had been teaching Eastern Division avalanche courses since 1964, decided to step back from teaching so many courses and turn the reins over to me, his protégé since 2000. As the IOR for the Division's largest avalanche courses, I knew that I had big shoes to fill. In late 2003, knowing that I wanted more professional educators to help me out, I reached out to NOAA Burlington and asked if there was someone there who would be willing to help out and teach the weather segments of our Level 1 and Level 2 avalanche courses. Brooke Taber stepped up and came to our Level 1 course at Smugglers' Notch, VT.

I sent him a copy of our text book, *Snow Sense*, and he built a presentation around our needs to teach how weather affects the formation of avalanches. Brooke was well received by the students. With his busy schedule and our request for him to be at all our advanced avalanche courses, Brooke recruited some help, and we got to meet Conor Lahiff. Together for over a decade, these guys have taught every weather presentation at our L1 and L2 courses at both Smugglers' Notch and Whiteface Mountain.

Knowing that northern Vermont and the Adirondacks lack a formal avalanche bulletin like the National Forest Service provides at Mount Washington and the need for the public to have a more detailed weather forecast for the mountains, they developed the "Higher Summit Forecast" for mountains over 3000' in northern Vermont and eastern New York. It is on the NOAA website at <http://www.weather.gov/btv/recreation>. On this site, click on Higher Summits in the toolbar, a map pops up with a bunch of mountain icons that overlay the map. They represent most of the major peaks in northern Vermont and eastern New York. Drag your cursor over any of these peaks and you will get the name of the peak. Click on it and a detailed weather forecast appears. This forecast has become a great tool for mountain enthusiasts year round.

Besides working with NSP and mountain enthusiasts, they helped the Atmospheric Science and Research Center of the University of Albany, located on Whiteface Mountain, to improve their weather instrumentation in order to gather data similar to what is being done on Mount Washington. Brooke and Conor worked with a Vermont company, NRG, to install an ice-free wind sensor on the summit of Whiteface.

The Eastern Division looks forward to continuing our working relationship with Brooke and Conor, who are both worthy recipients of this award.

Building Bridges

Interdivisional Avalanche Courses

by Chuck Boyd, Supervisor

This past winter we had the opportunity to help organize an interdivisional Level 2 Avalanche course that was held at Sunlight Mountain in the Rocky Mountain Division of Colorado. Central Division member Dale Fisher told me they have done this in the past. With the terrain guidelines set forth by the American Avalanche Association for avalanche education and the *NSP Avalanche Instructors Manual* some divisions, lacking simple avalanche terrain, cannot offer Level 1 or 2 courses. These national guidelines affect the Southern, Central, Southwest, and parts of the Eastern Divisions.

Offering these interdivisional courses allows us to build bridges between the divisions while helping them to run full courses. It also helps to develop instructors for other NSP programs which require a certain amount of avalanche education to either attend or instruct in these and other programs. The Eastern Division provides an avalanche scholarship to attend these types of programs to develop our new instructors. Other divisions should follow suit and provide future funding for patrollers wishing to become good instructors in their disciplines. These interdivisional courses would also work well with the MTR and Nordic Master programs.

The Eastern Division was represented by five people at the course: Mike Stroski (NVT), Frank Rice (NJ), Eric Zaharee (MWVSP), and Linda Boyd and me (CT). Mike, Frank, and Linda went as students; Eric and I went as instructors. We would like to thank the Eastern Division's Board of Directors, especially John Shipman and Jon Tuttle, for the additional funding they provided to help the students pay for the course.

Arriving at different times, we rendezvoused in Denver and piled our gear into a Ford Explorer. With ski bags strapped to the roof we looked like the Beverly Hillbillies heading across I70. A low budget led me to ask a friend, Pete, in Silverthorne, CO if three of us could stay with him. He said yes, so we showed up with five! Pete and three of his friends were already there, so we made a nice cozy group of nine.

Not wanting to look bad in front of the western patrollers, we spent two days skiing at Vail Pass to acclimate and get our group travel and decision-making skills in avalanche terrain dialed in. After two days of trip planning, route selection, and snow pits we were ready to move on. Due to a huge landslide on I70, we were forced to detour north to Steamboat Springs (stopping at Rabbit Ears Pass for another ski tour), then south to Rifle, finally heading back east to Glenwood Springs and the access road to Sunlight Mountain.

The L2 course went really well, and it was nice to know that our courses are on par with the western divisions. We had great weather and snowpack presentations. Outdoor activities ran during the day and classroom sessions at night going from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the first three days. Instructors met each night.

Day one started with classroom introductions, housekeeping, and course goals, then outside until noon doing beacon searches, probe lines, and companion rescues. Afternoon classroom sessions went to 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner and evening sessions with a trip planning session to finish.

Day two was in-area. At the top PHQ we split into two groups and dug snow pits, documenting the data in the morning. The afternoon followed with two companion rescue exercises plus the beacon park. After dinner Dale Atkins, co-author of NSP's *Avalanche Rescue Fundamentals*, did a rescue presentation plus we correlated our pit data.

Day three was the touring day. Again we split into two groups at top PHQ then headed off in two different directions into the backcountry. The groups practiced route selection, snow tests on the go, plus a couple of powder runs. Near the end of the tour we met up with the other group for another companion rescue exercise and a beacon station before heading back. The evening began with a presentation by two skiers who were caught in an avalanche while on the 10th Mountain Trail System recounting how they self-rescued and got to a hut after 9:00 p.m. Following was a presentation by Blase Reardon from the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) and then a trip planning session.

Day four was the organized rescue. The previous day, work had been done to prepare the site setting up on a double black diamond run that does slide and is controlled by patrol. The group that prepared the site made the crown and the bed surface and closed the trail to the skiing public. The following morning we went in, turned up the debris field and buried six beacons, two dummies, and a pack. The class skied and did snow evaluations until the rescue was called in. A Southern Division patroller, Paul, was appointed IC and was stationed at PHQ on top. As people arrived on the lift they were given assignments, equipment if needed, and headed off to the scene. The scenario took until 1:00 p.m. then we headed down to debrief. The students were exhausted but very happy. Some of us free skied a bit afterwards, then we went down to Glenwood Springs to the Iron Mountain Hot Springs.

Sunday, we drove to Cooper Mountain near Leadville, CO where the 10th Mountain Division first did their training. Two of their trails leave the mountain and head off into the famous 10th Mountain backcountry hut system. We met the mountain's General Manager Dan Torsell, a former Sugarbush operations manager, and Peter Mahair, the Alaska Assistant Division Director who was on assignment writing about NSP's small to mid-size patrols. He may be skiing in the east next winter so we should watch for him.

Needing a place to stay, Mike called Karen Parolin, a friend from Sugarbush now working at Vail, who graciously offered

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to put us up for the night before we had to leave. We were all pretty tired by Monday morning as we split up heading our own ways. Frank was up and out before dawn to get home, Karen took Eric skiing early at Vail then he headed to an early evening flight, and Linda went back to bed.

Mike and I got in a last day of skiing before our red-eye flight. We returned to Cooper and headed to Vance's Cabin, one of the huts in the 10th Mountain Trail System. Conditions were firm to variable and it took a little under two hours to get to the hut. It was nice on the deck, but we found a door open and went in, sat down at a table and used the map and map tool to plan the rest of the day. We headed 60 degrees NE to the top of Taylor Hill (11,745') then traversed across the top. The views were awesome, but the weather was coming in.

We used our planned bearing of 190 degrees and a view of the ski area to bring us back having fun even though the conditions were less than exceptional with breakable crust, powder, wind scouring, and melt-freeze surfaces. It began snowing as we got back to the car. What followed after dinner can only be described as the ride from hell as we battled a snowstorm over the pass back to Denver making it to the airport one hour before our flight. The rest was easy; we all fell asleep.

Frank Rice had this to say:

Like any patroller, the winter always comes with a plethora of exciting opportunities. This season I attended an interdivisional Level 2 Avalanche course in Colorado. From start to finish every day the course was filled with amazing content presented by some of the most knowledgeable members of the avalanche safety community.

What impressed me most about the experience was how a

group of ski patrollers and search and rescue personnel from all different regions of the country, who had never met before, could come together so quickly and fluently over the course of four days. By the end of the week it was clear that we are all part of the same mountain family. I have never witnessed a group of students and instructors work so perfectly in both an educational matter and as a backcountry party.

Never having been to PEC or Powderfall this was my first time working with members from other divisions of the National Ski Patrol. I can only assume that similar outcomes can be reached throughout NSP with more events like these.

Mike Stroski had this to say:

I would like to thank the Eastern Division for the opportunity to be part of the team sent to the interdivisional Avalanche L2 event. My renewed and updated knowledge gathered at the course will be well utilized teaching future avalanche courses as well as in my own personal snow travels. I believe I discovered new ways to convey snow safety concerns to others.

I feel that our division group, as a whole, has been made stronger and more cohesive as friendships, trusts, and bonds were forged during the time spent together. The experience has assured me that I have "chosen wisely" in pursuing advanced knowledge and understanding of avalanche safety through the National Ski Patrol.

The course was intense and the time was used efficiently during 10+ hour days. I recommend using that curriculum as a model. I increased my knowledge and learned teaching skills that will assist me as an instructor. Performing snow study tests in 120cm deep pits where real avalanche danger could be seen and touched was priceless. I found this course well worth the time, effort, and cost invested to increase my knowledge, understanding and feeling for snow, avalanche and snow safety.



PROGRAM REPORT

by Chuck Boyd, Supervisor

This season did not go quite as planned. With little snowfall to build up a normal snowpack, it was very challenging to complete all the Level 1 courses on the calendar. If you wanted deep powder you needed to head out west, where El Niño helped them have a record season. But even with our lean snow year the importance of avalanche education has never been stronger. This past February a record number of fatalities occurred across the western states. Mount Washington had an incident in January where five skiers and climbers were caught and two partially buried. Fortunately no one was seriously injured. Don't guess or make assumptions when traveling on steep terrain; take an avalanche course especially if you're searching for the steep and deep.

Our annual AMN meeting at Northfield Mountain, MA continues to provide CE credits for avalanche, MTR, and Nordic instructors. The avalanche instructors all agreed on methods to provide pre-course work to keep the complete L1 avalanche course on a three-day format. New exams have also been created for the L1 and L2 courses for use by all regions. This will help with QC for regional L1 Mod1 students attending the field portions of a division L1 avalanche course.

The Eastern Snow Avalanche Workshop was hosted by the NFS and lead Snow Ranger Chris Joosen at the Omni Mount Washington Resort's Grand Ballroom. We are working hard through a partnership with the Berlack and Astle families, in reaction to the loss of their Olympic Ski Team sons in an Austrian avalanche, to bring more attention to avalanche hazards and warning systems. The dinner was in memory of Ronnie and Bryce with a keynote presentation from Rudi Mair, the Director of Avalanche Forecasting in Tyrol, Austria.

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Other speakers were Bruce Jamerson, Senior Avalanche Consultant for Snowline Associates Ltd, University of Calgary, and instructor for the Canadian Avalanche Association; Dan Sharaf, co-owner American Avalanche Institute; Sam Colebeck, leading Snow Physicist; and Jerry Isaak, Associate Professor Department of Expeditionary Studies, Plattsburgh State University. This is a great event for avalanche instructors to learn from the best and gain CE credits to maintain their instructor certification.

Here are some highlights

- Eric Zaharee received the ED Avalanche Scholarship and along with me attended the National Avalanche School.

- Most beacon practice sessions and L1 Mod1 courses went on as scheduled. We had to cancel one Level 1 course due to no snow.

- The Level 1 course, held every year at Smugglers' Notch in the NVT Region, was a huge success. We managed to have plenty of snow to dig in with interesting stability results and successful avalanche rescue scenarios. During this course, Dave Childs completed his Level 1 instructor mentorship training and is now a full instructor.

- In January, Linda Helms, L2 avalanche instructor and certified patroller, held an L1 Mod1 course for certified patrollers at Sunday River. Programs that work together are what brings success to the division and we look forward to more of this happening.

- Our last L1 avalanche course, at Mount Washington, was on schedule including a forecasted storm.

- The interdivisional L2 avalanche held in Colorado (see separate article for details).

As we move forward, our goals are to make sure that all regions in the division that wish to teach avalanche courses have the instructors and educational materials available to meet their needs. We have steadily upgraded our rescue equipment to be current with American Avalanche Association standards.

The avalanche scholarship is open for applications this coming season. Look for the application on the division website under Programs/Avalanche. In October I am planning to attend this year's educational event in Colorado, the International Snow Science Workshop.

Next spring, NSP's Avalanche Program Director, Ed Carlson, is planning a face-to-face meeting with the National Avalanche Committee which is comprised of every division's avalanche supervisor. This is to make amendments to the AIM (Avalanche Instructor Manual) and discuss the proposed pro/recreational track that avalanche education is heading for and what role NSP will play in its development.

In closing, I would like to thank my team of ITs, instructors, and the Eastern Division's Board of Directors for helping to continue to make this program a success.

by John Kane, Director

We have a lot of new business ahead of us. One of the most significant changes is the way we are going to process registrations for the upcoming season. As you know National has a new website! It looks fantastic. It is faster, has more available information and will be able to track your information for all courses attended and awards received. As with any new computer system, we have experienced some hiccups along the way.

This is to be expected, but we have a great team of IT professionals headed up by Chris Pringle (National Board Rep/IT Committee Chair). Along with Chris, Hugh Blocker and Donna McGraw have been in the trenches every day before and since the launch on 8/1/16. There were some bumps (and bad ones) that have challenged this group, but they are working it out.

Priority is patrol registration, then NSP Program registration, then OEC (including delinquent lists), and then everything else. We will be in transition for the next couple of months, but we are making great progress to ensure all of the information is crossed over as best as possible. Please keep tuned to your RD's information updates.

Lastly, bring all issues (large and especially small) to your RD's attention. They will consolidate the information and get it to the proper channels. At this point, this is the best route for all concerns. Once the system is totally up and functional the NSP has set up a Customer Care Team at National headquarters to handle any and all questions regarding the system. Until then all NSP personnel are being tasked and directed by our IT staff to perform specific functions to get the system on line (FULLY) every day and as soon as possible.

Once fully up and running, I believe it will be an excellent reporting tool for the Patrol Directors and NSP Representatives at each patrol. This will be a single-payer process where each individual patroller will be responsible for paying their dues on line directly to NSP. It will be just like purchasing online from your favorite online store. When you sign on the National Website for the first time you should:

1. Check your profile and update all information relative to you. You get there by clicking on "Hi John" or "Hi Suzy" located at the top right of your web page. If you find certain things that don't add up, advise your Patrol Director, or NSP Rep. They will get it to the Region Director. Mostly, all information is coming across intact.

2. Go to Member Resources and click on "Customer Care." This is where you will find video of step-by-step guidance for how to navigate the site. However, the site is very intuitive and you should be able to self-discover.

As issues arise we will deal with them promptly to work with each region's patrols to insure a consistent crossover where needed. The Eastern Division "Help Desk" (Hugh and Donna) will handle any and all concerns in the interim. All information is being documented and handled accordingly. Your Eastern Division has taken on this program in advance of other divisions because we have the depth, talent, and determination to see this through. So, as you come on line to use the new way of registering, we would appreciate knowing about your experience so that we can adjust and improve the process as needed. We will have more information to follow.

REGISTRATION PROCESS--New for 2016-2017



Young Adult Program IN REVIEW

by Craig Larson, YAP Coordinator

What a season; a season of ups and downs, a season of warm and cold, a season with below average natural snow. The strange and unpredictable weather of this past winter certainly had an effect on ski areas across the division. This effect was also seen in the Young Adult Program.

Many areas in the division started the 2015-2016 season later than normal with limited terrain open and snowmaking happening only to have the temperatures increase and the snow wash away in the rain a few days later. Limited terrain may dictate the number of patrollers needed on the hill, thus leaving young adults the last to be called for duty. With a late start and early closing training and events for young adults were limited, with one ski area canceling its young adult event completely.

Some regions, however, were able to provide training for their YAPs. The following regions held an event designed to meet the needs of their region's youngest patrollers: Maine, New Hampshire, Northern Vermont, Eastern Massachusetts & Rhode Island, Connecticut, Southern New York, Eastern Pennsylvania, and Western Appalachian. Several of the above events were overnight events. I'm pleased to say that 13 of the 15 regions have a Young Adult Regional Advisor.

The Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar was held March 15-18 at Bromley Mountain, Peru, Vermont. Paul Tourangeau, National Young Adult Program Director, was able to attend this event. With warm weather, limited natural snow, and our National Chairman and National Young Adult Program Director in attendance, Bromley pulled out all the tricks including a few snow dances and pleas to Mother Nature. Fifty-one Young Adults from Maine to West Virginia attended.

Snowsports companies from around the country donated swag to this event to be

handed out at registration, during the event, and at the closing banquet. Xevo Optics has partnered with the Young Adult Program, offering all products at 50% off with the coupon code "edyap."

Event photos can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jesscottinghamphoto/albums>.

Participants were given the chance to compete in the following disciplines; ski/ride skills, OEC skills, and toboggan skills. The competition was tight with the following young adults coming out on top.

OEC SKILLS

1. Samantha Schneider – Belleayre Mountain
2. Abby Crofts – Blue Hills
3. Katharine Ryan – Mount Southington

SKI/RIDE SKILLS

1. Luke Henry – Pats Peak
2. Katie Tota – Belleayre Mountain
3. Alex Rousseau – Pats Peak

TOBOGGAN SKILLS

1. Brandin Harvey – Wachusett Mountain
2. Luke Henry – Pats Peak
3. Justin Asher – Jack Frost

OVERALL

1. Madeline Appleton – Mount Southington
2. Katie Tota – Belleayre Mountain
3. Alex Rousseau – Pats Peak

BEST ASSESSMENT

Alex Rousseau – Pats Peak

HANS HYSON AWARD

Katie Tota – Belleayre Mountain



The skills displayed at the Young Adult Patroller Seminar should make us proud. The future is bright as today's Young Adult Patrollers will be tomorrow's leaders both on and off the hill. If you need help growing the program in your region, help creating a region event, or have questions regarding the program, please contact me.

2016 AWARDS

National Appointment

Steve Slater	11742	WNY
Jeffrey Cole	11746	WNY
Thomas Jenssen	11748	GV
Michael Wess	11790	WAPP
Stephen Duncan	11796	GV

Leadership Commendation Appointment

John Crandall	8499	NJ
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Distinguished Service Award

Gordon Benoit	GV
Bob Bluff	EPA
Linda Breen	GV
Tim Cassidy	GV
Bryant Hall	WAPP
Richard Hitchcock	GV
James Hopkins	GV
Rachel Miller	GV
Richard Stearns	GV

Meritorious Service Award

Spence Blomfield-Brown	CNY
Joseph Procopio	CNY
Munna Rubaii	CNY

Yellow Merit Star

James Augustine	WAPP
Richard Barron	WAPP
Gigi Dreskler	WAPP
Robert Fidum, Jr.	EPA
Bob Fisk	EPA
John Foster	EPA
Rick Hoffman	WAPP
Rick Knight	CT
Linda Anne Pateanu	WAPP
Marty Silverman	WAPP
Scott Spohn	EPA
Scott Stoppa	CT
Eric Washburn	GV

Purple Merit Star

Eric Bowen	WNY
Mike Burr	CT
Liz Fenner	CT
Alex George	WNY
Lynn Leuber	EPA
Joe Probst	WNY
Adam Rau	WNY
Leslie Willis	WAPP

Blue Merit Star

Rich Bell	EPA
Craig Bushey	WAPP
Steven Chimes	WAPP
John Fitzpatrick	WNY
Alex George	WNY

Jenna Hardy-Jensen	WAPP
Clark Johnson	WAPP
Ken Lichtenfels	WAPP
Quinn O'Rourke	WNY
Thomas Rapp	WAPP
Thomas Spears	WAPP
Phillip Swan	WAPP
Brian Weinzierl	WAPP
Cody Weinzierl	WAPP
Susan Wiley	EPA
Leslie Willis	WAPP

Patroller Cross

Olivia Matthews	EPA
Burt Mitchell	CT
Kim Snow	CNY
Don Weaver	WNY

Patriot Star

Elizabeth Van Winkle	EPA
Adam McElroy	EPA

Patroller Achievement Award

Forrest Abild	WMASS
William Baxter	CT
Jeffrey Barter	CT
Norman Bird	CT
Marygale Bouldin	CT
David Celommi	EPA
Jennifer Conine	GV
Stanley Detwiler	CT
Beverly Dillon	CT
William Ellison	CT
Bill Fergerson	CNY
Karl Foster	CNY
Tom George	WNY
Phil Glatz	WNY
Gregory Goldthwait	CNY
Brian Harman	CT
James Houlihan	CT
Dave Iacovino	GV
Rocco Iannapolo	CNY
Marie Keeton	CT
John Kiernan	CNY
Mike Kirsch	WNY
Robert Klein	CNY
Joe Kloc	WNY
Coleen Lambert	EPA
John LaFleur	WMASS
Andrea Marino	GV
Keith Miller	GV
Marshall Morris	CT
Skip Mudge	CT
Michael Nickerson	CNY
Jonathan Olson	CT
Kevin O'Rourke	WNY
Robert Ouellette	WMASS
Tony Ostroski	WMASS
Morton Pear	CT
Mark Procopio	CNY
George Ramsey	CNY
Mark Reinhard	WNY

Tim Ryan	CT
Mike Russo	WNY
James Schaffnit	CT
Paul Schipritt	CT
William Secunda	EPA
Dan Shappee	GV
Debbie Shenton	CT
Walter Shepard	CNY
Patricia Slutter	EPA
Janet Snyder	GV
Tony Stabile	WMASS
Mike Stamp	GV
Scott Stoppa	CT
Eric Strom	CT
Susanna Stumpe	CNY
Glenn Thorpe	CT
Sarah Toman	WNY
Joseph Varchola	CT
James Virgulto	CT
Mike Wangler	GV
Greg Whitney	GV
Karl Wimmer	CNY

50 Year Eastern Division Award

Ronald Aucott	EPA
Robert Barette	EPA
Gordon Bell	EPA
Mike Blomfield-Brown	WNY
Jim Boring	GV
William Charron	EPA
Ken Cyr	WMASS

Don Dischner	WNY
James Ebmeyer	GV
Richard Grainger	WNY
Jim Higgins	WMASS
John Jagers	EPA
John Jepson	WMASS
Donald Kahler	EPA
T. Hume Laidman	CNY
Herb Lehman	GV
Charles Lippincott	EPA
Bill McCombe	WMASS
Skip Millor	GV
David Pleet	EPA
Joan Reynolds	WNY
Charles Seaman	WMASS
Gus Seehorst	WMASS
David Silverstein	EPA
Bob Smith	GV
Chester Smith	EPA
Peter Snyder	EPA
John Stinsmen	EPA
Harry Stoneham	GV
Frederick Tim	EPA
Robert Walker	EPA
Joseph Winkler	EPA

50 Year National Lifetime Service Award

John LaFleur	WMASS
Joe Mosa	WMASS
David Gibb	WMASS
Raymond Dubreuil	WMASS

2015/16 Eastern Division Outstanding Awards

Alpine Patrol (Large)	Gore Mountain	ENY
Alpine Patrol (Small)	Aroostook	ME
Alpine Patroller	Patrick Cusick	EPA
Administrator	Marty Silverman	WAPP
Alumni	Pam Mead	CNY
Instructor	Eric Speedy	WAPP
Nordic Patrol	Highland Forest	CNY
Nordic Patroller	Robert Winter	CNY
OEC Instructor	Skip Mudge	CT
Paid Patroller	Elizabeth Bolton	NH
Patrol Representative	Steve Devine	NJ
Patroller (Auxiliary)	Kelly Hurlbut	EMARI
Young Adult Patroller	Michael Marx	NJ

Jerry Sherman Division Director Award

Deborah Foss	EMARI
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Donna McGraw Patrollers for Patrollers Award

William Cline	WAPP
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William J. Gross Memorial First Aid Award

Chris Heimert	NVT
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Roger Damon Avalanche Award

Brooke Taber and Connor Lahiff	
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Significant Monkey "990" Award

Jerry Sherman	GVY
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501(c)3 Award

Paul Kelly	NH
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Memorial SCHOLARSHIP Fund by Harriet Frawley, Coordinator

While planning for this article, I kept returning to the idea of some things coming to an end, and in doing so, setting the stage for new beginnings.

But first, let me introduce myself. My name is Harriet Frawley and I am a 17-year volunteer patroller in the NJ Region, patrolling at both Hidden Valley and Campgaw Mountains.

During those years I've acted as lead OEC instructor, OEC I/T, Senior OEC T/E, CPR Instructor, and Region Treasurer. This spring I was named Patrol Director for Hidden Valley Ski Patrol, now serving the National Winter Activity Center, the nation's first 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to introducing youth to snowsports. Exciting things are happening there and I look forward to the challenge of leading a patrol that serves in such a unique setting. My day jobs include small business owner and homeschool mom, which takes me from teaching high school math and physics at our co-op to playing clarinet in a homeschool fine arts program.

On the subject of things coming to an end, after 21 years of serving as the Eastern Division Memorial Scholarship Coordinator, David Nelson has decided to step down and I have taken on another role. Please join me in thanking Dave for his many years of service, and to congratulate him on receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the Division Officers' Banquet in April. As this is a new beginning for me, I look forward to continuing to work with Dave as he mentors me in my new responsibilities.

Looking over the Memorial Fund Plaques reminds me of other more significant endings. The NJ Region lost two of their own this past year and due to generous donations their names are among those commemorated.

Walter Drivet was a legend in the NJ EMS Community, and served as Mountain Creek Patrol Director as well as a valuable member of NJ's OEC instructional staff. His teaching style emphasized zeroing in on and perfecting those skills that truly make the difference for our patients because yes, you will have to assemble that O2 tank in the dark, at 10 degrees, with snow guns howling all around you. He also taught me to value my students' time and efforts by never subjecting them to "death by PowerPoint" and by delivering the course content they truly need to succeed.

Gary Brooks was NJ Region Director during my candidate year and we first met at an S&T clinic where he was leading one of the training groups. I will always be grateful for his patience and good humor as an unloaded toboggan got the better of me during my first time in the handles. Needless to say, he didn't give up on me.

From these endings come new beginnings, as those same donations go on to fund academic scholarships for young patrollers just starting to make their mark. Many are well on their way, having already completed OEC and S&T training, serving the public at their home areas and becoming part of the NSP family. Family is certainly a theme, as many are second generation patrollers. My own daughter, Tarra, became a Young Adult Patroller as soon as she was old enough, and was a grateful 2015 recipient of the Memorial Scholarship. Her sister Skye hopes to follow in her footsteps.

This year's Eastern Division Memorial Scholarship recipients are an equally impressive group. They are Madeline Appleton of Mount Southington (CT), David Ermer of Swain (GV), Jessica Kaelbein of Blue Hills (EMARI), and Molly O'Brien of Belleayre (SNY). Congratulations to them, their parents, and their extended patrol families. We look forward to seeing what the future has in store for each of them, both on and off snow.

Contributions to the Memorial Fund may be sent c/o Harriet Frawley, 70 Coventry Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435.

PATROLLERS NO LONGER WITH US

At the Eastern Division Spring Officers' Meeting in April, each region announced the names of active and retired patrollers who passed away.

CNY

Herb Isaacs
Steve Kraatz
Mary Ann Lewis

CT

Rheta Lee

EMARI

Patty Benz
Charlie Campbell
Dick Farrar
James Flynn
Arnie Gaskin

ENY

Edwin Augustin
Kevin Conly
Maynard Ferren
Dick Hall
James Smith

EPA

Robert Mishak
Jonathan Rusk
G.R. Whitney
Don Yateman

GVLY

Tom Erbland
Tom Foley
Bina Robinson
Janet Wagner

NJ

Gary Brooks
Walter Drivet

SNY

Mike Moran

SVT

Alan Fisher
Andrew Hopping
Ned Huntley

WAPP

Dave Shaffer
Darlene Yutzy

WMA

Stan (Stas) Owczarski
Mitchell Winey

WNY

Paul Baker
David Olevey
Ned Parsons
George 'Skip' Pfister
Dan Smeragliuolo
Hank Visgar

In Memoriam

MITCHELL ALEXANDER WINEY

Hundreds of family, friends, comrades and supporters attended a memorial held for Cadet Mitchell Alexander Winey, 21, at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel, June 9.



Mitchell, of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, was one of nine victims when flood waters took his life, and the lives of eight soldiers, while conducting convoy operations with 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, June 2.

Raised in Indiana, Mitchell graduated from Chesterton High School in 2014. He served as class president for four years and was a member of the National Honor Society. He captained the CHS Soccer Team. He reported to the United States Military Academy at West Point July 2, 2014, was accepted into the Corps of Cadets as a Plebe in the Class of 2018, and was recognized on the Dean's List in all four semesters majoring in Engineering Management.

He served as ACIC (Assistant Cadet-in-Charge) for the West Point Ski Patrol, as well as, CIC (Cadet-in-Charge) and founding member of the newly formed freestyle ski team. West Point Ski Patrol, a member of the Western Mass Region, works and trains at the Victor Constant Ski Area, West Point, New York. Each winter the WPSA spends time at Butternut, Berkshire East, and Jiminy Peak doing additional training and helping patrol their slopes. Their enthusiasm is contagious and

the WMASS patrols look forward to their annual visits.

Winey's best friend and fellow cadet, Zain Shaikh, spoke at his memorial. Shaikh began his remarks with letting the more than 300 people in attendance know that the world lost one of its brightest souls.

"While we are gathered here to remember, we should not grieve or mourn," Shaikh said, "instead, I invite you all to celebrate the great memories of a beautiful life, even if it was too short. I have enough memories of Mitch to last a lifetime, and then some," he added, "but that's the kind of person he was ... a doer. He didn't wait around for things to happen ... he truly lived."

Shaikh said he and Winey's favorite thing to do together was travel, because Winey loved meeting new people. He had many hobbies including skiing, hiking, cliff diving, playing piano, rock climbing and traveling, and was working on attaining his pilot's license.

"Mitch loved people, and people loved Mitch ... he touched so many lives. I've never seen anyone make friends quite like Mitch Winey." Shaikh said he realizes now more than ever how many lives Winey truly touched, saying he has been receiving calls from all over the world from people he's never met, asking about his fallen friend.

"Mitch loved bringing people together," Shaikh said, "and my greatest hope, to honor his memory, is by letting his passing bring us closer, and send us to the far ends of the Earth to spread his joy and celebrate his life.

"Mitch was a doer," he concluded, "he never looked back, and he wouldn't want us to, either."

(Portions reprinted with permission by Erin Rogers, www.army.mil and the Chicago Tribune.)

STANLEY (STAS) OWCZARSKI

On December 26, 2015, when Stanley (Stas) Owczarski died, the Western Mass Region and Berkshire East lost one of its most well-known patrollers and ambassadors to the public.

I first met Stas shortly after his ski area (Dutch Hill) closed and he transferred to Berkshire East. Stas was always a very competitive person, and coming from a very small patrol to a larger one, he found his skiing/toboggan skills not up to par with some members of the patrol. With determination and dedication, he set about to rectify the situation.

The next year he wanted to take the Senior S&T, even though he had one hand in a cast. I was one of the examiners that day and advised him to try the following year, but he would have none of that and took the skiing portion of the exam, passing with very good scores.

It was not long after, that he involved himself with regional duties, was appointed an Assistant Region Director, and made his way to the region S&T staff. From this point on it was nowhere but up for Stas. Those in charge seemed to recognize and appreciate that he had a rare blend of patrol skills and people skills that few possess. It was not long before he was running the S&T program, appointed to division staff for S&T and elected Region Director. Since I was a long time S&T member he asked me to take over the S&T program which I did.

I found him to be a very effective, strong, and compassionate leader. Apparently everyone else thought so too because he did the full

six-year term and was awarded National Appointment #9108. He could have kept going up in the NSP system, but his interest was at the patrol level. and the people he loved at Berkshire East where he become Assistant Director.

As the Patrol Director I could not have asked for anyone better. Stas was always very supportive, he gave great counsel, and it was easily seen that he always had the best interest of the patrol in mind. Berkshire East is a close-knit patrol, many of us having been together 30-40 plus years. We refer to ourselves as family with friendships that are just as strong if not stronger. Stas helped to encourage and develop those relationships.

One of our new patrollers this past year sent me an email after Stas's passing and probably said it best. "I am so saddened and shocked by the death of Stas. I only met him twice, but he was so incredibly sweet and helpful to me as I explored the BE ski patrol. I sent a condolence to the family letting them know how lovely he was and how much I was looking forward to getting to know him better. I know he must be a great loss to you and the entire patrol. Though I barely knew him, he made a great impression."

As long as we are here we will miss him and remember him, and with family members on our patrol, October Owczarski Cellana and new member Maris Owczarski, the memories will go on forever and that is a nice thing.

*Ed Ralicki
Berkshire East PD*

It was a tough loss of three veteran patrollers within a month earlier this year for the Song Mountain Ski Patrol in CNY. Two had retired from the patrol; the third was still on active duty.

With such loss, a Song patroller mused that it made him wonder “if they have discovered the ultimate mountain to enjoy in heaven and the outdoor paradise we all long for...”

*Jeff Paston
CNY Historian*

MARY ANN LEWIS

In mid-January, much beloved patroller Mary Ann Lewis died in the recovery room shortly after undergoing surgery. She was 62 and a 37-year member of the NSP starting in 1975 and retiring in 2012 due to a leg injury. She met her husband, Charlie, while the two of them pursued a common interest in playing bagpipes. Charlie joined her on ski patrol in 1983 and they skied together on duty until Mary Ann's retirement.

Song patrollers wrote many tributes, noting Mary Ann could bring a smile to everyone with whom she interacted. She was quick-witted, big-hearted and always very knowledgeable when it came to care of injured skiers.

A fun person to be around, “Mary Ann sure knew how to tell stories, and put smiles on our faces. She was a little spark plug...so witty, and so fast with her brand of self-deprecating humor; always upbeat even when she had personal injuries, like breaking her leg. She made that sound like fun! Charlie was her foil and a lovingly good one. She will be remembered always and will be sorely missed.”

In addition to her husband Charlie, Mary Ann leaves behind a son and daughter.

HERB ISAACS

There is a belief that things happen in threes. Sure enough, by early February, veteran patroller Herbert Isaacs died at the age of 91 after falling. The irony is that he spent 32 years helping others who had fallen on the Song Mountain slopes.

Herb's ski patrol career started in 1964 and despite two heart attacks and heart bypass surgery, he continued patrolling until he could no longer meet the rigors of patrol duty. He was one of the patrol's early members,

STEPHEN KRAATZ

A few weeks later, cancer claimed the life of longtime patroller Stephen Kraatz. Steve started as a Nordic patroller in 1987 and quickly added alpine patrolling to his NSP resume. He also loved sailing, traveling, dancing, and hiking. Fellow Song patrollers recalled that Steve led by example.

As one tribute put it, “My first of thought of Steve is that he was the reincarnation of Abe Lincoln – long, lean, hardworking, earnest, and honest with a wry sense of humor. He always treated patients and fellow patrollers with respect. He was a capable patroller and skier to his final days. He always chose the toughest trail to sweep at the end of the day and would never back away from the tough tasks, even though as Chief he could have assigned them to others.”

“Steve was a soft-spoken, no-nonsense guy who was always there to help anyone he interacted with. His depth of knowledge on many topics was great, yet he never came across acting as the ‘expert,’ though he was. I know his students over his many years of teaching were blessed with his wisdom and experiences. He gave sound advice when it was asked for, and I benefited from it more than once on our eight-minute chairlift rides.”

His ability, stamina, and philosophy may be best summed up in one tribute from a fellow patroller, “I'll never forget helping you tear off your roof. I had a bad cold. You said ‘you can go home and be miserable, or you can stay here and be miserable and get something done.’”

Steve is survived by Kay, his wife of 48 years, two sons, and seven grandchildren.

having a background of military service in World War II.

Herb enlisted in the Army Air Corp and flew a B-17 bomber on more than 20 missions over Germany. He continued his enjoyment of flying after the war, and added skiing and tennis to his interests. After the war, he became a salesman in a number of fields.

Fellow patrollers enjoyed Herb's sense of humor and the many stories he shared while on duty.

Herb was predeceased by Lois, his wife of 59 years. He is survived by his sister, three children and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

