

Official Publication of the Eastern Division of the National Ski Patrol



## Division Director's REPORT

by Cal Goldsmith, Division Director

The vaunted, traditional, ceremonial Eastern Division Spring Officers Meeting was a little different this year, as you might expect. The Eastern Division held its Spring Officers Meeting (SOM) virtually by means of the Zoom software application, and it was an efficient, effective, artful use of the medium. At this meeting on Saturday, April 25, Division Director John Kane stepped down, and the Eastern Division RDs elected me to the job. I consider it a singular honor and responsibility that I will work very hard to live up to. They also ratified enthusiastically my choice for Assistant Division Director, Kim Terwilliger, the Southern New York Region Director. Kim has been very active in the division for many years, is extremely knowledgeable, and will do a great job for us.

John Kane III, affectionately known as JK, has worked incredibly hard for four years to lead this division and has done an exemplary job. His limitless energy allows him to be on top of all the issues and happenings all at the same time. He came into the job at a time of open conflict between the Eastern and Central Divisions at the National Board level, and after several contentious NBOD elections. Seasoned, knowledgeable NBOD members who had been in the middle of this conflict understandably advised caution to JK not to be too open and engaged with the Central Division lest it come back to bite him. JK is not someone who can operate like that. His energy and goodness will always require he engage and know people, make up his own mind, and try to win them over. And so, he did, working very hard from Day 1 to win our "enemies" hearts and minds. The result is we now have very warm relations with the Central Division. We are working together with its division director and NBOD members, including the national chair who we think very highly of and supported strongly in the last election. In his fourth and last year as division director, this national chair

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from Central Division awarded JK and Central Division Director Mike Schons, Yellow Merit Stars for their work bringing our divisions together. In my opinion, this is the single most important accomplishment JK has to his credit which is already paying huge dividends for the NSP. Just watch our national board and all our division directors work smoothly and efficiently together and you will understand.

Understand that it was not just at the division and national political levels that JK worked. He won friends across the country at all levels of the organization and brought great credit to the Eastern Division. Many of his new friends got an invitation to Hurricane Cove on Long Lake in Harrison, Maine. The Kane family compound has served as the base camp for the Certified Boot Camp for the last 11 years. JK and Deb Kane, with help from JK's brother Mike and his family, welcome over a hundred patrollers each year for a long weekend of certified, imaginative training on the lake. The 2020 Certified Boot Camp fell victim to the COVID-19 virus pandemic and will be greatly missed.

The year's Zoom Spring Officers Meeting itself was a challenge. We had over a hundred participants online. We had to distinguish between voting members and attendees. Throughout the day's meeting people were asking questions and wishing to be heard, discussing and debating issues, while others were giving presentations. Due to security concerns with Zoom, we had to vet everyone so we knew who they were and that they should be allowed into the meeting. We also had guests scheduled to give presentations to the Eastern Division Board including NSP Executive Director Meegan Moszynski, Central Division Director Mike Schons, national board candidate Donna Gardino, and National Chair Brian Rull. Despite all this complexity our team pulled it off seamlessly. Everything worked smoothly and well, and people got to speak. The team

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is Eastern Division Administrator Nancy Mayberry, Division Treasurer Hugh Blocker, Division E-Commerce Committee Adviser Orest Ohar, Donna McGraw (still on the job) and now our Division Events Coordinator, and EPA Region Director Sharon Friedel, supporting JK as meeting host. Everyone had a role, had served in that role during smaller meetings, and knew how to work together. It was really something to see it all work so very well. If you have ever been on even a small Zoom meeting where the host tries to load files, share the screen, take and answer questions, and run the meeting all at the same time, you will appreciate this meeting much as I did. Great Job Team!

Also of note, Bill Smith IV, affectionately known to his friends as "IV" and just retired Western Appalachian Region Director, has done an absolutely outstanding job deciphering our IT system with respect to course closures. He has worked tirelessly with Nancy Mayberry to effect the closure of several thousand division courses. His contributions to understanding the problems with overdue course closures also led national to put out new course tools to keep from having to go through this ordeal again. Huge kudos to IV and Nancy for their tremendous work on this daunting problem.

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic know that all levels of our forward-thinking, exceptional organization are working intensely to identify the problems we are going to face in our future patrolling, and to develop recommendations and policies and procedures to guide our patrollers in this coming season's training and patrolling activities. The national staff led by Meegan and the National Board of Directors are all acutely aware of the problems and challenges that we will face this year. They have staff members and committees addressing how we will patrol, with what PPE, under what procedures, and with what treatment protocols for patient treatment, including CPR. They also have a committee

addressing how we will run OEC classes and tests, and how we will do the new OEC 6 textbook rollout and refreshers this year. We will have guidance from national soon.

The Eastern Division is also making efforts to provide guidance to our members and to be as prepared as we can be for this coming challenging season. I have convened a group of 16 experienced, diverse patrollers/leaders from the Eastern Division in a Continuity of Operations Task Force-Eastern Division (Under Pressure). Fondly known as the COOPED UP Task Force (thank you Ed McNamara for that) we are functioning as a think tank to understand first, and then address policies and procedures and protocols for our season while patrolling and while training. We are also looking at financial impacts, issues, and administrative decisions we will face, including how our meetings will occur, what events will be held, and, if held what will they look like. Much of our work may just be coordinating the dissemination of information coming from our national efforts to provide guidance, which is fine. We don't need to be reinventing wheels. Our goal is not to do everything ourselves, but rather to make sure we are considering everything we can and not be faced with difficult-to-deal-with surprises in the fall and winter. What we develop will be passed on to national as well, so they don't necessarily have to reinvent wheels either. As we get information on how to operate, we will turn to our program supervisors and advisers, under the guidance of our region directors, to implement those measures bringing all the information to our patrollers.

We are paying special attention to our Eastern Division Medical Adviser Dr. Eric Silva. He has convened a group made up of our region medical advisers to share information and discuss and debate the protocols and precautions we should heed during the coming season. Dr. Silva is on our task force and will be key to many of the decisions we make. The role of ski patrol medical adviser has rapidly developed to be in the forefront of what we are doing, and we are very appreciative of their efforts and willingness to take on this role during obviously stressful times for them.

The early stages of the pandemic caught us all by surprise and required cancellation of the rest of our ski season including our Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar at Smugglers' Notch last March. The last-minute decision to cancel the event was a tough one, given that no one in our number understood what we were dealing with at that time. Division leaders, including Division YAP Adviser Craig Larson and Assistant YAP Adviser Chris Tota made that hard decision knowing the great disappointment their YAPs would face, and after both of them and their families and assistants put untold hours into preparations for this stellar annual event. Their good sense, led by JK, kept our YAPs and their families safe. Similarly, JK and Certified Program Chair Jon Wilson, subsequently cancelled the annual certified exam as well. As tough as those decisions were for them at the time, they look pretty good now. Good job to all involved including Craig, Chris, JK, ED BOD YAP liaison Kim Terwilliger, Jon Wilson, and Dr. Silva.

We are, after all, an organization dedicated to the safety of



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our members and the skiing and riding public. And now that means bike riding as well. The same safety-conscious decision-making will be brought to bear on the Eastern Division planned in-person Fall Officers Meeting (FOM) scheduled for September 11-13. Maybe by then it will be possible to have it face-to-6'-away-face, or we may do that meeting as a Zoom meeting as we did for the Spring Officers Meeting (SOM). We may have to get a little creative. But, that decision has yet to be made. We will know by July 1st most likely. (*Editor's note: the FOM has been changed to a Zoom meeting.*)

And now for some good news! OEC6, the textbook at the heart of NSP, is shipping from the publisher. I have my copy and it looks great. I was able to participate in an OEC6 rollout presentation from the division and national OEC staff and Ed McNamara (the book's editor along with Dr. Johe and Deb Endly). It is extremely impressive. There are not a lot of substantial changes in medical procedures, although there are several, but mostly it's the user-friendly nature of the text and supporting materials for students and instructors that will impress you. Along with the editors, National OEC Director Bill DeVarney and his staff and Division OEC Supervisor Deb Foss and her staff have done some really amazing work on the supporting

materials and are leading the charge on the rollout. So, get ready. Remember, all ITs and instructors must attend an OEC6 rollout to keep their credentials intact and must do so before teaching any OEC courses after July 1.

I'll leave you with a little prognostication. I predict we will have a ski season this year. We will patrol this year. We will get past this challenging pandemic. The NSP is the most can-do organization I have ever been exposed to. We have an extraordinarily talented and driven Membership, superb leadership in the national office, the national advisers, and our National Board of Directors. We are all pulling together efficiently with the one overriding goal of keeping our membership and the skiing/riding public safe, now more than ever. It's going to take a little doing, but we will figure this out.

So, keep your social distance, wash your hands, wear your mask, and in the short term stay home as much as you can. Keep focused on keeping safe, and don't let down your guard even as we reopen things over the summer and into the fall. I guarantee you when we all get up on our mountains this winter the air will be as crisp and clean, the views as gorgeous, and the snow as soft and fluffy as it has always been here in the Eastern Division.



by Deb Foss, OEC Supervisor

# ANNOUNCING....

## The wait is over...OEC6 is here

Here is a sneak preview of what the changes are:

- Transport head down for shock—oh no!
- Bleeding Control and STOP THE BLEED—okay!
- Pulse Oximetry & Oxygen Saturation levels between 94%-99%—okay!
- Spinal Motion Restriction—been there, done that!
- Assessment—treat serious bleeding first—oh really?
- Narcan—let's discuss!
- Enhanced Adaptive Chapter—why yes!

The new book is easier to read, easier to navigate and very user-friendly. There is also an ebook and an audio version which is included when you purchase the hard copy at the NSP discount rate! And...free shipping until the end of 2020.

For details on ordering, go to [nsp.org/Member](https://nsp.org/Member) Resources and click on the OEC6 Tab.



## Some reminders...

1. IORs: If your OEC course has not yet finished because of COVID-19 shutdowns, extend the Course End Date until September 1, 2020 and contact [education@nsp.org](mailto:education@nsp.org).  
\* If you are thinking about starting an OEC Course, please wait until July 1, 2020 when the OEC6 Instructor materials are available.
2. Patrollers: When you purchase an OEC6 book, you will receive access to Navigate (all the ancillary materials such as study guides, instructor PowerPoint® presentations, skills assessments, test banks, and scenario banks) for one year. Navigate is almost ready so please wait until you are notified before trying to access it.
3. The Refresher Study Guide will be mailed out separately from the summer edition of *Ski Patrol Magazine* and it will be available online as well.

# Using OEC Skills to Help Special Athletes

by Al Kraus, Special Olympics Support Organizer/Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol

Patrollers often very proficiently use their OEC skills to help skiers and snowboarders on their home mountains, but these same skills can be used to support other very worthwhile causes within our communities. Since 1998 the Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol, in the Genesee Valley Region in New York, has been making a concerted effort to support the special athletes participating in the New York Special Olympics Program.

Three or four times a year the Bristol Patrol puts together a team of 8 to 14 patrollers who travel to the athletic games being put on by Special Olympics New York and helps provide emergency medical support for the special athletes, as well as for the many officials, coaches, volunteers, and parents that attend the games. There is always a Winter Games in February and Summer Games in June, and often there is a Fall Games in October.

The Winter Games includes alpine skiing and snowboarding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, ice skating, and floor hockey. The Summer Games includes basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, track and field, and tennis. The Fall Games are a time for challenging the Special Athletes with events such as cycling, equestrian, softball, golf, and running.

Special Athletes from all over New York participate in these events. It is obvious from watching them that they try as hard as any other athletes to do the absolute best they can in their chosen sport. The vast majority certainly embody the Special Olympics Athlete Oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

For many of the Special Athletes, participating in the Special Olympics is one of the highlights of their entire year. A lot of emergency medical support is needed to support these events because these athletes are more susceptible to both physical injuries and medical emergencies.

Most recently, the patrollers at Bristol Mountain fielded a 14-person team to support the Special Olympics New York 2020 Winter Games which were held in Rochester, New York. All the athletes seemed to be having a great time and the various venues were surrounded by the sounds of excitement and cheering. Fortunately, there were not many serious incidents during the games, but just like at the mountain, at some games things are relatively quiet while at others the ambulances are lined up at the door

In addition to supporting Special Olympics New York, the Bristol patrollers have also supported Team USA at the Winter Training Camp they conduct just before the Team USA Special Athletes head to the World SO Games every four years. In 2012 a team from Bristol Mountain supported a winter training camp held at Whiteface Mountain in eastern New York and in 2016 a team provided support to the Special Athletes at Killington, Vermont. Besides working with the Team USA Special Athletes, these events were particularly rewarding because we got to also meet and work with many very professional patrollers at these other two mountains. The team of patrollers from Bristol Mountain would stay with the Special Athletes on the mountain to minimize response times and trauma for them and would call for support from the home patrol when extra support was needed

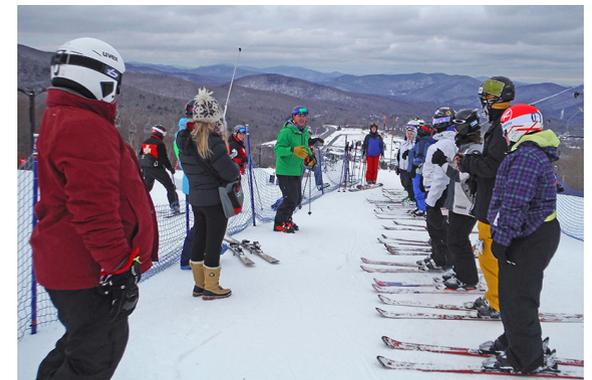
All the Bristol Mountain patrollers who have supported the Special Olympics have found this to be an extremely rewarding experience. It is particularly rewarding when we go to some of these venues and the



Special Athletes competing in a cross country event.



Patrollers at the floor hockey venue (dressed in EMS t-shirts provided by Special Olympics NY)



Team USA Special Athletes in training.



Patrollers at Killington (I am on the far left)

Special Athletes remember us and thank us for coming out to help them every year. We hope to continue this very important program on into the future; the next event on our calendar is the 2020 Fall Games currently scheduled to be held in October in Glens Falls New York.

# ID Instructor Development

by Jim Miller, Supervisor

## Updated Online Instructor Development Information

I have just finished reviewing Chapter 8 of the updated version of the online Instructor Development Course. Only a few more chapters need to be submitted for review and then the full course will be up and running.

## COVID-19

I am sure no one has NOT been affected by this pandemic. As we move into the fall for our refreshers and other NSP courses, new guidelines will be forthcoming to maintain the safety of all our members. With distance learning being the new norm, I was part of two Zoom Instructor Development face-to-face classes. Information on the results of these courses will be issued to all division supervisors to see if there is any application to their programs.

## Instructor Training—Are you an Instructor Trainer?

The National Ski Patrol is an educational organization. NSP provides instructor manuals, participant manuals, and course registration.

Participants expect quality programs and instruction, but how do they know they are receiving the required information? It is the job of the instructor trainer to provide the quality maintenance for all our programs and ensure that each course, no matter the discipline, region, or division is done to the NSP standard. One small portion of the IT's responsibility as

documented in the *NSP Policy and Procedures Manual* 2020 version is:

Works with the division supervisor and region program administrator to monitor consistency and quality of instruction using the Quality Management System by:

- i. Auditing and formally evaluating the quality of program educational events and the quality of instruction provided by individual instructors.
- ii. Administering the NSP Feedback Questionnaire to all event attendees.

I believe it is very important for ITs to administer the Feedback Questionnaire, view the results, and share results with the instructor(s) and region program administrator.

I recommend, that before any instructor training work, you visit the Instructor Trainer Guidelines on the NSP website to refresh your instructor trainer responsibilities:

NSP website→Member Resources→Online Learning→Courses→Instructor Training Guidelines

## Do you have what it takes to be an Instructor Trainer?

Instructor trainers are appointed based on need and are reviewed by the division program supervisor annually. An instructor trainer's appointment is a job, not an award.

### Qualifications

- Is a current NSP member or associate member.
- Is a current discipline-specific instructor.
- Demonstrates expertise in the areas of teaching techniques and supervising a quality management program.
- Displays excellent knowledge and performance competency in all areas of the education program.
- Completes all prescribed training, continuing education, and evaluation programs.
- Demonstrates effective organization, administration, communication, observation, and evaluation skills.

If you feel you match these qualifications, speak with your region program administrator.

## FirstNet Enhances NSP Member Benefit

by Dick Woolf, NSP Telecom Advisor



FirstNet, the cellular network for first responders operated by AT&T on behalf of the federal government, has announced several new programs that reduce the cost to patrollers.

- FirstNet is offering 50% off the first six months of service for new first responder accounts. That works out to \$20 per month for unlimited talk, text, and data.
- \$200 off the price of a FirstNet-compatible phone if you need a new device.
- Equipment deals may be “stacked” with other current consumer promotions and equipment trade-in offers.

Realizing that patrollers may have family plans or combination business and personal accounts, FirstNet will consult with patrollers on an individual basis to find the least-costly way of obtaining first responder priority service.

OEC-certified patrollers have been automatically added to their patrol's FirstNet eligibility roster, so there's no need to provide credentials in order to qualify for FirstNet service. Patrollers have been pre-authorized.

To learn more about FirstNet, click here:

<https://www.cnet.com/news/firstnet-black-sim-puts-first-responders-calls-ahead-of-yours/>

FirstNet is available 24/7 to answer your questions. Call 800 574-7000.



# The New World in the Era of COVID-19

by Eric Silva, MD FACEP, Medical Advisor

These are unsettling times in the world. A new pandemic is sweeping the world and we are all learning about it in real time. Sadly many people have already died and many more will unless we do what we can to prevent that. The scientific community worldwide is working to learn about this virus. Questions as to how to identify and treat or prevent it are on the forefront of the scientific community. All this, while trying to deal with many sick patients in our ERs and hospitals. Unfortunately there are also those who would take advantage of such a situation. There is a great deal of conspiracy theory and misinformation out there. With so many issues to consider, these can be scary times.

You may be wondering how this will affect our role as members of NSP? Honestly, we all are. Who knows if we will even have a ski season? Of course, if there is one, we will need to be prepared and that starts now. That process is already well underway. There will clearly be changes to process and protocols. Basic first aid will not change much at all, except as relates to CPR, airway management, and PPE. See, not much change at all. Oh, and scene safety just got even more important. PPE will now be a huge focus. As we learn more about COVID-19 these processes will evolve. Stay tuned for further information as it becomes available. Be assured, national and division leaders are working hard to develop a cohesive plan that emphasizes both patient and patroller safety.

With SO much information out there, it is hard to know who to pay attention to. There continues to be lots of false and misleading

information posted on the web. Currently NSP is recommending that we follow CDC guidelines pertaining to the pandemic.

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/A\\_FS\\_HCP\\_COVID19\\_PPE\\_11x17.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/A_FS_HCP_COVID19_PPE_11x17.pdf)

The other authoritative site that has the most current and accurate information is the World Health Organization – WHO.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Additionally, AHA guidelines regarding CPR are available for review.

<https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.047463>

Much of this information is also on the NSP website, as well as roles available for members who want to be involved in fighting this battle.

So, what can we do today? Simple, really, follow the rules.

1. Wear a mask in public. Please, wear a mask. On the trail, in the outdoors wear a mask. It's not for you it's for me. The surgical mask you wear keeps me from getting the virus if you are a carrier and do not know it. Many patients are asymptomatic or have minimal symptoms and do not know they are infected. If we all wear a mask and stay away from each other, it's much more difficult to become infected.
2. Wash your hands. A lot, anytime you want to touch your face. Soap and water is best, for 20 seconds, count 'em, tops and bottoms. Sanitizer at least 60% alcohol is not as good but will work.
3. Social distancing, stay away from each other. Hard to do, I know. Six feet is longer than you think! But it does seem to help.
4. If you are sick, stay home. Do not go out in public. Get tested for COVID-19 and really isolate yourself.
5. Check in on each other. Phone, text, video stream your friends and family. Not everyone is handling this well. We need to help support those of us who need it. If you need help, please reach out to someone in your patrol.
6. Be nice. If it isn't already obvious, every single one of us is experiencing higher than usual degrees of physical and emotional stress. Follow the rules.
7. Perhaps most importantly, take care of yourself. Find ways to manage your own mental and physical health. Personally I am finding meditation a great way to quiet the noise. Spending as much time as I can running trails and being outdoors. Can't wait to get out on my kayak. Whatever it is for you that gives you that sense of calmness; a chance to get away from things for a brief period of time. The list is endless: reading, writing, music, art etc. If it involves exercise so much the better. Staying in shape helps reduce your chance of injury. Oh and disconnect from all electronics regularly.

This is the new normal, at least until further notice. The next 12 to 18 months will see lots of change, as the science is more clearly defined. Acceptance doesn't mean you have to like it, but we do need to carry on. Be nice, and follow the rules please. We will get through this more easily if we work together and help each other. As ski patrollers, our friends and families will naturally look to us for our expertise. Having more than a basic understanding of what is going on allows us to provide great support for those who need it. Educate yourself; it is the best defense against getting infected.

Thank you to all for the tremendous work you have already done. Much more to come. Stay Safe and Stay Strong

## Be aware, Treat with care

BSI, Be prepared, Be alert, Be clean.

### 1. Protect yourself—BSI precautions (personal)

- Check your pack and resupply with new gloves (this should be done annually as the gloves degrade over time). Add a surgical mask for you and your patient and eye protection for yourself. Have alcohol wipes to clean surfaces, and for glasses and goggles. Have hand sanitizer available that is at least 70% isopropyl alcohol in your pack/person.
- Chapter 3 of OEC5/OEC6 Chapter on Rescue Basics covers protecting yourself from disease and BSI. Re-read and implement with local protocols before the season begins. Consider reading and implementing CDC guidelines and NSP recommendations.
- Proper mask fitting – to ensure safety, masks should be fit-tested. N95 masks come in various sizes and must be fit-tested to ensure that they work properly. Surgical masks are not as good in protecting against viruses; however, they may be used on the patient and rescuer when other products are not available. Remember—Masking the patient is the first priority to prevent the spread of the contagion.
- If you have a beard wear a surgical mask.
- Always carry a HazMat bag in your pack for contaminated materials.
- WASH HANDS for 20-40 seconds. Clean all washroom facilities with appropriate disinfectant. Have hand sanitizer available that is at least 70% isopropyl alcohol.

### 2. Respect the protocols— if you don't know—ASK in ADVANCE!

- Practice donning and doffing of gloves, masks, face shields and gowns in accordance with NSP and CDC Standards. Training information is available on the CDC site.
- Contaminated items should be properly disposed of in a HazMat container.
- Develop and follow protocols for decontamination of any reusable equipment.
- Establish contact with EMS transport and local hospitals. Contact the US Forest Service if on federal land. Communicate with 911 dispatch to align criteria for COVID-19 status. Review protocols, policies and transporting criteria.
- Disinfect and equip patient areas prior to and after every patient encounter.
- O2 delivery systems for those suspected of COVID-19 (e.g. one-way valves with HEPA filters for BVMs). If a patient is suspected of having COVID-19, the provider should be wearing an N95 mask and the patient will receive O2, with a surgical mask over the O2.
- Plan for an isolation area for those suspected of COVID-19.
- Post signs outside the patrol room: BSI precautions in effect—Patients ONLY, masks for all. One adult per pediatric patient.
- Clean all washroom facilities with appropriate disinfectant. WASH HANDS for 20-40 seconds. Have hand sanitizer available that is at least 70% isopropyl alcohol.

### 3. Mask any patient in any location.

- Patrol room—Limit personnel in and out. Mask and face covering will be required for all.
- Begin assessment and surveys verbally from six feet away. N95 mask or surgical mask will be worn by all providers within six feet of patient assessment.
- Initial questions for any patient:
  1. In the last 24 hours, have you had fever, chills, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea?
  2. Any new or unusual cough, shortness of breath, headache, or sore throat?
  3. Any new loss of smell or taste?
  4. To your knowledge, have you been within six feet of a COVID-19 positive patient for a prolonged period of time?
  5. Have you had direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 patient (e.g. being coughed on by a COVID-19 positive patient) while NOT wearing PPE, including a face mask?
    - If yes to any of the questions—Pulse Oximetry and Temperature.
    - If lower than 94% Pulse Ox on room air—O2, mask and transport with surgical mask covering the O2.
    - Isolate the patient until transportation arrives.
    - If a patient is stable, have family/friends transport to hospital for evaluation. Provide a surgical mask to family/friends if they do not have one.
    - WASH HANDS for 20-40 seconds. Have hand sanitizer available that is at least 70% isopropyl alcohol.

### 4. Clean ALL surfaces with disinfectant (personal equipment and patrol room).

- Post sign on how to properly Don and Doff personal protective equipment.
- If a patient is suspected of having COVID-19, secure the patient area and wait 30 minutes after the patient has departed before disinfecting. This will allow aerosolized particles to settle before disinfecting. Clean all surfaces with appropriate disinfectant.
- Don full PPE and clean all surfaces with disinfectant. Resupply area and wait for disinfectant to dry. If no disinfection products are available, use a 1:100 bleach:water preparation, prepared fresh daily.
- WASH HANDS for 20-40 seconds. Have hand sanitizer available that is at least 70% isopropyl alcohol.



# COVID-19 FAQs



**1. Guidance on Patrol Room protocols: Are masks always necessary? Do we always need to be 6 feet apart from others in the Patrol room?**

If the protocol moving forward is to wear a mask, this should also apply to the rescue personnel when in the patrol room as well as following the 6-foot rule in the patrol room if not wearing a mask.

**2. What role should management play in the COVID-19 issue?**

Engage your Management early, prior to the season, to set ground rules and define protocols. Review with Management: NSAA - Intro to Playbook. “Engaging our clients in a shared responsibility with our clients.”

**3. What should you do if a Patient refuses to wear a mask? Does this constitute a refusal of aid?**

Some scenarios may lead to a refusal to wear a mask ie, vomiting, Back/neck injury, shortness of breath, severe facial trauma, fear of having something on one's face, etc. The scenario will help define the need to place a mask on the patient or treat them without one if necessary. In all cases, the OEC technicians should utilize PPE's on themselves. If the patient refuses or the scenario does not permit a mask on the patient's face, document the patient's refusal/inability to wear a mask.

**4. Should our treatment of a patient using CPR be modified because of COVID-19?**

When performing CPR, follow the protocols established by the AHA/Red Cross as modified by your medical director and management. It is recommended that you consider establishing an airway and performing chest compressions without the use of ventilation using a BVM which may spread the virus. A non-rebreather oxygen mask with high flow oxygen and a surgical mask placed over it may be used to provide the needed oxygen during chest compressions. Immediate use of an AED is critical.

**5. Is it appropriate to have a Triage area outside of the aid room?**

Yes, verbal assessment/surveys are the start to triage, it is valuable to define everyone's safety and to do so outside of your patient care area.

**6. What should you do about sanitizing yourself and your gear after interacting with a potential COVID-19-infected patient?**

Uniforms—Outerwear (Jackets, Pants, Helmet)—Wash and clean per recommended guidelines— with a disinfectant. Consider having an additional set of gear available.  
Ensure that all personnel know and follow proper Donning and Doffing procedures.  
Equipment—(e.g. backboard, spider straps, O2, pulse-ox sensor): Any gear used in treatment should be disinfected or properly disposed of.

**7. After interaction with a COVID-19 patient, is the patroller done for that shift?**

NO!—Disinfect all gear and equipment - restock supplies and check on the team to confirm that they have completed the same.

**8. Will National have a reasonable option for PPE for us to purchase? For example, N95 masks and gloves.**

Management and the ski patroller should have options to purchase supplies for training and on-the-hill rotations. Consider using the NSP site to purchase these disposable products if they have them available. If not, a local vendor should be considered.

# OET Trainer Evaluator (TE)

## —What Does it Really Mean?

by Matt Nebzydoski, OET Steering Committee

After passing their senior test many patrollers start thinking about the next training goal to set for themselves. They are seeking to continue to build their personal skills and contribute back to their local patrols and the organization. Of course, the first step is becoming an OET instructor.

Working through the instructor mentoring process and learning all the OET ski/ride expectations, safety protocols, and the different types of drills and exercises needed to safely train other patrollers is a process that takes time and commitment. However, becoming an instructor doesn't provide quite the same satisfaction as passing an evaluation like the senior test. Many patrollers begin to view the TE exam as the next thing to do. It's the gateway to gain opportunities to teach outside their local patrols and also the next opportunity to train for a new "test" and personal challenge.

Up until recently the focus of the TE clinic evaluation has been to use the same standards as the senior test with the exception that a TE candidate had to score 7s and successfully teach a "snippet" related to OET. In the last few years, we have started to realize that this approach wasn't always resulting in our prospective TEs developing the depth of knowledge and teaching skills needed to succeed as a TE. More to the point, how do we help patrollers understand what being a TE really means? What skills do they need to have? The answer? A senior trainer evaluator is tasked with training patrollers up to the senior level in OET and serving as an evaluator at regional senior OET exams

Considering the variety of patrollers we train and examine this can be a tall task. How do you gain the knowledge base needed to assist a struggling toboggan handler after running through the most obvious drills? How does upper and lower body separation impact an individual's rope work

and personal skiing? How are they interconnected? If these are the topics you love to discuss then the TE training process is likely for you.

As mentioned in other parts of this OET briefing, the steering committee has been hard at work for several seasons re-considering our exam scorebooks and guides. We have gotten input from patrollers, division staff and expert ski and snowboard trainers to develop more clear and descriptive standards and differentiate the performance tasks of the senior exam from the instructional skills needed to be a successful TE. The updates will also include more specific criteria on senior exam process, scoring, and terrain selection.

When the new booklets become available this fall, patrollers considering training for TE will notice that they now cover evaluation of personal skiing/riding performance, use of instructional strategies, quality of demos, choice of exam terrain, exam safety considerations, and depth of knowledge related to ski and toboggan skills. It is a lot to learn and certainly takes more than simply good ski skills to be successful.

Knowing that the bar is set high, the OET staff is working to make sure that the right kind of instruction and mentoring is in place for up and coming TEs. Patroller schools offer "TE Prep" courses that allow the participant to ski or ride with OEC steering members and top PSIA/AASI trainers. During these sessions all the topics listed above are explained, demonstrated, and discussed. TE candidates are also encouraged to take advantage of our PSIA partnership and clinics.

These clinics are great ways to build your personal skiing, depth of knowledge of OET skills, and ski development drills. You will also learn to apply the 5 Fundamentals language to all aspects of skiing, riding, and OET. If you need more information reach out to any division OET steering or staff member. They can get you on the path to TE.

## What Was the Last Day of Your Season Like?

by Jim O'Connor, OET Supervisor

It's difficult to remember the '19-'20 season this May. My ski legs are long gone. I expected the last day of the season could involve skinning or hiking for my turns, but not on March 18. It was a warm, sunny day and the snow loosened just before we summited. (It's still a summit if its 2,000 feet, right?) Like the first day of the season, excitement overcomes. It's straight down a zipper line through a few frozen bumps and into big wide turns in soft spring snow. Ruts so deep in the wet corn snow cover the bases of my fat skis, length, and width. You can only go so fast when you're entrenched out. It was fast enough for adrenaline-induced memories.

The OET staff kicked off the '19-'20 season with the staff meeting at Killington. The theme for the meeting was

movement analysis. The rain pounded the ground so hard on Saturday morning that the mountain was shut down. At breakfast we announced that the group sessions were indoors. We were lucky. Our PSIA/AASI partners were able to craft up a video session on movement analysis and scoring that was, at the very least, inspirational. We got out on the mountain late morning that day. The indoor video session made the on-snow training all that more meaningful.

New senior scoring booklets, trainer evaluator scoring booklets and report cards were piloted at senior events and in patroller schools this season. We received feedback on them and will finalize them over the summer. These booklets are clearer on performance indicators. Senior and TE booklets are now

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separate and focus on more than just an ability to teach and score. New assessment activities introduced over the last couple of seasons, like pivot slips and the re-adoption of hockey stops, are captured to remind us of ways to practice the fundamental of rotation with separation. Look for these booklets to be fully rolled out in the '20-'21 season.

Senior OET evaluations took place this season up through the beginning of March. A few events were cancelled but many took place. Thank you and congratulations to all participating in the senior programs. Questions came up a couple of times on suitability of terrain at events. Steering will provide fresh guidance consistent with National and Division standards. Look for this in new formats on the website in early fall.

All six patroller schools took place this season. OET Trainer-Evaluators (TE) do much of the teaching at these events and recertify their instructor skills under the oversight of Steering and Staff ITs. Over the last six seasons OET instructors have been trained on the language and methods adopted from PSIA/AASI. The progress on adoption of the

5 Fundamentals is noticeable. All TEs should be proud of this accomplishment. Next season we heard that AASI will publish the 6 Fundamentals of snowboarding. More language for us to adopt that is consistent with skiing's 5 Fundamentals. Look for this at next season's patroller schools.

Patroller schools are the best place in the country to get the best instruction on skiing and toboggan handling skills. They are designed around providing a friendly, no pressure environment for all patrollers at all levels. More patrollers need to take advantage of these events. The value of a lesson, courses, and a lift ticket at a major resort for the weekend, with high level NSP and PSIA/AASI instructors, is matched by none. More patroller schools are being offered to minimize travel, but overnight travel cannot be eliminated. We know many need lodging when traveling to patroller schools. [www.patrollerschool.org](http://www.patrollerschool.org) is considering offering stay packages with negotiated NSP discounts. If this sounds like a good idea, please go to the website and send us your feedback.

Well, this season is over. On to the next. I am looking for the silver lining in the early shutdown, like the silver lining we had in the rain delay at our first event at Killington this season.

## ALUMNI by Allan Miller, Alumni Advisor

LET'S CHANGE HOW WE THINK OF

Have you ever tried to make a list of all the things that need doing on your ski patrol? The first that comes to mind are the normal ones of mountain safety and responding to injuries. The rest of the list is long and covers every aspect of what a patrol does. Consider the list of those actions that an alumni member can do? Well, with hardly any exceptions, the answer is all of them. The contributions that your patrol alumni and patrollers, who need to be less actively involved, can make to your patrol is going to become even more important during the months leading up to refreshers and during the coming ski season.

The action we can all take is to know the people on our patrol who may be considering the need to cut back their patrolling. We need to talk to them and provide clarity on ways they can stay connected that work for them.

There are several options that don't even have the word alumni attached. A high school student entering college and not able to actively patrol can go on "College Leave" or become alumni to save some of the dues cost.

A member of the military can go on "Military Duty" if assigned to a location away from their home and maintain their connection without paying dues.

Any individual can register as "Temporarily Not Patrolling" and can come back when the time is

right. No matter what the reason for a temporary suspension of actively patrolling, there are rules about missing refreshers. Sometimes as many as three refreshers can be made up without taking an OEC challenge or repeating the course.

If someone talks to the patrollers on your patrol who may be thinking about leaving and helps them understand their alternatives, these patrollers may take advantage of one of the options that keep them connected to the patrol and patrolling and allows them to return to active status with minimal effort. Most of us know it is easier to phase out of something than to cut the ties. Many people who leave patrolling have commented that they would have preferred to come back after a year or two but didn't because it seemed just too hard. This is why catching them before they leave patrolling might mean getting them back.

So, back to alumni and understanding all the things they can do for your patrol which is just about everything. Additionally, alumni who maintain their teaching certifications can teach all of those patrol skills.

Bottom line on all this is don't let good patrollers leave without helping them know the alternatives and that their evolving situation may bring them back to patrolling. Help make it easy for them to reconnect. The specific requirements of all of this is in the *NSP Policies and Procedures*, Chapter 5.

Before changing your status, talk to your patrol director about your situation and how it might be addressed. For specifics about alumni membership talk to your region alumni advisor or contact me at [allanmiller48@gmail.com](mailto:allanmiller48@gmail.com). You are too valuable an asset to our organization to lose.

# CERTIFIED

by Jon Wilson, Chair

This past season was surprising to say the least with the fourth lowest snowfall on record culminating in a worldwide Coronavirus pandemic. Challenging and unfulfilled was the general agreement within the certified team.

The first weekend in February the certified team held a calibration at McCauley Mountain in Old Forge, New York. Below-zero frigid temperatures brought a fresh 18" of powder. The team was able to train with avalanche transceivers, OEC stations, outdoor risk management, and low angle rescue components. Due to the challenging wind patterns additional ski runs were necessary to confirm world class ski conditions on all trails. There were rumored tree runs with toboggans. A fantastic weekend for all with positive attitudes, rosy cheeks, and tired smiles!

In mid-March we cancelled our annual exam at Sugarloaf. Our counterparts at Boyne were very understanding and receptive to our concerns. A huge "Thank You!" goes out to Sugarloaf for working with us and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2021.

This COVID-19 pandemic has created a new environment for ski patrol. The certified team has already begun. We began with understanding the virus and held a Zoom meeting hosted by

two doctors. Dr. Jordan and Dr. Usatch were nice enough to give us their findings on the current situation. We will continue to do these Zoom meetings as the summer continues so we can be more prepared for the coming season. There were four key points that we would like to share: 1. Protect yourself—BSI precautions, 2. Respect the procedures—if unknown—ask, 3. Mask the patient in an indoor environment, and 4. Clean ALL surfaces after every patient.

Based on each states' self-quarantine orders, we ski patrollers are in a new reality. Moving forward the certified team will be holding one day boot camps on lift evacuation and outdoor risk management. Each of these events will have a COVID-19 component to it: covering the virus, actions for patrollers, and suggestions as to reference resources. As we all know, we are agents of our ski areas and will receive direction from them in early fall. Having said that, we will be proactive in regard to the virus and protecting our most important asset—the ski patroller.

The current environment can be toxic with fear and hair-trigger tempers. As ski patrollers we are all capable of handling difficult triage situations. This is a similar scenario, just remember—"calm is contagious." We are all looking forward to seeing our ski family again and working in this new reality. We will persevere—no compromises! Please go to [www.nspeat.org](http://www.nspeat.org) to see the calendar updates for the boot camps and Zoom meetings.



# Once upon a time when Dinosaurs roamed the Earth...

by Kim Terwilliger, SNY RD and Dinosaur

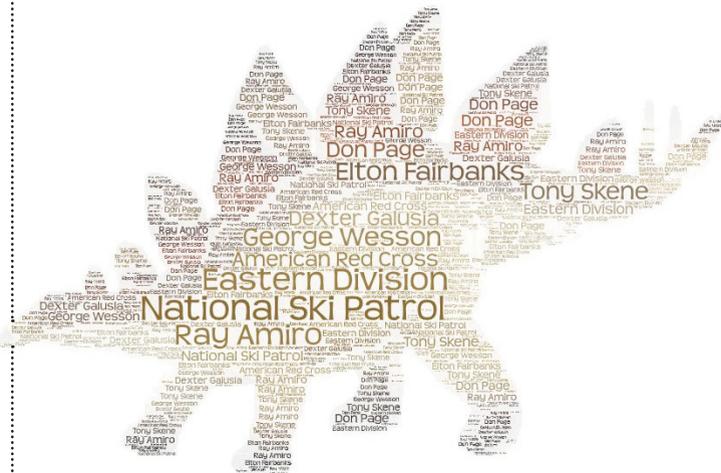
OK, maybe not THAT long ago!

It all began in 1967 at Killington. The National Ski Patrol had asked the American Red Cross (ARC) to write another supplement to their first aid book like they did in 1946 (who remembers the original color and who has one?). But the ARC national office “was lost,” so they asked specific NSP people to write it.

According to the story, Dexter Galusha and George Wesson “conned” the American Red Cross office into letting them meet at Killington. George, along with a group of five or six ARC people, Ray Amiro, Elton Fairbank, Tony Skene, and one or two others met at Killington. George, keeping his priorities in perspective was known to say “There are too many meetings! When are we going to ski?” Tex Sorenson was their patrolman host and guide and was supposed to “keep them out of trouble.” They stayed with Dan Hufnail (the world’s fastest man), skied during the day, and met from 8:00 p.m. till midnight each night.

The next year, Dexter Galusha, George Wesson, and Don Page agreed to meet at the ARC office in Albany for their district meeting, then went to the mountain to ski. Dexter, Elton, and Ray convinced the ARC office that Killington was exactly in the middle for these three to meet. George arranged for tickets, a BBQ lunch, and then dinner. They all agreed to hold the meeting on the chairlift, if necessary. Dan Hufnail at the Killington Lodge charged them \$3.00 a night. The first night saw a 1:00 a.m. bedtime. George brought Tex in at 7:00 a.m. the next morning to be their guide on the mountain. This was the first year of the Killington gondola. They skied three days, wrote the supplement, and agreed to meet again next year.

For the next three years there were “repeat performances” of the group meeting at Killington, with each year growing a little bigger in participation. They considered giving the group a name. It is rumored that “old farts” was considered, but using that term and having it shown in patrol rooms was not acceptable at that time. At some point they decided to refer to themselves as “dinosaurs.” Additional members to the group were invited in based on camaraderie (would they get along with each other) and dedication to skiing. In 1971 Dexter moved to California. The group continued meeting and inviting others, with George carrying on in the East. Jim Hadley was another early member



of this unofficial group. As more of the story goes a few members visited Dexter in California and experienced a nude beach. According to the storytellers...they preferred the mountain and skiing!

The group continued to meet throughout the 70s, 80s, 90s, 2000s and now into the 2020s, adding new members along the way. They have met at Killington, Loon, Jiminy Peak, Smugglers’ Notch, Okemo, and Ascutney. The Dinosaurs group has always been based on friendships. They purposely have no officers, no politics, no rules, and no minutes. It is just a group of friends enjoying one another and building wonderful memories.

During the 2008 meeting the group saw the end of an era when Dexter, Don Page and Dick Violette addressed everyone at the gathering and said, “It’s time for you to build this group with new members, or let it slide away. We three old poops are going to step out of the way, but we’re willing to help in any way. Go look for older, mature patrollers with years of service or public contact.” George Wesson sent word from the nursing home saying, “Eight people have called me and I don’t want to come. I can’t ski. I’ve skied from age 3 to 86. If I could ski, I’d come. Some of my best friends are in this group.” At the end of the evening, Dexter, and George (in absentia), received 40-year plaques in appreciation for all they had done for the group.

Thanks to the efforts of Don Emerson and Ralph Smith Dinosaurs has not slipped away. They continue to carry on the group. They meet yearly, SKI, and uphold the original “mission” of no officers, no politics, no rules, and no minutes. Absolutely no NSP business is to be discussed during this gathering. Stories are passed on from one NSP Dinosaur generation to the next...especially the ones you would not find in writing. When hearing about the past from this group, the positive memories, incidental stories, and their dedication to the National Ski Patrol, it is emotionally moving and gives a sense of pride to the rich history of the Eastern Division and their past (and some present) leaders.

The Dinosaurs continue to roam the Eastern Division.



# Once a Patroller, Always a Patroller

On January 31, 2020, two patrollers helped save the life of a snowmobiler who plunged into the icy waters of the Great Sacandaga Lake in New York. Ed Fitzgerald is an experienced snowmobiler, but he ended up in a spot on the lake that was too thin for his sled.

Jerry and Donna McGraw who live nearby had seen a snowmobile drive by their home and knew the ice wasn't safe. So, they waited for it to come back. When it didn't, Jerry went looking for it.

"And then I heard him yelling, and turned around and had Donna call 911," said McGraw.

At about that time, Jeff Gray, who lives on Kathan Road and was home from his job at the Saratoga County DPW, also came to check it out.

About three miles away, Rob Crist, who works for the county at the North Garage, and is a volunteer firefighter, got word that a dive team was needed not far from the Conklingville Dam.

Crist and his co-workers, Preston Allen Jr. and Aaron Colvin, raced to the scene to find Fitzgerald in the water about 40 feet or so from shore and struggling.

"At first he was yelling 'Help,' but as time went on it was just moans and groans," said Gray.

Fitzgerald later said by phone that he was in the water for about a half-hour and was aware of some of the frantic scramble happening on shore. "Just focused on buy time, buy time," he said.

Desperate to save his life, the men found a rowboat, but no paddles, so Allen broke through the ice with his hands while

Crist used a two by four as an oar. With the others on shore holding a rope tied to the boat, Allen scooped him out of the water.

Crist said "We made it out there, once we had ahold of him, we yelled for everybody to pull us back in." "It feels great to know that we helped save this guy's life, because I don't think he would've made it a whole lot longer," said Colvin.

Fitzgerald was rushed to the hospital. By the next day, he was able to go home to his wife and two young daughters, thanks to some complete strangers who saved his life.

"They gave me a second lease on life," he said, struggling to find the right words to express his gratitude. "I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for them. Indebted, I don't know how I'll pay the debt, but it's something I have to work on."

He personally came back the following week to thank Jerry and Donna for helping save his life. They were presented with New York State Liberty Medals by Senator Jim Tedisco for their heroic efforts in saving a man's life. The medal is the New York State Senate's highest honor given to those who have shown tremendous valor and courage or have made an extraordinary difference in the lives of New Yorkers. Because there's no cell service in this part of Saratoga County, rescuers had to leave the scene to call 911 from their landline phones at their homes.

Let's hear it for Jerry and Donna McGraw! Jerry is the past ENY Region Director and Donna, who has just retired, has been the Eastern Division Administrator forever!



## Top 10 Reasons

## to Buy Leather Work Gloves by Jon Wilson, Certified Chair

10. Once the gloves are broken in—you have a pair of custom hand slippers.
9. Add some Beeswax and they are waterproof and supple as new.
8. The inner liner is replaceable.
7. Working with bamboo and pop-fence? Trust me the bamboo will not be sliding all over the place.
6. Driving a toboggan and need a good grip that is solid, yet slides? Leather Gloves.
5. Running a tailrope with leather gloves is very precise, you can grab each coil.
4. Leather gloves love grease and dirt—rub them in snow and good as new.
3. Strong and durable.
2. Leather gloves go with any jackets, including that fluorescent jacket that you think is a classic. (Team Skittles)

And the **Number 1** reason to buy leather work gloves?  
I still have my first pair!

# A NEW LOOK at Online Learning

by Orest Ohar, ID & OET Instructor Trainer

NSP instructors are making plans for new ways of teaching, considering the pandemic. The uncertainties brought by Coronavirus/COVID-19 concerns are worrying for NSP educational programs. At every level, NSP instructors are brainstorming ways to prepare for teaching students looking to take courses this season.

Worry no more, Moodle, the preeminent university level “Learning Management System” (LMS) has gone to the cloud with MOODLE.CLOUD.COM. Their primary goal is serving any teacher in the world interested in moving their courses online, offering an intuitive, easy to manage, feature-rich, high-level LMS.

Moodle has distinguished itself as a 20-year-old LMS used by universities around the world. It would have stayed locked behind university IT department doors if it were not for the emergence of “cloud computing.” As a game changer, cloud-based apps have democratized online learning by simplifying teachers’ abilities to create their “own” online cloud-based schools. Moodle gives you full operating capabilities limited to 50 students (and assisting instructors) for about \$50 per year. Moodle is based in Australia so the currency exchange rate may fluctuate. Build your courses for free for 45 days before deciding if Moodle works for your patrol’s needs.

However, work it does. We have ski patrols managing full online OEC courses on MoodleCloud. The most significant benefit of setting up courses in an LMS is that they are easy to change, iterate, or redesign. Once they are built, next season’s courses go off with ease. Once a course is repeated, the instructors can relax and focus their attention on student learning. Gone is every-year planning because the lessons are ready. The automation built into Moodle runs the course cutting out the tedium of managing students and their grades. The only thing left is teaching.

Eastern Division has several NSP disciplines that have moved their courses to Moodle School. Avalanche teaches much of their didactic classroom curriculum for Level 1 courses using Moodle Online. MTR and Instructor Development are moving students to Moodle Online. Even OET has joined the Division’s Moodle School. Trainer evaluator candidates complete summertime instructor training courses using the division’s Moodle Online School.

Let’s take a tour of the online teaching features. Since Moodle is an online LMS, it structures a set of learning tasks for students

that appears on the course page by scrolling from top to bottom. Courses begin with an introduction and objectives. Students can self-pace through the topics of the course, or the learning can be scheduled several chapters weekly as an OEC class might require.

Either way, weekly schedule or topic-to-topic, each element is made up of lessons or assignments. Lessons run entirely online in the course and follow an NSP Six-Pack template. They often end with an assessment, such as a mini quiz graded automatically. Assignments are done by students researching outside of Moodle, possibly outside of the internet. Assignments are uploaded once completed for teacher grading. Common assignments might be to shoot a video of your patient assessment every week and upload it for teacher feedback.

Teachers can integrate several different methods of scheduled communications with their students. Chat sessions can be set up for all students to attend a 40-minute moderated chat discussion. This brings all the students in at the same time. Forum discussions designed to spark abstract student thinking, similar to chat, are an asynchronous way of discussing. Students get more time to think about their responses, then type them into the forum at their own leisure.

And of course, Moodle had it long before Zoom—The Big Blue Button is a video and whiteboard conferencing bridge that students click inside the course on the required date and time. Teachers can use this as an old-fashioned lecture or moderate an in-person discussion. For example, patient assessment practicals can be demonstrated using the video conferencing tool. Or traditional lectures can be displaying PowerPoint® slides and video.

Workshops are another powerful Moodle tool. These are assignments that involve the entire class or groups within the class, which include peer review. Workshops work well for instructor continued courses where an element of the student’s grade comes from evaluating their ability to provide “positive immediate feedback”—a hallmark of good NSP instructing skills.

Built into Moodle automation is attendance tracking if IORs set that as a criterion for grading. The best part of LMS automation is a powerful quiz feature that not only grades students but offers instant feedback for missed answers.

The quiz tool that Moodle developed is feature-rich. Design your quizzes with traditional text answers, multiple choice, or try picture-based answers to stimulate a different part of the student’s brain. Multiple choice can

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be expanded to using “drag and drop” answering, which stimulates a more kinesthetic section of the student’s brain. Instructors who like the traditional quiz tools can still call upon true/false and short answers. Automation is available for grading all of these except “essay questions.” For teachers who believe in essays, remember you need to grade these yourself manually.

Moodle offers the richest, most versatile, automation-based grading functionalities in the LMS education industry. They are designed to help teachers build sophisticated, university class courses that, once created, offer repeatability that shifts teaching efforts from course management to a focus on enhancing student learning. Instead of managing the course, its materials, resources, assisting instructors, and a herd of unorganized students, IORs can return to teaching. Teaching is why we became NSP instructors in the first place!

Moodle courses are not meant to be a way of dealing with COVID-19. Instead, Moodle courses are for the teachers and patrols who believe that today’s distance learning paradigm can be leveraged to make all future OEC (or other NSP) courses into a dream to operate. The investment comes from building courses in Moodle, and the paybacks are the upcoming years of easy teaching.

Take advantage of how easy technology has become with

today’s cloud-based benefits. Tap into your unconventional creativity to drive new lesson developments. Experiment with the features Moodle offers. Most are intuitive, but help is available for NSP instructors already committed to moving a portion of their teaching activities to “online.” The NSP Moodle Users Group can be contacted by email: [MoodleUsers@EasternDivisionNSP.ORG](mailto:MoodleUsers@EasternDivisionNSP.ORG)

Give it a try, Moodle with a little “support” can unlock course creativity and augment traditional learning. Online is here, it’s easy, and every NSP instructor can try it for 45 days. Watch Patroller School News for Moodle Q&A Webinars during the summer months, or type “Bit.LY/moodle-series” into a browser URL bar.

*(Orest Ohar is an NSP Instructor Trainer for Instructor Development and OET. He also sits on the Eastern Division Instructor Development oversight committee guiding the ID Program. His mission is to help bridge teaching with intuitive technological solutions such as Eastern Division’s Moodle School.)*

**Patroller School**  
E A S T E R N D I V I S I O N N S P

## AMN A Virtual Learning Experience

by Avalanche, MTR, and  
Nordic/Backcountry Supervisors



The 2020 AMN will be held on September 26, and will be conducted via Zoom this year. You must register on [www.patrollerschool.org](http://www.patrollerschool.org) to get further instruction on how to attend. An email will go out to all Avalanche, Nordic/Backcountry, and MTR instructors in the summer with detailed instructions.

If you are not an instructor but would like to attend, you are very welcome! Watch [www.patrollerschool.org](http://www.patrollerschool.org) for registration information. It will be listed under the MTR program events.

This event replaces the normal in-person event for this year. It is required to maintain your instructor certification. Normally this event is held at various locations around the Eastern Division.

# Avalanche

by Chuck Boyd, Supervisor

As I write this it's Stay at Home Day #60 and counting. Hope you are all doing well even though the snow got pulled out from under your skis. With Mount Washington closed and knowing that there is still 210 cm of snow at Hermit Lake, I'm amazed at my willpower to stay home and social distance. Some of you who live up north are still able to get out after it. Be safe! Just because you are the only one out there, remember, the dragon never sleeps. Dial it back to lower angle terrain, continue to practice safe travel rituals.

There were two avalanche fatalities since the Stay at Home orders were issued that should not have had this outcome. In both incidents the riders were wearing avalanche transceivers but had never turned them on. These were not people who were new to the backcountry. One had been an intern at the Utah Avalanche Forecast Center, and the other was a world champion snowmobile rider. The rituals that we teach you in our courses, you see online, or read in books must be practiced every time you venture into the backcountry from a trailhead, duck a rope, or leave a backcountry gate at a ski area.

We did get off to a great start this season. Many of the Eastern Division regions were able to hold their L1 AM1 classroom courses. This allowed many of those students to attend

the field session weekend up at Whiteface Mountain, New York, to complete the full Level 1 avalanche course. I'd like to thank the Whiteface Ski Patrol and the Whiteface Mountain Management for continuing to host our program and also the Atmospheric Science and Research Center which provided us the premier classroom setting for the program. The full Level 1 course at Smugglers' Notch, Vermont, as always, was a big success. This course along with all our Level 1 courses always fill up. Again, a big shout out to the management and ski patrol at Smugglers' Notch for all the help that they have provided us for the last 20 years.

We are in the planning stages for our annual AMN (Avalanche, Nordic Backcountry, Mountain Travel & Rescue) instructor continuing education seminar. This year's event will be virtual and it will be a big learning curve for the people involved in the planning. For online learning, this is going to be an exciting event, with participation from everyone logged into the meeting. For the avalanche program, this might be the precursor to online classroom sessions for our courses and having the in-person days all in the field. Remember all instructors need to attend a continuing education event to maintain their instructor status.

The National Avalanche Committee is just finishing rewriting the Level 2 avalanche course curriculum. The new *Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue* book is just about finished, and they are looking for a printer and title sponsors.

Stay tuned for more information about Powderfall that is scheduled for next April at Breckenridge, Colorado. I've been involved with the National AMN program supervisors for pre-planning our sessions. We will be going on a ski tour again, with a few things happening along the way.

Everyone stay safe. Take this time to check your gear and to properly store it for the summer. Make a list of what you might need or need to replace; there are many good deals to be had online right now. Take the batteries out of your transceivers! I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the other side of this.





by Adam B. Brement, CNY Safety Advisor and Melinda Mingus, MD, Safety Supervisor

Listening to music while skiing and riding is a common occurrence at most ski areas. However, listening to music can also be a distraction and may increase risk of injury. Why? Because even with the volume low, listening to music while skiing or snowboarding effectively means you have lost your sense of hearing. This may make you less aware of your surroundings.

Following the responsibility code means that you always have full and complete awareness of your surroundings. Listening to music could increase the risk of skier/skier, or worse, skier/snowmobiler collisions because people are unable to hear what's around them or approaching them from behind. Impeding your hearing greatly reduces your ability to react to your surroundings and warnings.

As ski patrollers, we do our best to encourage ski resort guests to follow the "responsibility code." An important aspect of that code is for you to always have full and complete awareness of your surroundings. Skiers and riders have the responsibility to have their wits about them, to be aware of their surroundings, to not be distracted, to stay in control, and to ski or ride safely. You need to be aware of who and what is around you, as you safely navigate your way down the hill.

Part of doing that is to be able to hear what's around you. If your music is too loud you may not hear the ski patroller yelling to you to stop due to danger ahead that you can't see. You may not hear an out of control skier or snowboarder that is headed straight for you. Other skiers may be skiing too close to you and may cause you to fall or collide with someone else or worse, collide with a tree, lift tower, snow gun, etc. You have a responsibility to always be in control and try to avoid any unnecessary distractions.

But many snowsports enthusiasts state that listening to music can be calming and improve the experience of skiing or riding. In fact, many Olympic athletes listen to music during competitions. However, they have no one else skiing or riding around them and when they fall, they only injure themselves.

Dave Byrd, Director of Risk and Regulatory Affairs for National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), in an interview with Outsideonline in 2012 said "If people want to go out by themselves and put on some classical music and ski in a winter wonderland, we want to give them that opportunity—within reason. We want to reinforce critical safety messages, but at the same time we don't want to be a bunch of killjoys; there are plenty of people who probably can ski with music in a very controlled manner."

<https://www.outsideonline.com/2411094/backcountry-accidents-coronavirus-colorado>

Listening to music while skiing or riding definitely has its pros and cons. It can be a blessing when you are solo; but, it can be a curse if you get so distracted by the music that you lose your sense of your surroundings or ski in an aggressive manner.

For these reasons, the Eastern Division Safety Team strongly discourages the use of electronic musical devices while skiing and riding. If you feel that you must listen to music, we suggest that you keep the volume low and consider using only one earbud so that you can hear more of what's going on around you.

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## MTR Report by Michael Balk, Supervisor

Just like mountain travels, we had our ups and downs this year in the MTR program. Late rains, family losses, and a short season means we had fewer classes than we would have liked. Given all of that, we did a surprising job of 15 courses taught, and getting 181 people through parts of the MTR program! One event of note was the MTR portion of Dave "Zeek" Childs' Nordic Master skills.

We are in the middle of our transition to new course manuals. The main one being the 9th Edition of *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*. This is a great reference manual for anyone who ever goes outdoors, and even more importantly, anyone who visits a mountain outdoors. The only patrollers who might not need any part of this manual might be those patrollers who work indoors – but even they could benefit from much of this book. I highly recommend this book to those who meet the above criteria!

I would also like to encourage everyone to participate in an MTR-1 course, or at least an MTR clinic. There are skills taught that every patroller needs. Wondering which knot to use for a particular situation? When rescuing someone who has gone off-trail, do you know how to keep yourself safe, and get back on-trail? Do you have your "10 essentials" in your patrol pack? There is a myriad of benefits from the Mountain Travel and Rescue courses. Come see what we are all about!

# MTR Nordic Master SAR Evaluation



by Chuck Boyd

As the world started closing in on us, and the New England state governors started issuing stay at home orders, we managed to squeeze in one final event before the shutdown. Scheduled to be held on the day after the completion of the Level 1 avalanche course at Whiteface Mountain, COVID-19 shut us down. With 25 people involved this was too many to take a chance with, especially when groups of ten would be the maximum size, and we were not sure if traveling would be curtailed. So, we moved the event closer to home.

The MTR Nordic Master evaluation is one of the most demanding challenges a patroller must complete on the way towards Nordic Master certification. It involves an overnight rescue where the candidate must complete the proper ICS missing-persons forms, organize the rescue, navigate in the dark to the missing person, treat their multiple injuries (think senior OEC), build a shelter for both the rescuer and the injured person, cook a meal, and spend the night until they can evacuate after dawn.

Our candidate was David (Zeek) Childs, and we moved the event to his back yard, Mount Greylock in western Massachusetts. Being closer to home instead of the Adirondacks the travel would be less, and if we got quarantined what better place than the side of a mountain. The program requires a backup rescue team plus an IC dispatch with communication in case something goes sideways. For our Incident Command team, I recruited Greg France, Nordic Master 003 and past Eastern Division Nordic Supervisor, along with past National Board Chair Burt Mitchell an instructor in the MTR and Avalanche programs.

For the rescue team (for some reason I'm always the lost and injured person) I recruited ED MTR Program Supervisor Mike Balk, Ski Sundown's Assistant PD Scott Dawick, and ED OEC IT Bill Welsh. The shutdown was coming so the plan was to meet on Saturday afternoon to plan and execute this adventure.

Our command center was Pecks Brook Farm B&B, owned by Thunderbolt patroller Heather Linscott, at the base of the mountain. The funny thing was that Zeek had made the reservation just asking if there was a room available for the night for two people. When five of us showed up and we told Heather that her B&B was going to be our IC command post, she was quite surprised. Outstanding patroller that she is, she took it all in stride even though she had a dinner party planned that same evening.

Once we had dropped off all our equipment at the command center, we all went out for what we call the "Last Supper" meeting Zeek and Cruiser at a German restaurant in North Adams. We had a room in the back with a round table and discovered we were sitting at the same table where the original decision to form the Thunderbolt Ski Patrol was made.

Back at the command center, packs were organized, paperwork sorted out, and radios were distributed. Maps were passed out; compasses and watches were calibrated. Zeek's radio and my two were on different frequencies so that I could communicate with base without him knowing about it. At 8:30 p.m. we headed up the Bellows Pipe trail radioing in GPS coordinates as we went.

Zeek's job was to gather all this information from the IC before heading out. My companions (the backup rescue team) stopped at the Bellows Pipe shelter to set up their camp. I continued up with Mike to a location where I was to be found injured. Mike and the IC base team were the only ones to know this spot's GPS coordinates.

It was a beautiful, clear night around 20 degrees, with a slight breeze. From the side of the mountain I could watch the lights of North Adams as my condition deteriorated. Soon I could hear Zeek coming up. I was monitoring all radio communication. About a 1/4 mile below, I could hear him at the shelter as my rescue team acted like a bunch of rookies on their first night out. After securing that scene, Zeek continued his search. Using a grid pattern, he located me in short order. I had fallen while skiing in extremely poor conditions and had a concussion, an injured right shoulder, and my medic alert tag stated that I was a diabetic. As soon as my injuries were treated, Zeek built a shelter. Mike and Bill came up to evaluate his work so far. It was decided that I would be better off in the shelter, so they transported me back to the lean-to. There, Zeek prepared hot food and drink helping to improve my condition.

Since the lean-to was small, and keeping within the guidelines of the program, Zeek was sent back out to stay in his emergency shelter. Overnight, I made a miraculous recovery and in the morning we all went up to see Zeek's shelter and see how he comfortably survived. We all did a little rope rescue practice, since we had the equipment, then started down the mountain. Clearing the scene with incident command we headed into North Adams and all rendezvoused for a late breakfast before heading over to Jiminy Peak to practice building rescue sleds on the ski area's last day open.

# Nordic Program Report

by Phil Galka, Supervisor

As many of you know the season started off with some early snow, a mid-winter melt, and ended up with a bad virus. Some of the challenges were overcome by traveling to where the snow was. A big thank you to all who made these programs so successful. A special thank you to McCauley Mountain for hosting patroller school and the senior Nordic evaluation.

In March, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the rules of engagement and the program is adapting. Here is what we are working on for the coming this season.

- **AMN 2020**—September 2020  
The Avalanche, Mountaineering and Nordic/Backcountry Instructor Refresher is being reformatted to include a distance learning refresher using video conferencing technology. Details will be distributed through your region advisors.
- **Basic Nordic for All**—Highland Forest, January 9-10, 2021  
This course will be held for division Nordic candidates to certify to full Nordic patroller status. Open to all Nordic candidates.
- **Nordic Senior Clinic**—Highland Forest, January 9-10, 2021  
For division Nordic senior candidates to prepare for the Nordic senior evaluation. Open to all Nordic senior candidates.
- **Nordic Senior Evaluation**—McCauley Mountain Patroller School, February 13, 2021  
For division Nordic senior candidates who are prepared for evaluation. Open to all Nordic senior candidates.
- **Nordic Instructor and Instructor Trainer Certification**—McCauley Mountain Patroller School, February 13, 2021  
For instructor and I/T certification. Open to any Nordic patroller.  
I look forward to seeing all of you in the upcoming season.



# Pre-YAP Feeder Program— a Cooperative Venture with Ski School

by John Beach, Gore SP and ED Historian

Many ski areas have training programs for young ski school instructors, but the one at Gore Mountain in New York State has a novel twist. The state-owned ski area has had a snow sports “Instructor in Training” program for young people for 20 years, but upper management wanted to expand this program to include an introduction to ski patrol. With 134 pro and volunteer patrollers at Gore, it has always been difficult to get young people involved.

I first heard of the idea of this joint venture last October. One Sunday evening, my youngest daughter called me with questions about a new program listed on Gore’s website called “Instructor/Patroller in Training” (IPT). She said it was for 13 to 15-year-olds who wanted to be patrollers or snow sports instructors. To me it sounded like a “Young Adult Program (YAP) prep school.” My thirteen-year-old grandson immediately expressed interest in attending this 15-week, all day Saturday and Sunday program. Being

very familiar with the snow sports feeder program, but not sure about the patrol part, I said I would be happy to look into it for him.

The next day, I stopped in on Patrol Director Mike McClure to inquire about the ski patrol’s involvement with the IPT program. He mentioned that in a meeting of department heads two weeks earlier, he was informed that patrol was now part of a snow sports program that would be a gateway course for prospective young patrollers. As a former patrol director at a small mountain, I knew how intense Mike’s preseason workload was without this new task. Because of that workload, I offered to take on the challenge of putting the ski patrol part of this program together and running it. Mike replied with a big smile and a pat on the back; I got the job. After filling in the program’s details with my daughter, she and her husband signed up my grandson.

Over the next couple of weeks, I began developing ideas on how to hold the interest of a couple dozen 13-15-year olds and how to make their learning experience as much fun as possible. I met several times with Snow Sports Director Gail Setlock and Program Supervisor Biff Daino during the fall, and we came up with a season-long plan. Based on 20 years’ success as a snow sports program, two ski instructors would keep the kids on Saturday mornings and literally “ski and ride the wheels off them” while teaching on-snow and instructional skills. The theory was that the kids had been cooped up in school all week and, by the weekend, needed some old-fashioned Adirondack fresh air and exercise. In the afternoon, the patrol team would take over.

After some heavy-duty Saturday morning ski drills, the kids spent the first couple of weeks cautiously sizing up the patrol part of the program and me! Many, but not all the kids, had grown up around the snow sports program. They had developed advanced ski skills and loved to show them off. Those whose skills started off as underdeveloped, certainly showed significant improvement as the season progressed.

Students were informed of the strict program “rules.” Some of my favorites were that cell phones could not be used during class, and that an on-time rule was strictly enforced. Being on time was tough for most of the kids because many lived out of state and their families had second homes in the Gore area. The kids agreed to be ready to go Saturday and Sunday mornings by 9 AM sharp or wear a tutu for the rest of the day! Because of this pressure, the kids learned how to arrange their timely transportation to the mountain!

A rule I added to the program was assigning one student to make sure we had the entire group with us each time we stopped on the mountain or at a lift; they all wanted that job as it made them feel important.

One thing I found interesting about the class was its composition of students. Most were members of the National Honor Society, Boy or Girl Scouts, were involved in at least one sport other than skiing, and played a musical instrument. All were overachievers and very motivated.

My goal was to give them an overview of what it takes to operate a ski area, not only from a patrol point of view, but a view from all the various departments. I introduced the young people to several of the major department supervisors who each took time to explain to and show the kids what their part in the operation was. In my 40-plus years as a patroller, I always felt most skiers and snowboarders have



Cont'd on pg 21

no idea of what it takes to safely run a large ski area. One of the days we spent with our head snowmaker, skiing and riding around three different peaks to show the size, cost, and complexity of our snow-making system. Time spent with the lift maintenance and grooming departments was another eye-opener, since their work is largely done out of the public's view. Another unique highlight was a bus trip to our local rescue squad for the IPT kids as well as our YAPs for a meet and greet – and a pre-arranged visit and hands-on tour of a Life Net helicopter. The fact that the flight nurse was one of our own (second generation) pro patrollers was a bonus.

Perhaps the most memorable time for me was a day we spent in base first aid. That day turned out to be one of the busiest of the season in terms of incoming sleds and ALS ambulance calls. With strict orders from our three nurses and from me to stay out of the way, the group was mesmerized by the fast and furious pace of a day in the life of a patroller! By midday the kids were begging to help out. We let them help patrollers repack sled bags, hang wet blankets on the drying rack, and pull empty sleds out of the way; they all gladly stepped up. When 3:30 came and it was time for the group to go back to meet up with their parents, over half asked if they could stay longer to help. I knew for sure that we had a special group of kids.

One day was also spent at Gore's Nordic Center. One of our patrollers who also serves as our Region MTR Advisor, taught students backcountry first aid skills, how to build a shelter and a fire, and how to tie knots used for rope rescues. Another day we had two New Jersey Region Nordic Patrollers come up to run the students through a series of challenges and games on Nordic equipment, which many had never

tried. Without realizing that they were conquering movement on “skinny skis,” they looked like old pros by the end of the day!

After the first couple of weekends, I got the feeling they couldn't wait to see what the next patrol adventure would be. I was a little worried about running out of interesting things to do, but besides learning some basic first aid skills and the numerous roles and responsibilities of the people it takes to run a ski area, students also participated in and received certification for an accredited CPR/AED course. My worries were unfounded as we ran out of time. Ultimately, the state closed us several weeks early due to the pandemic. All in all, I think our joint venture was a huge success. Students got to do things most skiers and snowboarders are never allowed to see or do.

Feedback from the kids at the end of the season noted that, in addition to the snow sports instruction and drills, the things they loved the most were the hands-on activities with the patrol (no surprise!). Looking back, I think the Gore Patrol and Snow Sports Departments' unique joint venture delivered a program that was well worth the fee paid by the parents. The main objective was met: to spark an interest in young skiers and snowboarders to become snow sports instructors or join our YAP program. Gore has historically retained about 80% of prior year graduates as snow sports instructors; time will tell how many pursue becoming patrollers.

For me, this was one of the most rewarding patrol projects I have ever had. I knew I was going to have my hands full with 24 13-15-year-olds who were very competitive, energetic, and full of questions. Although they started out by calling me “Mr. Beach,” that changed to “John” within a week. Later on, I learned that the inside joke with them was based on a phrase I was always barking at them when we visited one of our five patrol stations or base first aid or, most of all, when they were allowed to crawl all over the Life Net chopper “Don't touch anything!”

Did the kids have a ton of fun and learn some important skills? You bet they did!

An additional bonus of this program was having patrol and snow sports working side by side and having fun doing it. We have always enjoyed a very good relationship, but now there's a true partnership between the two departments.

I can't wait until next season.





# Time to Be EPIC

by Craig Larson, Young Adult Supervisor

"Kelsey, why do you have a wooden spoon under your pillow? Why are your pajamas on inside out?" I asked my daughter as I tucked her into bed.

"Dad! The weather report! Don't you know? If you put a spoon under your pillow and wear your pajamas inside out, we get more snow!"

"Oh" I responded, nodding my head and laughing at the same time. The weather man had predicted a snow storm. Maybe, just maybe, this would be the big one.

"Put as many spoons under your pillow as you want! Tomorrow we'll ski." I left her room after giving her a kiss and laughing at her enthusiasm.

While getting myself ready for bed I flipped the television back on hoping to see a storm update. This was it. This would be the big one! Snowstorms were few and far between with warm rain in between. I giggled; 16-20 inches of snow overnight and throughout the morning. The meteorologists were predicting snow and lots of it. The kind of snow that puts a smile on your face. The kind of snow that keeps you awake at night. The kind of snow we hadn't had this season. The kind of snow that would make a great day! I secretly put my pajamas on inside out.

I could not sleep. Instead, I packed the car, made lunches, and put skis on the car roof. I, like Kelsey, eagerly anticipated waking up to a world blanketed in white. School would be canceled. With these amounts, it had to be.

Tomorrow was going to be epic!

Kelsey and I awoke to disappointment. There was little snow on the ground. The grass was not white and the sky was full of clouds that were dripping rain. AND, worse yet, school wasn't cancelled. Not even a two-hour delay! Mother Nature had other plans and let us down again.

Have you ever had a day that didn't go as expected? A storm that didn't produce? Or maybe an event gets cancelled for reasons out of your control? This has happened to all of us. While this disappointment sums up the ski season for many, there are several things worth highlighting regarding the Young Adult Program.

The Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar was cancelled due to circumstances outside any person's control; COVID-19. Why highlight the cancellation of this event?

Smugglers' Notch Resort was ready to host the division's LARGEST young adult event. Seventy-eight young adults from Maine to West Virginia registered for this event representing 14 of the 15 regions. Many young adults trained all season long, ready to bring their A-game for a week-end of competition. More than 30 young adults registered

for the enhancement track portion of this event. This noncompetitive, hands-on learning format is encouraging new young members to participate.

Seventy-eight young adult patrollers in one place. That would be epic!

As COVID-19 information changed hour by hour in early March, so did the Young Adult Program. The decisions to continue planning, attempt to execute, and eventually cancel were not taken lightly. With the guidance of the Eastern Division Board of Directors and medical experts the right decision was made.

This event will return to Smugglers' Notch Resort next year ready for 78 of the division's youngest members. Mark your calendar now. Plan to be part of this record-breaking event.

March 12-15, 2021 will be epic!

Swag. I. Think. So.

This was not the only event for young adults from around the division to gather. Smaller events happened in the following regions; Southern Vermont, New Hampshire, Eastern Massachusetts & Rhode Island, Genesee Valley, and Western Appalachian. If you did not attend one of these events, do it next year.

The Eastern Division Young Adult Program continues to use social media with the hopes of engaging more teens. Teenagers from around the country, patrollers, and non-patrollers follow, like, and share what the program is doing. If you haven't followed, liked, or shared in the Young Adult Program, do it now. The horizon is big and our dreams are bigger. Stay tuned to these channels as the program looks to engage you in new ways. These will be epic!

The Young Adult Program wants to give a huge thank you to former Division Director John Kane. Mr. Kane encouraged young adults to PLAY (Participate, Learn, Articulate, Yield) as he himself followed this acronym. He jumped in the toboggan of our youngest drivers, sprawled in the snow for our newest OEC technicians while encouraging these members to be all they could be on and off the hill! Thank you, John Kane. Your leadership does not go unnoticed. Continue to PLAY in your next adventures. You are epic!

As I reflect on the storm that wasn't, the season that wasn't, the event that wasn't, I am encouraged about the future. The sun is shining. This too shall pass. Bigger and better is coming. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay epic. Be EPIC!

# AWARDS

by Sue-Ellen Helmacy, Advisor

Feeling bored? It's the old NAG (Nimble Awards Gatherer) encouraging you to use the time to nominate someone for a long-overdue award! The current forms are available on the NSP website.

Need help writing an award? Soon there will be a revised awards section on the Eastern Division webpage that will include an outline of the requirements for each award, ideas for what to include in a letter for an outstanding nomination, postings of your Region Awards Advisor's name with their email address, and the histories of many past awards and their recipients.

Speaking of histories of past Eastern Division Awards, if you know anyone that was a recipient of the Jerry

Sherman Outstanding Division Patroller, the Donna McGraw Patroller for Patroller, the 990 or 501c3 Awards before 2005, please email me with that info. We're trying to keep a history and list of these recipients and would appreciate any help. Thanks to Laura Tucker, for providing information back that far by taking the time to go through old copies of *TrailSweep!*

I'd also like to send a gentle reminder that many awards must be approved by a region review board. This board is to be composed of an odd number of patrollers, a minimum of three, that have at least an LCA or NA, and each from a different patrol in the region. Its members must have the approval of the region director and are not to be current region award advisors, region directors, or section chiefs. Should changes need to be made to your review board, please contact me with any updates.

Looking ahead, besides a new webpage, policies and procedures were recently written for the Eastern Division Awards Program, steps are being taken on proposals for the Critical Care Award, the Patriot Star, and thanks to Leif Karlsen, a new computer awards program that will eliminate electronic signatures is in the works. Updates will be posted on the webpage.

Remember...*"Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone."*

G.B. Stern

## Memorial Scholarship Fund

by Harriet Frawley, Supervisor

Like many other things, there's not much that's certain about higher education these days. Students are facing significant challenges. We've experienced this firsthand in our family. One daughter is a college senior, and the younger, a high school junior, is dual-enrolled at our local community college. Luckily, they were homeschooled, so to them education isn't necessarily tied to a particular place, but rather takes place wherever you are; sometimes even in a patrol building on top of a mountain while mom covers a shift.

Therefore, when our in-person division meeting was postponed until fall, I knew some good news would be welcomed by those young patrollers weighing college decisions this spring. We extended the application deadline and announced the 2020 David J. Nelson Memorial Scholarships during the virtual Eastern Division Spring Officers Meeting. Like last year, four \$750 scholarships and four \$250 honorable mentions have been awarded.

This year's applicants made the selection process challenging. All had outstanding academic records, extensive volunteer service, and diverse extra-curricular interests. Many have already made substantial contributions as patrollers. When it came to identifying fields of study and future vocations, two common threads emerged: healthcare and environmentalism. Represented are future nurses, physician's assistants, doctors, biomedical engineers, biologists, and wildlife conservationists. The lone business major among the applicants expressed an interest in studying the global supply chain in order to reduce environmental impacts. Recent events led others to a newfound interest in public health. I would say the future's in incredibly good hands.

Please congratulate this year's awardees. I look forward to sharing more about each of their unique qualifications at the Eastern Division Fall Officers Meeting and banquet.

Scholarship Recipients	Honorable Mentions
Charles Morgan Blue Hills/EMARI	Ethan Baker Black Mountain/NH
Emma MacDonald Okemo/SVT	Natalia Mattar Mountain Creek/NJ
Hank Roe Mountain Creek/NJ	Erik Edelstein Bristol Mountain/Genesee Valley
Emily McNamara Wachusett/EMARI	Madeline O'Connell Nashoba Valley/EMARI

# Remembrance of Lost Patrollers

<p><b>CNY</b>                  Rev. John Derbyshire                  Hume Laidman                  Mary Mercurio                  Phil Resch                  Joseph Stewart                  Ed Sutfin</p>	<p><b>EPA</b>                  Edward Hirshman                  Ron Helmuth                  Dr. Walt Larkin                  William Phaneuf                  Doug Williams                  Dr. Ted Kowalyszyn                  Sheldon Langer                  Frank Mason</p>	<p><b>GV</b>                  Merle "Knobby" Eldridge</p> <p><b>ME</b>                  Leslie Bex                  Robert "Stub" Taylor</p> <p><b>NH</b>                  Gerry Clark                  William Clark                  William Phillips                  Gregor Trinkhaus-Randall</p> <p><b>NJ</b>                  Charles Reisinger</p>	<p><b>SVT</b>                  Bruce Anderson                  Bob Angell                  Les Berg                  Thomas "Kimo" Byrne                  Jaqui Coveney                  Mike McCooley                  George McMillan                  Nate Pond                  Jeff Schafran</p>	<p><b>WAPP</b>                  Phil Firl                  Dick Frankenfield                  John Ignatius                  Jim Reneau                  Dale Smith</p> <p><b>WMASS</b>                  Ray Dubreuil                  Lou Galm                  Frank Hicks                  Paul Howes                  Gerhart Menzel                  Jeff Skipton                  Mark Todd</p>	<p><b>WNY</b>                  Martyn Bentley                  Norman Urban Herlan                  Kenneth King                  Paul Vaughn Mansell                  Mike Wheeler</p>
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# In Memoriam

## JAMES DECKER



Jim, beloved husband of Terry Decker (Frances T. Duggan) passed away peacefully on Saturday at age 77 after a battle with cancer. He spent his last days surrounded by his immediately family in the comfort of his home in East Aurora. He is survived by his wife of 52 years; his sons Patrick (Stacey) and Christopher (Wendy); four grandchildren: Emily, Anna, Grayson and Fiona; his brother Jack (Sue); and his close cousins. Loving son of the late

John and Lore Decker of Cheektowaga.

Jim provided for his family with a great life including many memorable camping trips and world travels. He served his community with giving activities including being a career teacher and coach (Riverside HS, Canisius College, Cheektowaga Central HS), was a 32-year member of the Ski Patrol at Holiday Valley, and held officer positions Sandy Hook Shore Patrol, Wendt/Bennet Beach Life Guarding staff, Cheektowaga Teacher's Union, Ellicottville Ski Club, Corvettes of Buffalo, and various HOAs.

Jerry Sherman, National Awards Advisor sent this announcement to division. "I am sending this to Division members who may have served with Jim, NBOD members, and National Awards Committee Members who may remember Jim's Hall of Fame nomination. His induction into the Hall of Fame was announced last August. There are no plans at this time; a memorial service will be held later in the year." After his announcement the following tributes rolled in. Please keep Jim's family in your prayers.

– *In my tenure as Region Director before taking over as Division Director, I only met Jim Decker once and saw him several times at the Spring Officers Meeting. So, in making this sad announcement, it seemed fitting that the reactions of his good friends in ski patrol will say more than I ever could. Rest in peace Jim Decker.*

Cal Goldsmith, Division Director

- *Jim Decker was a good friend and a solid NSP board member. He always had the best interests of the NSP in his heart when he voted on a Board Action. He was a gentleman and a scholar. I thought of him as a role model who taught me it was fine to disagree, but he was never disagreeable. I picked up that phrase and used it over many years, and still do. I will miss Jim.*
- *Jim was a significant contributor to this NSP organization and was appropriately named to the National Hall of Fame. Moreover, Jim was a gentle soul and always had the time to listen to patroller issues and concerns. We will miss him.*
- *Very sad news. Enjoyed serving with him on Board.*
- *Jim was a real gentleman and a friend to all of us that served with him. I really enjoyed his time on the board. He was always the one that would listen to all of the discussions and then speak. And when he spoke, everyone would listen and usually follow his advice. Jim was definitely one of the right members to serve on our national board.*
- *To say he will be missed is saying so little but, I for one am a better person for having known him. Jim was one of the reasons we are all so proud to be a part of the NSP family.*
- *Oh no! So sorry to hear this news. He was a great guy. RIP Jim.*
- *Jim will be very much missed by HVSP as well as the entire NSP system for the tireless service and contribution he has made over the years.*
- *For me, Jim was the first patroller I had contact with. I met Jim at the Ski Sale in West Seneca as he was posting recruitment notices for the HVSP. After an enthusiastic conversation with him, I applied and became a HV Ski Patroller. My heart and prayers go out to Jim and his family at this difficult time.*

And ending with a message from Dan Meess, WNR Region Director:  
*I too am sad about the passing of long-time Holiday Valley patroller and former WNY Region Director, Jim Decker. I'm sure that you also know that Jim served on the NSP National Board. He will be greatly missed.*

## LOUIS GALM



Louis (Buddy) Galm, 77, passed away peacefully at home on December 30, 2019. He was born on October 2, 1942 in Yonkers, New York. He moved to Pine Plains, New York, at a young age, attending school in Pine Plains Central School District where he excelled in sports.

He proudly served in the Vietnam War in the United States Navy from 1964-1966 as Radioman 3rd Grade Petty Officer.

A 50-year member of National Ski Patrol, Lou joined Farmington Valley Ski Patrol (CT Region) in 1970. Farmington was a club patrol which served alongside the Butternut Ski patrol at Butternut Ski Area in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Each patrol had its own patrollers, training officers, and administration.

Lou served as both a first aid and toboggan instructor at Farmington, became a senior patroller, and rose to the position of Assistant Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. In 1983 Farmington Valley merged with the Butternut Ski Patrol. Lou's leadership abilities were well known at Butternut and he was appointed as a Hill Captain when he transferred in. He also served as a lift evacuation instructor for Butternut.

Lou was a senior patroller for 40 years and had completed his Level 1 and 2 Avalanche and Level 1 Mountain Travel and Rescue.

Lou was awarded a Distinguished Service Award in 2013. His dedication to the National Ski Patrol became a family affair. His wife, Mary Ann, served as an auxiliary patroller from the mid-70s to the mid-80s. His son, Jeff, joined as a junior in 1982, rising through the ranks of Hill Captain and Patrol Director and his grandson, Robert, joined the patrol in 2011.

He worked in New York City Local 46 Metallic Lathers International Union 1967-1996 and then started G&R Enterprises, building many homes and several post offices in the area.

Lou was very involved in his community, serving as a member of the Milan Volunteer Fire Department, serving two terms as Rescue Squad Captain. He was an active member with International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge, Pine Plains Lions Club, Pine Plains Business Association, Town of Gallatin Planning Board, and served as a Town of Gallatin Councilman.

Lou loved the outdoors, annual fishing trips to Canada, hunting on his property, and skiing at Butternut.

Survived by his beloved wife Mary Ann who resides in Rexford, New York; sons, Jeffrey (Barbara) Galm of Pine Plains, New York; David (Melissa) Galm of Hilton Head, South Carolina; six grandchildren, Robert, Kelsey, Mikaela, Tristan, Ashlynn, and Karstin Galm; a cousin, William (Patricia) Galm along with several nieces and nephews.

Lou was predeceased by his parents Louis and Rita (Lynch) Galm and a sister, Patricia Boyles.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions are requested to the Milan Rescue Squad, 900 Route 199, Milan, New York 12571, or Community Hospice, 179 Lawrence St., Saratoga Springs, New York 12866.

## EDWARD F. HIRSHMAN



Ed Hirshman, 81, affectionately known as "Fast Eddie," of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at UPMC Pinnacle Harrisburg Hospital surrounded by loving family. Ed was born January 24, 1939 in Manhattan, New York, to the late Samuel and Pauline (Badian) Hirshman.

He graduated from high school in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1956. After high school, Ed served in the Air Force as a Nuclear Weapons Mechanical Specialist from 1956 through 1960. After earning a degree in Electrical Engineering, he was employed by AMP, Inc. until his retirement in 1998 after 32 years of service as an Engineer and Product Marketing Executive.

Eddie had a love for the slopes. His 50-year impact on the Ski Roundtop Ski Patrol, Eastern PA Region, Eastern Division, and the National Ski Patrol is significant and enduring.

He was a National Ski Patrol ambassador always building cooperative working relationships with ski area managements and ski industry partners. He actively promoted the NSP with his leadership in Special Olympics Area M, Wounded Warrior Patrol, Susquehanna Ski Club, and National MS Society and served as a member of the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum Board of Directors and Ski Roundtop Patrol Alumni organizations. He volunteered thousands of hours as the Eastern Pennsylvania Region Director of the Eastern Division. Ed was inducted into the Pennsylvania Snow Sports Museum Hall of Fame in 2010 and was inducted into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame in 2017.

Ed was a 32nd Degree Life member of the Grand Lodge, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and was a 32nd degree member of the Valley of Harrisburg Lodge. Additional memberships included the American Legion and the VFW.

Ed is survived by his wife, Susan L. (Belcher) Hirshman of 48 years. He is also survived by his daughter, Jody A. Weidenhammer (Chris) of Camp Hill; grandchildren, Hailey and Grayson Weidenhammer; brother Mort Hirshman (Carol) of Ann Arbor, Michigan; sister, Jean Christian (Pete) of Streetsboro, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Ed's Life will be scheduled for a future date. Please visit [www.parthemore.com](http://www.parthemore.com) for an announcement of the celebration. In lieu of flowers, contributions are requested to: Wounded Warrior Patrol, 20 Westminster Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013

# In Memoriam (cont'd)

## PAUL RICHARD HOWES



When Shelburne Falls resident Paul Howes died unexpectedly at home on April 22 at the age of 59, the close network of friends he and his wife, Elizabeth Howes, had made as members of the Berkshire East Ski Patrol knew they wanted to do something to honor his legacy.

With a large memorial gathering being out of the question due to social distancing guidelines amid the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 50 members and associates of the ski

patrol organized a "walk by" in the afternoon.

They assembled in the Eddie's Wheels parking lot just up State Street from the Howes' home, donning their red ski patrol jackets. Led by Byron Call, of Bernardston, who hoisted the ski patrol's flag — bearing a white cross on a red background — they walked six feet apart past the home where Elizabeth Howes stood with her family.

Some offered words of condolence; others bowed or waved, resisting the urge for human contact during an emotional time. In return, Elizabeth Howes smiled, waved, and held her arms open in an air hug

to each of the mourners who slowly made their way by the two-story house on the banks of the Deerfield River.

Paul was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, May 26, 1960 to the late Kimball W. and Ann F. Howes. He attended local schools and graduated from Northampton High School in 1979. Paul followed his father onto the Berkshire East Ski Patrol where he met his wife, Elizabeth. Skiing was a passion for both Paul and Elizabeth, both having grown up on skis since the age of three. Paul learned to ski at Berkshire Snow Basin Ski Area in Cummington, Massachusetts, and Elizabeth at Mount Mohawk Ski Area in Shelburne.

Paul will be missed by his co-workers at Northfield Mount Herman School, where he took pride in having the gymnasium ready for the students, faculty, and school tours. He enjoyed imparting wisdom to the work-study students. He would try to help them feel less lonely, when they were so far from home. When Paul wasn't working at Northfield Mount Hermon School, he was escaping on ski adventures with Elizabeth.

As well as his wife, he leaves his stepchildren, Jennifer Pride (Anthony Scelsi) and Christopher Pride (Andrea Latour), and two adorable granddaughters, Autumn Pride and Jolene Scelsi. He is survived by his sister Florence Howes, nephew Kimball Howes III and niece Kimberlyn Semb. He was predeceased by his brother Kimball Howes II.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Berkshire East Ski Patrol, 66 Thunder Mountain Road, Charlemont, MA 01339.



Paul Howes' widow, Elizabeth Howes, at left in red, gestures to the parade of well-wishers who did what they could to honor their late friend while also social distancing. Staff Photo/PAUL FRANZ

## JEFF KIRSCHMAN



On October 2, 2019, Jeff Kirschman, a 22-year patroller at Whiteface Mountain, New York, lost his five-month battle with cancer, at 65-years young. Though his life was cut short, his influence on us all lives on and will be passed on for generations.

Jeff was born on June 25, 1954, and grew up in Burnt Hills, New York. He started skiing at Gore Mountain in 1970 with his whole family; mother, father and five sib-

lings. They had season passes at Gore for many years. Jeff graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Syracuse University's Forestry School. He owned and operated Our Place Pub in Saratoga. An ac-

complished string bass player, Jeff had enjoyed playing in the Burnt Hills High School jazz band and this love of jazz music helped create a laid-back ambience in the pub. He soon welcomed daughter Sarah into the world who later in life would bless him with two grandsons, Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Jeff moved to the Adirondacks in 1989 and landed in Lake Placid. He began by bartending at Jimmy's 21 and The Laughing Loon. Soon, he would transition to his true calling of being a licensed Adirondack guide. His passion for fly fishing was soon shared with his soul mate of 37 years, Rachel Finn. The two of them spent many joyous years guiding together out of The Hungry Trout in their hometown of Wilmington, New York. For several years they also guided weeklong fly fishing float trips in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska.

Fishing was not the only passion shared. Jeff introduced Rachel to downhill skiing. They enjoyed this sport recreationally and professionally. Jeff joined the Whiteface Ski patrol in 1997 and Rachel was a ski instructor.

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# In Memoriam (cont'd)

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Jeff also guided upland bird hunting, which brought a series of wonderful dogs into his life; setters Tippet and Bella who passed, and currently Mister, Nikki, and Riff. Their love and companionship were great comfort to him during his difficult illness.

Jeff pursued his passions and created an incredible life rich in

love, kindness, compassion, and friendship. His legacy is that his passion lives on and will be passed on and will bring joy.

As a patroller, he always had a kind word and a helping hand. He had a positive influence in all his endeavors; patrolling, guiding, barkeeping, and as a cherished member of the community. The patrollers of Whiteface wish Jeff Godspeed on his final sweep; you will not be forgotten.

## WALTER F. LARKIN



Dr. Walter F. Larkin, 88, husband of Nancy J. (Lewis) Larkin, and longtime Collegeville, Pennsylvania, dentist, died Sunday, August 4, 2019, at his Upper Salford home. Walt was a member of the National Ski Patrol and past Ski Pa-

trol Director of Spring Mountain in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania. He was a very active participant of the Pennsylvania Snow Sports Museum and was inducted into their 2019 Hall of Fame class. Walt directed the Spring Mountain Patrol and their volunteers for many, many years. He was an OEC instructor and IT and devoted much of his time to patrol activities. We will miss Walt but will forever remember all he gave to NSP.

## GERHART MENZEL



On April 9, 2020, Gerhart Menzel, beloved husband, father, and grandfather (Opa) passed away peacefully at home in Simsbury, Connecticut.

Gerhart was born Jan 12, 1930 in Ingolstadt, Germany to Berta (Wolz) and Hermann Menzel. He studied Engineering at the Technical University in Munich, and met his best friend and life companion, Christa (Mayr) there, when she was studying abroad. They met on a ski trip with the Alpine Club, to which her cousin had invited her. The following fall

Gerhart and Christa married and settled in Karlsruhe where he started his career in Nuclear Engineering with Kern Reaktor.

Five years later, Gerhart thought he would like to see the USA, so they packed up their belongings and two children and boarded a ship to New York City. Gerhart quickly fell in love with America. He loved the lakes and mountains, with outdoor recreation always readily accessible. For over 50 years they lived in Simsbury, Connecticut, where Gerhart worked at Combustion Engineering which later became ABB. He was a senior engineer in the nuclear department working on safety and cooling systems and fast breeders.

Gerhart was also an avid skier, starting in the 1950s in Germany. After his children finished their ski racing programs, he took up racing himself, and competed in master ski racing age groups until 75+. He joined the ski patrol in 1966 in the Connecticut Region and moved

on to the Butternut Ski Patrol in the Western Massachusetts Region. He passed his senior test in 1970 and became a senior S&T trainer/evaluator in 1972. He served as the CT Region S&T Supervisor and on the Eastern Division S&T Steering Committee. Even after he stepped down as a division trainer, he remained one of the most active trainers at Butternut using his talent, not only as an S&T trainer but as a PSIA instructor, to maintain the skills of his fellow patrollers.

In 1979 Gerhard was awarded National Appointment #5251 and he received a Distinguished Service Award in 2006. His service to Eastern Division, the Western Mass and Connecticut Regions, and the Butternut Ski Patrol was long and dedicated. He served on the Butternut Ski Patrol for 50 years.

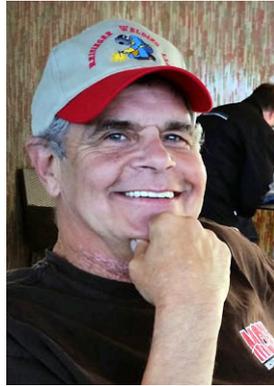
All three children can vouch for the fact that he was an incredibly fun Dad, always ready to play. He built a small sailboat in the basement, thus beginning his lifelong love of sailing, which in turn led him to sailing and regattas. For almost 20 years Christa and Gerhart drove to Florida in March for their much-loved sunfish regatta racing schedule. Gerhart was especially fond of traveling, and made the most of every trip, always downplaying discomforts and finding the fun in any situation; a trait that he has passed down to his children and grandchildren.

Gerhart leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Christa; three children, Wendy McIntosh, Christoph Menzel, Nicola Tubach; daughter-in-law Grace Menzel; sons-in-law Jim McIntosh and Doug Tubach; grandchildren: Christa Tubach Yung (Curtis Yung), Nicholas Tubach, Clare Menzel, Karl Menzel and Ernesta McIntosh. The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to caregivers Carol, Kris, and Shamonique and the staff at McLean Home Care and Hospice. Due to the present circumstances, the family will be waiting to hold a memorial service until a later date.

# In Memoriam (cont'd)

## CHARLES REISINGER

May 1, 1953–December 13, 2019



You either knew him as Charlie or Chuck. He patrolled with the Hidden Valley Ski Patrol (HVSP), which was recently re-named the National Winter Activity Center (NWAC) Ski Patrol, for his entire patrolling career. Sometime in the past 24 years, if you were a patroller or a patroller candidate in New Jersey, you probably met him. He had a loud voice and a contagious laugh. He had incredibly expressive

facial expressions...one look could speak volumes, and he had the art of eyebrow-raising and eye-rolling down to a science. He may have trained you in OEC, OET, or both. He might have been an evaluator at your OEC evaluation, your OET evaluation, or both. He may have been your instructor at an OEC refresher or an OEC instructor refresher. He may have been your instructor at a lift-evac refresher. You might have bumped into him at an HVSP Ski Swap or Beefsteak Dinner (he was the one who skied to dinner that one year). Maybe you sat near him at a New Jersey Region Spring Awards Dinner...he never missed them. He called himself “an equal-opportunity offender” and he might have “busted your socks,” which was a sure sign that he liked you. One thing I know for sure...if you ever met him, you’ll never forget him.

Charlie filled his life with things he loved to do, and people he loved to do those things with. One of those things was his work. In high school, he spent every spare minute in metal shop. He became a welder, running his own business for over 45 years, and working as a gas-pipeline welder, an ironworker, and a crane operator ‘on the side.’ One of his more recent side jobs was working for Bay Crane Service of New Jersey, where he got to work with both of his sons for two years. He was an advisor for the Robotics Teams of both Vernon and Lakeland High Schools, sharing his love of working with metal and welding with many young people, including his sons.

Another of his passions was motorcycles...dirt bikes AND street bikes. His most recent rides were a Husqvarna 250 dirt bike and a Honda CBR 1000 RR street bike. Charlie would often show up at a ski patrol function in full leathers with a huge grin on his face. His sons joined him in this passion as soon as they were old enough, spending lots of time riding together. An annual family tradition was attending a dual sport ride at Michaux State Forest in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Charlie rode this event for the last time in August 2019.

Yet another of Charlie’s passions was scuba diving. He had over 40 years of diving experience and enjoyed wreck diving off the New York and New Jersey coasts, along with diving trips to the Bahamas. The best ‘treasure’ he ever found was while working as an assistant dive instructor at William Patterson University in 1980. That ‘treasure’ was Barbara “Bobbi” Voswinkel, who would become his wife five years later. Their shared love of laughter (their first-date movie was “Airplane”)

and skiing (two-week honeymoon/ski trip in Switzerland) were just two of the many reasons their marriage was so successful. Their 35th anniversary would have been March 30, 2020.

Charlie’s love of skiing was shared not just with his wife, Bobbi, but with both of their sons, Scott and Andrew “Drew,” who each raced varsity for the Vernon High School ski team. Charlie began skiing after he graduated from high school, driving his Rambler to Craigmeur after work to get in some runs with his cousin. Over time, he and Bobbi began to bring their boys skiing at Hidden Valley. One day, they noticed patrollers having a BBQ at the summit. A random fall brought HVSP patroller Don Brady down Highland Swing, asking if Bobbi and Drew were all right. They were fine, but Don and Charlie started chatting, the family was invited to join the BBQ, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Charlie signed up for the Outdoor Emergency Care course being held at Hidden Valley and officially became a member of the HVSP on January 1, 1996. He became an alpine patroller his first season (he’ll want mentioned that he was the first of his candidate class to do so, and within two years he’d become a senior alpine patroller. Charlie was the epitome of a dedicated patroller. He didn’t just give one shift a week to the patrol; he gave it his all. He jumped into the instructor program with both feet, becoming an OEC, OET, and lift evacuation instructor in short order. Additional instructor positions that Charlie held through the years were senior OEC trainer/evaluator, and OEC instructor trainer.

This still wasn’t enough for Charlie. He happily took on additional responsibilities, such as being the Saturday morning mountain leader from 1997 until recently. He built and installed the heavy-duty metal door and window shutters to protect the patrol’s summit building from vandals during the off-season. He helped at HVSP’s annual ski swap. He participated in the annual “Colvin Ride” in honor of HVSP’s beloved Lift Evac Program Advisor Mike Colvin. For 10 of his 24 years on patrol, Charlie was the instructor of record of the OEC course.

This man knew how to combine all the things that he loved in such a way that he wouldn’t miss out on a minute of anything. A year after he joined ski patrol, his wife Bobbi became a patroller, and both sons became patrollers as soon as they were old enough. The four Reisingers were fixtures at every patrol event. Bobbi was the OEC IT for all ten of the OEC courses that Charlie ran, and the boys were patients. They even incorporated patrolling into their holiday traditions. Often, they would spend Christmas morning opening the mountain instead of presents and enjoying Bobbi’s homemade waffles in the summit patrol shack.

Hidden Valley closed, and for two years the patrol was homeless. When the mountain reopened as the NWAC, Charlie was asked by Patrol Director Harriet Frawley to become the OET program advisor. She knew that the patrol needed his positivity, energy, and his get-it-done attitude. Harriet told Charlie “we need you,” and he came through. He also stepped up to lead the area’s lift evac team, even though he was battling cancer at the same time. Charlie’s last official patrol shift was spent running the NWACSP lift evac refresher on October 13, 2019.

One of the most obvious side effects of his treatments was damage to his vocal cords due to radiation; he could only speak in a whisper, and

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# In Memoriam (cont'd)

## Cont'd from pg 28 - REISINGER

only in short sentences. He would often apologize to Harriet for his "whispery voice," to which she always replied that "it was music to her ears." Prior to this damage, Charlie was one of the loudest patrollers on the mountain. It was often joked that he didn't really need to carry a radio; we could hear him without one!

Over the course of his 24-year patrolling career, all spent with the same patrol at the same hill, Charlie was appreciated and recognized for all that he did. In 2003, he received HVSP's Patroller of the Year award. Then, in 2006, after only 10 years on patrol, he received National Appointment #10332. In the spring of 2019, he received the

New Jersey Region Patroller of the Year award. The last and most poignant award was NSP's Distinguished Service Award in recognition and acknowledgement of his exemplary service. He received this award at home surrounded by his family, the Eastern Division Awards Advisor, the New Jersey Region Director, the New Jersey Region Awards Advisor, his patrol director, and a number of patrollers with whom he had worked over the course of his career.

Charlie's life was non-stop, chuck-full (pun intended) of everything he loved. He found joy in everything. We will all miss him more than words can say, but we wouldn't have missed a moment for the world! Ski-ya later, Charlie.

Joni Porter, OEC classmate

## JAMES RENEAU

On Thursday, July 21, 2019, the Canaan Valley Ski Patrol lost one of its beloved patrollers. James Reneau passed away after a brief illness. Jim was the first of three Reneau family members to join the Canaan Valley Ski Patrol. He was later joined by his brother Paul, and his son Jeremy. Prior to joining the patrol, Jim spent several years on the Canaan Valley Resort's courtesy patrol. Jim went on to become a member of the volunteer patrol staff, and then a member of the paid patrol staff.

Jim served Canaan Valley Resort, the Canaan Valley Ski Patrol, and the skiing public for 12 years. During that time Jim assisted with the patrol's OEC program as both an instructor and evaluator, lift evacuation program, and as a skill evaluator. As an alpine patroller, Jim was a teacher and mentor to many of our patrollers.

A lifelong educator, Jim began his teaching career as a science teacher in the Taylor County School System. He served in this capacity for three years. Jim changed his focus when he helped establish and run the Outdoor Education Program for the school system. This was one of Jim's true passions. He led the program for 10 years. Then, Jim changed his direction and entered the administration of education remaining in education administration for the next 20 years. Jim retired to spend more time with his family and ski patrolling at Canaan Valley Resort.

Jim enrolled in the Outdoor Emergency Care program in July 2006. He began patrolling in January 2007. As a patroller he is remembered as a leader, teacher, mentor, and above all a friend to all. In discussions involving patrolling, ski skills, lift evacuation, patient care, teaching and mentoring, and patrol management, Jim provided well thought suggestions and insights. While talking with Jim, you would immediately understand his ability to teach and to mentor, his values, and his passions. Jim was a quiet individual, so when he did speak up, he was listened to. Jim was involved for several years, at the patrol level, with the Gathering of Mountain Eagles (Wounded Warriors) and the WV Special Olympics. In 2017, after almost 12 years of patrol association, Jim retired from the Canaan Ski Patrol in order to spend more time with his grandchildren.

Jim had an easy manner interacting with the patrol members, ski school staff, other resort staff, and the skiing public. He was looked up to by members of the patrol for his insight in both patrol general and patrol administrative processes. Even though Jim had retired from patrolling, he spent a considerable amount of time at the resort with family. Jim had an easy-going manner, and it seemed as though everyone he talked to was a friend. It is often said of many people that they leave a large pair of shoes to fill. In Jim's case this is very true. Jim will be missed by family and friends alike.

## MARK TODD

Mark E. Todd, 66 of Cheshire passed away Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at the Berkshire Medical Center North in North Adams after being stricken at home.

Born in North Adams, Massachusetts, on May 20, 1953, son of the late James Todd and Jeanne Hamelin Todd, he attended North Adams schools and was a graduate of Drury High School. Mark also attended Southern Vermont College where he received an Associate Degree in Environmental Studies. In 1972 he became employed with the State of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. He served for over 40 years, retiring as a park supervisor in 2014.

Mark joined the Berkshire East Ski Patrol in 1993. He became an alpine senior and served as an OEC instructor. An avid outdoorsman,

he enjoyed fishing and hunting. Mark was also a member of the North Adams Elks #487, the Mount Greylock Archers, and the Stamford Valley Golf Course. He also became a State of Massachusetts Union Steward.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his wife, the former Deanna Bertoli, whom he married on April 11, 1981; two sons, Mathew Todd and his wife Heather of Cheshire and Ryan Todd and his fiancé Natalie Wheeler of Bennington, Vermont; three sisters, Linda McKane and her husband Brice of Sandwich, Deborah Simon and her husband James of Cedarville, and Jamie Wojcik and her husband Peter of Adams; and four grandchildren, Tre Harpin, Eli Todd, Everly Todd, and Gianna Todd.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Cheshire Massachusetts Volunteer Fire Dept. in care of the funeral home.