

Official Publication of the Eastern Division of the National Ski Patrol



Division Director's REPORT

by John Kane, Division Director

What a crazy winter we had. First, it was too warm in November to make snow. Then it normalized a bit and snowmaking got underway. Then the real cold came in with negative 20s in most places. Great for snowmaking, however, try to get the skiers to come out and play? Well, no amount of marketing spin or five layers of clothing would get the skiers to the ticket counters, except for a few brave souls. Then some little snow teasers here and there. Some were significant, but followed immediately by rain, and then warm, then it was all gone. This cycle repeated throughout January.

February became promising holding onto what little we had only to see it dwindle slowly in the early days of March. Not looking good there until the end of the second week in March and then...WOW! What a second half of March into April we had. Except for one or two larger resorts staying open for bragging rights, most ski areas shut down with as much as two to three feet on the ground. OK, so a reality check is needed. Should the ski resorts change the narrative, marketing, and other means of persuasion for our skiing public to slide the season by one month to accommodate the great skiing we are enjoying late into April? I think so. There was some of the best skiing in April that I can remember! Perfect temperatures and bluebird skies are a recipe for a great start on one's tan for the summer months! It was a WIN/WIN! In other words, some of us kept skiing and left the golf clubs for mid-to-late May.

It has been another whirlwind year for the Eastern Division. Believe it or not, the season of 2017-2018 started right after the Spring Officers' Meeting in Albany. Soon after that meeting, we formed a committee with an outstanding campaign manager (Tim Appleton) to drive the positive narrative that connected the values of our membership system-wide. What a great experience to work with such a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals. Their efforts contributed to the highest voter turnout ever recorded. In the end, that

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is all we were asking for...each and every one of our patrollers to VOTE! Of course, we are already working on the 2018-2019 elections. We will have the team back at work throughout the summer months so that we have the best possible candidates vetted for your consideration.

Those of you on Facebook have seen my travels with the NSP Subaru throughout the Eastern Division. I was able to visit 21 patrols in 11 regions. Many of the visits were tied to programs including Patrol Refreshers, Patroller Schools, Senior events, Education Seminars, YAP training and competition events, and finally capped off with the 50th Anniversary of the Certified Program. For some of us, NSP continues in the offseason with division meetings, off-season work such as Certified Boot Camps, Advanced Patroller Schools, Tough Mountain Challenges, and OEC prep work for the 2018-19 season. Stay tuned to the Eastern Division and region websites for events happening over the summer months.

Soon after the conclusion of the Spring Officers' Meeting, the Eastern Division (with our partners at Subaru) provided Safety and Gear (SAG) vehicle support for the American Lung Association (ALA) Cycle the Seacoast in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Eight patrollers from three regions were on hand to provide medic and gear support. The next event "Trek Across Maine" will be started at Sunday River with a four-day, 100-mile ride to Belfast, Maine. This is an example of how valued the NSP is viewed off the ski slopes. If anyone is interested in becoming a bike medic or a SAG vehicle driver please contact me for this worthwhile cause.

We are scheduled to host the 10th annual Certified Boot Camp in Harrison, Maine from 7/28-29. We continue to break attendance records with 108 people showing up last year. One member (now a candidate) and his family made a 14-hour drive from West Virginia to join us for some offseason instruction. The OEC Team is planning something spectacular. Hope to see

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a great turn out again. From the coastal side of the division to our western boundaries at Holiday Valley, the Advanced Patroller School was doing its thing. This format has both the instructor and participants working the accident together. It is offering a different learning experience that is getting great feedback from the participants. Both programs are learning from one another for future presentations. Please consider attending one of these outstanding forums.

The fall is typically reserved for meetings, OEC refreshers, lift evacs, and yes, more meetings. Some meetings are inside four walls but others like the OET staff meeting happens on snow at Killington Ski Resort. We have been going to Killington for this meeting since I first came to the Eastern Division OET Program in 1989. Many other programs like Avalanche, MTR, Nordic and others are doing the same types of meetings where action and not so much talking is the rule. This is where you want to be. Get involved and have some FUN!

Patroller Schools are growing in popularity. This year we will schedule at least four them. There is something for everyone at every level to experience. From the first-time candidate to certified training it is all there. Senior OET/OEC evaluations were delivered from late February through mid-March. All reports indicated that our attendance is up and more patrollers are prepared and therefore successful. Thanks to our entire dedicated instructor core who give of themselves for the benefit of others. If you are thinking about the Senior program, don't wait another year.

"If you don't do it this year, you will be one year older when you do." — Warren Miller

I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our entire Eastern Division Board, Section Chiefs, Program Committees, and the membership at large for their guidance, support, and an all-around job well done. The Eastern Division is in excellent shape because of your dedication and tireless service to our membership and to the skiing/riding public.

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

- Wayne Arsenault—Maine Region
- Kim Terwilliger—SNY Region
- Dan Meess—WNY Region
- Sharon Friedel—EPA Region

I have personally worked with Wayne, Kim, and Sharon over the years in the OET and Certified programs and look forward to working with them in their new positions. Dan, I look forward to making some turns with you in the near future.

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

- **Dan Pascucci**—Past Region Director, Maine. Dan's accomplishments are numerous. He was responsible for rebuilding and bringing the online OEC course to the Maine Region. Today, the Maine OEC programs are well staffed and very capable of delivering programs anywhere in Maine. Thanks for being the perfect partner when I needed it!
- **Mike McGinnis**—Past Region Director, SNY. Mike was

thrown into a turbulent situation and managed it to a successful conclusion. This got National review, but the matter was capably handled inside the region. Today the region is a cohesive group focused now on program delivery. Mike has also contributed to the discussion of the IT system and provided support where needed. We will need his expertise near term in this regard so at least we know how to get a hold of him! Thanks, Mike.

- **Butch MacQueen**—Past Region Director, WNY. Butch will forever be known for KISS...Keep It Simple Stupid. Many times Butch would keep us grounded with common sense approaches to things. Besides being a champion for Nordics and the successful Nordic Fest, the latest and long-lasting look of the ED calendar is due in part to Butch's desire for KISS. We will need to find the next designated "motion to adjourn" RD to step up. Thanks, Butch!
- **Bob Bernatos**—Past Region Director, EPA. I don't think there has been anyone more outspoken on behalf of membership values than Bob. He creatively comes up with ideas and programs when National and Division can't. These innovations are being looked at by National and by division. His sense of practicality and sheer determination makes him a natural leader. His handling of governance and the election process was flawless. His voice for advocating the appropriate leadership for our times is essential for region and division leadership. Stay close Bob. You are still needed. Thanks for all you do.

We have a few others in leadership roles we have to say welcome to and good-bye to others.

- Paula Knight will be terming out as our OEC Administrator. What a great job you have done for us. You will be missed. We look forward to working with Deb Foss as the new OEC Supervisor.
- Jerry Sherman is leaving the Eastern Division for higher office as your new National Awards Advisor. Congratulations! Eva Kunkel is the new Eastern Division Awards Coordinator. She made her debut at the SOM Banquet. Welcome, Eva!
- Peg Doheny (Jay Peak) has retired from the PRO Region Director's position. She was instrumental in working with the division volunteers to bring quality assurance in the PRO arena. We really enjoyed working with you. Peg's new replacement is Tait Germon. Tait is no stranger to the ED. He served as SVT Section Chief and is fully involved with both PRO and VOL patrols. He will be a great resource to both the Eastern Division and PRO organization. Welcome, Tait.

As we tip the hourglass for another season ahead, the Eastern Division team is ready to do the good work for you. Help them by communicating what you like about patrolling and what it is we need to work on to make your job more interesting and productive. We take the very best information we have to work with to provide program support locally

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What Lies Ahead for Eastern Division Instructor Development

by Jim Miller, ID Coordinator

Asymmetrical Communication Plan

There has been a lot of talk recently about continuing education for our instructors. Most of this talk concerns multidiscipline instructors who live great distances from their respective patrols or regions. Eastern Division has listened and is trying to alleviate some of these issues.

The Eastern Division Instructor Development Committee is working on implementing an Asymmetrical Communication Plan for the Instructor Development portion of Continuing Education.

You ask, "What is Asymmetrical Communication?"

This is what many colleges use for their online programs. Students will work on a lesson, at their own pace, and turn them in for evaluation. An instructor will then critique the lesson and offer feedback. This will continue for each lesson. Some online courses also have face-to-face meetings, while others are completed entirely online. We are planning for the ID CE to be done entirely via the internet.

The advantages:

- Done at the leisure of the student in the comfort of home or offices.
- No long distance travel.

The disadvantages:

- Will need a viable internet connection.

Once the program is up and running, end of September 2018, the ID Committee will be contacting regional directors to get names of potential instructors to test this program.

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and make decisions based on your local and region representation, but we need your input. Please let your Patrol Directors, NSP Representatives, Section Chiefs, and Region Directors know what is on your mind. Contrary to what you might think, we really do care about what is on your mind. So please help us to help you.

In the meantime, think about those outstanding moments of patrolling, those patrollers who have performed outstanding work as patrollers, instructors, and leaders at their ski resorts and communities. Each of the regions has award advisors. If you think to yourself that a patroller deserves recognition for his/her performance and accomplishments, please call your awards advisor in your region. We can help you determine what award is appropriate for the event. Also, think about your patrol. Are you proud of your team, leadership, and the resort as a whole? If so, there are awards for this. Be proud and recognize your patrol – large or small. Recognizing one's accomplishments can be done by way of awards.

In a volunteer organization Awards, in most cases, are our only currency!

On behalf of the Eastern Division, I hope you all will have a wonderful and SAFE summer with family and friends.

"You Know"

Being in education for almost 40 years, one of my pet peeves is people who continually use the words "You Know." Athletes doing interviews, people telling jokes, people in normal conversation, and teachers are some examples of where I notice the "You Know" syndrome.

"You Know" is considered a filler and can convey uncertainty. "You Know" does not express meaning. People use this filler so many times, in their conversation, that they no longer notice that they are using it. This can be very distracting to people listening, especially if it is used too frequently.

How many "You Knows" do you, as an instructor, use during a lesson? One way to find out is to ask another instructor, instructor trainer, or patroller to count your "You Knows" during a lesson.

If it is determined that you use too many "You Knows" you need to correct this to become a much better communicator during your lesson. A few suggestions:

- Take more time when speaking.
- Think about what you are saying before you say it.
- When you feel a "You Know" coming, try and pause before you say it.
- Try alternate phrases: "Do you understand?" or "Do you have any questions?"

Trying to break any habit takes time but if you are willing to try you are on the right path to becoming a better instructor.

"You Know" is not the only filler instructors might not be aware they are using, "Um," "Ah," "Like," "Basically," and "Er" are words that often are repeated in conversation more than necessary.

Where do you stand with fillers?

Meet the New Supervisors



OEC Supervisor Debbie Foss

My name is Debbie Foss and I am the new Eastern Division OEC Supervisor. I am a 26-year patroller and a member of Wachusett Mountain Ski Patrol. As an OEC Instructor, OEC TE, and OEC IT I have been training patrollers since 1995. I was an Assistant OEC Supervisor for six years and have run the OEC portion of the Eastern Division YAP Seminar for the last 15 years.

I am also on multiple national committees regarding OEC and was on the OEC 5e Roll-out Team for the division. I was awarded National Appointment #9824 in 2003 and received a Distinguished Service Award in 2009 years.

Outside of NSP I am an EMT-B and a Radiologic Technologist. I look forward to continuing on as a leader with one of the most successful division OEC programs in the country.

Members of my team, the OEC Assistant Supervisors, include:

Peter Adams – CNY, GV, WNY
Amanda Cannon – ENY, SNY
Carl Chaplin – ME, NH
Michelle Goldsmith – NVT, WMASS, EMARI
Paula Knight – CT, SVT
Flo Rutherford – EPA, WAPP
Paul Tracy – NJ, Certified



Awards Coordinator Eva Kunkel

For the past six years, the NSP awards program has been a significant part of my patrol life. It began when I was asked by Western Appalachian Region Director, Marty Silverman, to replace the outgoing Region Awards Advisor. I reluctantly agreed to take on the position for a year. With a lot of help from the Eastern Division Awards Advisor, Jerry Sherman, I spent the next few years learning how the awards process works on the national, division, region, and patrol levels.

The Western Appalachian Region award nominations grew significantly over the next few years, so much so, that Jerry asked me to put together a presentation on how the award nomination process works for the 2014 Annual Division Awards Team meeting. The presentation went very well, so well that Sue-Ellen Helmacy, New Jersey RAA, put together a book of forms and example letters of recommendation based on that presentation. That same year, I was presented with the Eastern Division Awards Team MVP award. The award hangs in my office at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, where I work as Executive Assistant to the Dean of the McKenna School. I am also a lecturer in accounting having earned my Master of Science in accounting in 2008.

I also serve on the National OEC Refresher Committee.



Certified Chair Jon Wilson

My name is Jon Wilson and I would like to introduce myself as the new Eastern Division Certified Chair. I am following in the footsteps of great leaders and want to thank, specifically, Bill Jordan for his five years of service to the Eastern Division Certified Program. The program continues to be strong because of his years of input and leadership. Thank you, Bill, for your hard work. I have big shoes to fill and am eager to get started.

I started patrolling 29 years ago at a small ski area called Shu-Maker Mountain. Looking back, it is hard NOT to talk about all of the great people that mentored me along the way. Training in the Central New York Region I earned my Senior in 1995 and completed my OET TE status in 1998. I served as an assistant patrol director for two years, then worked as the patrol director for another two years. In the 1999/2000 season, I moved 32 patrollers to my current and still favorite hill – McCauley Mountain.

I was the CNY OET Senior Region Advisor and began to travel more and more to teach and learn. It was so much fun that I stayed there for six years. In 2009 I was asked to join the Eastern Division OET Steering Committee. I hosted, trained, and organized a lot of events. The ski patrol family grew again as the travel distances increased. Big hills, small hills, eager participants – I didn't mind where, I was all in.

In 2007, I earned my Certified #661. It was a long journey but well worth every moment. Since that time I have worked at certified exams all over the Eastern Division. boot camps, summer advanced patroller schools, and more and more the patroller schools in the northeast. I have made trips to represent the Eastern Division at a certified event at Mt. Rose, Nevada, and most recently at Powderfall in Aspen where Chris Brodersen, the National Certified Chair, and I rolled out the Intro to Certified Program to the NSP.

I look forward to working with you all at the patroller schools and the annual certified exam. To those interested in the Certified Program, I cannot reiterate this enough – get involved! Travel to events, talk to your region certified representative, witness an exam...you will learn, increase your ski patrol family, and have fun in the process.

Have a great ski season next year. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions!

Over time, I developed a passion for the NSP Awards Program. When Jerry was appointed National Awards Advisor, it seemed the thing to do was apply for the newly opened Eastern Division awards position. The search committee had a tough time choosing from among all the qualified applicants but in the end, it was my work growing Western Appalachian's award nominations that won me the position. I am very grateful for the support I received from my fellow patrollers along the way.

MOUNT GREYLOCK RESCUE

by Steve Sauve, Patrol Director



If you've ever looked at the face of Mount Greylock from the Glen, with snow on it, you can't help but notice the straight shot from the summit to base known as the Power Line. Not too many people ski the Power Line because there's rarely enough snow these days and even when there is enough snow it's littered with rock outcroppings and cliff faces. Under the best conditions, it's been described as a fistfight by one of the best skiers I know.

Where am I going with this? Recently, a very good local skier fractured his tibia (classic boot-top fracture) on the Power Line just below the second large cliff face at the half-way point. It's hard to be brief but I'll try.

Josh Chittenden gets the call (from the patient's cell) at about 11:30. He contacts Dave Childs (Zeek) and Rich Adamczyk and the Thunderbolt Ski Patrol (TSP) wheels are set in motion. Dave and Rich are shuttled to the summit via DCR snowmobile to retrieve a TSP toboggan and start down to the incident site from above. Josh sets out skin-

ning up the Power Line from below. Josh called me thinking they might need an extra pair of hands and luckily I had my ski gear with me. By the time I arrived the patient was packaged and Zeek was driving the TSP toboggan down the gnarliest terrain I've ever attempted to ski. Rich and Josh took turns on belay and tailrope over drops that many of us would deem unskiable...all steep; heavy, deep snow in some sections; no snow on rock faces in other sections. Not a place for the faint of heart.

The patient was loaded into the ambulance at the base three hours after the first call came in. I can barely imagine a tougher patient extraction anywhere on Mount Greylock. It really was one of those "you had to see it to believe it" events. Such an impressive display of skiing, rope skills, spot-on decision-making, and patient care by Dave, Rich, and Josh. TSP has much to be proud of these days!

The photos do not do it justice. My heart rate still hasn't settled down.



Springtime, Bike Time

by Mitch Kline, CNY Bike Patrol Adviser

Depressed that ski season is over? Miss the rush you get carving down a trail with the speed, the wind, and challenging terrain? Bike Patrol could be the answer; a new mountain biking season is here!

For many ski resorts, summer mountain biking keeps the fun going and the doors open. Mountain biking creates year-round viability and a more authentic outdoor action sports vibe for the resort. At Greek Peak Mountain Resort in Cortland, New York, we are entering our fourth year of lift-served downhill mountain biking. Highland Forest in Fabius, New York, an NSP patrolled cross-country ski area, is adding a bike patrol to its summer mountain biking.

National Ski Patrol has embraced mountain biking and partners with IMBA-NMBP (International Mountain Bike Association-National Mountain Bike Patrol) to enhance mountain bike patroller skills. PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) and IMBA formed a joint teaching/coaching program to credential more mountain bike instructors.

The Greek Peak bike patrol team consists of 24 ski patrollers, about one-third of their active ski patrol members.

Patrollers are encouraged to have their senior level OEC. More than two-thirds of our bike patrol have completed their senior level. There are 15 downhill bike trails that run down through the woods between ski slopes. Trails include berms, jumps, drops, ramps, bridges, boxes, and rails.

Pre-season training for bike patrol includes trail familiarization, ATV operation, and trauma bag review. We also practice injury scenarios and low-angle rescue/steep terrain litter loading. Protocols for handling a major incident including trail closure and helicopter extraction have been worked out with area management. With just three to four patrollers on duty, communication is especially important, such as limiting only one patroller on the lift at a time, and

one back at base at all times.

Potential for serious injury is high due to the unforgiving combination of speed, trees, jumps, and rocks. However, modern bike design, full-face helmets, body armor, and experienced riders help to minimize the risks. We treat, on average, one or two injuries per day or about one in every 30 to 60 riders. That's more than 10 times winter injury rates of 1.5 per 1,000 but, of course, there are far more skier visits. These numbers are estimates, not official. Common injuries include abrasions and lacerations to the legs, arms, face, or back. Also rib, shoulder, concussion, or internal injury from falling over handlebars. Unlike skiing, most bike injuries are accompanied by ground-in dirt.

Summer mountain biking trails are open, snow permitting, along with the ski trails in the winter. This really excites adventurous tree-seeking skiers and snowboarders, but maybe not so much the patrollers who have to sweep. Did I mention mountain boarding? Imagine an off-road snowboard with oversize trucks and wheels like a skateboard. Yeah, we do that too. Just a few of us for now, but hey, it could be the next big thing.

Bike patrol wouldn't work without the excellent cooperation we share with the hill department and management. We have a great bunch of dedicated people that manage lift operations, bike loading/unloading, trail building, and trail maintenance. They even fabricated a rescue trailer for the ATV and wheels for our litter. There is no way our bike patrol would be as great an experience as it is, or even exist, if it wasn't for all the teamwork, individual efforts, mutual respect, and professionalism. Thanks to all you Greek Peak bike patrollers for what you do.

Come visit us at Greek Peak; we'll be enjoying the slopes and trails all year!



WNY Cycling Team

by Dan Meess, WNY RD

The WNY Region had 19 riders on our cycling team in the annual Ride for Roswell among a total of 7,740 riders and 2,000 volunteers. \$5.3 million was raised for Buffalo's Roswell Park Cancer Institute. The 11 riding routes ranged from three miles to 102 miles.

Our team raised \$14,396 in donations and we were the 54th highest team out of 727 teams in terms of fundraising. Gary Morog of the Holimont Ski Patrol was our team captain and organizer.

The photo of the team after the ride shows patrollers wearing a special WNY Ski Patrol jersey designed for the ride by patroller Jackie Tedesco. The group of four took the 46-mile route into Canada and back, including a ride along Niagara Falls.



Left to right: Roy Kemlsey, Denice Kaus, Deb Meess, Jack Gerber



VOLUNTEERS at Syracuse Road Race

by Jeff Paston, CNY Awards Advisor

Six members of the Song Mountain Ski Patrol (CNY Region) helped with medical support for more than 2,000 runners participating in a race that raises money for research and care of pediatric cancer patients. The race, named after a child who died of cancer years ago, Paige's Butterfly Run, was held in downtown Syracuse, New York, on June 2, 2018. The annual 5K run has raised more than \$3 million over the past 22 years for the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse.

Song Mountain patrollers (listed with the picture) assisted Upstate Medical University Hospital doctors and a crew from American Medical Response ambulance service in responding to runners in medical distress during and immediately after the race. In addition, patroller Dennis Hughes drove his truck as the official lead vehicle ahead of racers.

Photos courtesy of Dennis Hughes



Song Mt. patrollers taking part (l to r): Dennis Hughes, Ken Steiger, Tony Martin, Happy McClurg, Annie Smith, Vin Maresco, and Arin Chackravaty flank Dr. Kaushi Nanavati from Upstate Medical University Hospital at the 5K run on June 2nd.



Patroller Dennis Hughes' truck in position to lead racers through Syracuse city streets. Note his NSP license plate, "Sk1CNY."



Nordic/Backcountry Program

by Phillip Galka, Coordinator

The NSP Nordic Program is now the NSP Nordic/Backcountry Program. This better defines the areas of operation that the program has been engaged in, often leaving rescuers to ask “Can You Overnight?”

Nordic and Backcountry rescue involves complex problems that are best described by the acronym “LAST.”

“L”—Locate. How are you going to find the patient who may be lost in an area of several square miles?

“A”—Access. How can your team access the patient in a frozen swamp, rock ledge, or other difficult situation?

“S”—Stabilize. How can your team stabilize the patient and how long will the rescue take?

“T”—Transport. How will the team transport the patient to the next EMS interface?

As you plan your on-the-hill refreshers for this year ask yourself if you have a plan and the resources for an out-of-bounds rescue. A rescue that may take your team into the backcountry, where they may have to ask themselves, “Can You Overnight?” Congratulations to the NSP National Office and the National Nordic Director for making this update to the program.

A Look Back at This Season

- *Nordic Patrol Development* Eastern Division Nordic staff is actively working on Nordic patrol expansion. We have worked, in collaboration with the Cross Country Ski Area Association, to identify new patrol opportunities. We are pleased with these efforts. New Nordic patrols are starting up all over the division. If you have a cross-country or backcountry area that could benefit from having a Nordic/Backcountry program in your region please reach out to your region's Nordic Program Coordinator.
- *Nordicfest is a big success!* This weekend-long training opportunity was hosted by the Allegheny Nordic/Backcountry Patrol. Thank you to our hosting patrol. Nordic/Backcountry patrollers engaged in outdoor skiing and rescue skills sessions. The sessions included classic and skate cross-country ski instruction utilizing the PSIA and NSP standards of ski training. OEC extended-care sessions demonstrated techniques for managing environmental problems such as hypothermia, frostbite, and dehydration, and backcountry rescue techniques.



- *Nordic Senior* The Division Nordic Senior Evaluation was held at Highland Forest, New York. Highland Forest is a great Nordic facility and the Highland Forest Nordic Patrol did a great job hosting the event. This division-operated program guarantees Nordic senior training opportunities to patrols with limited resources. On behalf of the division, I would like to thank the Highland Forest Cross Country Ski Area and the Highland Forest Nordic Patrol for all the support we received.
- *Nordic Master* Nordic Master candidates continued to work hard to complete the certification process. Candidates from the WNY, WMASS, and NJ regions are in various stages of completion.
- *Nordic Instructors* Nordic instructors are now being certified at the NSP and PSIA levels. This has helped strengthen the Eastern Division Nordic/Backcountry Instructor Program.
- *Upcoming Events* Next season's schedule is being drafted as you read this. Based on this season's requests we are planning on offering an Eastern Division Nordic Basic course. We are also looking into offering a new Backcountry course in the upcoming schedule.
- *AMN Refresher—Save the Date* The event is scheduled for the weekend of September 15, 2018, at Highland Forest, New York. More details to come. Watch the division website calendar for this and other future program event dates.



AVLANCHE

by Chuck Boyd, Coordinator

As the season wound down and work ramped up, I was still looking for places to go skiing. The Pacific Northwest still held a bunch of snow, so I headed to Mt. Rainer in July. South of the equator also looked good for July and August. I'm thinking of Chile at the end of August. Historically they always have a blizzard around Labor Day weekend. I hope you all dream about skiing as much as I do.

This year's Avalanche Scholarship Award goes to Robert "Bob" Vocke from Whitetail Patrol in the EPA Region. Bob is a level 2 avalanche instructor and regularly teaches avalanche courses at Roundtop and Blue Mountain. A key member of our L2 avalanche instructor team, he always helps out at our level 2 avalanche courses. Bob has a way of making science fun and when he does his set at the start of his lectures, he has the whole class laughing. Bob will be attending the "ISSW" (International Snow Science Workshop) where he will be listening to other PhDs present their latest findings in snow science and avalanche mitigation. I can't wait to hear his stories at next season's avalanche courses.

Our next con-ed event will be the AMN (Avalanche, MTR, & Nordic) event in September at Highland Forest in the CNY Region. We are trying to move this event around the division so that we can make it easier for instructors to get the con-ed and keep their instructor status current per the national requirements. At the event, the Avalanche Program will be presenting two avalanche course senior electives that can be taught in non-avalanche terrain. We will also have a beacon training session and a terrain assessment session to help improve our instructors. This event is free of charge. We will be camping, but bunk cabins usually are available, we will provide the food for breakfast and lunch, and we'll do some sort of potluck buffet around the campfire for dinner. Look for more information on the Eastern Division website for exact details and registration information.

The avalanche program is again going through some changes. Avalanche education in the United States has decided to follow the rest of the world and divide our programs into two separate tracks. One track is Recreational, which is what we teach and includes Avalanche Awareness, Level 1, Avalanche Rescue, and Level 2 avalanche courses. The other track is the Pro Track including Avalanche Awareness, Level 1, Avalanche Rescue, Pro

1, Pro 2, and Pro SAR. This track is taught by six different avalanche education providers monitored by the American Avalanche Association.

Keeping up with these changes, this past February Dave "Zeek" Childs, Eric Zaharee, and I attended the Pro 1 NAS course at Arapaho Basin, CO. This was a very intense experience for the three of us. It started back in November, three months before the course began, with pre-course work and exams. Plus the rescue, which involved skiing into a 50m x 50m area, getting your beacon out and going into search mode, locating the buried beacon, getting out of your skis, removing your pack, assembling your probe and shovel, getting a strike, and digging up the buried pack which was 1m deep. Once the first pack was on the surface, you needed to use the suppression mode on your beacon to suppress the signal, then head off to find the second beacon. Once you pinpointed the second beacon, got a probe spike, and dug up the second pack the exercise was over. You had seven minutes to complete the search in order to get a passing grade. Being at 12,000' we all felt exhausted when the day was done. This was only day one. In addition to the rescue, digging pits, and documenting the data in a field book during the day, at night we went online to snowpilot.org and entered the data. Seeing a perfect profile show up on the screen was rewarding. But one of the activities that I enjoyed the most was using topo maps in the classroom and determining avalanche paths, their runout and angles, and the alpha angle for the safe zone. Then heading out in the field to verify your measurements and dropping in off the cornice on Montezuma's Bowl, skiing to the locations you chose on the map, and seeing if you were right. We all had a great time and made many new friends on our way to becoming better avalanche instructors.

We will be scheduling a Level 2 avalanche course again at Whiteface Mountain, New York, in March of 2019, but there are several patrollers who are interested in traveling out west to complete the Level 2 course. If you are interested in this, email me over the summer and I will try to get this organized. Both the Rocky Mountain Division and the Intermountain Division have expressed interest in hosting an interdivisional Level 2 avalanche course.

Hope you have a great summer.

OET Training Tools, Patroller Schools and Instructor Updates.

by Jim O'Connor, Supervisor

Have you seen the OET webpage on the Eastern Division (<https://www.nspeast.org/oet>) website? I am not talking about all the course documents, forms, and instructor development material. I am talking about the Snow Pro Tips on Eastern DivTV! The videos contain demonstrations and tips for all patrollers. The seven short clips describe and show patroller skills and sled handling. They each start with bullet points using fundamental snow sports industry terminology that describe the skill. Good watching on a hot summer evening. Thank you Killington for hosting Jon Wilson and some of the Certified OET Instructor Staff. Check it out at: <http://bit.ly/snoprotips>

This 2018-2019 season Eastern Division is debuting a new Ski Patrol Education website. We will see an improvement in the way we process and report instructor credentials and our work with PSIA-AASI will continue.

The OET program has been chosen to be the first program where patrollers looking for division-sponsored events/courses will find them available on a new website known as "PatrollerSchool.ORG." Our goal is to simplify registration for OET's weekend-long patroller school events by giving attendees a centrally located website that

guides them through the course selection process and directs them to the national website for registration.




Patroller School events for OET are typically two days of fun, where members come together from all over the division for learning, coaching, and an evening of socializing, bonded by their love for skiing and snowboarding. A typical weekend includes one day of snow sports enhancement on the equipment you patrol on and one day of toboggan handling skills enhancement.

When the Patroller School website opens this autumn, NSP members will be able to browse the selection of available courses and venues. The OET Program is committed to running events spread across the entire division. The goal is to reach as many ski patrollers as possible and offer an easy way to select skill enhancement courses. You'll hear about it at your fall refreshers!

This summer the Eastern Division OET Program records are moving to the cloud so that RAs and staff members can access instructor records anytime. The instructor database will even be accessible while riding a chairlift. RAs and their designated instructor trainers will have access to the records and will be able to update changes as they complete instructor refresher courses. Many features have been built into this new reporting system that utilizes software provided by Smartsheets, Inc. Every entry is logged and time stamped, there is proof of submission by email, and the OET staff is notified when changes appear in the database. We will be offering online seminars for the RAs and ITs beginning in early October. The system will provide greater submission uniformity for quicker staff verification and allow more streamlined reporting of instructor status to national.

NSP's closest snow sports industry partner is the Professional Ski Instructors Association-American Association of Snowboard Instructors (PSIA-AASI). Three years ago they reset their teaching curriculum by simplifying it down to a foundation of "Five Fundamentals." Eastern Division embraced the "Fundamentals" and every season has worked to develop better ways to bring this curriculum to OET instructors. You may have noticed more PSIA and AASI technical staff members working in the OET courses to help us develop better teaching methods and improve our members' skills. We have established friendships, camaraderie, and a closer working relationship and the results are visible division-wide. Look for the close association of NSP and PSIA-AASI to continue here in the east.

NSP Eastern Division

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Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET)

1/10/2018

The Ski & Toboggan (S&T) Program, now known as Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET). Provides active NSP members with on snow training for skiing, riding, telemark and toboggan handling skills.

Senior Alpine Patrollers interested in becoming candidates in the Senior OET program begin by completing an Eastern Division Senior Candidate Application (download application) along with their Patrol Director who verifies that the applicant has sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to participate in senior level training.

Throughout the season the Senior OET candidate's progress is assessed and specific input regarding improvement is provided by OET Trainer/Evaluators (T/E's) so that the candidate can qualify to take the Senior OET Final Evaluation at the end of the season.

Snow Pro Tips

The OET Division Staff has produced a handfull of videos to give you tips on how to better your snowplow, transitions, toboggan handling and more.

Check them out on Eastern DivTV, the YouTube channel of the Eastern Division.

OET Documents and Forms

- Senior Candidate Application (updated 02/16) - [click here](#)
- OET Instructor Application (updated 02/16) - [click here](#)
- OET TE Guidelines (updated 10/17) - [click here](#)
- OET Instructor Progression (updated 10/17) - [click here](#)
- OET TE Clinic Evaluation (updated 09/16 - v1) - [click here](#)
- OET TE Clinic Evaluation Guidelines (updated 12/16 - v1) - [click here](#)
- OET Toboggan Instructor Refresher Course (updated 12/16 - v1) - [click here](#)
- OET Toboggan Trainer Workshop (updated 01/18) - [click here](#)
- OET Senior Exam Quality Assurance Example (updated 10/18 - v1) - [click here](#)
- OET Senior Quality Assurance Report Form - [click here](#)
- OET Snowsport Trainer Workshop Skiing Content Example (updated 01/18) - [click here](#)
- OET Snow Pro Tips for Toboggan Skills (updated 01/18) - [click here](#)

OET Staff Documents and Forms

- OET Staff Members (updated 10/17) - [click here](#)
- OET Division Staff Duties (updated 10/16 - v1) - [click here](#)
- OET Quality Assurance (QA) Guidelines (updated 2/16) - v1 - [click here](#)
- OET Steering Committee Members (updated 01/16) - [click here](#)
- OET Regional Advisors list (updated 10/17) - [click here](#)
- OET Regional Advisor Duties (updated 10/16 - v1) - [click here](#)

Jim O'Connor
OET Supervisor
(508) 847-5952
jojmcfcomcast.net

Snow Pro Tips: Snowplow Groomed...

MTR

by Steve Devine, Coordinator

What a fantastic season we had! The highlight at the end of the season was certainly the YAP event, where MTR instructors and assistants had the fun of watching dozens of enthusiastic Young Adult Patrollers navigate through the snow at night, run downhill as fast as possible using ropes for safety, conduct a full low-angle rescue, and (my favorite) make fire (lots of fire) without matches or lighters.

Have you taken MTR 1 lately? Those of you who have already know that it's a very different experience than it was a decade ago. Thanks to all the patrollers and instructors who successfully implemented the current program which features more pre-study at home to allow for more field time during the course. Maximizing field time allows more emphasis on hands-on skills including low-angle rescue, navigation, and search and rescue. Some recent courses were taught primarily from the field with a minimum of traditional classroom time. That translates into more FUN. Go check it out.

All patrollers are encouraged to look at the *MTR Instructors Manual*. It is available for download on the NSP website and is updated on a regular basis.

When you search on the NSP website for an MTR course it's best to put the word "East" in the division field and the word "mountain" in the course name contains field. You will see all registered MTR Program core courses listed in the report. If you want to have an MTR course in your region, please contact your Region MTR Program Coordinator. We will do our best to get a course going nearby.

Every patroller is invited to the Avalanche, Mountaineering and Nordic (AMN) Conference that will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2018, at Highland Forest County Park in Fabius, New York. The theme this year is "Backcountry Rescue." Very appropriate based on recent developments in NSP and real examples of excellence in backcountry rescue that occurred this past year. Those traveling long distances are encouraged to arrive on Friday evening. On Sunday, September 16 we will offer an MTR Enhancement Clinic. Camping is available for free. Please check back to the MTR Program webpage on the division website for more information.

Here's wishing you a sunny and safe summer.

NSP Hall of FAME

Once again the Eastern Division leads the way. Even more of our members have been honored and joined others in the NSP Hall of Fame. The announcements were made at this year's Spring Officers Meeting in Albany. Most of the recipients were there to accept this momentous award in person to a room full of cheers and applause. Their full biographies are available at <https://www.nspeat.org/hall-of-fame.html>. Please use this link and see how much these patrollers have contributed to NSP on every possible level.



John E.P. Morgan



Frey Aarnio



Bob Bluff



Ron Clark



Ed Hirshman



Scott Mundrick



Bela Musits

Memorial Scholarship Fund

by Harriet Frawley, Advisor



I was very happy to join John Kane at the Eastern Division Awards Banquet to announce the renaming of the Memorial Scholarship in honor of my friend and mentor, David J. Nelson Sr. Dave's family was in attendance and received a plaque to mark the occasion. Therefore, it was with great pleasure that I announced this year's recipients of the 2018 David J. Nelson Sr. Memorial Scholarships.

This year, six \$600 scholarships were awarded. In addition to becoming patrollers and excelling academically, each recipient has pursued interests in sports, the arts, and community service. They are poised to do great things. Highlights of their scholarship applications follow:

Carter Allen Boger, *Seven Springs Ski Patrol/Western Appalachian*

- High school senior just graduated from Franklin Regional Senior High School.
- Lacrosse player since the third grade, a varsity team captain.
- Member of Helping Homeward Heroes Club; which raises money for the "It's About the Warrior Foundation."
- Volunteered as a guide with the Wounded Warrior Patrol at Seven Springs; which raises funds to provide ski vacations to veterans and their families.
- Started an underwater robotics build competition called Seaperch; where teams were tasked with building underwater ROV (remote operated vehicles) to maneuver an obstacle course and manipulate blocks.
- Plans to study Chemistry or Biochemistry on a Pre-Med track, with a possible minor in Bioethics.

Andrew J. DelGiorno, *Bromley Mountain Ski Patrol/Southern Vermont*

- High School senior graduated from Berlin High School.
- 3rd generation patroller was featured with his father and grandfather in a Bromley "Sun Mountain Story" video.
- On his school's Varsity Swimming and Diving Teams.
- Member of Berlin High School's "Upbeat Peer Leadership Program" which provides opportunities for community involvement and service, has been elected to its Senior Board.
- Contributed to writing and directing the first production of "Unified Theatre" for peers with special education needs.
- Former baseball player, now assistant coach for a

Challenger baseball team for students, aged 6-21, with special needs.

- Plans to attend Keene State College majoring in Chemistry and Secondary Education plans to become a Chemistry teacher.

Andrew Thomas Lally, *Mohawk Mountain/Connecticut*

- High school senior at Newtown High School in Sandy Hook, CT.
- 2nd generation patroller placed 1st in OEC at the 2018 YAP event.
- Awarded a Blue Merit Star in 2017.
- Has been a member of the Newtown High School swim, diving, and volleyball teams.
- Took culinary courses during all four years of high school and volunteers preparing food for sports events and catered school programs.
- Officer of the "St. Rose Squire Circle," the largest teen group of the Knights of Columbus in the US.
- His application essay started with the simple sentence "I ski." because he is also an avid water skier.
- Volunteers for LOF Adaptive Skiers, assisting with water skiing and wakeboarding instruction of disabled individuals.
- Intends to major in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering in college.

Laurel Grace Omasta, *Wachusett Mountain/EMARI*

- High school senior at Pentucket Regional High School.
- 1st place in OEC at last year's YAP seminar, and placed 2nd overall in 2018.
- Member of the Pentucket Regional Equestrian Club;
- Rides and retrains "problem" horses, and has competed in the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association for five years, also volunteering to keep score and mentoring youth competitors.
- Volunteers with "Cross State Trail Riders" and the "Essex County Trails Association," providing trail construction/restoration, GPS mapping and marking of equestrian trail routes, she is also on their Safety Committee.
- Currently dual enrolled at Salem State University, has already earned 22 college credits.
- Will attend the University of Vermont, majoring in Biology and hopes to be an ER physician.

Katherine T. Ryan, *Mount Southington/Connecticut*

- High school senior at Nathan Hale-Ray High School.
- 2nd generation patroller, placed 1st in Assessment, 2nd in OEC, and 5th overall at this year's YAP event.
- Has completed the requirements to become both Senior Alpine Patroller and an OEC Instructor.
- 1st chair french horn player with UCONN's high school honor band.

Cont'd on pg 13

- Competitive Sailor with the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association.
- Placed third in the New England Regional Championship as a rower, and will be a member of Syracuse University's Rowing Team.
- Is currently ranked 1st in her high school class, and has received countless academic subject awards.
- Will attend Syracuse University, double majoring in Biology and Ethics on a Pre-Med track.

Michaela P. Ryan, Stratton Ski Patrol/Southern Vermont

- High school senior at Manhasset High School.
- Has studied Spanish throughout High School and was able to put her language skills to use on the hill, translating for a spinal injury patient.
- On the Varsity Crew Team and was named a

Scholar-Athlete of the New York State Scholastic Rowing Association.

- Recipient of the Girl Scouts' Bronze and Silver Awards, and is currently working towards her Gold Award (equivalent to Eagle Scout).
- Member of Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad and Huntington Community First Aid Squad, working as a first responder and dispatcher.
- Interested in healthcare legislation as a result of participating in a patient's rights mock trial during her EMT course.
- Co-founder/co-president of the American Red Cross Club at Manhasset H.S.
- Started a small business, Vital Training, LLC, a company which provides CPR and First Aid instruction, to help save for college.
- Will attend Northeastern University to study Nursing.

Applications for the 2019 Scholarships will be accepted from 01/1/19-03/31/19.



by Frey Aarnio, RD SVT

The Young Adult Program (YAP) is a stellar example of major proportions. There were 47 young adults in attendance, but they were supported by parents, chaperones, patients, station managers, moulage teams; OEC instructors, trainers, and evaluators; MTR instructors; and OET instructors, trainers, and evaluators. Just in this one event, the selfless devotion to achieve program success can only be described as epic. Approximately 88 adults contributed their time, talent, and shared life skills for our future leaders.

This is not to mention the outstanding hospitality of the Holiday Valley Resort in the WNY Region, and the many local patrollers and operations personnel that helped make this event a success. The number of man-hours is difficult to estimate over the four full days of activity when some events ended at 10 PM. However, it is safe to say over 2000 man-hours were contributed to make this an outstanding program. This number doesn't even include the hours spent on planning, preparation, and travel. The real total is surely much higher.

In the SVT Region this year, we had a resurgence in our Senior Program which was largely due to the outstanding efforts of our new OEC STC and OET Advisors. Our six successful OEC candidates were supported by patients, bystanders, moulage experts, advocates, instructors, instructor trainers, evaluators, and QA personnel. Their efforts during the four training clinics and the final evaluation totaled approximately 1400 man-hours, not counting planning, preparation, and individual travel time. The Senior OET Challenge event was attended by 13 candidates with six evaluators, one TE trainee, and one QA person. Again, about 70 man-hours were expended in support of our OET Senior program.

While I can only speak for our own region, I think it is safe to say that all of the regions in the Eastern Division have similar support groups. Just imagine the staggering number of volunteer hours that this would represent if we added them up for the entire division?

We cannot and should not take anything for granted. While many may view this as the norm (and it may well be) there is nothing normal about it. This level of effort is an astounding phenomenon and must be recognized for what it is and what it represents. These patrollers, their families, and their friends are indeed our "Unsung Heroes. My hat is off to all.



Speak Like A Teenager

by Craig Larson, YAP Coordinator

What a season; a season of ups and downs, a season of warm and cold, a season of rain until March when the Lion showed up. The strange and unpredictable weather of this past season did not stop the Young Adult Program.

The language of teenagers is constantly evolving. Teenagers are using technology and social media more than ever. "Ninety-four percent of American teenagers, age 13-17, use social media with 76% of teenagers visiting social media sites more than five times daily" (apnorc.org, January, 2018). This is the way they communicate; a text, a snapchat, a post, a tweet, or a quick status selfie. In order to stay relevant and keep important program information visible our methods of communication have shifted. A program presence on social media is only a part of effective communication. In order to meet the needs of the modern day patroller and ski resorts, information must be within a few computer clicks away. Information on our division and region websites must be up-to-date and accurate.

Each of the following regions held an event designed to meet the needs of their region's youngest patrollers: NH, NVT, SVT, EMARI, ENY, SNY, and WAPP. Several of the above events were overnight events. These types of events are vital to the success of the program and keeping a teenager's interest. Traveling to these events, meeting young adults at their home mountain, seeing their experiences first hand, and challenging them with ski terrain and OEC problems, at their level, greatly increases their desire to join the larger NSP community and participate in the Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar.

Traveling to such events is costly and time-consuming but rewarding. The reward may not be in the "training" or the "lessons on the day." It may seem small but it is natural and unforced. It is at that moment a Young Adult Patroller realizes how far you traveled; the moment one realizes this travel is for them and their patrol efforts. The picture is bigger. Yes, they are learning patroller skills, mountain protocols, and industry-related things. These things are important but the picture is bigger. Life skills. Young adults across the division are being taught lessons; life lessons! Lessons that they will use and remember for years to come. Thirteen of the fifteen regions have a Young Adult Regional Coordinator in place.

The Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar was held at Holiday Valley, Ellicottville, New York. Holiday Valley

rolled out the red carpet with significant snow and perfect weather for the 47 young adults who attended. Young adults from the following regions attended this event; CT, EPA, EMARI, GV, NVT, NH, NJ, SNY, SVT, WMA, WNY, and WAPP. Snow sports companies from around the country donated swag to this event to be handed out at registration, during the event, and at the closing banquet. Xevo Optics has continued to partner with the Young Adult Program, offering all products at 50% off with the coupon code "edyap." Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Seminar photos can be found on Flickr at Eastern Division Young Adult Program.

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

OEC SKILLS

1. Andrew Lally – Mowhawk Mountain
2. Kate Ryan – Mount Southington
3. Benjamin Williams – Belleayre Mountain

SKI/RIDE SKILLS

1. Ayryn Southworth – Smugglers' Notch Resort
2. Torin Welch – Bristol Mountain
3. Brandin Harvey – Wachusett Mountain

TOBOGGAN SKILLS

1. Brandin Harvey – Wachusett Mountain
2. Torin Welch – Bristol Mountain
3. Jeremiah Tickner – Pat's Peak

OVERALL

1. Brandin Harvey – Wachusett Mountain
2. Laurel Omasta – Wachusett Mountain
3. Benjamin Williams – Belleayre Mountain

BEST ASSESSMENT

Kate Ryan – Mount Southington

HANS HYSON AWARD

Brandin Harvey – Wachusett Mountain

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

If you want to speak and feel like a teenager check out our social media pages!
Like us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter – Eastern Division YAP





AWARDS

2017-18 EASTERN DIVISION OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Alpine Patrol (Large)	Bristol Mountain	GVR
Alpine Patrol (Small)	Smugglers' Notch	NVT
Alpine Patroller	Ron Ellison	CT
Administrator	Dan Pascucci	ME
Alumni	Nick Schiavetti	GVR
Instructor	MaryLyn Boberg	WNY
Nordic Patroller	Mary MacQueen	WNY
Nordic Patrol	Alleghany Nordic	WAR
OEC Instructor	Joshua Tamulen	WNY
Paid Patroller	Dennis Zercher	EPA
Patroller	John Senick	EPA
Patrol Representative	Michael Burk	WAPP
Young Adult Patroller	Peyton Meissner	CT

William J. Gross First Aid Award

Peter Bayer	CT
Chris Haywod	ME
Denise Holmes	CT

Jerry Sherman Division Director Award

Joe Kulina	PRO/SVT
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Donna McGraw Patrollers for Patrollers Award

Dick Woolf	SVT
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Significant Monkey "990" Award

John Laitala	EMARI
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501(c)3 Award

Sarah Keating	EPA
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National Appointment

Michael Wangler	12018	GV
Steve Shelley	12020	GV
Richard Stearns	12022	GV
Deb Brown	12036	NH
Mark Kendrick	12064	EPA
Robert Wohlschlegel	12066	EPA

Leadership Commendation

Appointment

Brenton Watts	8523	EPA
Mike Adams	8528	CNY

Distinguished Service Award

Anne Boise	GV
Bill Boulter	CNY
Steve Buzzard	EPA
MaryJo DeBolt	GV
Ron Ellison	CT
Ron Fenner	CT
Susan Haefner	GV
David Harig	WNY
Bela Musits	ENY
Orest Ohar	NH
Peter Parker, Jr.	GV
Jeff Paston	CNY
John Stinsmen	EPA
Darryl Trafford	ME

Meritorious Service Award

Tim Appleton	CT
Richard Bensel	EPA
Megan Eckhart	EPA
Ron Helm	EPA
Paula Knight	CT
Inese Jardine	EPA
Tim Kelly	EPA
Jon Longley	EMARI
Andrew Miller	EPA
Howard Rosenthal	EPA
Paul Spear	EPA
Brenton Watts	EPA
Jeff Welch	GV

Gold Merit Star

Rick Knight	CT
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Yellow Merit Star

Kimberly Baker	NH
Elizabeth Bolton	NH
Cindy Hoalcraft	CNY
Deb Foss	EMARI
Gary Gossel	WNY
Joseph MacQueen	WNY
Lee Murphy	NH
Dan Pascucci	ME
Chip Taylor	EPA
Fred Tim	EPA
Steve Sobolewski	EPA
William Zink	EPA

Purple Merit Star

Greg Bruhin	CT
Tim Eygabroad	GV
Anthony Ferrucci	WNY
Geoff Goodson	CT
Kevin Mansfield	EPA

Sam Nelson	CT
Dennis Penny	EPA
Howard Rosenthal	EPA

Blue Merit Star

Christina Burkert	CT
John Fitzpatrick	WNY
Harriet Frawley	NJ
Frank Frohnapple	WNY
Gary Gossel	WNY
Jeffrey Haines	NJ
Lawrence 'Ken' Ketchum	NJ
Joe Kloc	WNY
Marshall (Chip) Morris	CT
John Parshley	CT
Tony Philpin	CT

Patroller Cross

Norman Bird	CT
Rich O'Connor	CT
Todd Rogers	GV
Fred Shelley	GV

Patriot Star

Brian Bet	EPA
Shane Betts	EPA
James Creighton	NH
Brandon Ghidiu	EPA
Jerome Koerner	EPA
Herb Kushner	NJ
David Martel	CNY
Jerry McGraw	ENY
Seth Stucker	CNY
Diane Ullmer	NJ

Patroller Achievement Award

Tom Campbell	CNY
Kurt Johnston	ME
Ken Koehlert	NH
Mike Kurgan	CNY
Ann Migliaccio	WMASS
Richard Pietrafesa	CNY
James Shaw	CNY

70-Year National Service Award

Jack Vining	CT
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50-Year National Lifetime Service Award

Lawrence Close	CNY
Dave Carlton	CT
Bruce Federko	CNY
Fred Ferguson	CNY
(posthumous)	
Herb Kushner	NJ
Jeff Paston	CNY
Diane Smith	WNY

Eligibility for PATRIOT STAR Recognition Expanded

by Jeff Paston, Awards Committee

When the Eastern Division's Patriot Star Award came into existence in 2008, it was intended to recognize current NSP members who were deployed to a combat zone while serving as members of the U.S. Armed Forces. While that noble effort yielded many honorees, it became apparent that some military vets could not reveal where their service to the nation had taken them.

Fast forward to this year's Spring Officers Meeting in Albany, New York, on April 28. There has been a move to recognize all U.S. veterans as a way of thanking them for their service. So, a unanimous vote of the Division Awards Committee removed the combat zone restrictions. Under the new rules, a Patriot Star can be awarded to any current NSP member who is also currently an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces for at least *three* years; or a current member of the U.S. Armed Forces Reserves or National Guard for at least *three* years; or who had been honorably discharged after serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The armed forces include the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard.

The Patriot Star was created by New Jersey Region staffers Dave Nelson Sr. and Sue-Ellen Helmacy, former Division Director Rick Hamlin, and former Division and National Awards Advisor Bill Boulter.

The Division Awards Committee was most concerned with whether the change would stray from the intentions of the Patriot Star's creators. Sue-Ellen Helmacy is still New Jersey Region Awards Advisor and a member of the Division Committee and said she endorsed expanding the scope of the Patriot Star.

Dave Nelson Sr., himself an Army veteran, died while on patrol duty on February 8, 2018. The Division Awards Committee was informed Dave had given his endorsement in discussions before his untimely death.

The new Division Awards Coordinator, Eva Kunkel, said she is comfortable with expanding the Patriot Star knowing that its principal creators were on board. The matter was presented to the division meeting for a vote and was accepted.

Kunkel said a new nomination form will be created and available for use shortly. The new form will reflect the change allowing NSP patrollers who are, or were, in the United States Armed Forces to be considered for this recognition.

Remembrance of Lost Patrollers

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

CT

Tom Flynn
Allen Gittleman
Brian Harmon

CNY

Tom Armstrong
Terry Avery
Fred Fergerson

EMARI

Ronald McDonald

ENY

Jim Hoyt, Sr.
Donald Page

EPA

John Andrews
George Hannon
Lauren Hartman
George Helwig

Paul Horvath

Chuck Lippincott
Joe Sullivan
Chuck Uliana

GV

Micah Eldridge
Tom Erbland
Carolyn Humphries
Dave Lenhard
Vince Patane
Werner Schmidtman
Harry Stoneham

NJ

Debbie Cowell
John Gibbons
David Nelson, Sr.
Bruce Ribaud
Dick Witt

NH

Michael Burns
Peter Johnson
John Knieriem
Martha Larson
Murray Smith

NVT

Monk Bancroft
Paul Boivin

SVT

Leif Aarnio
Nancy Tobin

WAPP

John Fisher

WMASS

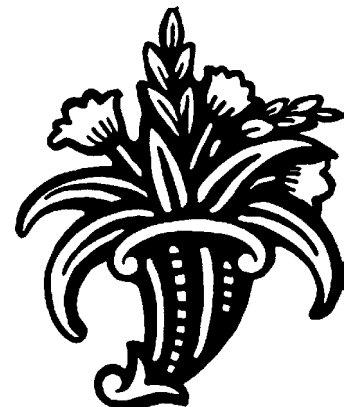
Stephen Frye

WNY

Bill Burrell
Donald Gowin
Richard Grainger
Jim Guy
Jane Hansen
Robert Dewey Hanson
Mary Kerlavage

Kenneth Knapp

Sy Kolassa
Sue Weaver Loucks
Stephen A. Manley
Brian Mead
W. Jay Milligan, Sr.
Bert Probst
George Redder
Deborah Tillou
Charles Welton
Rita Wolf
John T. Wozer



In Memoriam

DAVID J. NELSON, SR.



It is with the heaviest of hearts that we share the passing of David J. Nelson Sr. on February 8, 2018. He was enjoying one of his passions, patrolling, when he passed at his home mountain, the Northern Winter Activity Center in New Jersey.

In David's 39 years of patrolling, he wore numerous hats at various levels. At the division level, he was the Memorial Scholarship Fund Coordinator for many years and a co-founder of the Eastern Division

Patriot Star. At the region level, David served as Region Director, an OEC Patroller and Senior Instructor, an OEC IT, an OET Instructor, Awards Coordinator, and Parliamentarian. David also served as Patrol Director at Craig-

meur Mountain, and more recently at Hidden Valley, now NWAC. At the patrol level, he served as Mountain Leader and as a Lift Evac Instructor.

To acknowledge some of these accomplishments, Dave was awarded National Appointment #6578, two Yellow Merit Star Awards, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Distinguished Service Award. He was also invited into the Eastern Division Dinosaurs.

Outside of patrol, David had worked as a chemist, served in the Army as an infantryman, was an Old Guard Association member, and past president of that organization.

David leaves behind his wife, Joyce; two sons, David, also a patroller, and Jared, along with two granddaughters.

As people have said, when in a room with David, he always made you feel as if you were the most important person there. Let us keep him as an important angel on our shoulders continuing to guide us through our patrol careers.

JAMES E. HOYT, SR.



James E. Hoyt Sr., age 80, of Saranac Lake, New York, died of natural causes Thursday, February 22, 2018 while on sweep at Whiteface Mountain in Wilmington.

Born in Saranac Lake, New York on May 09, 1937, he was the son of Aaron and Pearl (Warner) Hoyt. Jim married his first wife Barbara Jette in 1955 and they had four sons. She predeceased him in 1993. He later remarried Anna Kucharska on December 31, 1996

at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake.

Jim grew up in Saranac Lake where he attended and graduated from Saranac Lake High School. He worked as a young boy on the family farm, Hemlock Hill Potato Farm, and was very active in the rodeo circuit as a teenager. Jim was well known for his stock car racing and started the Saranac Lake Speedway with his father, brother Allen, and his brother-in-law Ronnie Hesseltine.

Jim was an original member of the Whiteface Mountain Ski Patrol, joining on January 12, 1958 and serving for the past 60 years. He was a key member of the Whiteface Patrol during the 1980 Winter Olympics. He was stationed on a variety of downhill courses due to his experience and expertise.

Since 1996 Jim was a full-time (paid) patroller. During his 38 years as a volunteer he patrolled over 30 days a year. As a paid patroller he patrolled over 80 days a year. Over his 60 years of service he patrolled approximately 2,800 days. It didn't matter if it was raining; if it was 20 degrees below zero; or if the ski conditions were marginal; Jim Hoyt was there doing his duty.

In 2002, he was awarded a Purple Merit Star for pulling an injured adult out of burning building in Saranac Lake. In 2008, he was awarded a Blue Merit Star for assisting a lifesaving event at Whiteface Mountain.

One of the oldest patrollers in the United States, Hoyt's High, a trail at Whiteface Mountain, is named after him. Jim's wife, Anna is also a Whiteface patroller. Two of his sons are patrol directors; Robert (Bob) at Mammoth Mountain, California, and James (Jim) at Whiteface.

He is survived by his wife Anna, of Saranac Lake; four sons Allen (Mary Beth) Hoyt of Saranac Lake, Robert Hoyt of Mammoth, California; Michael (Mary) Hoyt of Lake Placid, and James Hoyt of Jay; one sister, Carol Hesseltine of Saranac Lake; seven grandchildren, Erica Hoyt (Pete Casselman), Greg Hoyt, Megan Bagg, Robert Bagg, Andrea Farrell, Hanna Bodkin, and Brittney Perrott; six great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one brother, Allen Hoyt.

The Patrollers of Whiteface wish Jim Hoyt Sr. Godspeed on his final sweep. You will not be forgotten.

In Memoriam



JOHN THOMAS "TOM" GYGER III

Tom Gyger, of South Bridgton, Maine, passed away suddenly at the age of 70 on July 4, 2018. Tom was born April 12, 1948, in Portland, Maine, the son of John T. Gyger Jr. and Esther (Blanchard) Gyger.

His lifelong passion for alpine skiing began at a very young age when his mother introduced him to the sport at nearby Pleasant Mountain. In 1967, he became a member of the National Ski

Patrol, while patrolling at the Pat's Peak Ski Area in Henniker, New Hampshire. With his return to Bridgton, Tom became one of the driving forces behind the extremely successful volunteer ski patrol program at Pleasant Mountain/Shawnee Peak.

During his tenure, he volunteered thousands of hours in the Maine Region and Eastern Division as an Outdoor Emergency Care instructor and instructor trainer, Instructor Development instructor and instructor trainer, Maine Regional Medical Advisor, Eastern Division Junior Program Advisor, and Senior Program Director. He was awarded National Appointment #5922 in 1981, a Distinguished Service Award in 2010, and in 2014 he was inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame in recognition of his countless contributions to the sport of alpine skiing within the state.

Tom attended the Bridgton public schools, graduated from Hebron Academy in 1967, and earned his Bachelor's in Education degree in 1971 at New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire. Subsequently, Tom attended the University of New Hampshire completing his Master's degree in Occupational Education in 1974.

Growing up, Tom spent summers at his family camp on Sebago Lake. Where he became proficient with many different forms of water-skiing, slalom, ski-jumping, and barefooting. Trick skiing was one of his most enjoyable forms of skiing, because it allowed him to entertain others. Many of his extended family were avid skiers as well, and belonged to the Sokokis Water Ski Club. Later, Tom and his family returned to summer in Sebago, where he shared his passion for the sport with his family.

While at New England College, Tom met June Blake, his wife of 46 years, whom he married in 1972. Together, they made their home in Antrim, New Hampshire, where he began a teaching career at the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield. Tom was a creative, hands-on teacher, establishing a maple syrup operation for his physically-challenged students which

continues to operate. Each summer the family (which now included son David) would return to Five Fields Farm in South Bridgton (where Tom grew up) to help cultivate crops of apples with his father. In 1979, Tom and June moved their family (which now included son Daniel) back to South Bridgton permanently, where he began his life's career as an orchardist.

Tom was active within the community. He served as a board member to Good Neighbors Social Services Program, was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees of the Bridgton Public Library, and most recently served as a member of the Bridgton Historical Society. Tom was a long-standing member of the Maine Pomological Society, and served on the Governor's Council to the Agricultural Council of Maine.

In the mid 1980s, Tom and June assumed the day-to-day operations of Five Fields Farm and continued with its management until his passing. In the early 1990s, Tom expanded the orchard's offerings to include a retail farm stand and pick-your-own operation. To this day, the farm provides local businesses with fruit. Each fall Tom would look forward to sharing his knowledge of apples, or any other topic that a customer would be willing to lend an ear to as they entered the stand. In 2000 Tom and June expanded the scope of Five Fields Farm to include a cross-country ski touring center. In 2002, Five Fields Farm was selected as a 'Forever Farm' by the Land for Maine's Future.

Tom is survived by his wife, June, of South Bridgton; sons, David (and Kim Bownes) of Campton, N.H., and Daniel (and his wife Jessica) of Bridgton; mother, Esther, of Auburn; sisters, Sally Biggar (and her husband Eric) of Port Townsend, Washington, and Martha Littlefield of Poland along with her two children, John Culpepper of Portland and Sally Littlefield of Poland. Tom was predeceased by his father John T. Gyger Jr., and brother-in-law, Dana Littlefield.

A celebration of Tom's life was held at Shawnee Peak on Saturday, July 21. Donations in Tom's memory may be made to the Bridgton Public Library, One Church Street, Bridgton, ME 04009; Harvest Hills Animal Shelter, 1389 Bridgton Road, Fryeburg, ME 04037; or to an organization of one's choosing. Words of condolence and tribute may be shared with Tom's family at www.chandlerfunerals.com.

Wayne Rivet
Editor, *Bridgton News*

