

# TRAIL SWEEP

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Official Publication of the Eastern Division of the National Ski Patrol

## Division Director's REPORT

by Cal Goldsmith, Division Director



We are moving into our second season of the Covid era. Most people feel much better prepared to deal with it this year than we did last year. We are also (mostly) vaccinated as a patroller population, and hopefully “boosted” as well. Even so, Covid cases are rising in our Eastern Division states, and we must remain on guard. If you don’t have your vaccine yet, consider that the longer you remain unvaccinated, the greater the odds that you get the disease and/or help prolong the pandemic. Please think globally and get vaccinated.

The Eastern Division is well-positioned for the start of this season. Most refreshers have been completed in-person and mostly in compliance with the division Covid protocols. Thank you for that. We needed to get hands-on again, and to stay safe as well.

Closer to home, there has been an important change of the guard in the leadership of Eastern Division. Our long-time treasurer, Hugh Blocker, stepped down effective December 1, 2021. Hugh started as treasurer under John Shipman’s reign and has devoted countless hours to the division over the years. He has extended the position in many untraditional ways, including negotiating with hotels for accommodations and helping coordinate events for the division. He organized our books and made sure everyone got paid promptly when putting in for expense reimbursements. But mostly, he did the demanding treasurer’s job for many years sacrificing his time and that of some employees for the benefit of the Eastern Division. We applaud his dedication to the Eastern Division and thank him for his many years of service.

The division will initiate a search committee for a new treasurer shortly. In the meantime, Dallas Coffman, our assistant treasurer has been appointed interim treasurer by the ED BOD until such time as a permanent treasurer is chosen. It should be noted that Dallas is also a leading candidate for the permanent job as well. We are all indebted to Dallas for stepping up when needed.

### IN THIS ISSUE

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Some exciting things to report. You all know the 10th Mountain Division was originated by our founder, Charles Minot Dole, known as Minnie Dole, ever since being labeled that by a drill sergeant in the army. The 10th Mountain Division headquarters is in Watertown, NY, way up next to the Canadian border at Fort Drum. Recently, through the efforts of Scott Launt, from the Central NY Region, we have made some close connections with the 10th in the persons of active-duty Master Sergeant Daniel Fields and retired colonel Sepp Scanlin, Museum Director at the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum. Scott and I, along with Division Historian John Beach, National Historian Rick Hamlin, Whiteface patroller Matt Levenson, and others were invited to the Fort Drum ceremonies and field day held this past fall.

It was a great honor, and we made great connections. We are planning more events with the 10th this spring. You will hear more about this as we get closer. But the bottom line is, we have secured a connection with the 10th Mountain Division that will be lasting and beneficial to all the NSP and hopefully to the 10th as well. We’re only just getting started. Kudos to Scott for his great work as our ambassador.

### DEI Committee—The Equity Project Update

The national-level Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI Committee) has selected a vendor as a consultant to the NSP on this important issue. They selected The Equity Project to help NSP understand what our needs are and how we can address them in the area of DEI. Their first steps were to conduct a national survey, which you have seen, as well as focus groups for our leadership teams. Having completed that recently, they are now preparing a report to the committee, which will help us understand where we go from here. More to come shortly.

Just a quick note on the subject of DEI. I’ve heard people say we don’t need this, that there is no discrimination at their patrol, that we shouldn’t spend members’ money on it. However,

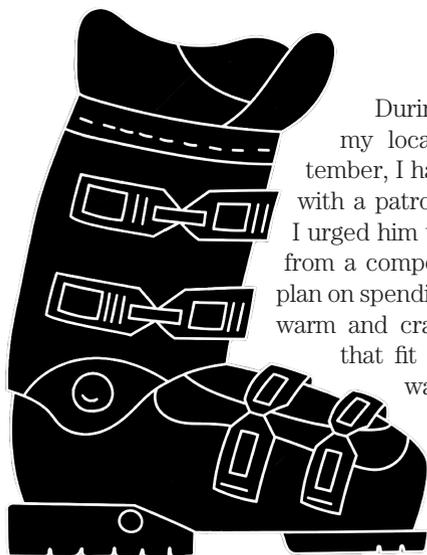
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we all need to face the fact that we all have biases, sometimes subtle, sometimes not so subtle. Often, we may be unaware of the effect of what we say, or our conscious and unconscious actions, have on others. The level of these biases effects our organization globally and determines how the rest of the world perceives the NSP, how it sees us as either welcoming or elitist or as open or closed to new members and populations. It is a reality that our sponsors, our partners, the ski industry in general, and the general population are becoming finely tuned to how we treat people.

Our members, our new candidates, and the skiing public are now attuned to this new awareness of bias and unfair and/or improper treatment of people we affect. We cannot ignore this reality just because an individual patrol might have minority members, or treat their female members equally, as most patrols do. While laudable, this needs to become the reality across our entire organization. That is what our DEI program is intended to achieve according to my understanding. Please give DEI the respect and attention it deserves and requires.

## New Ski Boots? Take Your Time by Jon Wilson, Certified Supervisor

[ ...plan on spending good money to be warm and cramp-free. ]



During a recent visit to my local ski swap in September, I had a chance to speak with a patroller about ski boots. I urged him to buy new ski boots from a competent boot fitter and plan on spending good money to be warm and cramp-free. Buy boots that fit right, flex right, are warm, and comfortable with minimal internal movement, and your ski season will be stellar.

### Top Ski Boot Buying Steps.

1. Competent boot fitter – get “measured.” Everyone is unique. It is more than the size or length of your foot. It also incorporates high or low foot volume, the size of your heel and how it fits in the heel pocket of the ski boot, the size of your arch and the distance from your heel to the top of your foot. The size of your calf is also influential in matching the right shell to your foot. All these components influence how a boot fitter finds the right shell and liner to fit your foot.
2. Ski boots flex. Are you racing on the Olympic team? Are you a sponsored competitor in some sort of extreme ski competition? You do not need the newest, stiffest, race boot on the market. Look for a front en-

try, four buckle, 90-120 flex boot that you can flex. This will help your skiing.

3. Orthotics and boot warming insoles are worth it. Make no mistake, cold and cramped feet have ruined more training days and performance than anything else.
  4. Better ski boots have a cant. Purchase a ski boot that provides this feature so that you are standing in your ski stance with the soles of the boots flat and not angled.
  5. What are you doing in the boots, skiing groomers or off-piste? Are you hiking and need a walk feature? Is weight important? Be honest about your goals and share them with the boot fitter.
  6. What you see on the internet and in magazine ads may not be right for your feet. Be open-minded and trust the boot fitter’s recommendations. There is no harm in trying on a pair of boots.
  7. Spend the day trying on ski boots. Most boot fitters will be very comfortable with you spending upwards of three to four hours with them modifying and custom tweaking the boots to fit your feet. Return visits to a boot fitter are very acceptable; if they are not, you have the wrong boot fitter. Do not think you will have immediate perfection; it does not work that way.
  8. Learn to buckle your boots in the same manner every time. Smooth thin socks, wrinkle free – seriously – you will be able to feel a wrinkle. Foot in boot, top compression strap on, center the tongue to the correct position, buckle top two buckles, stand up and put the foot/heel into the heel pocket. Snugly tighten the top two buckles and the compression strap. Buckle the remaining toe buckles and stand, put weight on each foot, and turn on the boot heaters. Nothing like warm boots in the morning. Victory! It’s going to be a great day.
- Start your season off right and buy new batteries for your boot heaters. Inspect the replaceable soles, air your boots with cedar bags, and spray a coat of silicone on the shell. Find the battery recharging cord, and the ski boot dryer. Now you are now ready for ski season.

# Hall of Fame

Congratulations to **Mary Murrett** our newest Eastern Division HOF inductee!



Kissing Bridge Ski Patrol held a banquet where they announced and honored one of their own, Mary Murrett, as the newest inductee into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame.

Mary began patrolling in 1973 at Bluemont Ski Patrol. From the start, Mary became involved with first aid training. She started as an instructor and continued through the OEC hierarchy until she was appointed as the National OEC Program Director in 1996. Throughout her OEC career, she was involved with the second thru fourth editions of the OEC manuals and ancillary materials.

For Mary to have been called to serve in leadership roles that contributed to the success of many patrollers across NSP, in multiple programs over two and a half decades, speaks volumes. It is not how many 'titles' with which one has been labeled, it is the impact of one's leadership that continues to make NSP the great organization it is today.

Congratulations to Mary for being such an integral part of that success!

## Historian News by John Beach

As the Eastern Division Historian, I'm always looking for ways to preserve our history.

Recently, I attended the New Jersey Region Awards Banquet. As a part of their night's activities, they introduced a patroller-made movie as a tribute to seasoned patrollers. After viewing this approximately 15-minute informative video, it hit me: what a fun and fact-filled way to preserve a region's history.

Sharing this idea with some friends from a cross section of patrols in my Eastern New York Region, they agreed it was a brilliant idea.

I encourage you to go to the New Jersey Region webpage: [www.nspnj.org](http://www.nspnj.org) (or to the NJR link on the division website) to view "NSP 50 Years." Cynthia Griffenkrantz, our new Division Archivist, and Michael DeFilippis were the masterminds and producers of this fine quality video.

I'm asking the 15 regions over the next two years to do the same. I would like to see the 50-year service folks featured, but at least 40-year patrollers. As with the New Jersey Region, please feature both large and small alpine and Nordic patrols.

I would hope each region's historian would take the lead to oversee the project. It always amazes me how many talented people are embedded in each patrol. This would give someone with video and voice-over talents the opportunity to step up and shine in their region.

Remember that for any patroller who receives a 50-year service plaque and pin from national, Eastern Division also has a unique 50-year pin. And, National 50-year affiliation signs are still available.

Any questions, contact me at [jebeach@nycap.r.com](mailto:jebeach@nycap.r.com)



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Cal Goldsmith/Eastern Division Director

Laura Tucker/Editor

Jim Freeman & Barb DeMarco/Production

Editorial Office

23 Narragansett Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01201

p: 860-908-7052 / e: [muthrtuckr@yahoo.com](mailto:muthrtuckr@yahoo.com)

# REMINDERS from the Eastern Division Safety Team

by Melinda Mingus, MD, Supervisor

1. RESERVE your ED NSP Logo tent at [bit.ly/NSPtent](https://bit.ly/NSPtent). This tent is sure to enhance your safety messaging at your ski area!
2. FOLLOW us on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/nspeasternsafetyteam> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nspeastdivsafety>
3. WATCH our new video at <https://www.nspeast.org/stress-management-resources.html>
4. READ patroller stories about stress injury at <https://www.nspeast.org/patroller-stories.html>

## 2021-2022 Season CERTIFIED PLANNING

by Jon Wilson, Supervisor

The certified team has several events for this upcoming season:

January 21 .....	Certified Pretest .....	Sugarloaf, ME
January 22-23.....	Certified Patroller School .....	Sugarloaf, ME
February 4.....	Certified Pretest .....	Killington, VT
February 5-6.....	Certified Patroller School .....	Killington, VT
March 17-21 .....	Certified Annual Exam.....	Sugarloaf, ME

Every accord will be offered to provide a reasonable, safe environment considering the COVID-19 pandemic. While the arguments can be made that the pandemic is trending down, we will remain vigilant to changing infection rates and communicate any cancellations. Please follow venue, local, state, and federal guidelines about COVID-19 gatherings.

The candidate attendance at our summer boot camps was up this past summer. If applications are made in earnest, we may have upwards of 15 active candidates. If you have any intention, or are just wondering about the certified program, please contact your regional certified advisor. Now is the time to get involved! Speaking personally, this program is not for everyone, but completing it with many like-minded patrollers is immensely helpful. The certified team has a deep reservoir of skilled members happy to get involved in helping you assess your skill sets and improve upon them.

Candidates will have priority at the pretests and patroller schools. I cannot stress this enough; advance registration is necessary. That will allow us to have the right team in place to take your goals to the next level. Please plan ahead!

All registrations will take place via [www.patrollerschool.org](http://www.patrollerschool.org). This format is exceptional in that it is all located in one place with follow-up liability forms and directions in one venue. Please check for scheduling changes via [www.NSPEast.org](http://www.NSPEast.org). The calendar should be everyone's focal point.

Thank you for your attention and see you on the slopes.

## Awards Information

by Sue-Ellen Helmacy, Supervisor

Congratulations to our new Assistant Awards Advisor, Lainie McDonnell! Lainie McDonnell is both an alpine and Nordic patroller. Her alpine home is Campgaw Mountain, and her Nordic home is High Point Nordic Patrol, both in the New Jersey Region. After joining in 1997, Lainie became an instructor in both OEC and OET. She also was a ski instructor at Mad River Glen in Northern Vermont.

Lainie has already made a mark by designing a Patroller's Profile sheet which, if a patroller completes, will be a record of a patroller's activities at all levels of NSP and be most helpful in completing award nominations.

I am grateful for her help. Lainie's contact info is on the division website under awards if you can use assistance.

### Eastern Division Awards Policies and Procedure

At the Division's Fall Officers' meeting on September 12, the Division Awards Policies and Procedures were adopted. A sincere thanks to the Region Directors for their support in ratifying this.

One of the more import sections is the design and purpose of Region Review Boards:

- requires an odd number of members, not counting the Review Board Chair,
- each member being from a different patrol in the region,
- the Region Awards Advisor may request them to be on the board,
- their acceptance must be approved by the RD,
- they may serve for two successive years, but then must take at least one year off before they can be placed back on this board,
- board members are not to be PDs, RDs, Section Chiefs, or Region Award Advisors.

Should you have any questions, please refer to the document or call Lainie or me.



### New Eastern Division Award Perpetual Outstanding Patrol Plaques

With two of the three OS perpetual patrol plaques filled, new ones were needed. To keep the plaques similar yet still a bit unique, Eastern New York patroller from Gore Mountain, Greg Sella, designed the wooden board backing donating the materials, time, and services. They have a live edge and eight coats of polyurethane coating. The plaque mounting was done by Vince Olmstead, a friend of Division Historian John Beach. Hopefully they will make it to numerous patrols within the next few years; just make sure to get your outstanding nominations to me by March 1 for judging.

# Certified Boot Camps Considering COVID-19 Challenges

by Jon Wilson, Supervisor

The summer of 2021 headed back to normalcy with the scheduling of Certified Boot Camps at Hunt Hollow and HurriKane Cove.

Hunt Hollow hosted a one-day Enhanced Patroller School on August 1. There were multiple rotations through OEC, low angle rescue, and lift evacuation. With an added spritzer of torrential rain, the afternoon concluded with a multiple casualty accident. The leadership team planned and implemented COVID-19 protocols for the event.

The planning stages started two months in advance, with weekly conference calls to ensure a relatively safe environment, and planning for specific tasks in each discipline. The 35 that attended were all smiling, tired, and happy to have taken part in the one-day event.

HurriKane Cove, specifically John and Deb Kane, hosted the annual Certified Boot Camp, August 27-29. The overall attendance was smaller versus prior years due COVID-19 concerns. The 55 people in attendance were exposed to low angle rescue, lift evacuation, avalanche, OEC, and outdoor risk management, with OEC multiple casualty incidents on

Sunday. Similar advanced planning took place to institute a points system. Sunday afternoon was spent with candidates working on what they need in their quest for knowledge.

This was also the start of making plans to be more active during the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans were made for each venue. Food was the challenge at HurriKane Cove. The leadership team was able to have two dedicated cooks, dedicated servers, and outdoor seating for eating with a staggered chair set up. Masks were asked of all in an indoor and outdoor setting within six feet of each other.

COVID-19 brought a level of detail that we have not practiced in a while. It was great training for our upcoming respective refreshers and proof that we can operate in this environment with good planning and excellent execution.

A huge thank you to the leadership teams for planning and executing both Hunt Hollow's Enhanced Patroller School and HurriKane Cove's Certified Boot Camp. While a small paragraph on each event details the actions completed, it cannot begin to describe the thought, knowledge, skill, commitment, and camaraderie that was demonstrated by all in attendance.

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## OEC by Deb Foss, Supervisor

Wow! What a ride so far...and it looks like it's not over even a little yet. Yes, I'm talking about COVID. What is our normal now? Is there one? There is one thing I am sure of and that is we need to be out on the hill and we need to patrol. For many of us it is our happy place. It's where our "families" can come together to enjoy each other and friendly competition.

With that said, we need to turn our thoughts to training. That has not and never will go away. But what about training and COVID? Now, more than ever, we need to really look at how we train and what we can do to effectively train during this pandemic. We really need to understand our parameters and think outside the box.

We can and will continue to train. First and foremost, we need to follow federal, state, and local guidelines and pay attention to the Eastern Division COVID-19 Training Guidelines.

How about virtual training? It will work for some training but not all. The parameters I mentioned earlier are things like performing live skills in front of an instructor so that you can be properly evaluated. Let's take Senior OECMSP. The *Ski Patroller's Manual* states there must be a face-to-face meeting before clinics start. How about meeting via Zoom? All the paperwork can be sent out by email and then the STC can go over everything virtually.

Because of Zoom, some of the Assistant OEC Supervisors have been having monthly meetings with their ROAs and STCs. I love that idea! For the past couple of years, the East-

ern Division's Fall, Winter, and Spring Officer's meetings have been conducted via Zoom. Personally, I like the in-person meetings so I can see my friends from other regions but so much has been accomplished during these virtual meetings.

Getting back to the OECMSP program and virtual, this fall the OEC National Program Director held a virtual refresher to outline a method to start the recertification process for OEC T/Es by covering the knowledge-based objective portion of the training online. Parameters were established on how to accomplish the in-person skills portion of the refresher and then the execution was driven down to the division level. The important skills such as evaluation and documentation of the OECMSP card and performance at the senior level for the evaluators need to be done in person but can be repeated multiple times in different venues.

Apprehensive to do hands-on training? Last year was all online for OEC refreshers but not this year. Some suggestions? Wear your mask/PPE, stay socially distant until it is your turn, bring a family member as your "patient" for the training.

OUT OF THE BOX thinking will bring us closer to where we want to be when the new Learning Management System is fully available from national. Our Hybrid OEC Refreshers will be better than ever!

Training needs to be done, evaluations need to be completed, and we need to get back to establishing a new training baseline for the future.



by Matt Nebzydowski, Supervisor

Over the years members of the OET Steering Committee and Staff have had many spirited conversations and debates regarding the senior standards and scoring methodology. The heart of the discussion is always centered on making sure we provide senior candidates a fair evaluation with the most accurate feedback possible. Our team wants to ensure that successful candidates walk away knowing what they did well. Conversely, candidates that are unsuccessful deserve to have a clear picture of how they can improve.

During these campfire chats and chairlift rides a topic that often makes for great debate is trying to define exactly what each number on the “10-point” system represents on snow. It’s a fun topic in a large group of TEs and staff members. I’m being a little humorous but, for example, 1, 2, 3, and 4 aren’t used at all or simply equal a fail. So, 40% of the score system doesn’t really matter. A 5 represents a qualified “local patroller,” 6 equals senior, and 7 a TE. Now here’s where it gets to be fun. What exactly differentiates a 6 from a 7? How about an 8 from a 9? What subtle change in the movement pattern increased the score?

If you are an instructor, TE, or staff member, ask yourself if it is easy for you to consistently provide confident and clear feedback to differentiate between scores? How does someone score the elusive 10? Is it skill? Terrain? Can you score a 10 at a senior test? That is not to say our examiners don’t know what they are seeing, but the committee knows that we will get a wide variety of opinions. And that is the point. Our evaluations need to be fair, standards-based, and objective. Successful scoring means being able to articulate the score and relate the feedback to the standards, not just your gut feeling. Do the older versions of the senior standards make it clear? If over the years you have heard an answer to the questions above that went something like, “it’s a Senior Test they get a 6” or “that person is a TE, so they score a 7” or maybe “10 is certified, you need to go full send to score that high.” Then you know that the system had room to evolve.

### Evolution of the Standards and Scoring System

During the 21-22 season we will begin using the refined standards and new scoring language. The standards language has been in revision for a few seasons with the goal of providing the clearest description possible of our evaluation tasks. A more significant change will be the use of the updated scoring language. We are

moving to a system that is more objective and reflects the level to which a candidate performs related specifically to the senior or TE standard. Seniors and TEs now have a distinctly different standard written specifically to reflect the skills required at their respective levels.

### 21-22 Senior/TE Scoring Rubric Language

(Green Represents the Required Passing Scores at a Senior or TE Evaluation)

- NP Essential elements were not observed or not present
- BA Essential elements are beginning to appear
- NC Essential elements appear, but not with consistency
- FQ Essential elements appear frequently, at a satisfactory level
- CS Essential elements appear consistently above required level
- CT Essential elements appear continuously, at a superior level

### Training in 2021-2022

Those of us who have been examiners know how difficult it can be to provide an accurate score on the spot. To help us continually improve it is imperative that we take advantage of available OET instructor/TE/staff development. When we score at a senior evaluation, we are deciding whether someone who has put significant time and effort into training will go home believing they were treated fairly. It matters. We all know at least one patroller who had a bad exam experience and never went back to try again.

Conversely, we also know patrollers who remained persistent because of the encouragement and quality coaching they received, pass or fail. Over the past two seasons steering and staff have worked together to build a new OET Program Manual and Exam Handbook that details all aspects of our program and evaluations. As mentioned earlier we have refined our senior/TE standards and further anchored them in the “5 Fundamentals” and our toboggan skills.

We have added improved training resources for aspiring instructors and examiners including a video exemplar archive, on-demand video webinar training, and most recently developed a new weather-resistant “TE/Instructor Resource Card Deck” that we hope every instructor will have in their pocket by the end of the season. We believe the video resources are particularly useful because they allow participants to rewind and slow down the clips. Trainers can rewatch and listen to staff members and PSIA partners discuss the skier’s or rider’s performance while pointing out the finer points you can easily miss in a passing opportunity on the slopes. This year’s new video course is interactive and has our trainers enter their own feedback and scores. Each time an answer is entered a response developed by steering members is provided for reflection.

It is time to get excited! OET programs started back up in December with the annual staff meeting at Killington. At the division

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level we will have a full program of patroller schools and TE professional development clinics. Regions are being encouraged to host senior OET clinics, TTWs, and STWs in addition to the larger events. As we get back to normal, we all need to keep in mind that a season without training may have left us a little rusty. This year is the year to re-engage with our OET programs. If you are looking for more information all the resources and program registration information can be found at our OET training hub [www.patrollerschool.org](http://www.patrollerschool.org). New items

are being added every month and the "Training Resources" area will be functional during November.

One final note to mention is that Jim O'Connor, Eastern Division OET Supervisor has reached the end of his six-year term. Jim has served the division with distinction for many years and will continue as a member of staff and steering while enjoying some well-deserved time with family. OET Assistant Supervisor Matt Nebzydoski of Elk Mountain will move to supervisor January 1. Matt, Jim, and the entire steering team look forward to continuing to ensure that our Eastern Division program is among the best in NSP.



## Much Has Gone into Becoming and Staying a Patroller

*so Why Not* STAY CONNECTED by Allan Miller, Advisor

One of most frequently heard items from alums is they don't have any contact with their former patrol. There is a way to maintain the connection of the patrol and their alumni. There are also lots of potential benefits doing this. It takes the effort of both the retiring patroller and the patrol that they were part of.

Retiring patrollers should tell their patrol director and whoever handles the admin and mailing list of the patrol that you are retiring. Let them know how you would like to be involved with the patrol as an alum. Recently, national added a column in the alumni database to include the patrol they would like to remain connected to/just retired from. By maintaining this list, it will be easier to keep patrols and retired patrollers connected.

The patrol should establish a process for patrollers to retire. Do you provide some recognition for their years of service? Every patrol needs to do this based on the circumstances of the patrol, resources, management, etc. It may be different for each retiree, but a letter of thanks is the start and the minimum.

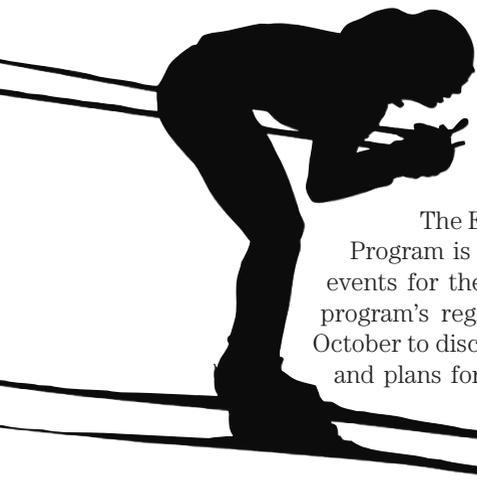
“  
...there is much  
value that  
alums can bring  
to the patrol.  
”

Considering the years of training that we go through to become and remain patrollers, there is much value that alums can bring to the patrol. Some of these items may require area management agreement and have an impact on area worker's compensation policies/premiums or that the alumni be part of the host group on the mountain.

- Help gather info and write up awards and applications as an aide to patrol and region awards advisors.
- Dispatch
- Supply officer
- Fund raising coordinator
- Recruiter
- Banquet organizer
- Refresher co-chair

- Maintain OEC instructor status and help with OEC training. Be victim/patient for OEC training or refreshers.
- If patrol has a computer-based accident reporting system, offer to input accident data into the system.
- Mentor new candidate patrollers/YAPs during their first year on the mountain.
- Represent your ski area and NSP at local/regional ski shows.
- Candidate/YAP coordinator
- Patrol Alumni Advisor
- Aid room (must maintain current certifications)
- Assist patrol by refreshing/repacking toboggans after use.
- If permitted by PD, return toboggans via snowmobile to the designated location on the mountain.
- If certified as a CPR/AED instructor, assist in the annual recertification of patrollers.

I am very interested to learn from you what your patrol does for their retiring patrollers. Contact me at [allanmiller48@gmail.com](mailto:allanmiller48@gmail.com). Have a great early winter and think snow!



# Eastern Division Women's Program Event Planning

by Kristen Russo, Supervisor

The Eastern Division Women's Program is planning a great slate of events for the 2021-2022 season! The program's region advisors met in late October to discuss the upcoming season and plans for women-focused events.

Whether you are a long-time patroller wanting to improve your skills, a candidate looking to learn new skills, or even an aspiring instructor all women patrollers are welcome to attend one of these upcoming programs.

## Events Around the Division

After a year hiatus, as with many programs, we are looking forward to hosting several events across the division this season. Plans are underway to have women-focused clinics in nine of the division's 15 regions ranging from Maine to Connecticut, New Hampshire to New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania to Genesee Valley and Western New York. Four of these events will be held at the division-sponsored patroller schools at: Elk Mountain, PA (EPA), Sugarloaf, ME (ME), Killington, VT (SVT), and Holiday Valley, NY (WNY). Additional stand-

alone region events will be held throughout the division focusing on skiing and riding skills and/or toboggan skills.

## How Can I Participate?

Have you ever participated in a Women's Program event? If not, this is the year! We invite you to join one of the many planned women's events in your region or throughout the division. All Women's Program events will be advertised on the Eastern Division Women's Program Facebook page, Eastern Division Calendar website, <https://www.nspeast.org/calendar.html>, the Patroller School website, [www.patrollerschool.org](http://www.patrollerschool.org), and region website calendars with information on how to register and attend. Make sure to check these sites often as event dates will be released over the next few months.

## Women's Program Scholarship

New this year, the Women's Program is offering a \$300 scholarship for two female patrollers to attend a division-sponsored patroller school or women's clinic of their choosing. Drawing from the Women's Program Mission, the scholarship is focused on inspiring more women patrollers to advance their skills and encourage and develop women leaders by attending one of these women-focused programs.

Scholarship applications and additional details are available. Contact Kristin Russo, Women's Program Supervisor at [kmarx06@hotmail.com](mailto:kmarx06@hotmail.com) for more information.

## How Do I Get Involved?

The Women's Program Region Advisors are always looking for assistance in hosting and putting together events. Whether you are an instructor who would like to get involved in teaching any of the disciplines, OET, OEC, MTR, Avalanche, Lift Evac, etc., or would like to just assist with the planning of events at your area or region, we encourage you to reach out to your Women's Program Region Advisor on how you can help:

Region	Region Advisor	Email Address
Connecticut	Cally Regan	<a href="mailto:cally@rpknight.com">cally@rpknight.com</a>
Maine	Heather Newman	<a href="mailto:we4skialot@gmail.com">we4skialot@gmail.com</a>
Western Massachusetts	Nicolette Enhorning-Picton	<a href="mailto:nicky_ep@yahoo.com">nicky_ep@yahoo.com</a>
EMARI	Missi Tamulen	<a href="mailto:mjttamulen@gmail.com">mjttamulen@gmail.com</a>
New Jersey	Ingrid Roe	<a href="mailto:ingridroe@yahoo.com">ingridroe@yahoo.com</a>
New Hampshire	Sue Kelly	<a href="mailto:suebee1216@gmail.com">suebee1216@gmail.com</a>
Western New York	Denice Kaus	<a href="mailto:neccee@netsync.net">neccee@netsync.net</a>
Southern New York	Cynthia Garvey	<a href="mailto:Cynthia.j.garvey@gmail.com">Cynthia.j.garvey@gmail.com</a>
Central New York	Colleen Kresge	<a href="mailto:kresgecol@aol.com">kresgecol@aol.com</a>
Eastern New York	Kiersten Kotronis	<a href="mailto:medic7404@gmail.com">medic7404@gmail.com</a>
Eastern Pennsylvania	Inese Jardine	<a href="mailto:inesej@comcast.net">inesej@comcast.net</a>
Western App	Kimberly Bellas	<a href="mailto:kabellas66@hotmail.com">kabellas66@hotmail.com</a>
Northern Vermont	Kaitlyn Fowle	<a href="mailto:kfowle@boltonvalley.com">kfowle@boltonvalley.com</a>
Southern Vermont	Rebecca Moran-Rubin	<a href="mailto:skichick20@gmail.com">skichick20@gmail.com</a>
Genesee Valley	Pam Welch	<a href="mailto:tjw3@ymail.com">tjw3@ymail.com</a>
Division Supervisor	Kristen Russo	<a href="mailto:kmarx06@hotmail.com">kmarx06@hotmail.com</a>

## Transitions

Finally, I would like to thank Jane Williams for all her years of service and dedication to the Eastern Division Women's Program. Jane has been involved with the Women's Program for many years and without her efforts here in the Eastern Division, the program wouldn't be what it is today. She has decided to transition from her role as Division Program Supervisor to focus on other patrol roles but will be serving in an emeritus and advisor role to both the Eastern Division and National Women's Programs. Thank you, Jane, for all you have done and I, along with the Program Region Advisors, hope to continue your legacy and momentum of the Women's Program.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the slopes this season and welcome those who want to get involved!



# AVALANCHE

by Chuck Boyd, Supervisor

The season has started. Early snow out west has people out riding and the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) publishing general snowpack conditions. Now is a good time to get out the equipment that you stored away at the end of last season and get it ready to use.

Put fresh batteries into your transceiver and go outside to practice with your partners. Bury your beacon under the fallen leaves, this is the easiest way to hide them without snow. Try to get your search times down and practice multi-burial scenarios. Dust equipment off and put a coat of fresh wax on your skis. Or go out and buy that new set of touring skis or split board that you have been dreaming about.

Make sure that your probe and shovel assemble easily and correctly. These tools wear out and do need to be replaced when frequently used. Check your pack and clothing for rips, tears, broken straps, or buckles. With the longer nights you have the time to get this done, even while watching TV. This is also the season for ski swaps and sales. Now is the chance to sell your old gear and pick up some new equipment.

The Avalanche, Mountain Travel & Rescue, Nordic Backcountry Con-ed (AMN) was a huge success! Titled 'A live and in person' it was great to see everyone again in person, share ideas, and make plans for this season's upcoming courses and training. A huge thanks to Shawnee Mountain and its patrol for sponsoring this event at their ski area in the Poconos.

We are planning to hold four L1 avalanche courses during the 2020 season. The dates for these courses are being finalized as I type so be sure to check for any updates on these events.

Whiteface Mtn, NY .....1/21-23..IOR Josh Worth, [joshlauraworth@gmail.com](mailto:joshlauraworth@gmail.com)  
Smugglers' Notch, VT ..2/4-6.....IOR David Childs, [thunderboltpatrol@gmail.com](mailto:thunderboltpatrol@gmail.com)  
Mount Washington.....3/11-13..IOR Eric Zaharee, [ericzaharee@comcast.net](mailto:ericzaharee@comcast.net)  
Whiteface Mtn, NY .....4/24-26

These courses will be all the modules needed to complete the L1 course and are the prerequisites to attend the L2 course. Check the [Eastern Division calendar page](#) and [patrollerschool.org](http://patrollerschool.org) for more information and pre-course work.

At the end of November I attended a face-to-face meeting in Denver with the National Avalanche Committee (NAC). This committee consists of all the division avalanche program supervisors plus the national advisor. The agenda for this meeting was to meet the new National Avalanche Program Director Patrick Stanton, from the Pacific Northwest Division, and discuss his plans for the program. Then the agenda covered topics ranging from curriculum, a new addition of our textbook, *Avalanche Rescue Fundamentals*, course pricing, American Avalanche Association (A3) guidelines, and creating an on-line course for our L1 Module 1 classroom material.

Did you sign-up for Powderfall yet? It is always a great time. I will be attending and teaching several avalanche sessions during the week. Come out to Breckenridge to enjoy the camaraderie and learn from fellow patrollers from around the country. Breckenridge has some great ski terrain. Besides avalanche sessions, we are planning some Nordic Master trainings and evaluations. The avalanche portion of the Nordic Master program consists of creating an avalanche rescue plan and responding to an avalanche rescue with multiple burials.

I'm looking forward to a great upcoming season with everyone meeting in person, and good snow conditions. My staff is excited to teach courses and ski at the course locations. Be sure to contact the IORs of each course for more details, or to answer any of your questions. See you on the snow. Be safe.

# 2021 AWARDS

## Eastern Division Outstanding Awards

Administrator	Michael Burk	WAPP
Alpine Patrol Small	NWAC	NJ
Alpine Patrol Large	Gore Mountain	ENY
Alpine Patroller	Deborah Satterlee	ENY
Alumni	Edmund Conaway	EPA
Instructor	Timothy Eygabroad	GVR
Nordic Patrol	High Point State Park	NJ
Nordic Patroller	Monica Lee Zablotny	WNY
OEC Instructor	Jeffrey Detwiler	EPA
Paid Patrol Director	Harriet Frawley	NJ
Paid Patroller	David Olsen	NJ
Patroller	Kathee Tyo	GVR
Volunteer Patrol Rep	Frey Aarnio	SVT
Young Adult Patroller	Torin Welch	GVR

## Donna McGraw Patroller for Patrollers Award

James O'Connor EMARI

## Jerry Sherman Outstanding Division Patroller Award

Paul Kelly NH

## 990

Nancy Mayberry EPA

## National Appointment

Mark Reinhard	12145	WNY
Tim Eygabroad	12215	GVR
Eric Washburn	12224	GVR
David Kelsch	12226	WNY
Peter Edelstein	12232	GVR
Jennifer Grant	12233	GVR
Betsy Landre	12236	GVR
John (Chip) Child	12248	ME

## Distinguished Service Award

John Bolanda	GVR
Greg Cox	GVR
Joe Hoff	GVR

## Meritorious Service Award

Stan Martin WNY

## Yellow Merit Star

Trish Beagle	WNY
Duncan Black	WNY
Bob Bresson	GVR
Thad Brown	WNY
Patrick Deedy	SVY
Jim Ditzel	GVR
Peter Falise	GVR
Tim Franz	GVR
Brian Goris	WNY
Sharon Hewson	WNY
Bruce Hogwarth	GVR
Al Hohl	WNY
Theodore Johnson	SVT
Steve LaDue	GVR
Kirby Landers	SVT
Michele McDonald	WNY
John Melville	GVR
Joe Menichino	GVR
Todd Rogers	GVR
Elaine Pratt	GVR
Justin Schwab	WNY
Steve Sebastian	SVT
Steve Sippel	GVR
Val Sorrells	GVR
Tom Wallin	GVR

## Purple Merit Star

Alan Billings WNY

## Purple Merit Star (cont'd)

Steve Duncan	GVR
Joe Probst	WNY
Ali Smith	GVR
Tom Wallin	GVR

## Blue Merit Star

James Armbruster	SVT
Robert Brown	SVT
Rob Finicle	WNY
Tait Germon	SVT
Ben Graham	WNY
Erik Leo	SVT
Natalie Manzi	SVT
Dominique Martello	GVR
Sabrina Shultz	SVT

## Patroller's Cross

Kevin Gross	NJ
Gabriel Levin	WMA
Mickey Mariash	WMA

## Patriot Star

Trevor McMinn	SVT
Roger Nutting	SVT
Guido Sebben	(posthumous)
Michael Simlovich	SVT

## National Certificate of Appreciation

Natalie Wallin GVR

## Patroller Achievement Award

Peter Alusitz WMA

## Angel Pin

Fran Ekstein	NJ
Lindsay McIntyre	SVT
Grace Ott	NJ
Kellie Sick	GVR
Paula Sippel	GVR

## 50-Year National Lifetime Service Award

Richard Andriole, Sr.	WMA
Roger Appleton	EPA
Stew Bartner	WMA
Ed Bednarsky	CNY
Richard Bell	EPA
Thomas Braunworth	NJ
Millis Brown	EMARI
Rochelle Cohen	SNY
Steve Cohen	SVT
Joseph Corrado	SNY
Roberta Fox	ENY
William Gessner, MD	SNY
John Gerty	CNY
Edward Higgins	NH

Richard Hoffman	ENY
James Hopkins	GVR
James Judski	CNY
Gail Kenney	ENY
Richard Kislawski	SVT
Ken Klonsky	SNY
Edward Kost	SVT
Lyle Lange	NJ
Anthony Mikulec	WNY
George Miller	ENY
Jim Mithoefer	SVT
David Monkelbaan	WNY
Daniel Mortensen	SNY
Thomas Murch	CNY
Francis Nash, Jr.	EMARI
George Nevulis	ENY

Beverly Philip	SVT
Jim Philip	SVT
John Riley	NH
Russ Scaramastra	EPA
Hildy Schoonmaker	SNY
Steve Schopfer	WAPP
Bruce Smith	CT
Toni Smith	SNY
Susan Stein, DO	ENY
Al Tatyrek (posthumous)	NJ
John Toth	WAPP
Peter Utrera	WMA
Howard Vipler	ENY
Rick Volinsky	EPA
Donald Weaver	WNY
Eileen Widger	SVT

## 50-Year Eastern Division Lifetime Service Award

Steve Cohen	SVT
Kevin Gross	NJ
James Hopkins	GVR
Richard Kislawski	SVT
Edward Kost	SVT
Jim Mithoefer	SVT
Jim Philip	SVT
Beverly Philip	SVT
Eileen Widger	SVT
Roger Appleton	EPA



# In Memoriam

## RICHARD BARRON 1948–2021



Dick Barron, a 50-year patroller and retired patrol director at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Western Appalachian Region, passed away at the age of 73 at his home on October 11, 2021.

Dick served in the US Army, 32nd Artillery, and was active duty in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. He served 13 months in Vietnam as a communications specialist with an artillery unit in Dau Tieng, about 10 miles from the Cambodian border. He was awarded

the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service.

Dick Barron got into the snow business when Pittsburgh-based Kaufmann's Department store at Seven Springs hired him to work part time in its ski shop. He had thought about a career in technology, but after graduation he soon found that the office environment was a bit too confining. He longed for open spaces.

He joined the Seven Springs Ski Patrol in 1970 and went on to become an OEC instructor, senior patroller, S&T TE, and received Certified #155 in 1981. He was the first certified patroller from what was then the Western Pennsylvania Region (now Western Appalachian) and mentored nearly every other certified candidate from the region since then. He also served on the Eastern Division and Certified Staff for several years.

He loved sharing his knowledge and passion for skiing and patrolling. His enthusiasm was infectious. His support, guidance, and encouragement were always welcomed.

When he became director of ski and snowboard operations at Seven

Springs, he oversaw the ski patrol, safety rangers, snowmakers, groomers, and lift attendants. He supported the Western Appalachian Region, hosting numerous training events, senior and OEC clinics and exams, patroller schools, and more for the region and the division.

Dick was also proud to be an active supporter of the Wounded Warrior Patrol organization. He was an initiator of the Wounded Warrior Patrol Program at Seven Springs, inviting veterans and their families to the resort for vacations.

Dick received nearly every NSP award available, including the Yellow Merit Star, Purple Merit Star, Patriot Star, National Appointment #5719 in 9180, and the Distinguished Service Award. In 2014, at the culmination of many years of service to Seven Springs and the National Ski Patrol, Dick was inducted into the Pennsylvania Winter Sports Hall of Fame.

Longtime friend and fellow patroller Imy Rosenblatt said, "We all were so proud when Dick was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. His achievements were as big as his heart and he leaves behind an incredible legacy. We came to affectionately call him Mr. B and everyone knew who we were talking about."

Everyone who met Dick became his friend, and he was a mentor to many. When he would walk around the resort or through the hotel and ski lodge, he would say hello to everyone he passed, calling them by name and asking what was happening in their lives, making everyone feel special. He would always stop and put wood on the fireplace in the hotel lobby to keep it burning for the guests - little things that made a difference.

Dick was always the eternal optimist. He always saw the good in people and things. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Foundation.

*Marty Silverman  
Former Region Director WAPP*

## BARRETT KANE



It is with deep sadness and heavy heart that Mountain Creek Ski Patrol of New Jersey announces the passing of our friend, mentor, and Senior Patrol Leader Barrett Kane. Barrett passed away unexpectedly on 9/12/21 at Morristown Memorial Hospital. He is survived by his loving girlfriend Nanette Snook-Gilmore, his mother and father, and two sisters. Barrett was 59 years old.

His passion for his job as a physical therapist for over 20 years was evident in all he brought to the patrol. In addition to loving skiing, he was an active scuba diver and PADI certified divemaster.

Barrett joined the patrol in January 2001. He took the Level 1 Avalanche Module in 2001, Instructor Development in 2002, became a Patrol Leader in 2006, and became an OEC Instructor in July 2011. Some years after that he became a Senior Patrol Leader.

Barrett taught OEC to our candidates for many years and many benefitted from his vast knowledge of anatomy and physiology. His expertise and style made his lectures interesting. His jokes would be referred to as "Barrett jokes." You could always count on Barrett to arrive with Entenmann's cakes and pastries on Sunday mornings. Preparations for Sunday's lunches were coordinated with Barrett and other patrollers and rangers as early as Friday to see who would bring in what for Sunday's feast.

We will all miss Barrett, his friendship, his dedication, and his contributions to the patrol.

*Rest in Peace Barrett  
Your Patrol Family*

## STEPHEN HAUSRATH 1954–2021



Dr. Stephen Guy Hausrath's spirit set sail August 1, 2021, on a heavenly voyage with the comfort of a gentle rain and a steady breeze off Lake Champlain. His death followed a year-long journey with cancer. This last year made him understand why dealing with cancer is often called a battle. During his 67 years, he enjoyed every possible activity that he could pack into his busy life and shared these joys and adventures with all around him.

Left to continue his passions are his immediate family, each of whom shares some of his interests and carries with them unique joys. Carla Hausrath, his wife of 27 years, first mate, dive buddy, and business partner will continue to work in the family business. Richard "Pete" Hausrath continues to share his brother's love of reading and spirited debate of current events. His children appreciated his passions, too. Katherine will carry on his profession as she attends medical school. Kenneth will carry on his love of science through his work in physics. Stephen embraces his adventurous spirit of water sports. Thomas enjoys his love of music and animals.

Guy was born February 22, 1954, in Amityville, New York, to Ralph and Mathilda Hausrath, both of whom preceded him in death. He attended Florida Institute of Technology, where he was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha chapter and graduated with a bachelor's in biology in 1977. He went on to attend the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, and graduated in 1986.

He completed two years of a general surgery residency, an internal medicine residency, and a fellowship in infectious disease. Remaining

at UTMB, Guy worked the next seven years in the infectious disease department, primarily with AIDS as part of the Young Investigators for the AIDS Clinical Trials Group, which ultimately developed a way for individuals with HIV infections to lead healthy and productive lives. This was one of his proudest professional contributions.

In 1999, he and his young family relocated to Plattsburgh. The area was a perfect location to raise a family and work in private medical practice while enjoying the recreation of sailing and skiing. In 2001, he opened his own office, Stephen G. Hausrath, M.D. Prior to his death, he re-organized the business and changed the name to North Wind Primary Care PLLC so his exceptional staff could continue to serve the primary care needs of the North Country after his passing. His business was also a source of much pride and enjoyment for him.

The community of the North Country is truly amazing. His family would like to thank the Plattsburgh Medical Community for their support, The Fitzpatrick Cancer staff and Hospice of the North Country for their care, and the staff and patients of Stephen G. Hausrath M.D. for their patience during this difficult last year.

Guy has been a board member and ski patroller at Beartown Ski Area for the last 20 years and enjoyed the fact that the area is all about the children; no one else gains from it, just the people that learn to ski there. Guy was also an OEC instructor and finished a class of now active patrollers just before his diagnosis. Beartown will not be the same without his guidance and assistance.

Those wishing to contribute a memorial in his honor are encouraged to mail their contributions to one of his favorite organizations, Beartown Ski Area, PO Box 2702, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Guy also was a supporter of live music in the area. Contributions to Plattsburgh Blues and Jazz can be sent to PB&J in care of Laura Carbone, 34 MacDonough Street, Plattsburgh NY 12901.

*George Miller  
Beartown Ski Patrol*

## ELLEN YOUNG RICH



Brantling Ski Patrol and NSP lost alumna Ellen Rich at age 95 on April 24, 2021. Ellen joined Brantling's volunteer patrol in the Genesee Valley Section of Western New York with her husband Harry in the winter of 1968. Her NSP career as an alpine patroller spanned 28 seasons, retiring in 1996.

Brantling Ski Slopes learn to ski, ski club, and student racing programs grew exponentially during the 1980s creating a demand for additional patrol

responders. Ellen's skiing ability, formal education in nursing, and occu-

pation as a Marion Central School district nurse made her a natural fit for her local patrol. She served as a first aid instructor in the annual patrol and Genesee Valley Region refreshers.

Outside of her patrol duties, Ellen and her husband, Harry, owned and operated Caldwell Place, a Century Farm on the ancestral homestead in Marion, NY. She also shared her enjoyment of skiing with her school's students by serving as a ski club advisor for the district.

Daughter Martha joined the Brantling patrol in 1975, making the entire branch of this Rich family tree active NSP members. Ellen is survived by daughter, Martha (Robert Curtis) Rich. Donations in Ellen's memory may be directed to the Marion Community Christmas Program, 5100 Owls Nest Road, Marion, NY 14505, or Brantling Ski Patrol, 4015 Fish Farm Road, Sodus, NY.

## GORDON BELL 1932–2021



Gordie Bell passed away on November 4, 2021. Gordie was many things to many people. He was a civil engineer, or, in his words, he was a bridge engineer. I suppose that is more critical of detail than the generalized road work he did as part of Pennsylvania DOT where he ended that career as Division Chief. He loved to sail small, wet boats and fishing.

As it relates to patrollers, he was always a ski patroller, and what a patroller he was. I think he started at the beginning of time itself because of the stories he told of the charter members of certified. His mentor was Jim Staeck. I never got to meet him but he talked about the challenges that Jim would lay down and the no-nonsense attitude Jim had. That mentorship and his other friends supported Gordie so well that he passed the entire certified test in one weekend on his first go around to achieving Certified Patroller #73. Passing certified in one weekend is extremely rare and no one else did it for the next 19 years.

On his way to certified he was an OET instructor, senior examiner, served on the Eastern Division Staff and was a Steering Committee member. He also instructed Red Cross First Aid and continued as an OEC instructor. He was for many years Section Chief of Southwestern Section while he was on Ski Roundtop Patrol where he started and ended his patrolling career. During his certified career he served as the Steering Chair (1977-78), OET Chair (1981-1985), Credentials Chair (1994-1999), Vice Chair (1985-87 and 1999-2000), and Chair (1987-1989). He was awarded Certified Lifetime #5 in 2000. He also started the Ski Windham Patroller School modeled off the Elk Patroller School started by our friend Paul Kozik, Certified #276. As his career neared its end, he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Ski Hall of Fame.

Gordie's involvement did not go unnoticed by the National Ski Patrol. He was awarded National Appointment #3940 in 1972, was recognized as the EPA Region and Eastern Division Outstanding Instructor in for the 1984-1985 season, received a Distinguished Service Award in 1997, a Meritorious Service Award in 2007, a Yellow Merit Star in 2002, and the Patroller's Cross in 2006.

To me Gordie was a mentor. There are many funny stories I have with countless hours in the car and rooming together at all kinds of NSP schools and events. He gently guided and broached a no-nonsense attitude when I was being petulant but most of all he stretched my thinking in many ways. An example of this is when he was nudging me to try for certified. I am a planner. Gordie calls me and says "Hey there is a pretest at Pico this weekend and I'm going. Do you want to come along?" So there we are heading into Rutland relatively late at night and I ask where we are staying. There was some mumbling but not a definitive answer as we swing into a motel. We go to the desk and Gordie asks if they have any room. I think wait; you don't have reservations. In. Rutland. During. The. High. Season. Of. Skiing? What the...! Nope we were just breezing in late on a Friday night. Don't worry, Gordie's luck paid off in that with the desk clerk's help we ended up at a 4-star cross-country skiing resort with our own cabin and so much better than the motel.

However, as good as that was there was never a trip made without the question of who is making reservations because on that trip, I saw in my mind's eye freezing in below 0 temperatures in a car with no sleeping bag and not prepared at all. That was Gordie. We had many conversations that effectively went "it's snowing let's stay" to which I would say "I have to be at work tomorrow at 5 AM and I can't play hooky and we have a 6-hour drive in good weather."

Gordie was a great friend and even when he had a complaint he was smiling. He taught and mentored many and will be missed greatly by all. He will always cast sunshine over his beloved Ski Roundtop and the NSP programs on which he had so much direct and indirect affect. He is missed.

*Bill Sachs, Certified #266  
Past Division Director*

