



Southern Cross

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Southern Cross is published three times a year—Fall, Mid-winter and Spring. Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the Spring issue is January 08, 2010.

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R. Morgan Armstrong,
Division Director

Report from the Division Director

There is a lot going on with the National Ski Patrol this fall. The NSP Board will elect four members. A new set of National Bylaws that has been in the works for about two years has been approved by the Board and will be presented to the membership for a vote. The Fifth Edition of the OEC Book is in final stages of preparation and a Publishing Company to print the new edition has been acquired. The NSP has put in place an electronic registration system that is expected to improve patroller registration, give us more and faster access to our records and allow changes and updates to be made faster and easier. The Patroller Education Conference (formerly known as the Powderfall Conference) held in Snowbird, Utah in April had the highest attendance of any such event in the history of the NSP. Keeping the old concept of great ski instruction and adding to it, patroller OEC and Toboggan challenge events, education seminars on patrol topics and the ability of attending members to see a NSP Board of Directors Meeting in session made it an all-around event of interest to anyone in the National Ski Patrol.

This past August 15 & 16, 2009 the Southern Division held the Southern Division Patroller Conference and in attendance were two, top officials of the National Ski Patrol. **Terry La Liberte**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Ski Patrol and **Robert B. "Bob" Scarlett**, Esquire, our National Legal Advisor. Terry gave us a thirty-minute course on the current issues and events taking place at the National level and Bob gave us two sessions on legal issues. I was very impressed when he told us how the National Ski Patrol was released from pending litigation over a matter and could have walked away from the court proceedings. Three patrollers were in jeopardy of being added and

rather than risk them having to face the litigation alone, the NSP went to their defense at risk to itself. The National Office is directing its attention on you, the patroller. I will try very hard to bring you source information at every Patroller Conference. Last year **Tim White**, Executive Director attended and this year the Chairman and Chief Legal Officer were present. These last two gentlemen brought this message to us in a loud and clear voice. The National Ski Patrol is back supporting you the patroller and is looking out for your interest. Ask those who attended for details because we are fortunate to have our National Board and Staff working for each and every patroller and they are willing to take their time to bring us the message by their conduct and their visit to our meeting.

I want to thank the Southern Division for supporting the Southern Division Board of Directors in their recent decision to raise our dues. I was pleasantly surprised when almost every letter I received in response to this decision was positive in tone and content. I appreciate your understanding in these difficult times and be assured we will protect both the division financially and try to make this division run as cost efficiently as we are able. Thank you for your support.

Patrollers are passionate about the National Ski Patrol. We often have a wide difference of opinion on how to implement that passion into a successful work product but we all our passionate and love the NSP or we would not be involved. Help the officers and staff of the division to make your job easier. Help out in Region and Division positions. Share good ideas and when a problem arises let the Line and Program Officers know how we can help. We all want to make things better and sharing is the way to accomplish our goal.

In closing, I am personally working on a project for the National Office and I need to know if you have a personal friend in the United States Congress (House or Senate). Please let me know if you do and I will contact you about how you can help.

Morgan Armstrong
Division Director

DUES INCREASE

After 21 years the Southern Division Board of Directors reluctantly raises dues by **\$5.00** per year. The Board meeting at the Patroller Conference on August 16, 2009, raised the dues from \$12.00 per year to the current rate of **\$17.00 per year**.

The last time the Southern Division raised dues for its members was for the 1987 – 1988 ski season according to Jim Underwood our Treasurer. Since that last dues increase the Southern Division saved money by switching from mailing the Southern Cross newsletter (\$11,000.00 per year) to e-mailing it to most members (\$1,000.00 per year for mailing at special request of individual members). The other savings method was many officers and program supervisors voluntarily paid for their own expenses without filing claims against the division budget. Over

the years, however, even these cost savings measures were not sufficient to keep the budget balanced.

While our proposed budgets have been deficit budgets for six or seven years, the above measures resulted with nearly balanced actual budgets. The times finally caught us and last year our budget was actually (not proposed) \$4,107.02 in the red. We made up the difference by drafting money from our reserve fund. This year our Treasurer predicted our actual budget deficit would increase to \$4,500.00. While our reserves are still healthy, the continued practice of drawing down our reserves will result in the division not being able to sustain its programs and eventually itself.

The Southern Division Board in an effort to protect members financially actually decreased dues several years ago by the amount that National Ski Patrol increased dues. Now, your Board of Directors is faced with program costs increasing, travel expenses increasing for program personnel and line officers, a new Outdoor Emergency Care book (the 5th edition) about to be released and patrollers asking for services not be reduced but be continued at the current rate to meet their needs. Our performance to our members, for the resorts and for the general public requires we keep our quality sound. The Board asks for your support.

The Southern Division does not take lightly the raising of dues at anytime and we have searched long and hard to find an alternative. The only viable solution at this time is an increase in dues. Other programs to increase income are going to be tried so your dues in the future will remain at the lowest rate possible. The Board voted to offer a credit card to members, our families and to the general public that is authorized by the National Ski Patrol. **The “Affinity Card”** is advertised on the Southern Division Website at www.SouthernNSP.org and for each person who applies and is accepted through our Website or on a special Southern Division Application Form, the credit card company donates \$50 to NSP and in turn NSP will pay the Southern Division a fee of \$10.00. There is no cost to members to sign up for the card; the card does not even have to be used for us to receive the finder’s fee. If used, the NSP will receive a percentage of all charges on the card and this will in turn save you on future dues to NSP.

Please sign up for this credit card. Invite family and friends to also sign up for this card. Information and applications may be acquired on our Southern Division Website. **Warning** – use of any application other than our Southern Division Application will not result in our division in sharing in the finder’s fee. The application on the NSP Website will not result in our getting a finder’s fee.

All of the officers and members of the Board of Directors of the Southern Division want you to know we are trying our best to preserve the division at the lowest cost possible to you. We also have a conflicting interest in keeping the National Ski Patrol and the Southern Division at the highest possible level of quality to you the member, to its member resorts and finally to the general public. We ask for your support and understanding at a time of financial hardship for all of us.

R. Morgan Armstrong
Southern Division Director

Thank You to the Meeting Committee

A special thanks goes to the Southern Division Meeting Committee for all of their efforts at the last Ski Patroller Conference on August 15 & 16, 2009 at Kingsport, Tennessee. A lot of work is required to book the venue, set up the rooms, acquire all of the good food and beverage for the Hospitality Room, set it up, keep it clean and take it down. We provide all of the work in order to save expense to the members for this meeting and this committee saves you a great deal of money. Here are the people to thank when you see them this winter on the slopes patrolling and the great spirit of the Hawksnest Patrol lives on:

- (1) **Rob Raff**, Chairman of the Committee & Audio, Visual & Lighting Equipment
- (2) **Fred Wessels**, Accounting, Registration & Setup
- (3) **Teresa Stewart**, Registration & Setup
- (4) **Jo Ann Ehlinger**, Hospitality Suite Food & Beverage
- (5) **Frances Edwards**, Hospitality Suite Food & Beverage

The Committee has filed a final report with me and has already started work on plans for improving the meeting next year. If you missed the event this year, you missed a lot.

Morgan Armstrong
Southern Division Director

From the Assistants...

Richard Boyer
1st Assistant Division Director



Getting the Southern Division Calendar Published on our website

We are adjusting our process for putting the calendar together and on to our Southern Division's web site. Each Region Director must serve as the clearinghouse for all activities within his or her Region that will be published on the calendar. Program supervisors, Instructors, Patrol Representatives and the like will be required to clear a prospective course schedule, event or activity with the Region Director within the appropriate region, who then is responsible for communicating this schedule addition or change to **Morgan Armstrong** who takes the responsibility for regularly revising our web calendar. Please use the input forms and format available to communicate additions or changes to Morgan. This will make his job easier and more efficient.

This above outline is slightly different from the past, but if we will adhere to this process it should be orderly and efficient. The Region Directors are the key to making this work smoothly.

Region Directors, please be didactic and proactive within your region to make sure this new process becomes known and workable.

Patrollers' Conference 2009

Once or twice a year we get to see old friends and meet new ones. One of these times is our Southern Division Patrollers' Conference. This was held in August in Kingsport, Tennessee and didn't disappoint. Yes, business is conducted, necessary as it is, but the real treat is being with old friends and making new ones. It is a chance to get a glimpse of other patrols, who they are and how they conduct their patrol affairs, as well as to just have fun. We've grown to enjoy these gatherings and look forward to them annually. Patrollers ought to consider meeting with us at the Conference time and see some of the workings of our Southern Division and how it functions. As important, there are many other events and happenings which go on this weekend, e.g. Instructor's Updates, equipment displays, thanks to **Ric** and **Dara LaValle** with Response 911, Inc. and visitors such as **Terry La Liberte**, our National Chairman and **Bob Scarlett**, our National Legal Advisor. It really helps to see what is available in the marketplace in the way of new and improved clothing and equipment, and to hear what is going on at the National level to better understand how the NSP is doing or to what we might need to adjust or pay more attention. For the first time since I've been a patroller I now have a better grasp on what National's liability insurance program covers and how it impacts each of us. A BIG THANK-YOU to Mr. Scarlett, Mr. La Liberte, Morgan Armstrong and all those who spent countless hours organizing and implementing this event.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the slopes this year.

Richard Boyer
1st Assistant Division Director

Brent Bowman,
2nd Assistant Division Director

Well I can't believe the summer is already over! As you read this, Labor Day has come and gone and kids are all back in school and college. In August we had our Patroller Conference in Kingsport, TN. It was a really great weekend with 150+ patrollers attending. The Ski and Toboggan instructors held a roundtable and the Division Snow Sports School also held a meeting. OEC conducted an instructor refresher and Response-911 (www.response-911.com) sold everything from zipper pulls to packs in the hallway. Of course the highlight of the weekend was the awards ceremony with MANY awards presented. Thanks to all of the patrols sending in requests for awards. This is a really tough job and the thanks are in the smiles on the faces of the persons receiving the award certificate or plaque.



As we head into September, October and November OEC instructors will be hard at work completing the OEC courses in progress and doing the testing comes at the end of the class. Please assist these instructors by volunteering a day or two of your time to evaluate, be a patient or bystander for the test(s). This is also a great way for you to begin to refresh your mind for the upcoming OEC refreshers. OEC instructors will be meeting to plan refreshers and for those of you who are in the mentoring process, this will be a great opportunity for you plan and practice the module or two that you will present at the refresher.

As always I look forward to the first turns on new snow. I just got my email notification that my latest Telemark video is on the way and I can't wait to watch it!

SEE YOU AT THE REFRESHER!!!!

Brent

Mike Harris,

Assistant Division Director – South Area

As The Bull Wheel Turns

We just had another great Southern Division Fall Conference. Thanks to so many especially the two extremely knowledgeable speakers Terry Laliberte NSP National Chair and Robert (Bob) Scarlett NSP National Council. We had a very successful awards banquet, and the best hospitality suite you could imagine. It's time to start thinking about the upcoming season.



There is no need to duplicate your Region Directors articles. **Brandon Olsen-Dixie** and **Jonathan Hale-Blue Ridge** articles in this issue of Southern Cross should have information regarding Fall Refreshers, planned activities, and needs for the upcoming season. Refreshers, seminars, and workshops should be featured.

Next seasons PEC (Patroller Education Conference) is going to be held at Snowbird again from April 13th until April 17th. I would like to urge anyone interested to attend.

I hope to see as many of you as possible in this year's refresher cycle and I am anxious to spend time patrolling on the hill with you this season.

Mike Harris (AKA TYRONE)

Jan Starr

Assistant Division Director, North Area



Notes from the North

Our leaves are starting to turn here in the mountains so that must mean that fall has arrived. I'm wondering where summer went! If anyone else had a summer like we had here, then you really didn't have one! Maybe the weather pattern will hold through the winter and that will mean a lot of cold and snow!

Refreshers have been planned and dates set on the calendar for the season for various training seminars. Remember that you need to call ahead and make sure it is OK to visit another refresher other than your home area. Please fill out the refresher feedback form at the end of the refresher to be turned in. This helps with the planning of the following year's event.

At the August Patroller Conference, a budget was approved for the next year. To make it all work a \$5 dues increase was voted upon. It has been a long time since we have had any increase in dues and with doing so this time it should be a long time before this will be needed again. National is working hard to find ways to supplement their budget so they won't have to raise any dues. One of the ways is fundraising. With that is a Patrol VISA card that they will get monies when the card is applied for and used. It has a great picture of patrollers on the front of it. We all use a credit card so it would be great to have one of these in your wallet, as it will benefit National and Southern Division. It can be applied for on our Southern Division web site.

Have a great fall and refresher and I hope to see you on the slopes!!

From the Regions...

Blue Ridge Region

Jonathan F. Hale,
Blue Ridge Region Director

Wow! Is the only way to describe the way the Blue Ridge Region cleaned up the Division Awards this year. Go ahead, count the awards found in this *Southern Cross* and you will note a trend. The awards obtained by the Appalachian, Sugar, Beech and even the almost-extinct Hawksnest Patrols are the predominant names on the awards. Appalachian Ski Mountain was, by far, the biggest winner in the Division. In addition, the war-weary Sugar Patrol walked away with three Patrollers Crosses for their personnel hurt on the job. Even though he had a dislocated shoulder, **Mike Harris** wouldn't allow one for himself, but got a pair of Harley-inspired gloves from his escapades at Powderfall.



This Fall the Region will give two more refreshers for the two sections of the Region. In addition we will bring the ***Snowsports Clinic*** provided by Beech Mountain's **Briggs Allen** in early 2010. After the end of the ski season we will be the first Region to provide Mary Underwood's NEW ***Leadership Development Course*** in May of 2010 in Boone. I invite anyone to attend this course because it is so much fun (and an elective!).

One critical issue that you may have missed at the Summer Patrollers' Conference was when **Bob Scarlett**, National Legal Advisor spoke to us about the unfortunate incident where a child was accidentally run over by a Patroller on a Snowmobile. The terribly unfortunate incident was sad, but the judge found that the Patroller was not negligent and he refused to hear the case as he felt that it could have a very negative impact on volunteerism in this nation. In addition, the insurance underwriter for the NSPS supported us throughout. This is very important to every Patroller as we ponder the aspects of personal liability that we face day-to-day on our volunteer workday and a great service provided by the NSPS.

Again, much thanks go out to the people that don't receive enough in our Region. These are the people that make Ski Patrolling possible:

All IORs,
Refresher leaders and team leaders,
Program Managers in the Region

Thank you for all that you have done and will do.

Jonathan

Virginia Region

Ted Forbes, Region Director

I have heard from a very reliable source (**Scott Gunnell**, head of snow making at Wintergreen) that ski season is only three months away. Indeed, if you look at the AccuWeather long range forecast, or the Farmer's Almanac outlook for this winter, we may finally be getting our long overdue payback from Mother Nature this season. Keep your fingers crossed!



Summer's been busy in the Virginia Region. The four season resorts have been keeping the golf courses manicured, the tennis courts clean, and the swimming pools and water parks full. But as I drive around the rural roads, and especially as I gain elevation, there is definitely color coming into the leaves. And you know what that means ... Get ready! For those of you close to Charlottesville, **Sepp Kober** and Freestyle will be holding their annual Pro Night Sale at the store on US Hwy 29 starting at 7PM on October 2 and October 23. You must show your NSP card for admission.

So what's new in the Region? Well, ziplines seem to be the big thing. Both Wintergreen and Bryce added these new recreation devices this summer. **Randy Trow** of Bryce reports that theirs has been an extremely popular addition to the only grass skiing in Virginia – day and night zipping sessions have been run seven days a week and will continue into the winter months (though no nights on ski season weekends). Wintergreen's **Tucker Crolius** reports a similar story with a new zipline installed near “The Plunge” tubing park. Wintergreen also has new 20 fan guns installed for greater snow making capacity in less cold/more humid conditions. Tucker also notes that a new “Yellow Jacket” Safety Patrol program will launch this season, concentrated on skier education and responsibility code enforcement, and replacing the old Courtesy Patrol.



Perhaps the biggest story of all in Virginia is at Massanutten, where **Kenny Hess** and **Steve Kuller** are particularly excited about two new lifts that have gone in. This is a big deal for any resort, so see the photos for a few shots. There's a brand new Dopplemyr CTEC quad lift that has replaced the thirty-five year old Borvig double that carried skiers, boarders and patrollers on the 'Nut's beginner area. Massanutten has also added a new 180 foot Magic carpet surface lift to the teaching area for the 2009 season. Get over there and go for a ride this season.

(Photos submitted by Ted Forbes)



And as you might imagine, OEC refresher planning is well under way, with delivery set for October in most Virginia resorts. New candidate training has also begun. **Will Drury** at Massanutten is looking for as many as 20 new recruits this season, and Wintergreen's **Paul Thompson** reports that recruiting officer **Debbie Gagon** did a great job in lining up 15 new candidates. I urge you all to get involved in working with these "wanna-be's" as they constitute the life blood of our patrols and the future of our organization. You are the one they will look to as a role model.

And speaking of role models – what are you going to do this year to make yourself an even better patroller – one who is held in high regard by the new candidates? Have you thought about trying a new tool on the snow this winter – fixed or free heel, or a snowboard? How about becoming an instructor in OEC or Toboggan? Can you teach others to ski? Our Southern Division Snowsports School needs instructors. And what about Senior or Certified – are you ready to kick it up a notch? This is a great time to be setting your own goals for the season When we get to the back end of it in April, how are you going to answer the "What did I learn this season" question?

See you out there real soon!Ted

Transportation...Transportation...Transportation...Transportation

Tony Tingle,
Transportation Supervisor

At the Southern Division Fall Conference back in August, our National Legal Advisor Bob Scarlett ***noted that to be covered by NSP insurance during training activities, the activity needs to be registered.*** Right now, if you go to the NSP website, login, and go to register a course, you will see the following options related to Transportation:



- Skiing Enhancement Seminar
- Snowboard Enhancement Seminar
- Toboggan Enhancement Seminar
- Ski Trainers Workshop
- Toboggan Refresher
- Instructor Recertification Clinic – Alpine
- Certified Qualification Clinic
- Certified Evaluation Event
- Senior Alpine Skiing Clinic (Non-Credited Course)
- Senior Alpine Toboggan Clinic (Non-Credited Course)
- Senior Alpine Skiing Continuing Ed
- Senior Alpine Toboggan Continuing Ed
- Senior Alpine Skiing Evaluation/Test (Credited course)
- Senior Alpine Toboggan Evaluation/Test (Credited course)
- Senior Alpine Trainer Evaluator (Non-Credited Course)

There are a couple of things we do in Southern Division that are absent from the list above - General Patroller Toboggan Training; Basic Evaluations, Toboggan check-offs, and Transportation Evaluator Clinics. I'm going to try to get these added to the list, and I'll keep you up-to-date on how that exercise goes.

Aside from having your training covered by NSP insurance, registering your courses does an additional thing: It **Documents** your instructor activity. This is important because.....Each year I have to look over your transportation records and determine who to re-up (qualify) as instructors. Once you become a Transportation Instructor, you have a three (3) year period during which you are active. At the end of the three years, your name comes to the Transportation Supervisor in your Division (that's me), and I have to determine whether to approve you for another three years. Historically, I have had to rely on my experience with each of you as instructors, or because I cannot see and instruct with each and every one of you, I have had to rely on information from your Region Transportation Advisor, your Patrol Representative

or you to provide information on your participation and instruction. As transportation instructors you need to stay sharp on your skills, and participation in the program is key. So after numerous discussions with many of you and following two of transportation round tables at Fall Conferences, the Southern Division Transportation Program is implementing a continuing education program for Transportation Instructors. From this point forward we need to track our teaching and training activities. For each three year appointment, every transportation instructor needs to get five (5) points accrued from the following options: (we will pro-rate for folks expiring in 2010 and 2011).

- Take or Teach a Skiing Enhancement Seminar (1 Point)
- Take or Teach a Snowboard Enhancement Seminar (1 Point)
- Take or Teach a Toboggan Enhancement Seminar (1 Point)
- Take or Teach a Ski Trainers Workshop (2 Points) – It is usually a two day event
- Teach a Toboggan Refresher (1 Point)
- Take or Teach a Instructor Recertification Clinic – Alpine (1 Point)
- Teach a Certified Qualification Clinic (1 Point)
- Evaluate at a Certified Evaluation Event (1 Point)
- Teach a Senior Alpine Skiing Clinic (Non-Credited Course) (1 Point)
- Teach a Senior Alpine Toboggan Clinic (Non-Credited Course) (1 Point)
- Teach Senior Alpine Toboggan Continuing Ed (1 Point)
- Evaluate at a Senior Alpine Skiing Evaluation/Test (Credited course) (1 Point)
- Evaluate at a Senior Alpine Toboggan Evaluation/Test (Credited course) (1 Point)
- Teach Senior Alpine Trainer Evaluator (Non-Credited Course) (1 Point)

As an incentive to get folks to mingle and learn from each other, if you participate in an event outside of your Region, you get an extra point. Here's the kicker: To get credit, the event has to be a registered event **AND** the course has to be closed.

Here's an example of how this will work:

If my toboggan instructor status expires in three years I need five points to re-qualify. Over that time I teach at my mountain's toboggan refresher each year (1 point per refresher) = 3 points total. I teach at the Region Senior Toboggan Clinic on my first year of three (1 point) and take a Toboggan Enhancement Seminar on my third year of three (1 point). I'm done.

This is new. It will probably change a little as we figure it out. Thank you for all the Transportation teaching you do. Remember to register and close those events, so you are covered by the NSP insurance. Please drop me an e-mail if you have questions and/or comments. See you when the snow flies.

Tony

Briggs Allen,
Snowsports Supervisor

Hello fellow patrollers!!! If you are like me you are already getting excited about the upcoming ski season. The ski magazines have already started arriving, instructor refreshers have taken place and the on the hill refreshers are right around the corner... all signifying the start of the 2009-10 ski season is almost starting.

This summer the old Southern Division NSP Snowsports School was busy planning to make this upcoming season the best yet. The reason I say the “new” Southern Division NSP Snowsports School is because our Board of Directors, at the August Patroller Education Conference, approved our proposal to change our name from the Southern Division NSP Ski School to the Southern Division NSP Snowsports School. This name change better reflects our dedication to all facets of the snowsports that are involved in patrolling and brings our program’s name up-to-date with the rest of the industry.

Our program continues to generate lots of questions and I would like to try to answer a few of those now:

1. What exactly does the Southern Division NSP Snowsports School do?

Our purpose is to provide safe, quality, training environment and programs to fulfill the ski/snowboard training needs of the patrols and patrollers and our Division. Our focus is to provide the pathways to ensure that our members are taught current and accurate snowsports skills and information. We strive to improve our snowsports teaching and effectiveness as instructors

2. Do I have to be a member of PSIA/AASI to join our snowsports school?

Not necessarily. We do ***strongly*** encourage your participation in these programs. We do advocate joining the PSIA/AASI as no other entity in the snowsports industry provides better instruction on how to teach skiing and snowboarding skills. By being certified by PSIA/AASI you will have been exposed and hopefully obtained the tools necessary to provide your candidates and patrollers quality, competent and safe training that they deserve. A patrols designated instructor must hold a valid PSIA/AASI certification (preferable level II).

3. Can anyone produce a patent in our snowsports schools clinics?

Yes, space permitting. Our clinics are designed not only for our members that are teaching candidates/patrollers and working toward PSIA/AASI certification, but also patrollers and examiners wishing to increase their skiing, riding, instruction and evaluation skills. We want your involvement!!

4. Am I eligible for the snowsports schools liability insurance program?

If you are a member of the snowsports school you are eligible to participate in their liability insurance program. The Southern Division realizes the importance of our snowsport instructors being legally protected thus they will pay the premium for each patrols Designated Instructor. Other snowsport instructors can be included in our policy for approximately \$65. Some patrols pay this fee for their instructors.

I hope these answers are helpful.

Now for the exciting news. We have planned 2 clinics for skiers and 2 clinics for snowboarders this season. Additionally, we are having a clinic that will focus on teaching skills for both skiers and snowboarders. These clinics will teach proven PSIA/AASI methods in preparing you to take the level I- II exam, as well as assist S&T examiners in making them better prepared in their skiing and snowboarding assessment skills. Also patrollers may qualify for PES credits. This year all of our clinics are registered with National for continuing education credits. These clinics will be held throughout the Division so be sure to check the Divisional calendar for specific details. We hope to see you there!!!

Until next time remember, snowsports are simple... turn right, turn left repeat as necessary.

Instructor Development...Instructor Development...Instructor Development

Teresa T. Stewart,

Instructor Development Supervisor

The NSP Instructor Development course is an integral part of all the NSP Educational courses. This is a required step before the mentoring stage with an instructor within the specific discipline that you are becoming involved with (Outdoor Emergency Care, Toboggan and Ski, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche, Outdoor First Care, etc). This is also a SENIOR ELECTIVE.

Interested students should look at the Division Calendar for registered courses in their Region and contact the Region Instructor Development contact or drop me an email at (stewart.teresa@gmail.com).

Students will also need to buy the Instructor Development Student Manual (#502) from the NSP catalog or through the NSP on-line store. Once students take the ID course – they will have to be mentored within the discipline they are interested in becoming an instructor. Once they have successfully completed the mentoring phase – the instructor process is finished AFTER the paperwork is complete.

Brandon Deane

Southern Division Certified Advisor

Pursuing Excellence in Patrolling through the Certified Program

Have you completed the Senior Program?

Are you interested in pushing your skills and knowledge even further?

Would you like to pursue excellence in patrolling by getting involved with a program which will provide the opportunity to network with industry leaders from throughout the division (various mountain managers, patrol directors, patrol reps, and program supervisors, as well as other leaders at the patrol and division levels)?

If you answered yes to these questions, you should investigate the Southern Division's Certified Program.

My involvement with the Certified Program is often the most valuable professional development experience of my year. It is a great opportunity to share in an exciting endeavor with leading experts in our industry. I hope that the program can provide you with the same benefit.

There are multiple ways to find out more:

- Have a conversation with one of our division's Certified Patrollers; or
- Feel free to drop me an email if you would like (cbdeane@comcast.net); or
- Check out the Certified Program Library on the division web site.

If you have a serious interest in the program you should be actively pursuing your goals starting in December. At least determine if you plan to attend the required qualification clinic on January 10 and 11, 2010. Keep in mind that the program can only support the certification of a limited number of patrollers each year. You are welcome to enroll in any of the clinics even if you do not plan to participate in the exam.

Certified Program Library

The Certified Program has established a shelf of reference materials in the division's web site library. Feel free to do some research on line. Here are thumbnail sketches of those documents.

Welcome	States the Certified Program's goals and lists the modules (skill and knowledge areas) on which the program focuses.
Prerequisites	Lists prerequisites which must be fulfilled before a patroller may be accepted into the examination process.
Exam Components	Outlines the exam process which the Southern Division uses to assess certification.

How to Get Involved	Gives suggestions concerning various approaches to getting involved in the program whether or not you pursue certification this year.
Supplemental Questionnaire	A questionnaire for candidates to complete in the process of applying to the program.
Certified Program Made Easy	A description of the kinds of experiences which might help one attain personal excellence in patrol skills and knowledge.
Management Interview Scenario	Scenario upon which the management interview will be based (target ski area description and data, map, key questions). Due for publication 12/1/09.
Avalanche Scenario	Scenario upon which the avalanche interview will be based (a back country scenario with maps and or description of mountain, key questions). Due for publication 12/1/09.
Candidate Checklist	An outline of steps to take in the pursuit of certification.

We look forward to working with you to realize your goal of achieving excellence in ski patrolling, whether that entails attending our clinics or actually pursuing certification. Have a great season.

Brandon Deane
Southern Division Certified Advisor

The BEST patrollers are always willing to get BETTER!

I look up to you, I respect you, I trust your judgment.

Surely you would be the first to tell me if I am ready!

**Take the initiative by encouraging others to participate
in the SENIOR and CERTIFIED Programs**

Fred Wessels,
Archivist / Historian, Southern Division.

Another Historical Fall Conference has passed. It was great to see friends from other hills and to meet the Patrollers from Cloudmont and learn a little of the history of Alabama skiing. I was going to spend some time trying to explain in diplomatic terms that I am still looking for histories of existing and past mountains in the Southern Division. None have been provided. However, I ran across the below picture online and felt that it makes my point.



Awards ... Awards ... Awards ... Awards ... Awards ... Awards ... Awards ... Awards

Peg Harris,
Awards Advisor

Annual Southern Division Awards 2009

It is hard to believe that another successful Southern Division Awards Banquet has come and gone. Kudos to all those who submitted award nominations this season. It takes a lot of work to produce a well written nomination and the recipients of all the various awards should be very thankful to all of you.

Thanks again to Morgan for sending personal invitations to all who received a service award. It is so much more fun to have the recipients present at the banquet to receive their award personally! And it was so great to have **Terry LaLiberte**, our National Chairman, to present the Silver Merit Star to the Southern Division patroller who won for National Paid Patroller Runner-up.

Now for the list of all Southern Division Patrollers who received awards this year.

Certificates of Appreciation

Ted Forbes	Assistant VA Region Director 2007-2008
Ted Forbes	Wintergreen Patrol Rep 2005-2008
Eric Scott Hill	Winterplace Patrol Rep 2006-2008
Thomas J Watson	Beech Patrol Rep 2000-2008
Jannette Bennett	Timberline Patrol Rep 2006-2008
Phil Bentley	Wolf Ridge Patrol Rep 2007-2009
William C. "Bill" Smith	VA Region Director 2003-2008
Rob Raff	Archivist/Historian Supervisor 2006-2008
Ann T. Wood	Instructor Development Supervisor 2004-2008
David Quidort	Senior Program Supervisor 2004-2008
David L. Cline	West VA Transportation Supervisor 2008-2009
Roger W. Bollinger	Co-Chair Alumni Program Supervisor 2007-2009
Janie Keith Bollinger	Co-Chair Alumni Program Supervisor 2007-2009

Each person listed below received a Certificate of Appreciation for helping with the Southern Division Certified Evaluation.

Trish Dean	Robbie Gilmer
Joan Boyer	Ted Forbes
Terry Morgan	Jane Poundstone
Glenn Carter	Jacqueline Safari
Christy Hunter	Conor Frackleton
Andrea Dorman	

Service Awards by Patrol

Administrative

Richard Woodlee 25 years

Appalachian

Jeffrey Holt	10 years	Cathy LaMarre	20 years
Jim S. Ratchford	15 years	Lonnie Propst	20 years
Annette Fox	20 years	John R. Culbreth	25 years
David Hinshaw	20 years	Anne Fox Donadio	25 years
David Jamison	20 years		

Beech

Jo Ann Ehlinger	15 years	Ronald G. Clyde	25 years
Jane L. Miller	15 years	Stanley A. Kweller	25 years
Mark Pipkin	15 years	Lee T. Whitman	25 years
Catherine E. Scantlin	15 years	James S. Gayle	30 years
Terence A. Bygate	20 years	Douglas Gilstrap, Jr	30 years
H. Eugene Hudson	20 years	James L. Herd	30 years
Frank Rice	20 years	Gary C. White	30 years
Todd Rice	20 years	Peter K. Chamberlin	55 years
Harvey Varner	20 years		

Blackwater Nordic

Harold B. Chase, III	15 years
Bradley Moore	25 years

Bryce

Kathryn J. Hurdcarillo	10 years	Steve Lewis	35 years
Jeffrey W. Murray	10 years	Randy Trow	40 years
Richard G. D'Antonio	30 years		

Cataloochee

Nathaniel Greene	10 years	Chris Major	15 years
James Major	10 years	Michael Wolf	15 years
Douglas Carver	15 years	Daniel C. Greene	30 years
Bill Dingle	15 years	Dawn Joy Jucker	40 years

Cloudmont

William Brent Montgomery	15 years
--------------------------	----------

Hawksnest

Michael Benbow	10 years	Hugh W. Jernigan, Jr.	25 years
Nicholas Friedman	10 years	Cindy Soule	25 years
Joseph B. Hill	15 years	William S. Styres	25 years
John N. Whalen	15 years	Mark A. Taylor	30 years

Homestead

Alan Marshall Ferris	15 years
Steve P. Burgdorf	25 years

Massanutten

J. Chris Bartus	15 years	Mark Alan Andrews	25 years
John J. Bartus	15 years	Tom Olander	30 years
David R. Berger	20 years		

Ober Gatlinburg

Steve Ebb	10 years	Bob Lewis	10 years
Dean Eschmann	10 years	Ben R. Long	30 years

Sapphire

Justus Baird	15 years
--------------	----------

Snowshoe

Shannon Boehmer	10 years	Mark Fara	20 years
William Duerson	10 years	Jon Mohrman	20 years
Derek Hill	10 years	Connie Roadcap	20 years
Eric Louys	10 years	Karen Lynn Sealock	20 years
Kari Philippi	10 years	Jonathan Wasiko	20 years
Jeff Roth	10 years	Michael Carroll	25 years
Randy Rumer	10 years	Melinda L. Souder	25 years
Kirk Tilley	10 years	Stephen G. Vincent	25 years
David Waitkus	10 years	Alan Romine	30 years
Richard Ziegler	10 years	Rick Sharp	30 years
Brian Gritt	15 years	Neal W. Rehberg	35 years

Sugar

Kyle W. Hassler	10 years	Pat Chesson	25 years
Dave Rosen	10 years	Dean Lyons	25 years
Ronald Scott	10 years	Steve Clymer	30 years
Eric Sorrow	10 years	Howard Tilley	30 years
Anne Bolyea	15 years	Joe White	30 years
Bill Daniels	15 years	Sherry Ann Perry	35 years
Lindsey D. Lacey	15 years	Herbert J. Johnson, Jr.	40 years
C. R. Alex Rucker	20 years		

Wintergreen

Meggan Monaghan	10 years	Pattie B. Kline	20 years
Landon Nowlin	10 years	Robert Bashore	25 years
Steve R. Weber	10 years	Coleman D. Figg, Jr.	25 years
Trace Higgins	15 years	William T. Ramsey	25 years
Jerry Givens	15 years	Brad Spano	25 years
Kenneth E. Barber	20 years	Donald Spano	25 years
Mike Flanagan	20 years	Walter Nichols	35 years
William T. Harris, III	20 years		

Winterplace

David R. Creager, Jr. 10 years
Benjamin J. Curnett 10 years
Alisa C. Hudgel 15 years
Bill Handy 20 years

Charles A. Levin 25 years
Jerry Metheny 25 years
Wesley C. Benbow 35 years

Wolf Ridge

Bill Boughton 15 years
Matt Lowery 15 years
Randi Lowery 15 years
Russell M. Lindsey 20 years

Thomas W. R. Bingham 25 years
Phil Critcher 25 years
Jimmy Piercy, Jr. 25 years

Instructor Service Awards***Cataloochee***

Brent Bowman 12 years
David Castaldini 12 years
Ann Christenson 12 years
Steve McCarragher 12 years
Michael Wolf 12 years
Randy Avery 18 years
Peter Knowland 18 years
Thomas Raudorf 18 years
Sylvia Talley 18 years

Massanutten

Carol Bartus 6 years
John Bartus 6 years
Tom Byron 6 years
Travis Dorman 6 years
Bartek Drewnowski 6 years
Evan Garrison 6 years
Cathy Riley-Hall 6 years
Marty Rine 6 years
Nate Rageley 6 years
Richard Borschel 12 years
Michael Briske 12 years
Cynthia Deihl 12 years
Leslie Carter 12 years
William Drury 12 years
John Shaffer 12 years
Tom Olander 12 years

Merit Stars

Purple Merit Star

William H. Daniels

Exceptional initiative in ensuring patient care through rapid treatment, extraction and transfer to Wings of a critical patient on Big Red at Sugar Mountain on February 23, 2007

Cynthia Deihl

Successfully saving the life of a male patient in cardiac arrest at Massanutten's Le Club Recreation Center

Blue Merit Star

Kyle W. Hassler
Bradley Blackwell
Reginald R. Hassler

Outstanding initiative in ensuring patient care through rapid treatment, extraction and transfer to Wings of a critical patient on Big Red at Sugar Mountain on February 23, 2007

Yellow Merit Star

Erich Rosenbush

Outstanding initiative in ensuring patient care through rapid treatment, extraction and transfer to Wings of a critical patient on Big Red at Sugar Mountain on February 23, 2007

Joey Hurst
Ryan Rose
John Huff

Superior medical acumen during the multiple patient efforts during the Ober Gatlinburg Cardboard Sled Race on February 5, 2008 (these merit stars were given after the 2008 banquet)

Distinguished Service Award

Johnny Goin

Outstanding promotion and support of Wolf Ridge Ski Patrol

Patroller's Cross

Personal sacrifice in service to all who ski

Nancy K. Ilderton	Sugar Mountain
Jean Marie Decker	Sugar Mountain
Terry Loges	Sugar Mountain
David K. Durham	Wolf Ridge
E. Flynn Harris	Sugar Mountain
Edward Lynch	Wintergreen

NSP Angel Award

Reba Moretz

For her service and dedication to the Appalachian Ski Patrol

National Appointment

Brent Rockett Hawksnest	NA # 10968
Tom Raudorf	NA # 10970
Joe Donadio Appalachian	NA # 10832 (this NA was presented after the 2008 banquet)

Division Outstanding Winners

<i>OEC Instructor</i> Anne Fox Donadio Appalachian	<i>Runner Up</i> Paul D. Gagon Wintergreen
<i>Instructor</i> Patrick Benson Appalachian	<i>Runner Up</i> Christopher Cuthbert Wintergreen
<i>Paid Patroller</i> Mark J. Latendress Appalachian	<i>Runner Up</i> Trace Higgins Wintergreen
<i>Patrol Representative</i> E. Flynn Harris Sugar Mountain	<i>Runner Up</i> Brent Rockett Hawksnest
<i>Auxiliary Patroller</i> Chip Sudderth Appalachian	<i>Runner Up</i>
<i>Alpine Patroller</i> William C. "Bill" Smith Wintergreen	<i>Runner Up</i> Lonnie C. Propst Appalachian
<i>Large Alpine Patrol</i> Appalachian	<i>Runner Up</i> Hawksnest

National Outstanding Paid Patroller Runner Up –Recipient of a Silver Merit Star and presented by the National Chair – Terry LaLiberte to Mark J. Latendresse Appalachian

Thanks to all of you who submitted the award nominations to make this year's banquet a great success. Congratulations to all the recipients. This is a reminder to all Patrol Reps, Patrol Directors, Region Directors and Awards Advisors that this is one of the best ways to thank those

who so deserve the recognition. It is my hope that next award season will be a banner year for nominations in all the categories. Remember, it is never too early to start thinking about who needs to be nominated.

Thanks to everyone who made this year's awards banquet such a success!

From Around the Division...

Southern Division Calendar & Staff Directory

Please refer to the Division Website for updated schedules!

www.southernnsp.org

The calendar is flexible dependant on the weather – please check the calendar and/or with your patrol representative / Region Director for the most up-to-date changes.



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

2008-2009, Number 3

www.southernnsp.org

June 2009

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Southern Cross is published three times a year—Fall, Mid-winter and Spring. Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the Spring issue is May 22, 2009.

Send submissions to:

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Send contact changes to:

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133 Van Gordon St., Suite 100
Lakewood, CO 80228
Update address at www.nsp.org

R. Morgan Armstrong,
Division Director

National Ski Patrol “Patroller Education Conference” (PEC)

This year several members of the Southern Division attended the Patroller Education Conference. The National Board of Directors scheduled the spring meeting during the PEC in order to increase attendance and it was successful without the Board Meeting. There were more patrollers attending this year than in the history of the prior event we called Powderfall. The format included the ski instruction from members of the Snow Bird Ski School and it appears the quality of instruction was very close to that experienced in former years at Powderfall with PSIA Demo Team Members. In addition there were more and varied events and courses offered, which made for a very broad avenue of interest for the participants. A Patroller Challenge included teams taking toboggans down difficult terrain and working OEC scenarios for graded scores. The top three teams won some very good prizes including skis and equipment. The event also saved the Division some money by combining a Board Meeting with the event, so no division funds were spent on the trip due to the fact it was a recreational event. Each division director spent personal and not division funds to attend.

Federation Internationale des Patrouilles de Ski (FIPS) Conference

Every two years the International Federation of Ski Patrollers conducts a world conference in a member country. This year it was the turn of Sweden to host the event. It took place in Åre (pronounced “OH-REY”), Sweden near the Arctic Circle. Despite being so far north, the weather was very much like Southern Division spring conditions with daytime temperatures in the 60 to

70 degree range most days. Again, this conference is for information presentation and there was very limited skiing done during the event. Most days were spent in classes with experts from a country going over operations for that country or special medical or safety issues. Since the Southern Division is a member, the Southern Division gets to fully participate. This year the National Ski Patrol sent Tim White, Executive Director and Terry LaLiberte, NSP Chairman of the Board of Directors to represent the United States. Ed Gassman, the Rocky Mountain Division Director attended along with Morgan Armstrong. Several new avalanche techniques were discussed and some medical equipment was demonstrated during the conference. The collection of information on injuries to ski patrollers continues and the Southern Division is submitting reports from those patrollers in our division who desire to send in the information on how they may have been injured in the line of duty. The request for volunteers to submit accident reports for injuries to patrollers, continues, so please help us gather as much information as possible to obtain a future report that may help us avoid injuries.

Issues regarding the NSP National Board

The 5th edition of the Outdoor Emergency Care is progressing toward publication. The Board signed a contract this spring with the Pearson Education Group (Prentice-Hall Publishing is a division and the Brady EMT Book is one of its well known products) to publish the next edition of the OEC Book. This publishing house is the largest publisher of medical and first aid books in the United States by a margin of about four times its nearest competitor. While we are a little behind schedule on the timeline that was established when the project was started, it is close to the mark. Please check the National Ski Patrol Website for more information about the release date of the new 5th edition.

The Southern Division Director is pleased to report that the new edition of the Bylaws for the National Ski Patrol has been submitted to the NSP Board of Directors. A re-write of the Bylaws was ordered about two year ago and for the past year I have been Chair of the Bylaws Oversight Committee. That is the committee that has been directed to re-write the new version and after 17 drafts, approval by the Bylaws Oversight Committee, approval by the NSP Governance Committee, a standing committee under the NSP Board of Directors; the final draft is placed with the NSP Board for action at the June 2009 Annual Meeting in Lakewood, Colorado.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Division met on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the Wytheville Meeting & Convention Center in Wytheville, Virginia for a full day of discussion and planning for the 2009-2010 Ski Season. The recent election for division director has resulted in a second term of two years for Morgan Armstrong. Various issues are being raised about the NSP and the Southern Division and the Executive Committee was hard at work in trying to formulate what advice to give to the Southern Division Board of Directors at their August Meeting on a multitude of issues.

Final plans are being made for the **Southern Division Patroller Conference, which is being held at the MeadowView Marriott Resort and Convention Center in Kingsport, Tennessee on August 14, 15 & 16, 2009.** The division has contracted a per night rate of

\$94.00. If two patrollers share a room that is a rate of \$50 per night and is a very good price for a resort of this size and quality. We are very pleased with the results of 198 patrollers attending last year and this year we hope participation is around 300 patrollers. Families are welcome and this special discounted rate is available for nights previous to the event and after the event for those of you who would like to make this a family vacation event as well as a great conference experience. We plan to have two guests from the National Ski Patrol with us for the conference, our National Chairman, Terry LaLiberte, and our National Legal Advisor, Bob Scarlett. This is a great year to have the Chairman and Legal Counsel for the NSP present to answer questions about the current affairs of the National Ski Patrol and what the future might hold for the organization. These presentations and question and answer periods will be ones not to be missed. Also, a segment of the new Leadership Course that has been developed by members of the Southern Division for the National Ski Patrol will be presented during the conference. Plan now to attend and participate in the Southern Division event.

STAFF VACANCIES – this is the time of year when staff changes are made in the Southern Division. We currently have a vacancy in the position of **Alumni Program Supervisor**, which needs to be filled by the August Meeting of the Southern Division Board of Directors. Also, we need to have more patrollers involved in staff positions, so if you would like to become an **assistant Program Supervisor** in a program of the division with the goal of moving up into the lead position or if you would like to submit your name at this time for the position of Supervisor of one of the Southern Division Programs, please send your name, the position you desire and a short biography that details your credentials and experience to R. Morgan Armstrong, Southern Division Director.

DIVISION CALENDAR – the Executive Committee in their meeting on May 16, 2009 requested the Calendar be changed to allow the Region Directors to have one added piece of information. Beginning with the June edition of the Calendar, we will start publishing the Course Number of any course being taught in the division and published on the calendar. This will insure the course is registered with the National Ski Patrol Office and this will further allow the Region Director to track the course and be sure the final report is filed. Program Supervisors are now requested to register your course and then send the information for that course to the Region Director where the course is to be held. The instructions and a sample of how changes are to be submitted by the Region Directors to the Division Director follows:

CALENDAR

ADDITIONS & CHANGES

INSTRUCTIONS:

- (1) Fill in your new event for the division if the event is division wide or place it in your region if it is a region or patrol event. Send only new events or changes. Easier for you and easier for me to limit this to new changes only.
- (2) Fill in your region after “REGION = .”
- (3) Note – events are posted by calendar year. Pick the correct year.
- (4) We need each block filled in and the PLACE may be the host patrol or the event location or both.

- (5) PLACE & Course # - the Course # is needed for all Courses so the Region Director knows the Course has been scheduled with the National Ski Patrol and he or she may follow-up on the final report for the course.
- (6) MORE LINES NEEDED? = To add a new line for an event, put the cursor in the last block of the last line of the table and hit the "tab" key. A new line will appear in the table. Do not worry about the order. I can sort the order after you send it to me by email.
- (7) SEND the entire page as an attachment on your email to R. Morgan Armstrong at rmasp@comcast.net.
- (8) DUE DATE = I anticipate the Website calendar will be changed on the 1st and 15th of each month so send changes as soon as you know of a change to meet the next update on the Website.

DIVISION EVENTS for 2009					
DATE	EVENT	PLACE & Course #	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL


REGION EVENTS for 2009					
REGION =					
DATE	EVENT	PLACE & Course #	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL

REGION EVENTS for 2010					
REGION =					
DATE	EVENT	PLACE & Course #	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL

Respectfully submitted,

R. Morgan Armstrong
Southern Division Director

The Executive Committee has directed us to explore the possibility of selling the **Xerox 8500 series Solid-Ink Color Printer** the Southern Division currently has on lease when said lease ends this Fall.

	
	Xerox Phaser 8500
Features:	
	24 pages per minute
	Letter and/or Legal
	Two-sided print
	100-sheet by-pass
	2 525-sheet paper trays
	1200 dpi

This printer was used by the Division to print the Southern Cross before the Board decided to send electronically.

This printer is physically located in Charlotte, NC in a secured business location and can be available to view with an appointment by contacting Teresa Stewart at stewart.teresa@gmail.com.

IF you have an interest – send a bid to Jim Underwood-Division Treasurer at jnu@bellsouth.net. Please provide him with your full contact information.

Additional information can be found at the Xerox.com website.

Thank you and good luck!

Morgan Armstrong is looking for information and the history of the past Division Directors and their dates of services to properly record in the history of the Division.

Please review the information below and send him any corrections to spelling, name or date of service.

**DIVISION DIRECTORS of the
SOUTHERN DIVISION
(Created from Eastern Division in 1971)**

NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM, INCORPORATED

- | | | |
|------|------------------------------|----------------|
| (1) | Keith Argow | 1971 – 1977 |
| (2) | David Dillard | 1977 – 1979 |
| (3) | C. Harwell Dabbs, MD | 1979 – 1981 |
| (4) | Charles T. “Charlie” Benbow | 1981 – 1985 |
| (5) | Farris Jackson | 1985 – 1989 |
| (6) | Douglas Carlburg | 1989 – 1993 |
| (7) | Raymond B. “Bernie” Smith | 1993 – 1999 |
| (8) | Eunice “Nici” Singletary, MD | 1999 – 2003 |
| (9) | Neil Booth | 2003 – 2007 |
| (10) | R. Morgan Armstrong | 2007 – Present |

Brent Bowman,

2nd Assistant Division Director

As many of you are aware the business of the Southern Division does not stop with the end of the Ski and Board Season. Your Executive Committee recently held its spring meeting in Wytheville, VA.

Proposals and requests from various committees and disciplines are reviewed and discussed at this meeting. These are then voted on at the

Southern Division Patroller Conference by the Board of the Southern Division. The board is made up of the Patrol Representatives in the Southern Division (18), Region and Assistant Region Directors (8) and the Executive Committee (8).



This year the Patroller Conference will be held at Kingsport, TN. (Yes, this is the same place as the last couple of years.) For those of you who have never attended, this is a great place to interact with other patrollers and listen as the business of the Southern Division is conducted. It is also an opportunity for you to get your voice heard. The discussions are open to all patrollers and the time away from meetings is always filled with groups of patrollers talking and interacting in the hallways. One of the highlights of the weekend is the dinner on Saturday night. Annual awards are presented at the dinner. Everyone receiving an award this year has received an invitation to attend. This is really a great opportunity to obtain your award in person. If you have not been to this meeting or it has been a few years since you last attended, think about coming and joining us in Kingsport.

I am really excited about the upcoming ski season and the training seminars that we will be conducting. The Southern Division Snow Sports School will be working on ski and board skills for all patrollers (you know, training is NOT just for candidates!!) and the Ski and Toboggan trainers will be organizing and running clinics at many of the resorts in our region. These sessions will include Train-the-Trainer as well as training sessions for patrollers at the local hills.

As OEC courses begin in your region please take a few hours of your valuable time and come to the OEC class and assist, teach or just listen in on what is going on in the class. The “Instructor of Record” for the OEC classes are really amazing people with the number of hours they spend organizing the class, lining up trainers and the dreaded paperwork that has to be done to keep it all on track. Please remember to give them a big THANK YOU next time you see them.

See you in Kingsport!!!!

Brent



Mike Harris,

Assistant Division Director – South Area

As The Bull Wheel Turns

Another ski season is in the rear view mirror. In the Blue Ridge and Dixie Regions, we had a tremendously successful year. Great ski conditions trumped the down turn in the economy in the southeast. I was fortunate to end my season in Snowbird at the Patroller Education Conference (PEC) in April previously know as Powderfall. Please consider looking into the conference next year and don't forget the Southern Division Fall Conference at MeadowView Marriott in Kingsport, TN August 15th and 16th. You will be able to find these events and most anything that you might need to see at the division website www.southernnsp.org . The site is being updated very frequently. It was nice to see so many of the Hawksnest patrol being made at home at other mountains. I am very appreciative to see Brent Rocket afforded the same hospitality that all the patrols have given to me over the years.

Mike Harris



aka Tyrone

From the Regions...

Blue Ridge Region

Jonathan F. Hale,
Blue Ridge Region Director

Greetings to all Patrollers from sunny (and dusty) Dubai. I must say that walking in from a balmy 45 degrees Centigrade (113 Fahrenheit) into the perfect minus 1 degree Centigrade (31 degrees Fahrenheit) was exhilarating, but even cooler was the kind reception that I received from the OEC trained Patrollers on staff at *Ski Dubai*. If you happen to be in the area, they love to show off their 5-story slope and the two Pisten Bullys. Patrollers are Patrollers anywhere in the world.



This year was great for all of the Blue Ridge Region. All of the different mountains reported excellent financial years, including the tubing-only Hawksnest. The snow was consistent if not plentiful and the Patrollers that I spoke had great ski seasons.

This fall the Blue Ridge region will still have 4 Patrols and fall refreshers will be done as they have in the past with Sugar Mountain patrollers together with their Hawksnest friends in early October and Beech and Appalachian Mountains in early November.

Don't forget to attend the Summer Patroller Conference this summer as we will party hardy with Tyrone and friends.



Virginia Region

Ted Forbes, Region Director

Winding down and ramping up

This is a time of transition for all of us – from winter's activities to those that occupy the rest of our seasons. On reflection, it was a good winter. The economy slowed things down for the industry, and the bottom lines were not as strong as management would have liked, but the persistent cold allowed our snow making teams to lay down a thick base that lasted well beyond the closing dates for our resorts. In fact, some of us skied in six months this year – from opening over Thanksgiving weekend in November clear through hiking for turns in April after the lifts shut down. Reliable stories of “poachers” carving soft snow persisted right up to the April 15 tax deadline!



It was also a season of learning and achievement of personal goals. Congratulations to the candidates who made Basic this season! And congratulations to the Region's Senior Patroller candidates, Lisa Gravitte and Julie Stocker from Bryce, and Wintergreen's Paul Gagon, Debbie Gagon, Bob Fedak and Carroll Allred. These six stalwart patrollers are all well down the path of taking their game to the next level. And a big congratulations to Trace Higgins of Wintergreen, who this season finished all ten modules of the Certified exam and entered the ranks of the truly distinguished. In addition to noting the achievements and challenges these folks have faced and completed, I'd also like to thank those patrollers and resort managers from Wintergreen, Bryce,

Massanutten who staffed the clinics, conducted the evaluations and offered up their terrain and lifts in order to support the continuing education of our dedicated patrollers across the region

As you think about next season, ask yourself what your own personal goals will be – there’s no better sense of reward than taking on a set of stretch goals and meeting the challenge face to face!

So now it’s raining and the creeks and rivers are rising. That means whitewater and trout. The grass on the golf course is greening up nicely, and the tennis courts are ready for us all. Out come the boats, mountain bikes and lawn mowers and motorcycles – we’re all ramping up for our summer passions that’ll keep our weekends busy until the snow flies again. As you are out and about, be sure to talk up patrolling to anyone who will listen. It’s recruiting season for our patrols! Help find enthusiastic new folks who want to join us on the hill next season – you, better than anyone know the kind of person who will make an excellent patroller!

Finally, don’t forget to plan on attending the Patroller Conference this August – it keeps getting bigger and better – I’ll see you there.

Ted

From the Supervisors and Advisors...

Transportation...Transportation...Transportation...Transportation

Tony Tingle,
Transportation Supervisor

As I’m writing this article, I’m looking at the black toenail on my left foot. Blood under the nail arrived back in April, when I attended the Patroller Education Conference (PEC) at Snowbird, UT to help teach a Toboggan Clinic and participate as a judge for the Patroller Challenge. In the process I was reminded of something that I hope will make me a better instructor in the future. I’d like to share my experience with you.

The day Carla and I arrived at Snowbird, snow was dumping from the sky, so we grabbed our skis and headed out to make a few runs. We had only made a couple of runs when I met Mark Barlage. Mark is a great guy, the Intermountain Transportation Supervisor, and he and Frey Aarino (Eastern Division) were the folks I was working for in Utah. Mark suggested we go make some turns to have some fun and to have a look at the terrain where our events would be held. Carla sent me on my way with Mark, and to the top of the mountain we went.

I was excited as we headed to the top of the Peruvian Lift. We headed across a high traverse to a double black called Silver Fox. The powder was deep, visibility was poor, and the slope was steep. A double binding ejection sent me flipping forward towards a soft landing. This was the first of several runs on this slope. We entered the slope from the high traverse and from the gates at the top, with and without sleds. At the end of the first day, my toes were killing me, my

quads were on fire, and I was exhausted. I could not figure out what was going on. I attributed my fatigue to my low elevation body operating 8,000 to 11,000 feet while making laps. Still the toes and the quads made no sense to me. I was tired, and I could feel it in my skiing.

On the second day, I asked Mark for some critique. He hit the nail on the head with the observation that I was getting my weight back. My first response (in my head) was “NO WAY”. During my next run, I thought about it and could feel my boots on the back of my calves. He was right! On the tram ride I kept asking myself - “Why am I getting my weight back?” That’s when the light bulb came on for me. I had been taken out of my comfort zone. The snow I could handle, the steps I could handle, the sleds I could handle, the elevation I could handle, but you pile all of them on top of me and my suppressed bad habits rose to the surface.

This is where I thought about my toboggan trainees. Had I ever taken them out of their comfort zones too quickly? Given my experience in Utah, I’d recommend to you as instructors to be mindful of the comfort zone for each of your students. Start your toboggan students well inside their comfort zone and ease them into more difficult skills or terrain – but not necessarily both at the same time. Come to the Patroller Conference in Kingsport, and I’ll show you my toe nail. (I opted to not share the picture in this article, at Carla’s urging.) It serves as a reminder for me to always consider the comfort zone for each of my students.

I can’t wait to go back to the PEC and work on the steps and powder! It was an absolute hoot! Until then, I hope to see you in Kingsport.

Think Snow,

Tony

Ski and Snowboard...Ski and Snowboard...Ski and Snowboard...Ski and Snowboard

Briggs Allen,

Ski and Snowboard Supervisor

“Awesome”... “Great instruction”... “The best NSP class I’ve ever attended.” These were a few of the comments made by participants of the Southern Division’s Ski School Clinic at Wintergreen February 27-March 1. Twenty-five NSP ski and snowboard instructors along with two PSIA instructors skied and boarded with PSIA National Demo Team Members Matt Boyd and Jeb Boyd along with AASI Demo Team Member Dave Lynch. Every one came away with better skiing and riding skills as well as teaching ideas that will be used with our local patrols. By the way, a big thank you goes to the Wintergreen Resort’s management who graciously allowed us the venue, provided lift tickets and sizable food discounts. Additionally, Tucker Crolius Wintergreen's Patrol Director could not have been a more gracious and helpful host. Finally thanks go to Ted Forbes, Randy Trow and Chris Haley for helping with transportation of the demo team members. If you missed this clinic, you'll have to wait until the 2010-2011 season before the Demo Team Clinic returns.

As program supervisor, I have proposed to our executive committee and board of directors is the changing of our name. We are presently the Southern Division NSP Ski School and I am proposing we change to the Southern Division NSP Snowsports School. This is more current industry vernacular that encompasses our snowboarders as well.

Plans for the 2009-2010 season include regional clinics to assist our members in not only becoming better instructors for our candidates and patrollers but also to allow them to continue their credentialing within the PSIA/AASI system.

Until next time, remember snowsports are simple... turn right, turn left, repeat as necessary.



Instructor Development...Instructor Development...Instructor Development

Teresa T. Stewart,
Instructor Development Supervisor

The NSP Instructor Development course is an integral part of all the NSP Educational courses. This is a required step before the mentoring stage with an instructor within the specific discipline that you are becoming involved with (Outdoor Emergency Care, Toboggan and Ski, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche, Outdoor First Care, etc). This is also a SENIOR ELECTIVE.

Interested students should contact Teresa directly at (stewart.teresa@gmail.com). Students will also need to buy the Instructor Development Student Manual (#502) from the NSP catalog or through the NSP on-line store. I will be contacting the Region Directors for input from their areas on potential needs for courses as the season is approaching fast!

Archivist-Historian... Archivist-Historian... Archivist-Historian... Archivist-Historian...

Fred Wessels,

Archivist / Historian, Southern Division.

One thing about being the Historian/Archivist for the Southern Division is your change in normal reading material. Things you normally look at in your spare time are replaced by a 22-year old Ski Patrol Magazine which featured an article entitled "Use Rubber Gloves for Prevention Against Aids" and a Franz Klammer advertisement for Ray-Ban sunglasses. Did you know that "National Notes" in October 1971 announced the formation of the Southern Division with the title "WELCOME ABOARD-Y'ALL"?



Yep with the title goes the box of stuff. It also looks like every Historian for the last 30 years has put articles in the Southern Cross requesting information. I can't forget the box of un-labeled pictures. I need to know who these people are. Please stop by at the Patroller Education Conference to help identify these "Mystery Patrollers". A prize of some type will be given to the lucky winner. Also, please add SOUTHERNDIVISIONHISTORY@GMAIL.COM to your Patrol Newsletter address list.

See you in August!!

Fred Wessels

Southern Division Election Coordinator... Southern Division Election Coordinator

Lee T. Wittmann,

Election Coordinator, Southern Division

The deadline for voting for the Southern Division Director has come & gone. Votes have been counted and **Morgan Armstrong** has been reelected Division Director.

Morgan I know your efforts are very much appreciated. Keep up the good work.

Lee

From Around the Division...

Sugar Mountain, North Carolina is taking applications for Paid Patrollers for the 2009/2010 ski season. Current OEC Refresher and CPR are required. EMT's and paramedics can challenge the OEC requirements. Applicants must be strong skiers, be neat in appearance, work well with others, and have a strong work ethic. We will accept applications for day and/or night shifts, part-time or full-time shifts.

Contact Ron Scott
rscott013@nc.rr.com
919 362 5689

Ron Scott

Timberline Ski Patrol regrets to inform you of the passing of our dear friend Robert Andrew Poole on the morning of July 4th 2009.

Randy joined the NSP in 1992 and started his patrol career with the Canaan Valley Ski Patrol in the Eastern Division. He transferred to Timberline in 1997 and quickly became a valuable asset, serving dutifully as an OEC instructor and the patrol's treasurer for nearly his entire time with our organization. His love for patrolling, friendship and humor will be sorely missed.

Memorial services for Randy will be held on Wednesday July the 8th at 7:00 PM at the St. David's Episcopal Church located at 19917 Ashburn Road, Ashburn, VA 20147. (703) 729-0570

The family requests that donations in lieu of flowers be made to Timberline Ski Patrol and can be mailed to my address:

Darren Bennett
HC 70 Box 570
Davis, WV 26260

Please make checks payable to Timberline Ski Patrol and add a memo showing the check is for the Randy Poole Memorial.

Submitted by Darren Bennett - Patrol Representative-Timberline Ski Patrol

BOY SCOUT AND YOUNG ADULT PATROLLER REALIZES DREAM TO HELP YOUNG ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES

Boy Scout Brant Taylor of Troop 101 in Greensboro, NC had an idea three years ago to help the athletes of Challenger Baseball navigate the field more easily in their wheelchairs and walkers. Taylor, 17, a recent graduate of Grimsley High School and a long-time baseball player, had helped the athletes around the bases as a “buddy” when he was a kid. He attended the games with his brother, Austin, who played in the league for six years. Brant had a vision to provide a better playing surface at The City of Greensboro’s Pomona Field, home to The Arc of Greensboro’s Challenger League, where the wheelchairs struggled through loose gravel, ruts, and mud.

In addition to his Boy Scout service, Taylor is a Volunteer Ski Patroller at Appalachian Ski Mountain, having successfully completed all training and testing requirements last season. For the 2007-2008 season, as a 16-year old candidate, Brant was recognized for exemplary ski patrol service with the Runner Up - Outstanding Young Adult Patroller award at the Annual Convention of the Southern Division, National Ski Patrol.

Brant’s vision became a reality on May 9, 2009, when the renovated field was dedicated, followed by the Challenger League’s Opening Day for their spring season. The renovation was Taylor’s Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project and was made possible by a \$100,000 donation from the Greensboro Grasshoppers, the city’s minor league affiliate of MLB’s Florida Marlins, plus an equivalent amount of donated services, materials and cash contributions from other supporters, for a total project value of \$200,000. The renovation included a paved infield covered with a rubber track surface specially adapted for baseball, new wheelchair-accessible dugouts, a new backstop, a 30-foot flag pole and additional asphalt paving to improve access to the facility.

Taylor worked for more than 2 years to bring together and satisfy the needs of many stakeholders to make the project a reality. Brant’s father, Mark Taylor, is also a Patroller at Appalachian Ski Mountain and served as the Project Engineer and Construction Manager, donating those services through his consulting engineering firm. Mark is also Secretary-Treasurer of Triad Sports Foundation of Greensboro who sponsored and managed the project in a public-private partnership with the City.

In recognition of his achievement, Brant was awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship for outstanding community service from his high school, the Greensboro City Council’s Mayor’s Distinguished Service Award, and the “Brant Taylor Barrier Free Success Award” (named for him) from the Greensboro Mayor’s Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

“I hope I’ve demonstrated to other young people that you can make a difference if you have big dreams and are willing to see them through,” said Taylor. Brant’s long-term goals include becoming a Certified Patroller and a Boy Scout Leader. Taylor will attend Appalachian State University in Boone, NC this fall, where he plans to major in Exercise Science in hopes of becoming a Physical Therapist.

###

Join us for Fun in the Mountains
Southern Division
Patroller Conference
August 14-16, 2009
MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center



<http://marriott.com/hotels/travel/tricc-meadowview-conference-resort-and-convention-center/>

Please reserve your room at the rate of **\$94.00 plus 16.5% tax (\$109.51 total)** and ask for the **National Ski Patrol 2009**
Call (888) 632-3697 (Central Reservations) or (423) 578-6600 / (800) 820-5055 MeadowView direct.
Hotel deadline for reserving rooms at the NSP rate is **July 17, 2009.**

Here are the events scheduled for patrollers this year:

- Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday and Sunday
- OEC Instructor Update – Saturday (all day event)
- Instructor Development Course –Saturday (all day event)
- CPR Refresher Course – Sunday morning
- Division Snowsports and Transportation Roundtable Meeting – Saturday
- Awards Banquet Saturday Evening

This is a full service hotel and conference center that caters to the needs of its guests. There are two State Parks close by for outdoor recreation. The hotel has its own golf course, plus swimming pool and hot tub. The meeting facilities are first class, and the Hospitality Suite is now an experience.

I would like to add my official invitation to all members. This is your event! Please join us for a fun, informative, and educational experience deep in the mountains of Tennessee.

See you there!

Sincerely,

R. Morgan Armstrong – Division Director

Rob Raff – Southern Division Meeting Coordinator



**Southern Division - NSP
Patroller Conference
Reservation Form
2009**



Saturday, August 15, 2009 @ 8:00 am

Sunday, August 16, 2009 @ 8:00 am

MeadowView Marriott Conference Resort and Convention Center - Kingsport, Tennessee

Please complete one form for each person attending:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number you can be reached at: _____

Patrol: _____ Title: _____

Please register me for the following events: ****Schedule is subject to change – Final schedule available @ Conference

Please register me for the following events:	Saturday	Sunday
Board of Directors Meeting – Main Meeting Room	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	8:00 am–12:00 am
OEC Instructor Update (Saturday all day)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	
Instructor Development Class (Saturday all day)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	
Southern Division Snowsports And Transportation	4:00 pm	
CPR Refresher Class (Sunday morning) – extra fee		9:00 am–12 Noon

- _____ Conference Registration (Hospitality Suite Included) = \$15.00 per person
- _____ **FULL Meeting Reservation to include Lunch and Awards Banquet = \$63.50 per person**
- _____ LUNCH (12 Noon- 1:00pm) and Conference Registration on Saturday = \$33.50 per person
- _____ AWARDS Banquet (6:00 pm) and Conference Registration on Saturday = \$45.00 per person

Total enclosed = _____

**Mail completed form and check (made out to “Hawksnest Ski Patrol –So. Div. Fall Conference”) to:
Fred Wessels, 522 Jervey Road, Tryon, NC 28782**

For your convenience, you may pay your registration fee online using Paypal. Send your payment to hnsptres@gmail.com. Select "Service/Other". Your confirmation will serve as your receipt.

*Reservation Fees Must Be Received At Above Address By August 6, 2009 And Are Nonrefundable After That Date.
Hotel reservations **MUST** be made separately to the hotel by July 17, 2009.*



Places to Play in Northeast Tennessee

Bays Mountain Park

\$3/car
\$12/bus

Howl with the Wolves at one of the largest city parks!

The facilities include the 3500 acre outdoor classroom, a 44 acre lake, and a nature center/museum, inside of which is a Planetarium with a 40 foot diameter dome. A barge ride on the lake is the perfect prescription for a quiet escape to nature. Native animals, including gray wolves, bobcats, deer and otters, are housed near the nature center. A quarter-acre waterfowl and wading bird enclosure is located on the lake trail. The park's newest addition is a raptor habitat that features a screech owl, vulture, redtail hawks and kestrel.

4 Miles from Meadowview Convention Center

Bristol Motor Speedway

Adults: \$5
Seniors: \$4

Cruise the "World's Fastest Half Mile". There's no place like it on earth! When you tour Bristol Motor Speedway and Dragway, you experience "racin the way it ought'a be!" You get to drive down the drag strip, step into Bruton Smith's suite, and race down the track where legends like Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt and Darrell Waltrip raced for years.

24 Miles from Meadowview Convention Center

Gray Fossil Site

Adults: \$5
Seniors: \$4

You'll be "digging up bones" at the Gray Fossil Site Museum. This state-of-the art museum is located just off of Interstate 26 in Gray, TN. The interactive museum offers tours where you can experience what the Southern Appalachias looked like 4 and half to 7 million years ago. Visitors can even try their hand at digging up bones. Just outside of the museum scientists continue to dig. They have excavated thousands of specimens including a saber-toothed cat, a dwarf taper and an extinct rhino. Scientists say they have just scratched the surface. Meeting space and catering available.

15 Minutes from Meadowview Convention Center

Countryside Vineyards and Winery

Free Wine Tasting

Family-owned winery that is the winner of more than 60 international, national and eastern awards.

13 Miles from Meadowview Convention Center

Corey Ippolito Vineyards

Free Wine Tasting

An Italian Bed Breakfast hidden in the Hills of Northeast Tennessee. You can enjoy their estate grown grapes that make their Tennessee Wines.

Downtown Kingsport

Downtown Kingsport boasts a wide variety of shops that give this very historic section of town a personality of its own. Antique dealers and collectors will delight in the largest concentration of antique stores in the Southeast Region.

Natural Tunnel State Park

Admission: \$3
Chairlift: \$3

Visit the "Eighth Wonder of the World" as you admire the natural rock formation that is Natural Tunnel. An active railroad track runs through the 850-foot long tunnel. This state park also offers picnicking, swimming, hiking, camping and a chairlift that takes passengers to the floor of the gorge.
20 Miles North of Kingsport

Appalachian Caverns

Adults: \$9

Stroll along lighted walkways and discover formations ranging from delicate helictites to towering columns that decorate Northeast Tennessee's largest commercial caverns.
22 Miles from Meadowview Convention Center

International Storytelling Center

Adults: \$12

The Center provides visitors with experiences in storytelling-including performances through the popular **Storytelling Live!**, a twenty-two week Teller-in-Residence program. The Center also produces and co-owns the [National Storytelling Festival](#), the premier storytelling event in the world.
20 Miles from Meadowview Convention Center

Downtown Concert Series

FREE

Downtown Kingsport and [participating sponsors](#) present a summer of entertaining and exciting performers for the Free Summer Concert Series! There are plenty of national acts and local artists along with food vendors and plenty of surprises each year!

*******This pricing does not include transportation*******



A taste of Kingsport's History

Exchange Place

Exchange Place, a living history farm, is Kingsport's tonic for today's fast paced life. The site was once a community that served as a self-supporting plantation and relay station along the Old Stage Road. Exchange Place—The Preston Farm recaptures life in the early 1800s.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, six of the eight buildings are original, restored structures built between 1820 and 1850. The farmstead received its name from the "exchanges" of horses and currencies.

Netherland Inn

Listed on the National Register of Historical Sites, the Netherland Inn rises above the Holston River. The restored Inn faces the Old Stage Road in the heart of Kingsport's Boat Yard Park, an area along the Holston River that served as migratory spot for settlers to build boats for their westward trip during the mid-1700s.

William King originally built Netherland Inn between 1802 and 1808 as a point from where he could ship salt westward. He later sold the inn in 1818 to Richard Netherland who procured a stage contract and established the inn and tavern for travelers along the Old Stage Road.

Allandale Mansion

More than a house, Allandale Mansion, the "White House" of Kingsport, Tennessee, was first a home. Built by Ruth and Harvey Brooks as a working farm, Allandale still houses their fine furnishings, antiques and art. The barn, recently restored, once housed prize-winning cattle; the fertile fields were pasture to blue-ribbon Tennessee Walkers. The gardens, designed by President Eisenhower's landscape architect, Timashenko, provided a peaceful backdrop to the vibrant life of this 500-acre family. The Allandale Mansion can be rented for private functions and tours are given by appointment only.

Southern Division Calendar & Staff Directory

Please refer to the Division Website for updated schedules!
www.southernnsp.org

The calendar is flexible dependant on the weather – please check the calendar and/or with your patrol representative / Region Director for the most up-to-date changes.



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

2008-2009, Number 2

www.southernnsp.org

January 2009

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Southern Cross is published three times a year—Fall, Mid-winter and Spring. Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the Spring issue is May 22, 2009.

Send submissions to:

Teresa T. Stewart, SC Editor
 1323 Bywood Lane
 Charlotte, NC 28209
 704-718-5675
sceditor@gmail.com

Send contact changes to:

NSP Office
 133 Van Gordon St., Suite 100
 Lakewood, CO 80228
 Update address at www.nsp.org

R. Morgan Armstrong,
Division Director

Calendar Dates – The Division is trying to keep every patroller informed of all the important events in the division by posting them on the Website Calendar at www.SouthernNSP.org. How we manage the calendar to avoid conflicts and to make sure the information is correct is done as follows: we ask every instructor of record, officer and supervisor to send your date to the **Region Director** who covers the location of that event. If the event is a division wide event, still send the information to the Region Director of that location. The Region Director checks for conflicts, completeness and puts the information on the Division Calendar Form. It is then sent to the Division Director who adds it to the master calendar and it is forwarded to the Webmaster for placement on the calendar.

Any OEC or other discipline class that will extend over a long period of time should have the date the course begins and ends in the information. Also, it is helpful if you provide when the last sign-up date will be. I will keep the class on the calendar until the last sign-up date has passed and then the event will be dropped from the calendar. All dates on the calendar are removed when the date of the event has passed so the calendar contains useful information only.

All courses should be sent to the Region Director as soon as the course information is obtained. What we need is the following: (*)

REGION EVENTS for 2009					
REGION = *					
DATE	EVENT	PLACE	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
*	*	*	*	*	*

The event must have a *Contact* (person) and either a *telephone* (number) or *email* address for contact purposes (both are better) or the event will not be posted. Please help us out by providing information in a complete and timely manner. This will keep the calendar useful for us all.

The calendar is updated twice per month during the ski season and once per month during the non-ski remainder of the year.

Southern Division Patroller Conference 2009 – A lot of work has already been done on the next Patroller Educational scheduled for August 2009. We hope to exceed 200 in attendance and it appears the room rate will be guaranteed at \$94 per room (including double occupancy) for the 2009 and 2010 years. This year the officers of the division are working hard to have sponsors at the event. More will be posted as the event draws near but we look for two major suppliers for NSP and more to attend. We will also have one of the NSP chief officers in attendance. Last year was Tim White, the Executive Director of the NSP, and this year we are looking forward to one of the chief officers in attendance. We are also planning more courses and events for the patrollers to both enjoy and gain credits for advancement. The OEC Instructors Update is planned and we hope to have several other classes. Also, we are inviting a ski shop to set up a sales area for pro-form items for your purchase.

If you or a group known to you would like to sponsor a portion of this conference in order to hold down costs, please contact R. Morgan Armstrong, Division Director at rmasp@comcast.net. This might include funding for the Hospitality Room food, beverage, or rental for that room. The donation may be for all or a portion of the costs. The donation is tax deductible so if you know a professional group or business that would like to sponsor our conference, please let me know.

The big event for the weekend is the **Awards Banquet** on Saturday night. We hope to make this event the center of the weekend and we invite all patrollers to attend. Finally, we are going to move to a larger hospitality suite so everyone will fit into one large room.

NSP Patroller Education Conference – This event is set again at Snowbird, Utah April 15-17, 2009. Also, in combination with the Conference there is a Board of Directors Meeting planned. A lot will be going on that week and patrollers may attend all the conference events including the Board of Directors Meeting to see how the government of the NSP works. All division directors are required to attend this meeting so I will be present. Since it is a fun week as well as a working week, the Board of Directors has insisted that it will be treated as a Patroller Conference. No Southern Division Funds will be used to pay for any officer to attend this conference including the Division Director. Everyone attends on an equal footing without being subsidized by patroller funding. This is the correct way to conduct this meeting and I was very much in support of this resolution.

FIPS Conference – the Southern Division is a member of the Federation International Patrouilles des Ski or International Federation of Ski Patrollers, which is being held in Sweden in April 2009. I will also be attending as your representative for this week-long conference with officers of ski patrols from all over the world. I am joining **Terry LaLiberte**, NSP National Chair, at this conference. Since our last conference Russia and Germany have joined along with most of the countries of the world if they have ski resorts inside their border. This is an information conference and skiing opportunities are limited. Again, no Southern Division Funds are being spent on travel but only on the conference fee but I will be letting Uncle Sam know I expect a little tax deduction to help offset the cost.

Special Committees – Both the Legal and Medical Committees have been busy this year with rendering opinions on issues not only from the Southern Division but for NSP issues as well. Since we are one of the divisions who lead with a good strong Legal and Medical Committee in place, the NSP has used our committees to help the NSP Board of Directors to make decisions specific to the expertise of these committees. Other divisions are being asked to follow our lead and form similar committees. We should thank these committees for their hard work and special thanks goes to **Chuck Lollar**, Legal Committee Chair, and **Dr. Ian Archibald**, Medical Committee Chair, for their hard work and dedication to the Southern Division.

Staff Directory Information – Please check the Staff Directory on the Website and send me updates on information. I have several blanks in the information and need help filling in the gaps. Please send new information to rmasp@comcast.net.

A lot is going on in the division this year. An election is being held for Division Director and I hope I will continue to be your Director. The Southern Division continues to lead the NSP in various fields and our voice is very strong at the national level. This past winter I made a special effort to visit the patrols that were missed last ski season. Since our season is short, we have quite a few patrols and the distance is fairly great from one end of the division to the other. I try to be fair in visitation and make a visit each year if possible. If your patrol would like a visit, send me a date and I will do my best to work it into the schedule. Thank each of you for all you do for the local patrol, region, division and the NSP. I hope to see you at the Patroller Conference this August and most of all, ski and ride safely.

R. Morgan Armstrong
Southern Division Director

Morgan Armstrong is looking for information and the history of the past Division Directors and their dates of services to properly record in the history of the Division.

Please review the information below and send him any corrections to spelling, name or date of service.

**DIVISION DIRECTORS
of the
SOUTHERN DIVISION
(Created from Eastern Division in 1971)**

NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM, INCORPORATED

(1)	Keith Argow	1971 – 1977
(2)	David Dillard	1977 – 1979
(3)	C. Harwell Dabbs, MD	1979 – 1981
(4)	Charles T. “Charlie” Benbow	1981 – 1985
(5)	Farris Jackson	1985 – 1989
(6)	Douglas Carlburg	1989 – 1993
(7)	Raymond B. “Bernie” Smith	1993 – 1999
(8)	Eunice “Nici” Singletary, MD	1999 – 2003
(9)	Neil Booth	2003 – 2007
(10)	R. Morgan Armstrong	2007 – Present

Richard Boyer,

1st. Assistant Division Director



End of Year Reports

By now you will have received the forms for the infamous End of Year Reports if you are an officer in the Southern Division. If you are either a Patrol Representative or a line or staff officer in the division a report will be necessary at year's end. Please look the forms over, take the one which is pertinent to your office and use it as a guide for keeping track of the information which is required in the report. This will make the task in April much less ominous. For those of you who didn't receive an email from me, don't have email, are new Patrol Representatives or new officers, contact me at richardboyer@bellsouth.net or (770) 364-0187. Together, we can make this a breeze to complete.

National Ski Patrol Certified Program

I have started the audit process of participating in the Certified Program of the NSP. **Ric Lavalle'e, Wayne Morgan** and I traveled together to the Clinic at Snowshoe Mountain this past weekend. Once there we met **Lisa Adams** and **Brie Young** (the sole boarder in our group) from Beech Mountain, and **Susanne Ebling** from Wintergreen who are first year attendees or like me were auditing the program. **Greg Pence** and **Brett Henyon** are already well on their way to completing their requirements for Certified. What an amazing program it is! We will be exposed to portions of Mountain Operation patrollers seldom get to see, much less to study. I knew there was a whole other world beside the patrol world each day one of our resorts is open, but it is truly thrilling to begin to learn about parts of it. This is not to presume we are being exposed to the whole operations picture, but the part we are learning is HUGH compared to the operation of just the ski patrol. Most of the Certified patrollers I've met don't wear this superlative distinction as a badge of bragging, but I'm here to tell you as one looking in from the outside of this group, anyone who successfully becomes a Certified Patroller, is one hell of a skier/boarder and much more! The program can take up to 3 years to complete or one has to start over; so it is like getting a graduate degree in Snow Sports Mountain. I would like more of our dedicated members to consider attempting this Certified Program. The worst that will happen, even if not successful in attaining Certified, is one will become a better patroller.

I would be remiss not thanking **Brandon Deane**, who heads up the Certified Program and some of the dedicated evaluators he gathered, **Kirk Mangum, Tom Hughes, Karen Sealock, Nate Wageley, Melinda Souder,** and **Jan Starr**. Most of them stood around all day in a steady rain watching us and giving very helpful advice then spent a better weather day Sunday doing the same thing on OEC, Lift Evacuation and Avalanche. Sorry if I missed some last names, I'll get them down in the future.

This year my wife, Joan and I will be visiting several areas we haven't had the opportunity to visit before and look forward to meeting new friends and seeing old friends in these areas. We're looking for consistently cold weather and new, fun slopes down which to carve turns.

Richard Boyer

Brent Bowman,
2nd Assistant Division Director



Well here we are already into February and 50% of the ski season in the South is over. I trust that all of you have gotten enough turns in to hold you over for the next 8-9 months.

For those of you who did not get enough skiing maybe there are a few things you should consider:

- 1) Join the Senior Program
- 2) Join the Certified Program
- 3) Become a PSIA or AASI instructor
- 4) Attend the Patroller Education Conference at Snowbird, Utah

At any or all of these I can guarantee that there people who will ski your legs off. They will literally make you crawl to your car. I know I have been there. They will wow you with their knowledge. Why are these people such good skiers, boarders and instructors? Because they spend the time on the hill or in the classroom. Not just any time. **Quality time** teaching and refining something that they love to do. They attend clinics and drive many miles to spend the weekend or a vacation weekday at another area learning new tips and tricks. This is not easy stuff. It takes a lot of dedication from these individuals. Next time you are in a class (NSP or not) think of the time this person has spent learning the information that they are attempting to give to you. At the end of the class please be sure to give them a big **THANK YOU** for all that they do without asking for any thanks or kudos.

Think about becoming an instructor. I am sure that each of you has a discipline that you love participating in. How about dedicating some of **YOUR** valuable time to assist others in gaining the fruits of your knowledge. Ask your PR or PD how you can get more involved with our organization.

Wishing I had more telemark turns in my legs.....

Brent

Mike Harris,
Assistant Division Director – South Area



AS THE BULL WHEEL TURNS

Blue Ridge and Dixie Regions are well into the 2008-2009 Ski Season. It looks like we will have cold weather for MLK weekend.

This years refreshers went very well. With Hawksnest only open for tubing – we had great cooperation in moving events scheduled for there.

Despite conditions of the economy, skier turnout has been surprisingly good so far this year.

I would like to remind everyone that a lot of work is going into keeping the calendar current on our new website – [www. SOUTHERNNSP.ORG](http://www.SOUTHERNNSP.ORG) – that is the fastest way to check on what is coming up.

Guess what? Even Tyrone has finally figured out that when it is raining or snowing - a helmet can really be dry and comfortable.



Newspaper Clipping from Hickory
re: the Catawba Valley Ski Club

Pete Chamberlin 1954 - Present = 55 yrs
Ann Wood 1976 = 33 yrs
Don Hedrick 1971-2000 = 29 yrs
Mike Harris 1977 = 32 yrs

149 Years total service to patrolling!

Mike Harris
aka Tyrone

Dixie Region

Brandon Olson,
Assistant Region Director

Hello fellow patrollers! As I write this, rain is falling, and has been for the last 2 plus weeks. I think that every patroller wishes the same thing - why can't the temp drop about 15 degrees and make this snow. Due to mother-nature, Dixie has suffered, yet continues to prevail!

As I travel across the Dixie Region, there is one thing that is always evident - stellar attitudes. It doesn't matter what happens, patrollers at all resorts are always welcoming to each other and its patrons, and continually make the best of what is laid in front of them. I want to personally thank all of you for your hard work and smiling faces. Keep up the good work!

As a result of the "Dixie Struggles", a multitude of classes have been cancelled or bumped to a later date. I want to encourage all of you to hang in there, as I have a feeling that things are going to take a turn for the better - possibly by the time you read this.

On another note, a few new things have happened. A handful of patrollers have passed their Basic Exam - congrats to them on a job well done. Also, the Dixie welcomes a few more Senior patrollers to the ranks as well - great job guys! I have been approached by quite a few seeking Toboggan Instructor and OEC Instructor status. This just proves how much dedication we have in this Region. I encourage all of you to help your Patrol, Region, and Division - we can't do it without your help.

And lastly, I want to congratulate Ober Gatlinburg on a successful opening weekend of an 8-lane tubing park. This has been in the mix for quite a few years, and finally became reality after the New Year. The park is adjacent to the slopes and offers much entertainment during the lift ride to the top.

Until next time - Take care, stay safe, think cold,

Brandon

Blue Ridge Region

Jonathan F. Hale,
Blue Ridge Region Director



Greetings to all Patrollers!

Thanks to **God** for the cold November. He gave us the necessary snow to hold us till mid-January's cold snap. I also give thanks to the Senior Candidates and instructors that braved the fog and ice to attend the Senior S&T and EMM clinics. A special thanks to **Randi Lowery** and **Rhonda Smith** from Wolf Ridge for adding elegance and intelligence to our event. We had twenty senior candidates in all. About twice what we expected. A special thanks to **Rick Laws** and "veteran" **Toni Cheek** for pulling off a great learning event under adverse conditions. Thanks to all of the volunteers and professionals that took the extra time to make themselves better Patrollers. Attaining senior status –or basic –or certified helps three groups of people. They are as follows:

- The Mountain,
- The skiing (or riding) public,
- The person making the personal transformation- You, the participant!

I'm gonna wax nostalgic for just a minute and tell you about an epiphany that struck me when I saw the picture of **Jim Hunter's** friends spreading his ashes at Beech Mountain again as I left the Patrol room to go out into the fog. I thought about how lucky we are to have these people in our lives. The finest and most dedicated people that I have ever met. Later that day, **Pete Chamberlain** and **Dan Cheek** made me a chili dog and **Ann Wood** counseled me on the finer points of a scenario, **Hugh Jernigan** and **Jim** and **Harriet Gayle** shaking off the cold while using a pencil to write critical notes as **Tommy Taylor**, **Tony Tingle** and **Bill Clarke** went through a Certified Scenario. I started counting years of service and stopped when I got to 100 with the first three. I thought about how pleased Jim was to see all of that happening from his perch.

Mike Harris shared a picture of some of a couple of these dedicated patrollers at an earlier venue.

See the photo page that includes the Senior EMM at Beech Mountain on January 11th.

See you soon on the hill! Jonathan

West Virginia

Byrd White,
West Virginia Region Director

What a great family.

A few weeks back I had the pleasure of attending a course for instructors of the new Leadership course. As I listened I began to marvel at all the time that the **Underwood's, Ted Forbes** and **Bill Smith** had put into the development of this course. The next thought was "why are these eight people sitting here on a pretty Saturday learning how to teach this course?"

On the way home that evening it dawned on me.

When I got to the course that morning I had met all the people there but really hadn't spent a lot of time with most of them. I left feeling that we were all friends.

I have been an NSP member for 17 years and involved in the Division for a little over 10 years. The people I have been privileged to work with are, without fail, friendly and caring people, the kind of people we should all want to spend time with. Oh yeah, they are also pretty bright people pretending to be less that they are. Humility is a virtue that really shines in this group.

My point in all this is that if you are not involved in NSP, you should be. A lot of people gave a lot of their time so that you could be a patroller. Someone helped you pass the OEC (WEC for the gray hairs), they helped you develop your toboggan skills, Senior, on and on. By getting involved you not only get to pass on what you have learned, you get to associate with some of the best people around. NSP needs you, Southern Division needs you. Talk to your Patrol Representative, I promise you will be welcomed and that you will enjoy the experience.

From the Supervisors and Advisors...

Transportation...Transportation...Transportation...Transportation

Tony Tingle,
Transportation Supervisor

At the Fall Conference in Kingsport last August one of the primary topics of discussion among the folks at the Transportation Roundtable was Continuing Education for Transportation Instructors. The majority in attendance at the Roundtable indicated that establishing continuing education requirements is a good idea, and I agree.

I would like to propose, for adoption into the Southern Division, a set of continuing education requirements for transportation instructors. The formal proposal will not be submitted to the Executive Committee until this summer. I'm trying to be flexible but ensure that each

transportation instructor continues to improve in his or her teaching abilities. With that in mind, here is what I would like to propose:

For every three (3) year Transportation Instructor renewal period, each instructor shall do three (3) of the following:

- Teach a Toboggan Enhancement Seminar (TES)
- Attend or Teach at a Ski Trainers Workshop (STW)
- Attend or Teach at a Skiing Enhancement Seminar (SES)
- Attend the National Education Seminar and participate in one of the Toboggan Training Activities
- Actively Teach at your Mountain
- Attend the Transportation Roundtable at the Fall Conference, or
- Mentor a new instructor

Here is where you guys come into play. Tell me what you think. Give me your suggestions and comments. Are there more items I should include in the options? Should we require more or less training? Send our questions and comments via e-mail to me at geofolks@att.net or via snail-mail to Tony Tingle, 113 Orkney Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. This is not set in concrete, and I'm up for suggestions. Let's build our continuing education requirements together.

And don't forget, if you register and teach a course this season; get that course closure paperwork submitted quickly after you are done. If you need help, give me a shout.

Think Snow,

Tony

Ski and Snowboard...Ski and Snowboard...Ski and Snowboard...Ski and Snowboard

Briggs Allen,

Ski and Snowboard Supervisor

With winter finally upon us the Southern Division Snowsports School's training programs are getting into full swing. In December, a course was held at Cataloochee to further our members teaching skills and to prepare them for the PSIA Level II part 2 (teaching) exam. On Friday, February 6 a skiing skills improvement and level II part 1 (skiing) exam prep workshop will be held at Winterplace. On Saturday and Sunday, February 7 and 8 a more extensive version of the Winterplace clinic will be held at Ski Beech Resort. To sign up for the above free clinics just drop me an e-mail at briggsaln@aol.com.

This year's major program will be held February 27 - March 1 at Wintergreen. We have as instructors, PSIA National Alpine Demo Team members **Matt** and **Jeb Boyd** and AASI National Snowboard Demo Team member **Dave Lynch**. This event will consist of personal skiing/boarding improvement as well as Level II exam prep. Additionally, this clinic will qualify for both PSIA and AASI continuing education credits. Cost for the program is \$130 with registration available to all patrollers. Detailed information e-mail was sent to all members of

the Southern Division Snowsports School and patrol directors. A detailed flyer was also mailed to patrol directors for posting. This event is not to be missed and a great chance to learn from, as well as ski and board with, the best instructors in the country. Registration is limited and filling quickly so *do not* delay.

If you haven't had an opportunity to read the latest edition of Ski Patrol Magazine be sure to read the article on our Snowsports School. Lots of complements and gee I didn't know have been coming in.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our members that are working so very hard to upgrade their credentials so that they can provide greater service helping instructor our candidates and patrollers in their skiing and snowboarding skills. We realize this takes time, money and a tremendous amount of dedication

Until next time, remember skiing is simple... turn right, turn left, repeat as necessary.

Instructor Development...Instructor Development...Instructor Development

Teresa T. Stewart,
Instructor Development Supervisor

The NSP Instructor Development course is an integral part of all the NSP Educational courses. This is a required step before the mentoring stage with an instructor within the specific discipline that you are becoming involved with (Outdoor Emergency Care, Toboggan and Ski, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche, Outdoor First Care, etc). This is also a SENIOR ELECTIVE.

Interested students should contact Teresa directly at (stewart.teresa@gmail.com). Students will also need to buy the Instructor Development Student Manual (#502) from the NSP catalog or through the NSP on-line store. I will be contacting the Region Directors for input from their areas on potential needs for courses after the first of the year.

Archivist-Historian... Archivist-Historian... Archivist-Historian... Archivist-Historian...

Fred Wessels,
Archivist / Historian, Southern Division.

Don't Fade Away

Sometime back in October, a couple of "wise guys" decided that since Hawksnest was closed, I would have nothing better to do than sit around on the computer and scan a box full of pictures. So they asked me to be the Archivist / Historian. You guys are in real trouble. The Southern Division has a rich history. The problem is none of it is recorded in any single location. We all have old pictures, newspaper articles, and stories about the history of our

mountains and Patrols. Unless something is done to preserve this information, it will fade away into history.

This is where I need your help. I am looking for a written history of your Patrol along with any newsletters, Photos, Photos with stories, stories about Patrollers, etc. Basically anyone who has anything, I would like a copy. Not only for active Patrols. Don't let the ski hills that have closed fade away into our rapidly fading memories.

I would prefer to get this information in a digital format. Scan pictures and email them to me or copy to a disk and mail the information. If you have Patrol Newsletters, I please add me to your email list southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com. Not just for current Newsletters, I would also like as far back as you can go.

Some of the pictures I have are rapidly degrading while some are still sharp. Let's stop our history from becoming lost in history. Below are a few samples from the collection. Send me new ones!



Oak Ridge Juniors 1987 at Hawksnest

From Around the Division...

Update on the NSP NC license plate.

We are close to our goal of 300 signatures on the petition to create a new North Carolina license plate. We are literally **35 signatures** short of our goal. Please, if you haven't signed up or are not sure if you did or not, email me with your full name, home address, phone number and home patrol. I will add you to the petition. I'd like to be able to turn this in to Senator Tom Apodaca this spring so we can progress to the next level.

Randi Lowery
Assistant PR
Wolf Ridge SP
randilowery@gmail.com

Dr. Tom Brigham, the founder of Sugar, Beech and Snowshoe Mountains, died this fall. He was 83 years old. While Doc Brigham was a dentist by trade (and a professor at the UAB School of Dentistry) he was well known amongst ski area management and fans of the Southeast ski resorts as "The Father of Southern Skiing".

Please see the following links on the death of the Father of Southern Skiing.

- http://www.highcountrypress.com/weekly/2008/12-11-08/saying_goodbye.htm
- <http://www.skinc.com/article.php?table=article&mode=search&archived=false&subtype=fi rsttrax&article=2290>

Photos from the Blue Ridge Region Senior EMM January 11, 2009 – (Photos submitted by Harriett Gayle)



Rick Lott, Margaret Rees, Roger Bushnell and Richard Sanders



Tommy Taylor, Bill Clarke, Tony Tingle and Patrick Benson



John Hamrick,
Harriett Gayle,
Josh Jones and
Susie Strohschein
Working a scenario
and still ←-
smiling- →



Richard Yercheck pondering a scoring sheet while observing a scenario in the freezing fog at Beech Mountain.

**Ski and Toboggan Clinic at Appalachian Ski Mountain
December 7, 2008** (Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan)



Senior S & T Clinic - January 10, 2009



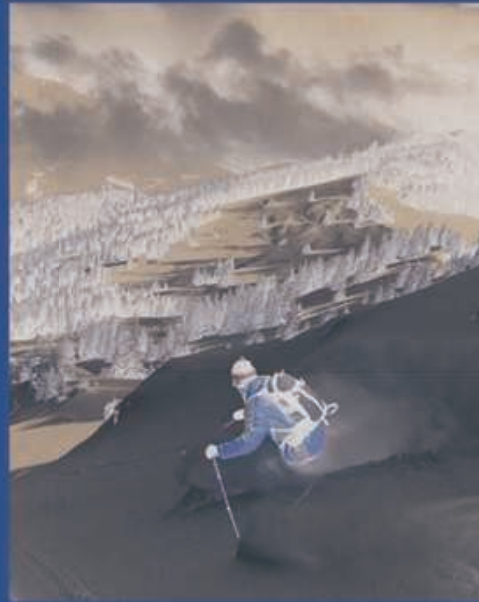
Jonathan Hale is training for a new position at Beech Mountain with Jason Varney
(Photo submitted by Randi Lowery)

Dennis Slagle atop Mogul Ridge-Ober Gatlinburg 01-17-09
(Submitted by Mike Harris)



Southern Division Snowsports School

DEMO TEAM



February 27-March 1, 2009

Contact: Briggs Allen at
briggsaln@aol.com

Learn from the PSIA & AASI National Demo Teams

The Southern Division NSP Snowsports School is sponsoring a 2 1/2 day clinic with Matt and Jeb Boyd of the PSIA National Demo Team and Dave Lynch of the AASI National Demo Team. This is a great opportunity to get ready for your Level I or II certification or just to polish those skiing and boarding skills.

The clinic will be held at Wintergreen Resort on February 27, 28 and March 1 (1/2 day), 2009. The program will qualify for continuing education credits for both PSIA and AASI. The cost is *only* \$130. Registration will begin immediately and continue until 12/21/2008 for Southern Division Snowsports School members. After that date, registration will be open to all Southern Division NSP members until the classes are full. Registration can be completed by sending your name, address, NSP/PSIA/AAAI #, telephone # as well as a check to Southern Division NSP to Briggs Allen, 15114 Stonewall Ridge Bristol, VA 24202. Or if you wish to pay by credit card (\$134) send the above information to briggsaln@aol.com and you will be invoiced with a PayPal link.

Space is limited... so hurry! This is your chance to ski/ride/learn from the very **BEST** in the sport.

Information from NSP.org

(Member News Section)

An Important Warning for all Avalanche Transceiver Users (1.21.09)

PIEPS has become aware of a potential issue with carrying the PIEPS DSP avalanche transceiver in close proximity with the Motorola Model GP340 radio transceiver. If these two devices come in contact with each other, magnetic fields in the radio can activate magnetic switches in the PIEPS DSP to turn it off or change it from transmit mode to search mode.

The issue is being investigated and is no cause for alarm. It does not appear to affect transceivers that are carried according to the separation criteria already specified in the PIEPS DSP owner's manual (at least 15 cm (6") from other devices while in "send" mode). However it should serve as a reminder for all users of avalanche transceivers to read their owners manual and heed the criteria specified for separation distance between their transceiver and other potential sources of electromagnetic interference, regardless of brand.

Southern Division Calendar & Staff Directory

Please refer to the Division Website for updated schedules!

www.southernnsp.org

The calendar is flexible dependant on the weather – please check the calendar and/or with your patrol representative / Region Director for the most up-to-date changes.