



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

2010-2011, Number 1

www.southernnsp.org

September 2010

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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 Fall issue is January 07, 2011.

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R. Morgan Armstrong,
Division Director

SOUTHERN CROSS ARTICLE

Patroller Conference – The 2010 Patroller Conference was held at the Meadowview Conference, Resort and Convention Center in Kingsport, TN on August 13 – 15, 2010. This year in addition to the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday and Sunday, the Executive Committee Meeting on Friday evening, we also had the following:

- OEC Instructor Update – Saturday (all day event)
- Instructor Development Instructor’s Meeting – Sunday morning
- Division Snowsports Meeting – Saturday
- Transportation Roundtable Meeting – Saturday
- Awards Banquet Saturday Evening

This year an added attraction was the Special Events Committee tasked with the job of creating special entertainment programs for the family and patrollers attending the conference. A dance was held after the Awards Banquet that was quite a hit. Trips were available to old town in the area as well as attractions such as Dollywood and other points of interest in the area. Camille Hale headed up this effort this year and got an excellent start on providing new and extra events for our conference.

The Hawksnest Ski Patrol committee again this year provided the staff for the Patroller Conference Meeting Committee. They were responsible for the hotel meeting rooms, hospitality suite, food and beverage for the hospitality suite, lights, sound, registration and coordination of all of the events at the hotel involving the meetings. The event went on flawlessly as always and we really want to thank the following members of that committee for all of their hard work.

Conference Meeting Committee

Robb Raff, Chair

Rob Raff (Audio & Visual)

Fred Wessels (Accounting, Registration & Setup)

Teresa Stewart (Registration & Setup)

Jo Ann Ehlinger (Hospitality Suite)

The National Ski Patrol guest was **Bela Musits**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NSP and his wife Elaine. He spoke to the conference on Saturday Morning about the National Ski Patrol and current issues. He also answered questions from the floor for about twenty minutes. The Chairman was also present for the Awards Banquet on Saturday night and presented many of the awards to the patrollers in attendance. The large Alpine Ski Patrol Award was named the **Thomas “Doc” Brigham Award** this year and **Massanutten Ski Patrol** name has the distinction of being the first patrol to win this award since the of the award has been changed to honor the founder of three resorts in the Southern Division.

The event was attended by over 160 patrollers this year. Despite the economic problems facing the country, patrollers of the Southern Division turned out in larger numbers this year than last year. More events and more fun were packed into the weekend. I am sorry if you missed it this year and I would invite you to the 2011 Patroller Conference because we plan to make it better and more fun than the one this year.

Calendar – The Southern Division Calendar has undergone several changes over the last year and continues to be updated once per month in the off-season and twice per month during the ski season. It is located on the Southern Division Webpage at www.SouthernNSP.org. The Calendar was expanded to include the normal monthly calendar plus an “archive” calendar. The “archive” calendar contains all of the dates and events for the last year (2009-2010) along with the Course Numbers for each course held in the division. This is a good place to start if one needs to track down information about the courses this past year. We will again do an “archive” calendar along with the monthly or current calendar this year.

Placing events on the Calendar – The process is simple and easy to use. Anyone wanting to create a course should first contact the Region Director (RD) for the region where the course will be taught. Clear the date or dates with the Region Director who will help you avoid conflicts with other courses or major events. Once the date is cleared and location acquired, register the course with NSP and obtain your course number. File your calendar event with the Region Director. The RD will forward the event to the Division Director who keeps the Calendar current.

Calendar information is as follows to register the event. (1) Date, (2) Event description, (3) Location, (4) Contact Person, (5) Contact Person’s Phone Number and (6) Contact Person’s email address. That is all there is to it and we hope you will find the placing of events on the calendar easy and the Southern Division Calendar useful and always current.

This year in the Division will be another year of change. We will be receiving the OEC 5th Edition Text in 2011. The National Ski Patrol is working on new manuals and editions in the various programs. The NSP is expanding the scope of its work and is being contacted by the State of California to assist in that state with first

aid and disaster response. The National Forest Service is looking at a Joint Statement of Mutual Understanding very similar to the one we signed in 2009 with the National Ski Areas Association. We have had many of these with NSAA but this is the first one we have had with the National Forest Service. A lot is going on and a lot is being worked on so opportunities abound for each patroller to get involved in work with the NSP. The Division is also working in new areas. There is a new Program started by NSP called the Women's Program. This Program will be started by **Lisa Adams**, Program Supervisor and she is looking for women to join with her to help make this program a dynamic program. Our Young Adult Program supervised by **Meggan Monaghan** continues to advance the goals of the young adult patroller.

Some of the new changes in Staff are as follows: **Terry Loges** is the new supervisor of the Mountain Travel & Rescue Program. **Brandon Deane** is Snowsports School Technical Director along with **Briggs Allen**, Snowsports School Administrative Director. The main group of Supervisors and Staff will remain the same and I thank everyone for all of your hard work. The finances of the division are sound, the programs seem to be advancing in good fashion and most importantly, we want patrollers to have fun and enjoy patrolling. Your Division Director looks forward to skiing with many of you this winter and if I may be of service to you, do not hesitate to give me a call or email.

R. Morgan Armstrong, Southern Division Director

From the Assistants...

Richard Boyer,
1st Assistant Division Director



Dateline: Panama City Beach, Florida, 91 degrees feels like 101 degrees, no tar balls on the beach, but well into hurricane season.

As you may have heard we enjoyed a smooth and productive annual board meeting this year at the Southern Division Patrollers' Conference this year in Kingsport, Tennessee. For those of you who had to miss it we had a ball seeing familiar faces and talking with old friends. There were some fun times in the hot tub and tripping the light fantastic on the dance floor. Maybe next year you too can join us to see just how much effort and time is given (but much fun, as well) to running your ski patrol division.

We are well on our way toward finalizing the multitude of various plans for preparation for the 2010-2011 ski season. I'm continually amazed at all the work toward organizing the fall refreshers. Your elected and appointed leaders need to be complimented each year for their efforts in getting ready for this series of events. Please join me in this thank you and when you see anyone of them this fall shake their hand or hug them while thanking them for what all they do for us.

One of the topics, briefly, in Kingsport was an exploration into how we can make that dreaded, End of the Year (EOY) Report obligation both less drudgery for the Patrol Representative and as important, more relevant and useful to what we do. This year we will add the EOY forms to our Southern Division web site as step one, step two will be archiving them so that over time we can do some graphing of trends and other analysis on the patrol level to increase the interpretation value for the Patrol Representative. Example: if your trend graph illustrated a downward trend in Instructors what will that tell you could happen next to your patrol in the near future? Answer: your patrol is “headed toward the ditch” and could possibly find itself unable to perform for mountain management, their duties from a resources and staffing of qualified personnel standpoint. This would be pretty serious for any of us.

We’ll be doing some more visiting this year. Hope to see most of your mountains and maybe we’ll catch a run or two with you. Let’s get to winter quickly!!!

Richard



Brent Bowman,
2nd Assistant Division Director



WHAT!!! Labor Day already!!! Where has the summer gone? Seems like just a couple of weeks ago it was June! After the Southern Division Patroller Conference a flurry of e-mail began; planning for OEC refreshers and for the verification of dates and locations for courses planned for the upcoming 2010-2011 season.

Refreshers for instructors will be completed in the next 4-6 weeks allowing those folks to then update all of the other patrollers in the Southern Division. This is a TON of work. Some of the Instructors of Record consider this to be more difficult than herding cats. I have two cats and just trying to get both of them into (or out of) one room is a tough job! I like to think about the refresher as a kick-start to get me thinking again about things like “SAMPLE”, “DCAP-BTLS” and “BSI” that I don’t normally think about in my profession as an Electrical Engineer.

Please remember to thank all of the hard working instructors this refresher cycle for the hard work and many hours that go into planning and completing the refresher. Also, this season, be sure to grab one of the NSP Snowsports School instructors and make a few turns with them. Each of us can still learn something new about this slippery thing that is under our feet whether it is a Ski or a Board.

SEE YOU AT THE REFRESHER!!!!!!

Mike Harris,

Assistant Division Director – South Area



As The Bull Wheel Turns

It is hard to believe that another ski season is just around the corner. The Southern Division held it's annual fall conference August 13th, 14th, & 15th at Meadowview Marriott, in Kingsport, Tennessee. It is amazing that even with the condition of the economy, the attendance continues to grow year after year. Besides the annual Board of Directors meeting, we had the annual OEC Instructors update, Snowsports workshop, Instructor Development Instructor workshop, presentation from Mary Underwood for the new Leadership Development course, and the best Transportation Instructor workshop that I have seen. Tony Tingle has done a great job with Transportation. The awards banquet is still one of the highlights of the weekend. We really have the greatest hospitality suite imaginable. **Rob Raff** and **Fred Wessels**, with help from Teresa Stewart, JoAnn Ehlinger and their crew, keep finding a way to make it better year after year. I am not going to duplicate the information that your Region Directors will be putting in their articles. Only one reminder, with a number of date changes for OEC refreshers, a number of patrols are having this years refreshers on the same weekends. This will cut down the options you might have if you run into difficulty making your home mountain's refresher. This will cut back on the number of refreshers that I will be able to attend this year. I will be looking forward to visiting and patrolling with as many of you as possible this season.

I am so looking forward to opening day. See you on the hill. Mike Harris (aka Tyrone)

Jan Starr,

Assistant Division Director, North Area

Notes from the North

Sure hope everyone has enjoyed the summer as much as I did! We even had a few days that reached the 90's here in the mountains of WV. But the air has had a nip to it this past week which means winter is not far off. That means it is refresher time! Check the Southern Division web site calendar for your refresher dates. If you are not able to make the refresher at your home area and need to participate in another areas refresher please call ahead to the IOR listed for that area so they can plan ahead for extra people attending. Please remember to THANK the instructors at your refresher. They put a lot of time and work into preparing this.

The Patroller Conference in August had a good turn out. It would be great to see even more next year in TN. There were a lot of good presentations and Awards handed out. Congratulations to our friends and patrollers at **Massanutten** for being the first recipients of the new Thomas "Doc" Brigham Outstanding Large Patrol Award!!!

Please check out the Patrol VISA card that is available to us. It gives money back to National and to Southern Division when you apply for one.

Hope your fall is wonderful and that we have another wonderful ski season ahead!

Jan Starr

Ted Forbes,

Virginia Region Director

It's Labor Day weekend and the unofficial end of summer. And how appropriate that we just said goodbye to Hurricane Earl, and the front that ushered him on up the coast sent a shot of cool air into the mountains that brought morning temperatures in the 40s. I'm sure we'll have a few more days of hot weather, but the trees are just beginning to turn, and OEC courses are not far off. If we're lucky, snow-making weather is only about 90 days off.



Things have been busy in Virginia this summer. Grass skiing season just ended at Bryce. If you ever get a chance to try this, it'll keep your muscle memory from getting too rusty! Massanutten expanded its zip line canopy tour and from the pictures you see, it looks like a heck of a lot of fun. The summer crowds in Hot Springs kept busy fly fishing and shooting and paddling at the Homestead. And at Wintergreen both summer tubing and Segway tours made their debut. There's certainly no shortage of things to keep folks coming to our resorts.

Meanwhile, capital projects are anticipating winter. New snowmaking equipment is a leader in the headlines, and the hottest thing in the industry right now is the fan gun. These are more energy efficient and make snow in a wider ranges of conditions – especially in marginal temperatures. We'll see more of them on the hills this winter.

So it's time to start thinking about getting ready. Are you in shape? Might be a good idea to hit the gym. Have you checked your equipment? Bases, edges and bindings might need work. Have you checked your vest or belt pack? Look at the expiration date on your goods. Have you used your medical skills at all over the summer? The new issue of Ski Patrol magazine has your OEC refresher guide in it. Lots to do to be ready!

We'll see how Ullr treats us this season. After last year's epic snowstorms, it may be hard to top the snow pack of 2009/2010 – but here's hoping that we have another awesome year. We'll see you out there!

Ted

Massanutten in the Summer ... 2010

Just starting out for a day of adventure
at the Massanutten Canopy Tour
(photo submitted by Ted Forbes)



Fun meter is pegged @ Massanutten for Mark!
(photo submitted by Ted Forbes)

Jonathan Hale,
Blue Ridge Region Director



Patrollers,

By the time this article is in print we in the Blue Ridge Region will have had another instructor's refresher; this time instructors will be embarking to their own mountain to refreshers run by each individual mountain. This is a new thing for Blue Ridge members, even though we are the only region that has produced the refreshers. Everyone else in our Division has refreshers produced by their mountains. There are skilled, dedicated instructors on every mountain that will make this process a meaningful training experience as well as meet the regimen dictated by the NSPS. Some members of the instructor team have already volunteered to teach at other mountain's refreshers. Hats off to people like **Theresa Varner, Cathy Lamarre** and others who take the time to help out other mountains!

We had eight candidates graduate through the senior program during last year. I congratulate them for their diligence and tenacity for this altruistic cause. The members of this elite group are as follows:

- **Terry Bygate**, Beech Mountain
- **Joseph Hill**, Hawksnest/Appalachian Ski Mountain
- **Per Larsen**, Hawksnest/Wolf Ridge
- **Margaret Rees**, Beech Mountain
- **Tommy Taylor**, Sugar Mountain
- **Collin Waldron**, Beech Mountain
- **Richard Yercheck**, Beech Mountain
- **Brie Young**, Beech Mountain

I had the fortunate occasion to train with several paid patrollers this past winter who were in search of their Senior Level. I have been training Patrollers for 14 years now and never have had more respect for a group of Patrollers. They truly are some of the best Patrollers that I have ever met. Making senior level is a combination of tenacity, raw skill, being able to think on your feet, and being able to perform to the criteria set by our NSP. Sometimes the NSP criterion even seems arbitrary, but it isn't. It is the only way to make the test equitable. At the test, some passed, some of the best didn't, but they will next year, or the year afterwards.

I must congratulate our runners up winners at the National PEC toboggan contest. Three paid Patrollers; **Joe White, Kyle Hassler** and **Eric Rosenbusch** were second out of 17 teams in the very competitive event out west. The course was very steep and rumor has it that two other teams of Ski Patrollers had to be rescued.

Think Snow Bro's.....

Jonathan

From the Supervisors and Advisors...

Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snow

Briggs Allen,

Snowsports Supervisor

Southern Division NSP Snowsports School

After the hottest summer on record here in Southwest Virginia, fall and winter are eagerly anticipated. If it is only half as cold and snowy as it was hot this year, we are in for a great season. And speaking of great seasons... you can improve yours by joining us this year for one of our many events.

The Snowsports School had a good turnout for our presentation at the Fall Patrollers Conference in Kingsport. We were fortunate to have **Dave Moss** a PSIA level III and certified patroller from the Central Division Ski School demonstrate the V1 sports video software and its application in training our candidates and patrollers. This software was first utilized in the Division last season at the Snowsports School Skiing Clinic at Ski Beech. The participants in the program universally raved about being able to analyze their skiing in ways in which they felt were not possible. Additionally, the skiing instructors in the clinic felt the software would be invaluable in helping train our candidates and patrollers. Dave brought copies of the software to Kingsport and many of the trainers purchased them at a discount. If you would like to purchase or just see the program in action go to www.V1golf.com and under the V1 store go to software where you will find the V1 Home 2.0 Software-Skiing Edition which is sold for \$39.95. This is a tool that should prove to be helpful to instructors and students alike.

Our event schedule for the 2010-11 season is nearing completion and is as follows:

- December 4-5, 2010 **Cataloochee Teaching Clinic** - this clinic will serve to prep those going for their PSIA/AASI level II teaching exam as well as provide existing patrol ski/snowboard trainers innovative teaching techniques. This course carries Ski Trainer Workshop credit.
- January 8, 2011 **Wolf Ridge Women's Skier Improvement** - general skier improvement. This course carries Skier Enhancement Seminar credit.
- February 11, 2011 **Winterplace** - general skier/trainer improvement. This clinic will be taught by members of the Central Division NSP Ski School and carries Skier Enhancement Seminar credit.
- February 12-13, 2011 **Ski Beech** - general skier/trainer improvement. This clinic will be taught by members of the Central Division NSP Ski School and carries skier Enhancement Seminar Credit. This program had a waiting list last year so register early.
- March 4-6, 2011 **Wintergreen** - PSIA/AASI Demo Team Clinic. This 2 1/5 day clinic will be especially valuable for our NSP ski/board trainers as well as general patrollers. The clinic, which is held every 2 years, will provide expert instruction by members of the PSIA and AASI Demo Teams. Both PSIA and AASI continuing education credits will be available, as will Skier Enhancement Seminar credits. There will be a charge for this clinic to cover the cost of the Demo Team. Don't miss this opportunity to ski/ride with, and learn from the best snowsports instructors in the world.
- TBA General Boarder/Trainer Improvement Clinic

All of our clinics will be taught by PSIA/AASI certified instructors and are registered with National. In many of the clinics video analysis will be used. All clinics (except the Demo Team clinic) are free and space is limited with registration being on a first-come first-served basis. Flyers regarding all of our programs will be mailed to patrol leaders for posting in patrol rooms. For additional information or to register contact me at Briggsaln@aol.com. Come join us just to improve your skiing/riding and snowsports teaching skills.

Now a reminder to all of the Patrol Leaders, again this year, the Southern Division will pay for your designated instructor's liability insurance. Please submit their name, NSP number and e-mail address to me by November 15, 2010. Additionally, if you are not your patrol's designated instructor and you are teaching or assisting teaching skiing or boarding this insurance is available to you for \$66 per season (just send your information and a check made out to the Southern Division NSP to me). This is highly recommended and a great value. Many of our patrols assist in paying part or all of premium, check with your Patrol Leader.

If you are active with your patrol in teaching candidates and/or patrollers and pass the PSIA/AASI Level II exam this season, the Southern Division will reimburse you for your exam fee. All you need to do is submit to me verification of passing.

We are fortunate that **Brandon Deane**, a PSIA level III instructor, from the Wintergreen Ski Patrol has volunteered to be the Snowsports School's technical director for this upcoming season. This position needed to be filled and Brandon graciously offered his services. THANKS!!!!!! Additionally, if you are PSIA/AASI certified and would like to assist with our programs please let me know. We welcome your help. Finally, the upcoming ski season presents the perfect occasion to become involved with PSIA/AASI. These organizations offer clinics that lead to certification in becoming a ski/snowboard instructor. By becoming a certified instructor you will become a better, safer and efficient skier or snowboarder and have the confidence in knowing that the snowsports information you impart to candidates and other patrollers has a sound basis.

Becoming a certified instructor is a process of betterment that will take at least several years. Why not take the first step today. Contact me or any member of the Snowsports School to learn how to make this challenge become a reality. You are needed with this certification.

Until the snow falls, remember snowsports are simple turn right, turn left and 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*.

There are a number of steps in the Instructor Development Program:

- Course Registered with NSP by the Instructor Development Instructor through their Regional IT.
- Course Completion Record is submitted to the Division Supervisor and NSP educational department.
- Instructor Application Form with each discipline the student is interested in becoming an instructor for (ie, OEC, MTR, S&T, etc) completed and sent to the Instructor Development Supervisor (IDS).
- Mentors are assigned by OR through the Division Supervisor for that discipline.
- Senior Candidate Application Form filled in as needed. → remember- this is an elective for the Senior program.
- Southern Division ID Observation Form - This is completed for each student in the course for each topic they taught and they are returned to - NOTE - some students may require more than two evaluations.

Remember

If the student is *ONLY* taking the course for a Senior Elective - (The IDS will need to know that AND the student will need the form for the Senior Candidate Application filled in)

Once the Student Application Forms have been submitted to the ID Supervisor – the ID Supervisor will copy and forward the form to the appropriate Educational Supervisor (OEC, S&T, MTR, etc) - then the Division Program Supervisor (DPS) for each discipline will assign the mentors for the mentoring phase. Once the DPS assigns the mentors and that phase is complete - that DPS will recommend that student for Instructor Status.

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).

Historian ... Historian / Archivist ... Historian / Archivist ... Historian / Archivist

Fred Wessels,

Historian/Archivist



50 Years and Counting!!!!

The 2010-2011 Ski season marks 50 years of Skiing in North Carolina. Over the years Ski areas have come and gone. In 1980, a little town in southwest NC was a hotbed of Skiing activity. That little town was Highlands, NC. With 3 ski areas within 10 miles (Scaly Mountain, Sky Valley, and Sapphire Valley). Only Sapphire survives as a ski hill today. Sapphire Valley is also one of the oldest Ski area's in North Carolina. As usual, if anyone has pictures, I would love to have them.

Now for a little North Carolina Skiing Trivia.

Match the Mountain with the year it opened. Here are the rules. Your reply must be mailed to me via snail mail. **Fred Wessels, 522 Jervey Rd., Tryon, NC 28782.** The earliest postmark with the correct answers wins two Dixie "Son of Sam" Splints. In case of a Tie, the person with the correct answers to the Tiebreaker wins. So ... print this page and either draw a line connecting the mountain to the year it opened OR in the open column next to the mountain – write in the year that mountain opened.

Scaly Mountain		1962
Seven Devils		1961
Hounds Ears		1969
Blowing Rock Ski Lodge		1966
Wolf Laurel		1980
Beech Mountain		1964
Sugar Mountain		1970
Mill Ridge		1964
Cataloochee		1967
Sapphire Valley		1969

Tiebreaker #1

If you purchased stock in Blowing Rock Ski Lodge when it was issued, what was your price per share? \$ _____

Tiebreaker #2

Doc Brigham was born in which State? _____

Fred

southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com

Division Elections ... Division Elections ... Division Elections ... Division Elections ... Division

Lee T. Wittmann,

Election Coordinator

National Ski Patrol

Southern Division

2010 Division Director Election Procedure & Schedule

December 1, 2010 is the deadline for the submission of nominee for the office of Southern Division Director. The election will be held in accordance with the Southern Division By Laws, Article V. Election or Appointment of Officers. All nominations will be acknowledged with an e-mail from the Election Coordinator. It is strongly suggested that the correspondence be followed up if you don't receive an acknowledgement in a reasonable amount of time.

Any questions or concerns should be address to Lee T. Wittmann Election Coordinator.

December 1, 2010 Deadline for submitting nominations

Required:

Signed acceptance of nominee

One page resume

Candidate's one page platform (optional)

Information will be forwarded to Southern Cross editor for inclusion in January/Mid-winter issue and to Internet Communications Supervisor for posting on web site. It is recommended that the candidate verify that the editor of the Southern Cross and the Internet Communications Supervisor has received their articles.

December 15, 2010 Deadline for eligibility determination.

Ineligible candidates have seven days to appeal to the PAST Division Director.

December 22, 2010 Election Coordinator submits slate to National Chair for review.

Any concerns of Chair are due by January 1.

February 1, 2011 Ballots, resumes & platforms will be sent to all Patrol Representatives of record.

February 21, 2011 Deadline for the receipt of ballots in hand of election coordinator.

March 1, 2011 Election Coordinator will announce results of the election.

Any concerns or procedural questions should be addressed to the Election Coordinator.

Lee T. Wittmann - Election Coordinator

102 Rainbow's End

Beech Mountain, NC 28604

828.387.3505

Fax 828.387.3505

lwittmann@skybest.com

Senior Program ... Senior Program ... Senior Program ... Senior Program ... Senior Program

Hugh Jernigan,

Southern Division Senior Program

Take Advantage of the Senior Program!

Would you like to improve your skiing/boarding technique, or learn to more efficiently manage a serious/multi-patient accident scene?? How about learning outdoor survival techniques, improving your teaching and information presentation skills, or being able to identify a potential serious avalanche danger when skiing in the Rocky Mountains? And for paid patrollers, how about making a little more money? Most of us would consider this to be a no-brainer!

Entering the Senior Program and becoming a Senior Patroller can take advantages of these opportunities and is a great way to make us all more effective and well-rounded patrollers. You can receive world class instruction in the OEC Emergency Management Clinics, and Skiing/Boarding/Toboggan Clinics offered as part of the Senior Program.

The requirement of obtaining 3 electives as part of the Senior Program offers many possibilities. I have often utilized skills from a Mountain Travel and Rescue class attended years ago. I constantly use the teaching and information presentation skills learned from the Instructor Development Class. Several patrollers have mentioned to me how often they use techniques from the Instructor Development Class in their work environment. When skiing “off-trail” at large ski resorts out west or out of the country, I know to stay away from certain high danger areas from information obtained from the Basic Avalanche Class.

The *NSP- Policy and Procedures Manual Chapter 17.3, Senior Program* defines available Senior Electives. Some examples of potential Senior Program Electives are listed below:

1. Instructor Development Class completion.
2. Southern Division Leadership Course completion (new).
3. Mountain Travel and Rescue Class completion.
4. Ski Enhancement Seminar.
5. Avalanche Level 1 Class completion (Basic Avalanche).
6. Avalanche Level 2 Class completion (Advanced Avalanche).
7. Patroller Seminar (formerly NSP Powderfall).
8. CPR Instructor certification.
9. Patroller Enrichment Seminar Class completion.
10. PSIA level 2 or 3 Seminar.
11. AED Instructor Course completion.
12. Toboggan Enhancement Seminar.
13. OEC Enhancement Seminar--2 elements.
14. Toboggan Instructor Appointment (Transportation).
15. OEC Instructor Appointment.
16. OEC IT Appointment.
17. Mountain Travel and Rescue Instructor Appointment.
18. Instructor Development Course Instructor Appointment.

The Senior Program is active in all regions of the Southern Division. The Blue Ridge Region had an especially outstanding year this past season with the graduation of **8 new Senior Patrollers** (see Jon Hale's article in this issue). Congratulations to all!!

Senior Clinics and Evaluations have, or are being scheduled, for all the regions for the upcoming year. For more information you may contact your Regional Senior Coordinator, Region Director, or Patrol Director/Representative as listed on the Southern Division web site.

So take advantage of the opportunity!!!



Evaluator and Candidate Briefing:
February 21, 2010; Dixie Region Senior S & T Evaluation, Ober Gatlinburg, TN
(photo submitted by Hugh Jernigan)

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.



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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 Fall issue is September 10, 2010.

Send submissions to:

Teresa T. Stewart, SC Editor
1323 Bywood Lane
Charlotte, NC 28209
704-718-5675 cell
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

News from the Division Director

Patrollers are all invited to the Southern Division Patroller's Conference set for August 2010. This year we have a Special Events Committee in addition to the Program Committee. We are going to try to include events for the entire family so this Patroller's Conference will be fun for the family and beneficial to the members of the Southern Division NSP Members. Our guest speaker will be **Bela Musits**, National Chair of the National Ski Patrol, who will bring us up to date on the events of the NSP over the past year. Many news items will be discussed including the publication of the new, OEC 5th Edition and how the NSP Board of Directors is evolving into a more dynamic group with the passing of the new Bylaws.

Again this year the centerpiece of the Patroller Conference will be the Awards Dinner on Saturday night. Join us for the Board of Director's Meeting, OEC Instructor's Update, a Transportation Committee Meeting, Instructor Development Instructor's Workshop and the Snowsports Committee Meeting. A lot will be going on for patrollers and their families at the Meadowview Resort and Conference Center so please join us for fun and a chance to participate in the governance of the Southern Division.

Forms for the Conference may be found in your email box and on the Southern Division Website at www.SouthernNSP.org so join us for a fun weekend at Kingsport, TN.

R. Morgan Armstrong

Richard Boyer

1st Assistant Division Director

End of Year Reports

We've done it again...

...finished the ski season and gotten the NSP reports finished. No small feat, either one. By next year I hope we can have the report forms so they can be filled out on our web site and emailed back right from there. I also hope we will be streamlining the forms to give us the important info we need and no more.



Was this an unusual ski year for you as it was for us? Lots and lots of snow, much more than usual and very busy. I continue to marvel how all the elements come together, coordinating to finish all re-certifications and get all courses handled. You are truly an amazing group working in concert with each other. Snow Sports Patrollers are a wonderful group of very giving individuals. My hat's off to you, again!

We'll go to our meeting in Wytheville, VA in mid-May, to set up the Fall Conference to which we hope many of you will consider attendance and give us guidance in the running of the Southern Division. Please visit this conference and help our fine division run even better.

At any rate, hope to see you back on the slopes when the snow flies and the ground gets cold next Winter.

Please have a safe Summer.

Richard

Mike Harris,

Assistant Division Director – South Area



Spring Article

Wow, what a season we just had. We had one area in Blue Ridge and one in Dixie to stay open through April 11th. All programs appeared to go very smoothly and I will leave the reporting of that up to your respective Region Directors. NSP put on another great PEC conference this year at Snowbird Utah. We had nineteen vendor sponsors at the Cliff Lodge. The snow was deep (7ft in 7 days just prior to our arrival) and the weather was nice. Out of 154 attendees from all divisions, Southern had 13 participating in various activities. Sugar Mountain fielded a team for the **Patroller Challenge**, **Kyle Hassler**, **Erich Rosenbusch**, and **Joe White**. I am proud to say, they were second in sled competition and fourth overall.

The other attendees from Southern Division, taking advantage of the clinics, activities, and comradely were **Bill Boughton**, **Bob Brewster**, **Leslie Carter**, **Sarah Hampton**, **Jimmy Kuneman**, **Shaun Lowery**, **Lisa Skelley**, **Jean Webb**, **Norris Woody**, and myself aka **Tyrone Harris**. I urge all to ask anyone of these patrollers for their impression of PEC. In closing, I hope you all will consider attending the Southern Division Conference in Kingsport TN. at the Meadowview Marriott on August 14th & 15th.

Mike Harris

Jan Starr

Assistant Division Director, North Area

Notes from the North

Wow! What a winter there was! Hope everyone got to enjoy all the fresh snow that the areas experienced this season, I know I did! It sure put a new perspective in toboggan training in fresh snow as opposed to our Southern hard-pack. Congratulations to the new basic patrollers and to the folks that got through Senior and Certified.

Onto the planning of the upcoming season, which will be here before we know it. Keep in mind that the Region Director finalizes the calendar and all courses should be OK'd by them so there are no conflicting dates. It is hard some times to spread instructors and evaluators through out the areas. The calendar is updated once a month during the off-season and twice a month during the season. All courses need to be registered with National to get a course number.

Please check out getting a Ski Patrol Visa card through the Southern Division web site. Division gets funds from this as does National, which every little bit helps the budget.

Have a great summer, and make plans to attend the Patroller Conference in August. Great way to make new friends and get updates.

Jan Starr

Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports

Briggs Allen,
Snowsports Supervisor

Southern Division NSP Snowsports School

What a great 2009-2010 ski season!!!! The Southern Division Snowsports School, its members and participants also had a great season too. Clinics were successfully held and well received at Appalachian, Beech and Cataloochee. Additional clinics were scheduled at Snowshoe and Massanutten. Unfortunately, the Snowshoe was canceled due to lack of participation while the Massanutten clinic had to be canceled due to heavy snow that prohibited our instructor from getting to the resort (not often that occurs). The clinic held at Ski Beech was superb and completely full with a waiting list. We were fortunate to have 2 PSIA Level III instructors that were also certified patrollers from the Central Division to teach the program. They not only brought shorter "teaching" skis for the participants but also used video extensively (a humbling experience). It is not often that ALL of the patrollers participating gave the clinic great reviews and wanted to know if another clinic was possible next season.

Congratulations go to Snowsports School members **Randy Trow** (Bryce) and **Matt Weitz** (Wintergreen) for completing their PSIA Level II certification. I also had the good fortune of completing this as well. Additionally, **Elise Allen** (Beech) successfully passed the PSIA Level II written examination and **Russ Lindsey** (Wolf Ridge) passed PSIA Level I. A lot of long hours and hard work goes into achieving PSIA/AASI certification and thanks for your dedication. If I missed anyone that tested, I'm sorry and let me know how it went. By the way, the Snowsports School has developed a plethora of materials that you should obtain and study prior to taking the Level II exam. Just contact me for further information.

Plans are well underway for the 2010-11 Snowsports School programs. We are hoping to have a teaching clinic, 2 ski clinics and 2 snowboard clinics as well as the PSIA/AASI clinic with National Demo Team Members. Be sure to check the Southern Cross and Division calendar for dates and more information.

At the August Patroller Conference in Kingsport, Tennessee the Snowsports School will meet to discuss our program and *hopefully* preview the latest video teaching software. All are welcome and encouraged to attend especially all Patrol Leaders and Representatives as well as their Designated Instructors.

Finally, due to other commitments, **Ric Lavallee** has resigned as the Snowsports School's technical director. We wish him the best and appreciate all his past efforts with the program. BTW if you are a Level III that is hiding in the Southern Division now is the time we could use your help!

Well I guess that about does it, just remember snow sports are simple.... turn right, turn left and repeat as necessary.

See Photos on page 8

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.

There are a number of steps in the Instructor Development Program:

- Course Registered with NSP by the Instructor Development Instructor.
- Training materials (aka – book) ordered – class schedule given to students.
- NSP Event Training Release Form completed for the course and kept by the instructor.
- Instructor Application Form with each discipline the student is interested in becoming an instructor for (ie, OEC, MTR, S&T, etc) completed and sent to the Instructor Development Supervisor (IDS).
- Senior Candidate Application Form filled in as needed.
- Southern Division ID Observation Form - This is completed for each student in the course for each topic they taught and they are returned to - NOTE - some students may require more than two evaluations.
- Division Course Completion Form

If the student is ONLY taking the course for a Senior Elective - (The IDS will need to know that AND the student will need the form for the Senior Candidate Application filled in)

Once the Student Application Forms have been submitted to the ID Supervisor – the ID Supervisor will copy and forward the form to the appropriate Educational Supervisor (OEC, S&T, MTR, etc) - then the Division Program Supervisor (DPS) for each discipline will assign the mentors for the mentoring phase. Once the DPS assigns the mentors and that phase is complete - that DPS will recommend that student for Instructor Status.

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).

Fred Wessels,
Historian /Archivist

Time for a little Southern Skiing trivia.

What do the following Ski areas have in Common? High Meadows, Afton Alps, Coonskin Park, Scaly Mountain, Ski Cherokee, Hounds Ears, Alpine Lake, Cascade Mountain, Hawksnest. If you answered “never heard of them” you could be correct. If you answered they are lost Ski areas, you would be correct. These Ski Areas have gone the way of at least 10 other Southern Ski Areas. Some of the lifts have gone on to other areas, others have gone to rust and rusty memories.

I think we all know of other Ski Areas that were saved by the weather this past season. You are probably also aware of some that are one or two warm winters away from being added to the list. This is the reason that every Southern Division Historian has begged for photos and information. I am begging again. I would like to get a history and photos from your mountain. Email them, mail them, or burn them to a disk. I will even provide the disk and pay for postage. If you bring photos to Kingsport, I will scan them and give them back to you.

Name this Ski Area. Here is a hint. It was in Virginia. Answer hidden somewhere in the Cross!



See you in Kingsport.....

Fred
southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com

From Around the Division... Blue Ridge Region Senior S&T

Appalachian Ski Patrol provides a Low-Country Boil Cookout every year at the S&T basic evaluation and this year Ben Fox and Tony Ray fed all the candidates including three from Sugar and one from Beech plus all the evaluators. The patrol plus Ben and Tony deserve a big *atta-boy* from the Blue Ridge Region.



Snowsports Clinic

(Photos submitted by Briggs Allen)





“Ski Fast, Take Chances!”

Although this is not usually what a NSP member wants to hear, that headline is written atop the website of 16 year old skier Scott Snow and is a very apt description of the style that earned him a spot on the 2011 U.S. Ski Team, becoming the team’s youngest member.

Scott Snow learned to ski and race at Bryce Mountain, where his father and mother Shep and Joy Snow were on the Bryce Resort (VA) Ski Patrol for about 15 years. Scott, Shep, Joy, and sister Bonnie moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, when Scott was 4. Scott’s brother Jonathan Snow is still on the Bryce Mountain Ski Patrol, so the Snow family connection to Bryce endures!

Snow won J2 Gold in both the Downhill and Super G during the past ski season and impressed the U.S. Ski Team coaches enough to earn one of the 20 berths on the 2011 Men’s Alpine Team.

Scott possesses a rare mix of physical and technical tools and the inner drive that make him a natural in the sport he loves. He’s spent nearly one-third of his days on earth on skis, honing a graceful yet powerful technique that meshes well with his 6-1, 200 pound frame. He skis all four disciplines well, but most people believe downhill might be his strongest event.

Proud father Shep Snow has been stewarding Scott along the way to this point, much of it as the coach of Independence Racing, a blue-collar non-profit youth ski racing team from Sandpoint. Shep plans to accompany Scott until he turns 18, helping him adjust to the rigors of year-around professional skiing as well as a quick baptism into adulthood.

“Scott’s worked really hard, and it’s good to see hard work rewarded,” said Shep, who along with Joy felt Scott was ready for the challenge. “You come in at the bottom of the pipeline and work your way up. This is a step, and the end state is the world cup and Olympics.”

Scott has dominated the competition at every level he’s raced, accumulating more than 40 USSA Gold medals. Last year alone, Scott and Shep logged more than 150 days and 25,000 miles on the road, capping a stellar season that helped Snow earn a berth on the team. It will ratchet up a couple more notches next year, as Snow will be skiing in all 12 months of the season on the North American Cup circuit (NORAM).

Snow is currently enrolled in the Idaho Virtual Academy, an online home-schooling program, allowing him to pursue his high school education while striving to drop precious tenths of seconds on the slopes.

Every year since he was little, Shep has pulled Scott aside and asked if he wants to continue pursuing his passion. Every year the answer is a definitive yes, as Snow is having as much fun as ever tearing down the slopes at breakneck speeds.

It should also be noted that the deep Snow family connection to Southern Division runs not only through Bryce, but through Cataloochee (NC), where Shep and Joy patrolled in the early 1990’s. Patroller friends of the Snows will be glued to the TV for years to come, watching our protégé on the US Ski Team, and all of Southern Division will hopefully one day be proud to see one of our progeny on the World Cup and in the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia!

To keep up with Scott, visit “www.scottsnowski.com.”

Written by Lacy Williams, Bryce Mt Ski Patrol

Traditions and Change: Do they hold us back or allow us to move forward?

By [Bill Smith](#)

I spent my professional career in the fire/EMS service and often heard the phrase that many volunteer organizations were "100 Years of Tradition, Unimpeded by Progress." Since that time, volunteer fire organizations as a whole, have come a long way into the 21st century. In thinking about it, that same phrase could also easily be used to describe other types of organizations such as ski patrols. As another year begins, we have an opportunity to look at our traditions and see which ones are holding us back and which we can learn from and also take a look at changes that may need to be made within our own organization.

Often one of the biggest traditions holding us back is the tendency of organizations to be run by a select group of friends or family, to the exclusion of all others. This comes in many forms but most often I hear about how the patrol leader's drinking, hunting or other social group is running the organization. Anyone outside of that group is shunned, ignored or forced out.

Usually this becomes most apparent when it comes time to elect or appoint officers and continues year after year. The result is that new ideas, or ideas from "outsiders," are ignored or rejected outright, stalling the organization's progress. These good ole' boy networks have caused many organizations to not only fail to grow, but actually close or be shut down.

The second tradition often holding organizations back is a general reluctance to change. Change is both inevitable and difficult. I always think of "[Who Moved My Cheese](#)" when I think of change. Unless we change to meet our environment, we risk losing everything we have.

Let's accept the fact that change sometimes has a destructive streak. It can rip the heart out of an organization.

At the very time an organization needs the best performance from its people, change can leave job commitment lying wounded and weak.

But change can be utilized to charge up the organization. That's because change opens up doors to people's hearts and minds that otherwise might stay forever locked.

Taking Risks

Patrolling, like firefighting, is often about taking calculated risks, but when it comes to change, we often forget to do the calculation and get stuck with the mantra of "we don't do it that way here." Obviously, not all change is necessarily good, but steadfastly refusing to consider change is a tradition that we cannot afford. Organizations that refuse to change, especially in these difficult economic times, are doomed to failure.

Traditions have caused conflict in all areas, and resulted in a battle between the so-called "dinosaurs" and "robots." These battles between those who have been with the organization forever and newcomers represent tradition coming directly against change, with egos thrown in to add fuel to the fire. Both sides think they are right, and both sides are right to an extent, but neither can stand alone. Some years ago I was definitely more in the robot camp, but after nearly 20 years of patrolling I am slowly learning to appreciate the dinosaurs more and may even be becoming one myself!

Many of us have forgotten that there are lots we can learn from our resident dinosaurs, as not all of our traditions are bad. Traditions, such as maintaining the brotherhood of patrollers are being forgotten, much to the detriment of organizations as a whole. So is the tradition of passing down knowledge from member to member. Knowledge and kinship are priceless traditions that act as the glue that holds organizations together.

Making decisions

As our members age and retire, we lose both our traditions and institutional knowledge. Unfortunately we do not always realize how much knowledge our dinosaurs possess or their importance until they are no longer around. Every organization has that member or even a couple if they are lucky, that you can always count on when an obscure question comes up. The answer to the question may not always make sense, but they can usually explain the reasoning, even if it is obscure. Knowing the background of an issue, even if you do not agree with it, can help an organization to make an informed decision when change has to occur.

The problem with a tradition is in deciding whether it is good or bad. Some traditions, such as only promoting the boss's friends, need to go. But other traditions can help our organizations survive and thrive. Rather than just disregarding an "old" idea outright, it would help each of us if we asked what the source of the tradition was. Maybe the reluctance to change actually comes from a bad experience with trying a similar change. These can be used to learn from and to find a compromise that will work for everyone. What's the old saying about history keeping us from making the same mistakes over and over?

As 2010 begins, I encourage each of you to take a good look at your personal and organizational traditions. I also encourage each member to reach out to someone with five to 10 years more experience than them and five to 10 years less than them. In reaching out to both more senior and junior members, we can share both our traditions and knowledge. Together we can find ways to learn from each other and improve.

Bill Smith began his patrolling career with the Homestead Ski Patrol in 1991. He is currently a patroller with Wintergreen Ski Patrol in Virginia. Bill has taught and written extensively about Organizational Change, Leadership and Training.

May 4, 2010

Jack Melill Advisor Ski Flight

425 313 4632

jack.melill@Juno.com

SKI SYMPOSIUM TO EUROPE

***Switzerland, Austria, Germany
And Magical Castles
Set for Ski Flight 2011
Depart Jan. 30-Return Feb. 9***

Full Tour 11 Days \$2650

Ski Patrol Symposium Ski Flight 2011 has scheduled a spectacular training and ski vacation to Davos, Switzerland plus Innsbruck, Austria, followed by a guided tour of the famous Bavarian Castles or skiing Garmish, Germany.

The tour will fly the Polar Route on Air France Airlines via Paris then Zurich and return home directly from Munich.

Our base in Davos, the deluxe Club Hotel featuring a heated lobby swim pool, hot tub, spa plus spacious comfortable rooms with bath and many more amenities. Breakfast and dinners are included daily as well as transfers and round trip airfare.

MEETINGS WITH SWISS AND AUSTRIAN PATROLS

Meetings with the professional Swiss Ski Patrol, plus visits to the world famous Swiss Avalanche Institute and meeting or demonstration with the Austrian Ski Patrols and local mountain rescue groups are being arranged.

SKIING THE WORLDS LONGEST RUN

Ski the longest groomed and maintained ski run in Europe. Twelve miles of skiing through charming villages, Swiss farms and alpine chalets, then ride a narrow gauge railroad back to Davos. In Davos, enjoy ice-skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, curling and other winter sports. We may visit nearby St. Moritz for a ski day.

SKI ISGL THEN INNSBRUCKS OLYMPIC AREAS

Following five full skiing days in Davos, we motor coach to the Olympic city of Innsbruck, skiing the huge resort of Isgl (sharing the border with Austria and Switzerland) en-route. We ski here three days, experiencing this historic cities palaces, museums and grandeur, Ski four major Olympic ski resorts or the high Stubai Glacier. Following Innsbruck we have a guided tour of the famous Bavarian castles and Oberammergau or choice of skiing Garmish, Germany. Tonight a gala Tyrol Farewell dinner, then flying home the next day.

Included In Symposium Fee

- * Round trip on Air France Airlines**
- * All Hotels Based on Double Occupancy**
- * Nine Skiing Days, Ten Ski Resorts**
- * Breakfast and Dinners Daily**
- * All Group Transfers**
- * Meeting with Swiss and Austrian Patrols**
- * Guided Castle Tour or Skiing Garmish**
- * Gala Tyrol Farewell Dinner**
- * Escorted To and From USA**

For an informational flyer or more information contact: Jack Melill Ski Flight Advisor at “jack.melill@juno.com” or call 425 313 4632

Ski Flight ski symposium is the official fund raiser for the Pacific Northwest Division of the National Ski Patrol.

Answer to history question: Skyline/Big Devil/Rappahannock ... see page 6

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.

Join us for Fun in the Mountains

Southern Division Patroller Conference

August 13-15, 2010

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 2010
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 16, 2010.**

Here are the events scheduled for patrollers this year:

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

NEW – Special Events Committee will be planning events for the family – information to follow!

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.

This is the Official Notice for the Annual Board Meeting and I would like to add my official invitation to all members and alumni. 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* – Division Meeting Coordinator



**Southern Division - NSP
Patroller Conference
Reservation Form
2010**



Saturday, August 14, 2010 @ 8:00 am
Sunday, August 15, 2010 @ 8:30 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 – 3:00 pm	8:30 am–10:00 am
OEC Instructor Update (Saturday all day)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	
Southern Division Snowsports Program Instructors Meeting	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	
Southern Division Transportation Program Meeting	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	
Instructor Development Instructors Workshop		10:00 –12:00 am

	<i>Earlybird</i> Before Aug. 1	After Aug. 1
_____ FULL Meeting Conference Registration, Lunch, and Awards Banquet	\$70.00	\$80.00
_____ AWARDS Banquet (6:00 pm) and Conference Registration on Saturday	\$50.00	\$60.00
_____ LUNCH (12 Noon - 1:00pm) and Conference Registration on Saturday	\$38.00	\$48.00
_____ Conference Registration (Hospitality Suite Included)	\$18.00	\$28.00

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 be your receipt.

Reservation Fees Must Be Received At Above Address By August 1, 2010 And Are Nonrefundable After That Date.



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

2009-2010, Number 2

www.southernnsp.org

January-March 2010

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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 07, 2010.

Send submissions to:

Teresa T. Stewart, SC Editor
1323 Bywood Lane
Charlotte, NC 28209
704-718-5675 cell
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

News from the Division Director

The Mid-winter Meeting of the National Ski Patrol Board of Directors was held in Lakewood, CO on January 8 & 9, 2010. This year the Division Directors arrived a day early to meet and vote on all issues that were scheduled to come before the Board. The Board was asked to consider prior to each vote, the voting record of the Division Directors on each issue. On some issues the Division Directors were unanimous and on those issues where the Divisions were divided, both the majority and minority opinion were given and the vote tally. This experiment was acceptable to the NSP Board and will allow the Division Directors to better carry information from patrollers in the division to the NSP Board. When a consensus is reached, it also allows the matter to receive more weight than if just one Division Directors speaks for or against an issue. We think this will help communication from the rank and file to the NSP Board of Directors. Should you have an idea or if your patrol has information, please send it to me and let me better represent the division and all of the patrollers.

The Mid-winter Meeting was also the forum for the announcement of how the OEC 5th Edition will be “rolled-out” to the membership. The tentative schedule (I emphasize tentative because variables are present) is for the OEC 5th Edition to be released to the members in October 2010. The Fall Refreshers will use the OEC 4th Edition for the final “C” cycle of the 2010 year. Cycle “A” will begin in the fall of 2011 and Cycle “A” will use the OEC 5th Edition. OEC Classes that begin after the book is published will be allowed to choose if they want to use the 5th or 4th Edition until December 31, 2010. After January 1, 2011, the 4th Edition will be retired and only the 5th Edition will be used. Patrols and Divisions are asked to begin to make plans now to

help with getting the 5th Edition out to the membership and to instructors. Several Divisions and Patrols are obtaining contributions from fund drives and work projects to help defray the cost of the new book. The price has not been set at this time.

The NSP Credit Card has earned the Southern Division \$180 from the 18 cards issued under our division name. I ask each officer in the division to obtain a NSP Credit Card for use in division travel and projects. Instructors should each have a card and when one orders books from NSP, use the card. The NSP gets a rebate from the Credit Card Company for every dollar charged. If you want to fund the NSP without a dues increase, this is a no cost way of doing so. Please help us out and obtain a card from our website at www.SouthernNSP.org so our division gets a \$10 donation for each new card and the NSP gets \$40 for each new card plus a cut of the charges from the Credit Card Company. A new promotion also was announced. When you order a card this winter, are accepted and order over \$100 on the card, the Credit Card Company puts \$50 in your account. Sounds like a good deal to me so please look into this for everyone's benefit.

Terry LaLiberte completed his term as NSP Chair of the Board of Directors during this meeting. The new Chair was elected by the Board of Directors and that person is **Bela Musits**. Bela has been involved in the financial matters of the NSP for several years and served as the Assistant Chair of the Board of Directors over the past administration of Terry. One of the major projects he launched this time was to begin the re-writing of the Policies & Procedures Manual of the NSP in light of the passage of the 2009 Bylaws of the organization. The Governance Committee is to begin the project in conjunction with all of the program directors of the NSP. We have a new set of Bylaws, the P&P is being updated and the OEC 5th Edition will be published the fall of 2010 so a lot is going on with the NSP. The new computer system is being installed and along with that the NSP is working on bringing out a new Website. I have requested several changes to the NSP Website that I hope will make it more user friendly and give the patroller a quicker access to information.

The Southern Division had the highest percentage of patrollers voting in the last election. I want to thank all who voted for letting the NSP know that the Southern Division cares and is active. This helps me represent you, because when you vote and are active, my voice carries more weight in the meetings. Keep up with issues and anytime you want your voice heard give me an email or a letter and I will be sure to pass the message along.

I would like to defray the cost of the OEC book to you the patroller. One idea was presented to the NSP Board and that was for a book sponsor. If there is a company, organization or foundation that would like to sponsor the OEC 5th Edition, a substantial donation to the NSP in this regard will earn that company, organization or foundation a place on the inside front or back cover giving credit or advertising this contribution. If any patroller in the Southern Division has information about this subject that you think might be helpful, let me know! If there is a company, organization or foundation that would like to help a patrol or the division to acquire these books so the members will be able to buy them at a fraction of the total cost, please get in touch with me.

In closing, the NSP has appointed me to the Governance Committee for another term; I have been appointed for a second term as Chair of the Bylaws Oversight Committee and have been assigned the task of moving the Immunity Statute forward. If you have help or ideas about the Immunity Statute or would like to comment on any of the above areas of concern, please do not hesitate to give me a call, email or letter to let me hear from you. A lot is going on in the Division and with the NSP so get involved and help the NSP move forward in some very interesting areas that will make the NSP and the Division a better and more fun place in which to patrol. Now that the Bylaws passed and the Mid-winter Meeting is done, I hope to get out and enjoy some of the snow I keep reading about in the press.

R. Morgan Armstrong
Southern Division Director

From the Assistants...

Richard Boyer
1st Assistant Division Director

February 28, 2010

Wow, these deadlines just creep up on us all...

It is fairly late in the snow season and things seem to be moving along exceptionally well. All are reporting an abundance of snow, great snow-making weather and very good crowds.



It's been an eventful winter for our family. We moved my Mother from Tucson to Atlanta and that was enough thrills for one year, forget the prospective thrill of skiing the meadows, I'm maxed out.

As I am able to observe the different events and clinics, both ski and snowboard, as well as the myriad OEC functions around the division it never fails to amaze me how smoothly and efficiently our events work, considering how much is really going on. How does this happen? It is the constant and continuous effort of a dedicated group of individuals, working in unison, who are well trained, reliable, competent and efficient.

Those of us who gain benefit from this well oiled machine sometimes take it for granted. We should make it a point to seek out any one or more of these team members and thank them for their good work and the time and the miles they travel to prepare for and carry out their duties. It certainly is not easy to pull off all that is done in just one snow-sports season, much less string several years together in making the whole thing work even better each succeeding year. I hope all patrollers are as proud as I am of our division, region and resort folks, many of whom work untold hours, much of the time away from families, to get their jobs done and done so well! This

begins with the resorts, continues with both paid and volunteer patrollers, team and patrol leaders, instructors, program and skills supervisors and reaches up to the assistant division directors and the division director. Each has a part in the whole entity of the NSP. Together we make a strong organization dedicated to helping others enjoy our wonderful snow sport. (Who knows, we may be nurturing a future Olympian in our midst.) When ever and where ever you can, seek out these people, and get to know them and let them know they are appreciated.

I'm proud to be even a little part of this tremendous undertaking called National Ski Patrol and even more proud of our Southern Division of the NSP. I hope you are too!

Richard Boyer

Brent Bowman,

*2nd Assistant Division Director
January 2010*



It's hard to believe that it is already 2010! I hope that everyone had a chance to ride in the 10-24" of natural snow that hit most of the Southern Division in December 2009. Unfortunately, I was in Boston that weekend and unable to hit the slopes. As I write this, the NSP Snowsports School has had two weekend clinics. The reviews from the December Clinic at Cataloochee were great. All who attended felt that the training was a perfect kick-off for the season. A second clinic just ended January 9&10 and I have not seen the comments. However, I am sure that there was a lot of great learning and exchanging of ideas among the participants.

The Ski and Toboggan trainers are all hard at work at the areas training candidates for upcoming Basic and Senior tests. Tests are scheduled in February and it is really NOT that far away!! For those of you looking at the Senior test this Season.... Please be sure to attend one or more clinics before trying to attempt the Senior test. It really is disappointing for the examiners to have to tell someone that their skills are not up to the Senior level after all of the hard work that goes into the day of the Senior Test.

I hope that each of you has a GREAT remainder of the season and remember to thank the folks that keep each of our patrols running. This includes the patrol rep, patrol director, ski and toboggan instructors, the aux patrollers (or injured) that keep the customers smiling while we assist them in the patrol room and of course the hardworking skiing patrollers that just keep making laps on the hill!!!

SEE YOU ON THE HILL!!

Brent

Mike Harris,

Assistant Division Director – South Area

As The Bull Wheel Turns

I was able to travel to five different OEC refreshers this year. This being my thirty third year of refreshers, I must say this was the best one yet. The whole process was without intimidation. The better the instructors have gotten at this, the more the patrollers are involved and enjoying learning new things and practicing skills from seasons past. It was amazing to see the different formats used and everyone covered everything, which made it work perfectly for the patrol and their refreshers. Well another ski season is up and running. We really have cold weather in place now and it looks as though it will be below normal for a couple weeks. All the programs seem to be going well so far this season. I am looking forward to patrolling with as many of you as possible this year.

Mike Harris (AKA TYRONE)



Jan Starr

Assistant Division Director, North Area

Notes from the North

SNOW, SNOW, SNOW!!!!!!!!!! What a wonderful start to a season. But there is the saying can there be too much? Yes, as in December in the big snow I couldn't get out of my road to enjoy it!!! And along with the 2 weeks of snow came the minus temperatures. Those I could do with out also. Hope all areas are rejoicing and enjoying the awesome skiing we have had. A lot of training, OEC classes and clinics are underway now that we are part way into the season. Hope all is going well and that folks have joined in to better themselves. The Certified Pre qualification clinic went well. Brandon has done a great job in organizing all the clinics. It was good to see new faces in the program.



I will be traveling to VA areas in January and WV areas in February. Hope there is still plenty of snow! And I have my NSP VISA card do you? What a great way to help fund our organization. Monies go to National and to Southern Division when you apply for the card and when it is used. Happy Skiing!!!

Blue Ridge Region

Jonathan F. Hale,
Blue Ridge Region Director



Hello my friends,

The Blue Ridge Region is at a Crossroads. We used to have four similar, active, vivacious mountains in our region. Year after year we get the Southern Divisions lions share of awards for training prowess. I am one of the lessor of many, many instructors in the region (the best instructors in the Division). I must confess that our secret for years has been that our instructors get the chance to teach at more refreshers than any others- practice makes perfect. We have trained together by taking two of our four mountains (about 200 patrollers) and train two of the four mountains at one time in a large, but manageable, format. With recent changes, this refresher style is no longer possible.

What are we gonna do? *On-the-hills* should come on the weekend of the refreshers for sure. Most importantly, our new Regional OEC Guru, **Richard Yercheck**, is tasked with making sure that refreshers are by-the-book and with quality education for all. I have asked each Patrol director and Patrol Representative to brainstorm with their Patrols as to how to achieve this goal. We will meet together at the end of the season to plan what is best for you, the Patroller and our Mountains. Please bring any suggestion to them during this year so that we may continue the quality educational resource that you have come to expect with the Blue Ridge Regional Refreshers.

As for the concerned instructors, perennial team leader and other members of the core of what has made the Blue Ridge Region the OEC success that it is today, please corner Richard Yercheck, me, or any Patrol Leader with your thoughts for how we can continue with our successful refresher pathway. We want to continue with our joint instructor's refresher as hosted by Appalachian's great staff. However, we will probably go with three separate mountain refreshers this Fall. This will mean that missing your refresher date may not have the flexibility that it has had in the past. It does mean that all mountains will need to depend (in some ways) on each other more than in the past. I promise to report back to you on what is decided this spring during the meeting of the Patrol Chiefs.

Finally, we had a real scare for the refreshers this past Fall, but thanks to **Cammie Hale**, **Teresa Stewart**, **Mark Latendresse** and **Hugh Jernigan** everyone in the Region felt that we had the best refreshing in Years! Hugh Jernigan will move up to the Division Senior program Chief. Our loss is the Division's gain. No one has ever cared more.

Virginia Region

Ted Forbes, Region Director



Epic! There's no other word to describe it. A season for the history books. Record snowfall all across Virginia. Every single resort in the Region has experienced fantastic conditions, record crowds, and huge smiles. We've heard reliable reports of skiers and riders making tracks in places that haven't been accessible in 20 years.

New glades have been found, creek beds have been explored, and mountain biking and hiking trails have been skied. I remember the best advice I ever got from a clinic on the Sherburne Trail coming down off Tuckerman's Ravine back in the 1980s – never ski faster than you are willing to hit that tree! It's good advice this season!

It's also been a season of highs and lows. On the high side, **Sepp Kober**, who founded skiing in the south was initiated into the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame this season. If not for Sepp, one could argue we wouldn't be doing what we love on the snow in Virginia. Fifty years ago, he started the skiing operation at The Homestead. The man who has been called "The Father of Southern Skiing" was honored at the Homestead on February 20, 2010. We are all grateful to Sepp for his vision, and proud that he has earned his post in the Hall of Fame.

On the low side, Wintergreen lost one of its own on February 25. Patroller **Dave Stolze** passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Dave was skiing at Big Sky Montana with **Nici Singletary** and **Ed Pouncey**. It was a powder day in a glade run when Dave went down. Nici and Ed jumped in, and Big Sky's patrollers were on scene quickly, but Dave was gone. We'll all miss his big heart and warm smile.

As I write this, we are a few weeks from the announced closing dates for most of our resorts in Virginia. But I can guarantee that there will be snow on the ground when the public starts to think about golf and tennis. I have a hunch that in this epic year a few of us might just be hiking to earn our turns long after the lifts have stopped. Be safe out there!

Ted

West Virginia Region

Byrd White, Region Director

What a Year! The snow has not only been plentiful in the mountain state it has been for the most part dry. Two feet of power in West Virginia, whoever heard of such a thing? Other than a little problem with the Workers Compensation system in West Virginia things have been great and running smoothly. West Virginia moved this year from a state run workers compensation system to a private carrier system much like Virginia. Most of the resorts in the state use the spin off company from the old system, Brick Street Insurance Company, who has

declined writing coverage for volunteers. This has caused problems for some resorts and some resorts have yet to see major problems. It will most likely sort itself out but in the short term it is causing some headaches. More on that as information becomes available.

There is currently planned a Leadership courses to be held in West Virginia, this is a new NSP course that has been put together by Mary and Jim Underwood, Bill Smith and Ted Forbes. For anyone in, or interested in, a leadership position in NSP this course is something you really it shows. Early planning is to have it during the first part of May.

Would like to write more but I'm heading back to the slopes.

From the Supervisors and Advisors...

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

Tony Tingle,
Transportation Supervisor

What a season it has been! We've had record snowfalls, and looks like more is on the way! I hope everyone has had an opportunity to get out there and enjoy it!

Last year about this time, I was preaching the benefits of the chain. As a reminder, practiced use of the chain will help make your delivery of the first patient of the day as safe as the delivery of the last patient. **USE YOUR BRAIN, PRACTICE AND USE THE CHAIN!** Nuff' Said.



“What’s the hardest part of running a Toboggan?” I always say the tail rope. Your Mountain sets the policy regarding the use of a tail rope and rear operator, so Area Management has the final say if you use a tail rope. In the Southern Division, most folks do.

I would like to touch on three items regarding the tail rope: Communication; Tension; and Distance. This year, and in years past, the tail rope seems to be a common factor for folks not passing evaluations. If you are one of these people, don't feel bad. The tail rope is tough. This is why the tail rope is the focus in this writing. The person in the handles is driving the bus. They are picking the route for both of you and they have two big metal handles to keep their shoulders square down the hill. As a tail rope operator, you have to REACT to the Patroller in the handles, and you have to ANTICIPATE where they are going. In this respect, COMMUNICATION is key. The tail rope operator watches three things: The patient; incoming traffic from above (e.g. anyone who's going to run you over); and the back of the front operator. Don't hesitate to voice your needs or to warn the front operator of hazards you see. If speed is a little fast, if the patient is in need of something, if you need to stop, if you have traffic converging from above, let the

front operator know. I've never seen anyone downgraded in an evaluation for communicating too much.

How much tension do you want on the rope? When I first learned how to run a sled, we learned that you need a "swag" in the rope (e.g. don't let it drag the ground and don't let it get tight). **THIS IS DIFFERENT NOW.** The Outdoor Emergency Transportation Manual says "*Maintain tension and control of the tail rope as required for safe operation.*" This means the rope is kept taut, but you're not getting pulled by the sled (a.k.a. "water skiing"). Practice, practice, practice! Pages 60-62 of the Transportation Manual provides a good outline for folks running the tail rope and Page 82 of the Manual presents a great practice exercise "Rope-A-Goat".

Distance. How long is a typical tail rope? Usually 20-30 feet (Page 27 of the Manual). The replacement rope sold by Cascade Toboggan is 18 feet long and Traverse Rescue's tail rope says both 20 feet and 30 feet. In most cases, you want to use the bulk of that distance to put some space between you and the patient. This is one case where being near the "end of your rope" is a good thing. Keep a loop of rope to pay out in case the operator in the handles speeds up (icy patches) and be ready to take up a loop of rope in case they slow down. Practice, practice, practice!

I hope this answers some of the questions I've been asked this season, and I hope it creates more questions. If you have questions, feel free to ask me, your Region Transportation Advisor, or any Transportation Instructor. I hope to see you on the hill soon!

Tony

Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior

Hugh Jernigan,
Senior Program Supervisor

Become a Senior Patroller A Proud Accomplishment!

It is commonly known ski patrollers are high energy people; they like to have fun, and are always searching for ways to get better at what they do!! The Senior Program is a great opportunity to upgrade skiing/boarding/toboggan handling techniques, develop leadership skills, and generally become a better all-round patroller. And.... It can be fun.



While visiting patrols in the Division and talking to patrollers over the past few weeks, I was impressed with the pride patrollers feel when they talk about completing the Senior requirements and officially becoming a "Senior Patroller".

The first question patrollers have concerning the Senior Program is “How do I get started” and “who do I need to talk to”. A good way to begin is to contact your Patrol Representative/Patrol Director or the Region Senior Coordinator in your area for information. Listings for the Region Senior Coordinators can be found on the Southern Division web site under Staff. The first step is to complete a Senior Candidate Application and have it signed by the Patrol Representative/Patrol Director. Upon completion of the Senior Emergency Management component, Skiing or Boarding proficiency component, Toboggan proficiency component, and completion of three electives, Senior Patroller status is awarded. Each region has Senior Emergency Management Clinics and Evaluations, along with Senior Skiing/Boarding/Toboggan Clinics and Evaluations each season. The list of electives to choose three electives required for the Senior Program may be found in the NSP Policy and Procedures and include choices such as:

1. Completion of NSP classes such as Instructor Development, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche.
2. Registered seminars such as Toboggan or Skiing Enhancement...
3. Any NSP Instructor or Instructor Appointment, CPR Instructor, PSIA Level 2 or 3 Certification...
4. Other electives as listed in the NSP Policy and Procedures.

There is also an option for Auxiliary Patrollers who would like to upgrade their skills. By completing the Senior Emergency Management and required electives, these patrollers can be awarded with the Senior Auxiliary Patroller classification. Senior Auxiliary Patrollers represent some of the best, and most valuable OEC Instructors/Senior Emergency Management Evaluators in the Southern Division.

In an effort to give guidance to patrollers interested in the Senior Program, a Southern Division Senior Program Manual containing forms, procedures, and information for the Senior Candidate is being written and should be completed soon. We also are planning on listing information regarding the Senior Program on the Southern Division Web Site.

The Senior Patroller Program in the Southern Division could not exist without the dedicated Regional Senior Skiing/Boarding/Toboggan (Transportation) and Senior Emergency Management (OEC) Instructors-Evaluators who devote so much time and effort for the Senior Candidates. These patrollers, who devote as much as four weekends a year serving as Instructors for the Senior Clinics and Evaluations, are greatly appreciated. Standing outside all day (in the below zero cold, or wind, or rain, or whatever other conditions nature provides) and trying to write notes on a wet evaluation form with a frozen pen stiff fingers as groups of Senior Candidates are being evaluated during Emergency Management scenarios --- That is a real sign of dedication!!!

I had the privilege of attending the Blue Ridge Region Senior Emergency Management Clinic on January 9th at Appalachian Ski Mountain. An outstanding group of 11 Senior Candidates applied themselves in a day of Senior OEC/Emergency Management scenarios provided by **Toni Cheek**, Region Senior Coordinator, and an experienced group of 15 Senior EMM Evaluators. It was a very well planned day (obviously, large amount of time spent in pre-planning) in which the candidates were able to learn and gain confidence by the clinic format. Also impressive, **Joe Donadio** (Appalachian Ski Patrol Director) provided each candidate with a map of the ski area detailing the exact location of each scenario being conducted during the day so the candidates would know where they should be during the rotations. The Appalachian Ski Patrol even

stockpiled all necessary equipment in convenient locations near the scenario locations for quick access.

The involvement of Southern Division Patrollers in all aspects of the National Ski Patrol is one reason so many “National Awards” such as Patrol Director of the Year, Patroller of the Year, Student Patroller of the Year, and other prestigious national awards come to the Southern Division. Involvement in the Senior Patroller Program is not only beneficial to the individual patroller, but also each ski area’s patrol, the Region, Southern Division, and NSP.

See you on the slopes....

Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports

Briggs Allen,
Snowsports Supervisor

Southern Division NSP Snowsports School

As I write this at 8:30 AM in early January in Bristol Virginia it is 8° with snow once again in the forecast. Finally a real winter!!! December was a good month for the Snowsports School with Cataloochee Ski Area hosting our PSIA/A ASI level II teaching prep clinic. The snow was falling and the clinic was well attended by over 20 patrollers from Wintergreen, Bryce, Beech, Wolf Ridge, Hawksnest and of course Cataloochee. A special thanks go to **Neil Booth** and **Wayne Morgan** for their help in coordinating and teaching the clinic. **Ron Clyde** and **Pnut Laney** also deserve kudos for their help with teaching.

By the time you are reading this, our skiing and snowboarding clinics are well underway. On January 9-10, 2010 Appalachian Ski Area hosted a snowboarding improvement clinic. This clinic was well attended with participants from Beech Mountain, and Wolf Ridge. The same weekend a skiing clinic was held in the West Virginia Region at Snowshoe.

There is still time to participate in our two additional Snowsports School clinics to be held in February. The first is a snowboarding clinic that will be February 6 at Massanutten Resort. Our last clinic is for our patrollers who are skiers and this will be held February 20-21 at Beech Mountain Resort. All of our clinics are registered with National and provide Senior and SES credits. Remember to *register for these clinics early* as space is limited and preference is given to the trainers within our Snowsports School program. Most of the time, additional space is available for any other interested patrollers. You may register for our clinics by contacting me with your name, patrol, NSP /PSIA /AASI numbers (if you have these) and if you want Senior or SES credits at briggsaln@aol.com. The Snowsports School always e-mails a flyer on our clinics to all of patrol directors and patrol reps. We ask that they download and print these flyers and then post them in your patrol room. These flyers contain information on the upcoming Snowsports School clinics.

I would really like to thank the management and patrol leaders of Appalachian, Beech, Cataloochee, Massanutten and Snowshoe for hosting our clinics during the 2009-10 Season. Their hospitality and understanding the need for continuing education is appreciated.

We have been fortunate that Matt Laney (Pnut) has joined our Snowsports School as our snowboard trainer. Pnut is a certified Level II AASI instructor and all-around great guy. The evaluations from Pnut's clinics are always good and if you can attend one of his programs you won't be disappointed.

Finally, the Southern Division NSP Snowsports School was well represented at the Eastern Division PSIA/AASI 's Projam held at Killington Vermont in December. Four Snowsports School member patrollers, myself included, spent a week obtaining superb instruction that will allow us to better help our members with their skiing and boarding skills. It was a lot of work but also a lot of fun. This event is held annually and fills quickly after registration opens in September. If you can make it next year it's definitely a good program.

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.

There are a number of steps in the Instructor Development Program:

- Course Registered with NSP by the Instructor Development Instructor.
- Training materials (aka – book) ordered – class schedule given to students.
- NSP Event Training Release Form completed for the course and kept by the instructor.
- Instructor Application Form with each discipline the student is interested in becoming an instructor for (ie, OEC, MTR, S&T, etc) completed and sent to the Instructor Development Supervisor (IDS).
- Senior Candidate Application Form filled in as needed.
- Southern Division ID Observation Form - This is completed for each student in the course for each topic they taught and they are returned to - NOTE - some students may require more than two evaluations.
- Division Course Completion Form

If the student is ONLY taking the course for a Senior Elective - (The IDS will need to know that AND the student will need the form for the Senior Candidate Application filled in)

Once the Student Application Forms have been submitted to the ID Supervisor – the ID Supervisor will copy and forward the form to the appropriate Educational Supervisor (OEC, S&T, MTR, etc) - then the Division Program Supervisor (DPS) for each discipline will assign the mentors for the mentoring phase. Once the DPS assigns the mentors and that phase is complete - that DPS will recommend that student for Instructor Status.

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).

From Around the Division...

Blue Ridge Senior EMM Candidates January 9, 2010 @ Appalachian Ski Mountain
(photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan)



Top row L-R: Adam Hamrick, Grant Smalle, Brad Eddins, Frances Edwards, John Hamrick,
Bottom row: Wade Adams, Richard Lott, Robin Griffin, Susie Strohschein, Bradley Hinton, Stephan Wankerl



Wolf Ridge Hosts Hawksnest January 23, 2010...



Photo by: **Michael Erb** Saturday Jan. 23rd. Wolf Ridge hosted Hawksnest Ski Patrol.
(L-to-R Orville English-Owner, Randi Lowery-PR, Cammie Hale, Glenn Larsen,
Jonathan Hale, Jim Shuttleworth, Michelle Piscatelli, Mike Harris, Hugh Jernigan)

Sugar Mountain ...

(Photos submitted by Mike Harris)



Senior Sled & Toboggan - Ober Gatlinburg February 2010

(Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan)



Cloudmont January 21, 2008



(Photo submitted by Division Historian – any details on this photo please submit to
Fred Wessels at
southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com)

Far West Division Announcement ...

NSP Far West Division's 2010 Winter Educational Conference Announcement

19-21 March 2010

(ALL) National Ski Patrol Members, (Patrol Representatives, Region, and Division Directors, please post to your membership, promote, and support your member's attendance)

Notice - 1 Month until FWD's 2010 Winter Educational Conference - **register now online** at

[<http://fwdwinter.eventbrite.com>] [<http://www.farwest.org>]

The Far West Division is proudly sponsoring: 2010 - Winter Educational Conference with a Special 50th Anniversary Tribute to the 1960 VIII Olympics at Squaw Valley with the Division's Olympic Ski Patrol Team as guests. This conference is scheduled **March 19-21, 2009**, at NorthStar Ski Resort at Lake Tahoe, California. All information is posted online.

This event is designed to support NSP's vision and mission:

NSP's Vision is to be recognized as the premier provider of training and education programs for emergency rescuers who serve the outdoor recreation community. The National Ski Patrol is a member-driven professional organization of registered ski patrols, patrollers and others, both paid and volunteer. The NSP supports its members through credentialed education and training in leadership, outdoor emergency care, safety and transportation services, which enables members to serve the community in the safe enjoyment of outdoor recreation.

So here it is...!!!!

Programs, Programs, Programs!!! - 12 NSP Program Offerings in one weekend.

Twenty-three (25) of the best National Ski Patrol Instructors in the Far West Division are converging from each of our 5 Regions for this event. They will be on-hand and prepared to support this Weekend Winter Educational Conference. The weekend features 12 NSP Program Offerings (see the agenda posted online). If we fill each program, we will be prepared to accommodate up to 90 patrollers with up to four offerings each. Our focus is Ski (and snowboarding), Toboggan handling, and Outdoor Emergency Care. The Women's TES program offerings were very popular.

NEWLY ADDED THIS YEAR - We added Nordic Ski Enhancement Seminars (Intermediate and Advanced offerings) on Saturday and an NSP Instructor Development offering on Sunday. When you register and sign up, please identify your morning and afternoon program interests, you select 4 of the 12 offerings. Note: We are planning NSP's Senior (OEC) Scene Management (SEM). This senior program has pre-requisites. The SEM is scheduled for Sunday. Saturday will include the OEC skills

check-off component. This SEM offering is limited to 9 patrollers (first come first serve). If you sign up for this, our IOR will be contacting you to ensure that all pre-requisites are met to ensure everyone's' best chances of success. Also Instructor Develop requires a NSP book #502 \$19.50+S&H.

*These Course offerings are filling, so register **NOW**. <http://fwdwinter.eventbrite.com/>*
Families Too!! Family members had a blast last year!! We have painstakingly planned and worked with the Northstar Resort and Ski Patrol to make this an action-packed affordable educational conference for you, that includes activities that can met your guest and families needs as well. If your family/guest ski/board, Northstar is offering discounted lifts (\$41/day for adults and \$19/day for 12 and under). The Northstar Ski Patrol is offering guided ski tours for all levels of skiers/borders (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). Additionally, the NorthStar-at-Tahoe Resort has so much to offer those who won't be on the hill with us, e.g., ice-skating, bungee slinging, and shopping. See their website for these winter activities for all. Discounted lodging is offered through NorthStar. See the lodging details on the registration form.

Register now and sign up for your NSP programs and events. See you there.

<http://fwdwinter.eventbrite.com>



To Prospective Donors,

The National Ski Patrol (NSP) was founded in 1938 to fill the critical role of first responders to the skiing public. Today, NSP programs provide crucial skills through credentialed education and training in outdoor emergency care, thanks to their extensive training NSP patrollers save more than 40 lives every year.

From the beginning, NSP rescue work was not confined to ski slopes. NSP Patrollers helped out whenever and wherever accidents occurred. The same is true today. In summer months, members utilize their NSP medical and other specialized training to assist rafting, mountain biking, and other outdoor activities, and patrollers routinely use their training to serve local search-and-rescue groups and assist other accidents.

You can help the National Ski Patrol continue its mission by clicking below to make a secure, tax-deductible donation. Any amount you can give will help improve NSP training and educational programs and make ski areas and outdoor recreation safer. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the National Ski Patrol is empowering its members to perform extraordinary acts in the face of emergencies. The NSP is a non-profit organization, deriving its primary financial support from member dues, corporate sponsorships and donations. Your donation helps keep the ski slopes safer, and helps save lives!

Sincerely, Norris R. Woody, Fundraising Committee Chairman

Timothy G. White, NSP Executive Director

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.