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FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR

While it lasted we had a wonderful ski season. Our coldest January was followed by our warmest February in the past ten years. At the end of the month only three ski areas in the Division remained operational on stored up snow. It may be that ski season 1975-1976 has already come to an abrupt end. However, southern ski areas have a great capability for coming back on short notice given good snow-making weather.

Those of you that attended the dinner honoring Eric DeGroat at Appalachian Ski Mountain on January 31 will long remember it as a warm and gratifying event. It was remarkable for the rather candid remarks by Jack Lester. They turned out to be his last to an organized meeting of the Ski Patrol.

There are now fifteen ski mountaineering patches within the Division, plus four new instructors. Our congratulations to Nordic Advisor Dale Johnson for a job well done. He also received considerable assistance from Charles Benbow, French Moore, Jr. Gary Delius and Tom Moss. One highlight of the event was the appointment of our first two Nordic patrollers in the Division: Bob Edwards and Mickey Lawson.

It has been recommended that both Circle A and Circle M be prerequisite to taking the senior exam. This proposal has generated considerable interest. A pro and a con statement are included in this issue of the newsletter. We'll discuss the subject in detail at our spring convention and vote on it then.

The Johnson-Worley-Benbow team are making plans for a stimulating and pleasant Spring Ski Patrol Convention at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, N. C. on April 10th. Everyone is welcome at this meeting and we hope many of you will be there. Each patroller should make their own reservation (flyer enclosed). The rates are: single \$17.76, double \$19.76 (2 double beds or 1 queen size bed), children 12 years and up \$5.00 and those under 12 are free. The meeting will start at 9:00 AM.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING PATCH COURSE
THE FIRST IN SOUTHERN DIVISION



(photo by Don Rupp)

Dan Dunlevy, National Ski Mountaineering Advisor, who taught part of the course is at left watching Charles Benbow instruct at the head of the victim. Dale Johnson, Div. Mountaineering Adv., Gary Delius, French Moore, Jr. and Tom Moss of NSPS as well as Jim Scott and John Henry Looney from the Blazed Trail Climbing School in Sewanee, Tenn. were the other instructors. NSPS participants were: Keith Argow, DD, Doris, Wes and Charles Benbow III, Bob Edwards, Jim Elliott (candidate), Mickey Lawson, Mary Ann Moore, Bobbie and Don Rupp. Members of the Washington Co. Life Saving Squad in Va. were: Joe Garrett, Claud Graybeal, Howard James, Doug Millard and Neil Smith. Classwork was February 8th at Beech Mtn. and fieldwork the weekend of February 20th at Mt. Rogers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 10 NEW SENIORS & 1 BASIC

Senior Test at Cataloochee, February 2

Robert C. Keeton and Lynn A. Pace from Gatlinburg, Rick Roberts and Ed Saleem from Cataloochee and Wilfried Wessely from Sky Valley.

Senior Test at Snowshoe, February 14-15

Randy Blackburn, Mark Crissman, Lynn Kettlewell and Neil Rehberg from Snowshoe and Robert Kolesha from Homestead.

Basic Test at Sugar Mtn., February 29

Donna Fisher from Sugar Mtn.

CIRCLE A COURSE



(photo by Farris Jackson)

This course was held at Seven Devils Ski Area on January 31st.

IN MEMORIAM JACK LESTER

On February 22, 1976 Jack Lester died of a heart attack at Boone, N. C. He was a major force in southern skiing and a good friend of the Southern Division NSPS.

Eric DeGroat introduced me to Jack Lester 11 years ago at Hound Ears Ski Lodge. He was skiing on "shortie skis" and told me they would revolutionize ski instruction. Jack Lester built his French-Swiss Ski College into the third largest ski school in the nation (behind Vail and Killington) right here in the South. This year he had 146 colleges signed up on his program to receive credit for ski instruction and continued his contracts with the Department of Army for training the Green Berets.

Keith A. Argow, DD

SOUTHERN DIVISION NSPS THANKS SKI CLUBS

We are most appreciative to the Ashville and Knoxville Ski Clubs for donations of \$50.00 each for division support of NSPS!

CONTRIBUTORS

Randy Avery
Roger Bollinger
Dale Johnson

Ron Smith
Jim Underwood

SHOULD CIRCLE A AND CIRCLE M BE PREREQUISITE TO THE SENIOR EXAM?

At one time the Circle A was prerequisite, but was dropped at Division option. Circle M has been proposed, but never required.

Dale Johnson, Division Nordic and Avalanche Advisor, and others have recommended we require both in the Southern Division. His reasoning and a con statement from Ron Smith (former Virginia/West Virginia SC) are below for your information.

Dale Johnson

The objective in the training of a Patroller to become a Senior Patroller is to provide the opportunity to acquire advanced skills and techniques so as to be capable of patrolling at any area within the Division, on any terrain, under all conditions, with all types of equipment. Special emphasis should be placed on advanced skills, on leadership, on the ability to improvise. A Ski Patroller is never too experienced to learn more, never too skilled to acquire new abilities.

Five of the ten NSPS Divisions require Circle A and Circle M as requirements for Senior Patrollers and complete avalanche training is required for National Patrollers. All NSPS Divisions require Nordic Patrollers to complete the Circle A and Circle M courses before they can receive their Basic rating. Under these standards, the Basic Nordic Patroller is trained to a higher degree than the present Seniors. I would like to see the Southern Division adopt the Circle A and Circle M policy for Seniors and take a step forward; and also require all present Seniors to complete the courses over a three year period to maintain their Senior status.

With our present system, if any of our Seniors transfer to the five divisions requiring the courses they will not meet their minimum standards. The Circle A course can be completed in 1 day (and has been offered at the beach during the summer) and the Circle M course requires 2 days including an overnight stay. They are readily available in the Southern Division each year.

Our Senior Patrollers in the Southern Division are looked on as leaders; without these courses the standard of leadership is in jeopardy.

Ron Smith

I am against such additions to senior status requirements. The principle involved is one of need. Does the senior patroller in the Southern Division need Circle A and M to adequately perform his area patrol duties? The answer is no. The adding of these requirements would simply be placing artificial obstacles in the basic patroller's path to the prime and needed goal of upgrading his or her first aid, skiing and toboggan skills to senior competence.

Avalanche and mountaineering are peripheral activities to the principle purpose of Ski Patrol. Those patrollers who are interested in such activities will allocate time for those activities additional to that amount of time needed to properly discharge their regular necessary patrol duties. To legislate that such valuable time be taken from an already short season for peripheral activities will at best impede the progress of the basic patroller in fulfilling those true measures of senior competence and at worst may discourage her or him from working toward that goal.

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Dr. Warren Bowman, Natl. Medical Advisor
Gary Bunce, Natl. First Aid Advisor

The American National Red Cross has approved the Heimlich maneuver for incorporation into standard ANRC first aid instruction and procedures.

The first aider stands behind the victim and wraps his arms around the victim's waist. He grasps his fist with his other hand, placing the thumb side of the fist against the victim's abdomen between the navel and the xiphoid process. He then presses his fist into the victim's abdomen with a quick upward thrust. This is repeated several times if necessary.

If the victim is sitting, the first aider stands behind the victim's chair. If the victim is lying, the first aider turns him on his back; then kneels astride his hips, facing the victim. He then puts the heel of his hand on the abdomen in the same position as above, with the other hand on top of it. He then presses into the victim's abdomen with a quick upward thrust, repeated several times if necessary.

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Walter A. Gregg, Natl. Legal Counsel
NSPS Income Tax Deductions

Your deduction on your tax return should be indicated either as a contribution to "National Ski Patrol System, Inc." or to your Division. IRS records do not reflect names of Patrols, Sections or Regions.

You may deduct unreimbursed out of pocket expenses directly attributable to services you render to the NSPS, such as expenses for gas, oil, etc. when going to and from patrol, Patrol meetings, Refreshers, etc. (You may, instead, use the rate of 7¢ a mile.) You may also deduct room rent and meals (only if you are away overnight) while on patrol or at patrol functions, registration fees for patrol meetings, refreshers etc., first aid supplies used for patrol work, annual dues, patrol belts and patrol patches.

YOU MAY NOT DEDUCT: the value of your service contributed to NSPS; the cost of, nor depreciation on, your skis, boots, bindings, poles, parkas and other clothing, automobile, or other equipment.

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