



THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Official Publication of the Southern Division
National Ski Patrol System, Inc.
3914 Friendly Avenue ◦ Greensboro, NC 27410

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Editor: Bobbie Rupp

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CHARLIE'S CHATTER

When winter finally decided to come South, it tried to make up for what we missed over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. With the new arrival of winter it seems that everyone is very late or has forgotten that we were to have an early February issue of the Southern Cross. The only way that we can have a Southern Cross that will get the proper information at the correct time to everyone is for us to support and use the Southern Cross. Last year we did not print the January issue of the Southern Cross and there were a great number of people upset that we did not. Where are those people NOW? The Southern Division Board may have to take a very long look at what is needed for the Southern Cross if the Patrollers of the Southern Division are not going to support and use the newsletter.

Rick Roberts was the representative from the Southern Division to the National Training Committee meeting that was held in January. After spending the day with Rick and Tom Moss, I think that the new training programs that we will be seeing some of this year and for sure in the 1985-1986 season will help all of us improve our skiing skills. The one area that impressed me the most is the new emphasis that is being aimed toward training. I have seen some of this working already. Ed O'Neal, the PSIA instructor at Ski Hawksnest has been working with several of the new candidates and some patrollers on their skiing skills. Mike Lamb also offered his services this fall to any patrol that needed help with their patrollers to upgrade their skills. If we can get more coordination between PSIA and NSPS everyone can benefit from each others knowledge.

The Southern Division on Junior Training Seminar at Ober-Gatlinburg was, as usual, a great success with all the Juniors having a good time and some fine competition. Joy Slagle and all the patrollers at Ober-Gatlinburg did a great job of hosting the Seminar along with some good new snow and cold weather. There were eleven Juniors that attended the seminar, nine from Ober-Gatlinburg and two from Ski Hawksnest. To those Juniors that were not able to attend the Seminar, you missed a great weekend of fun and fellowship with the other Juniors in the Division.

The National Junior Training Seminar is only two weeks from now. (March 10 through 14, 1985) We would like to have more First Aid and Skiing Examiners so that those of us that have already signed up will not have to work all the time. Having been to the Seminars in the past, they are great fun and I think that I have learned as much or more than the Juniors. The Seminar should be fun for everyone but you will have to attend to find out what you have missed in the past.

Just a reminder to all patrol Directors that we are still trying to get our parkas patch free except for the National Ski Patrol patches so as to have a standard appearance to the skiing public. Our appearance does make a difference, be it in uniform or skiing skills.

CALENDAR

Mar. 2	Basic First Aid, Sugar
2	Basic First Aid, Gatlinburg
3	Basic on-the-Hill, Sugar
3	Basic On-the-Hill, Gatlinburg
10-14	National Junior Jamboree, Silvercreek, WV
16	Basic First Aid Test, Silvercreek, WV
17	Basic On-the-Hill Test, Snowshoe, WV
22-24	Certified Test, Snowshoe, WV
May 3 & 4	Spring Convention, Abingdon, VA
15	Southern Cross Deadline

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE IN SHAPE

Start a running program in June . . . tennis, golf, swimming . . . don't walk anywhere. Physically fit for opening ski season? You bet! Then along comes summer in December. You ease off, put the skis in the closet; it's back to the golf course. Will you wear summer clothes all year?

Wait! Here's winter again, arctic style, thanks to the Alberta Clipper. Out come the skis . . . and the flabby legs . . . and the yuletide pounds. You're off to an easy start at Fairfield Sapphire Valley. Hah!

Just to remind you it *is* winter and you *should* have kept up that conditioning program, they throw a chair evac at you. Only 8 degrees and wind gusting at 40 mph, when the power goes out. Climb that hill. Ski down, get those hikers off the middle of the trail, climb again. Grab that ladder, tote that rope. Time to get those people down; it's freezing up there.

The ladder empties the chairs on the top half—Jim Bradley conducts that portion. The T and the rope do the lower half—that's William McKee's. "Practice makes perfect," they say, "and we practice a lot." Perfection includes a tower climb in ski boots for William, and go-up-and-get-that-little-guy for Jim. All is complete in about 30 minutes. Rubber legs limp to lunch, aching arms lift the food.

1985 Resolution: start a fitness program in June; one in January too!

Benning Garrison
PR Advisor

GOOD LISTENING

Have you heard our radio messages? By January, 43 tape cassettes were mailed to key locations throughout the division for distribution to radio stations. Mostly they were sent to patrol leaders, but other patrollers were asked to help as well. Since these tapes, containing ski safety tips "courtesy of the National Ski Patrol Systems" are public safety announcements, radio stations are very cooperative about using them. Please drop me a card if you hear (or have heard) the messages and on which stations. It helps to know if our efforts pay off. Tapes were distributed in Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia, Kentucky and the District of Columbia. (The latter tape went to Eastern's ski safety advisor who was interested in spreading our project through his division!)

Benning Garrison,
PR Advisor

Cumberland Section

The morning after spending a delightful evening with Harwell and Beth Dabbs, we headed toward Renegade. After climbing three-fourths of the way up Renegade Mountain, the steepness and eight inches of new dry powder snow halted the car. I met Dave Bjornstad at that point who also could make it no further. It was shortly after 8 a.m. on Sunday, January 20, when Harwell, behind us in his four-wheel drive, picked us up and took us to the top. At 10 a.m. on that beautiful cold day (8 degrees F), we began the Renegade Basic Test with five candidates. By the time we finished (3 p.m.) the temperature had dropped to around zero. Bridget Schrauns, Tim Ashbury, and Brad Smallen worked hard, passed the test and are to be congratulated and welcomed to the Basic Patroller status. Finding some untracked powder (real powder), we examiners skied until closing time. Upon closing the hill and tending to the needs of a frostbitten lift operator, we toasted to the new basics with champagne that Gary Riser so thoughtfully had on ice. Gary then cranked his four-wheel drive and took Dave and me to our cold cars which would not start—even with jumper cables. My car finally started about halfway down the mountain thanks to Gary, who then went back picked up Dave and battery and headed for Oak Ridge. My son and I drove on snow and ice for four hours arriving home in Huntsville, Alabama dead tired after 10 p.m. My hat is off to Gary and Dave who did a great job in assisting the administration of the test. Dave also spent considerable time training the candidates. Thank you!

John Newton
Cumberland Section Chief

Ski Hawksnest

After waiting out the summer of December 1984, Hawksnest finally opened its slopes on January 6, 1985. That in itself was no little feat in that the snow-making crew began work with bare grass and earth slopes a mere 72 hours prior to opening time. Our increased snow-making capacity this year allowed the crew to pump over one million gallons of water in that 72 hour period and provide a substantial blanket of snow with no bare spots, even after a day's worth of skiing. Since that time, we have continued to lay down the snow and have opened the entire mountain to an enthusiastic response from the skiing public. Lift ticket sales have been curtailed due to crowds on almost every weekend day and on many nights throughout the week.

As was the case with many of the local ski areas, we did not open Sunday, January 20 due to temperatures in the -20's and 70 mile per hour gusts! Across Hwy. 105, Grandfather Mountain recorded a wind-chill factor of -120 degrees Fahrenheit the next day! The excellent snow conditions, refurbished lodge, and friendly attitude of our employees has been enjoyed by both skiing public and the patrol. We tip our hat to Jon Reynolds who is doing a fantastic job with the mountain. The patrol has been operating smoothly this season and we have enjoyed relatively few accidents.

Two Juniors, Carolyn Stowe and Ken Drake, attended the Southern Division Junior Jamboree at Ober Gatlinburg January 19th and 20th. Congratulations to Carolyn Stowe who placed third in the competition! Congratulations also to Ken Drake who passed his Basic Test during the Jamboree—and on his first day of skiing for the season to boot! Five Senior Patrollers including Kim Annas, Cindy Benbow, Mike Simmons, Howard Tilley, and yours truly attended the Senior Test Judge Examiners Clinic at Beech Mountain on January 12th and 13th. With additional training as Associate Judges, we plan to become full-fledged Senior Test Examiners and to serve as judges at the 1985 National Junior Training Seminar at Silver Creek, West Virginia. I would like to congratulate my fellow seniors who have put forth this extra effort and urge other Senior Patrollers in the division to do likewise. This is a unique opportunity that we in the Southern Division have to show the rest of the country that ski patrolling in the south is second to none!

We welcome any Senior Patrollers to come ski at Hawksnest anytime and "Ski the difference"! Promote safety on skis and think snow!

Mark Taylor, PL

SPRING CONVENTION

News Flash! Due to a scheduling conflict, the 1985 Spring Convention location has been changed. The convention will be held May 3 and 4 at the Martha Washington Inn, Abingdon, Virginia. What hasn't changed is that we still have door prizes, music and all the fun historically associated with the Spring Convention. Our objective this year is to provide an affordable package in a central location in the hope that more people will come and discover all the fun they've been missing at past conventions.

Times are as follows:

May 3

Arrival—Social in the Hospitality Suite

7:00 p.m. until—Executive Committee Meeting (East Parlor)

May 4

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon—Full Board Meeting, Everyone (Ball Room)

12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.—Lunch on your own

1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.—Training & Testing—Seminar

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.—To be announced

6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.—Social—(Cash Bar) East Parlor

7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.—Dinner and Awards Program—Ball Room

9:30 p.m.—Old Fashioned Square Dance with caller (Cash Bar)

May 5

R and R, no sign in time, sleep late—depart.

The Martha Washington Inn is located in Historic Old Abingdon, Virginia, one half mile from Exit 8 on Interstate 81. It has just been completely renovated. All rooms have been modernized with new bath rooms, etc. They have a large lounge (liquor by the drink) with live entertainment and a full service restaurant. Reservations may be made by completing the enclosed form or by calling 703-628-3161. (Tell them you are a member of the National Ski Patrol System). They are holding a block of rooms until April 19, 1985. Room rates are \$42.00 single or \$50.00 double.

Banquet reservations forms should be mailed, with a check, no later than April 26, 1985. Registration will be \$20.00 per person which includes a buffet dinner and entertainment. Brown bagging is not permitted—"State Law." A cash bar will be available during the dance.

The Barter Theatre will be open on Saturday afternoon, May 4, 1985.

All patrollers and their guests are welcome.



National Ski Patrol Spring Convention, May 3, 4, 5, 1985 MARTHA WASHINGTON INN, ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

Name: _____

Address: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Room Type _____ Number Persons _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____ Type _____

VISA, MC, ETC.

Mail hotel reservations to: Martha Washington Inn, Box 1037, Abingdon, VA 24210
or Call 703-628-3161 (Before April 19, 1985)



BANQUET RESERVATION

Name: _____

Number Persons: _____ At \$20.00—Total: _____ Inclosed: _____

Address: _____

Patrol: _____

Mail banquet reservations to: F. H. Moore, Jr., Box 516, Abingdon, VA 24210
BEFORE APRIL 26, 1985—Make checks payable to Southern Division NSPS



OBER GATLINGBURG HOSTS SOUTHERN DIVISION JUNIOR JAMBOREE

On the coldest weekend of the new year, eleven Junior Patrollers and several Division Test Judges, Patrol Leaders, Advisors, etc. gathered at Ober Gatlinburg, TN, January 19th and 20th for the annual Southern Division Junior Jamboree. The participants and visiting patrollers skied the packed powder slopes until 10:00 a.m. At this time the Juniors retired their skis and met at the lodge to take the written portion of the ski patrol competition. This included a first aid test, history and ski patrol administration quiz. Next, everyone ate lunch or skied some more. The first aid practical situations were set up in the afternoon on the right side of Alpineway. There were four stations ranging from severe internal injuries to fractured femurs.

From approximately 5 p.m. til 7:30 p.m. the Juniors were individually judged on their skiing ability and technique. The judges observed some terrific skiing demonstrated by these fine young talented patrollers.

On Sunday we were greeted by 8-10 inches of fresh snow and minus 6°F temperature. After breakfast and some warm-up skiing, the toboggan portion of the competition concluded the training seminar. After the scores were totaled, the Southern Division had five Outstanding Juniors to represent us at the National Training Seminar at Silvercreek, WV, March 10-14.

The results are as follows:

First Place	David Knoll	Ober Gatlinburg
Second Place	Doug Underwood	Ober Gatlinburg
Third Place	Carolin Stowe	Ski Hawksnest
Fourth Place	Scott Marland	Ober Gatlinburg
Fifth Place	Anthony Schaffhauser	Ober Gatlinburg

The best of luck to all the Junior Patrollers going to the National Junior Seminar and a big thanks to everyone who helped with the Southern Division Jamboree at Ober Gatlinburg!

Joy Slagle, PL



Photos by Joy Slagle

ADVANCED SKI MOUNTAINEERING



The Gang at Mt. Rogers, VA—1985



Emergency shelters taught by Dennis Slagle and Milton Triplett

On February 1-3, 1985, the 10th Annual Advanced Ski Mountaineering (Patch M) Course was held at Mount Rogers, Virginia. Attendance at the course was somewhat less than in the past, presumably due to the inclement weather (rain); however, a total of approximately 35 people were in attendance (quality, not quantity!). The course began Friday morning with classroom sessions which lasted until early evening. Under overcast skies and misty rain, four groups then proceeded from Elk Garden Gap to Deep Gap between White Top Mountain and Mount Rogers where the base camp was established. The trip into the wilderness began on foot, then we were able to don our cross-country skis and snowshoes for the majority of the trek in through wet snow and slush. The temperature hovered near freezing throughout Friday night and Saturday.

On Saturday morning, the instructors directed field sessions in fire building, transportation of the injured, and map and compass skills. On Saturday afternoon, a mock search and rescue exercise was initiated which proceeded very smoothly and resulted in the rescue of two victims and their return to base camp in a mere 2½ hours from the initial report that they were missing. The scenario involved two missing cross-country skiers, a father and daughter (Charles Benbow and Cindy Benbow), who had failed to return to a designated pickup point on Saturday morning. A great deal of innovation was shown by all who participated in both search and rescue and first aid techniques. The exercise was aptly led by Milton Triplett. The weather succeeded in complicating the mission by choking the mountain with dense fog and misty rain. The exercise was considered a success by all who participated and was truly a learning experience for the mountaineers, both students and instructors.

On Sunday morning, additional field exercises were directed by the instructors in the areas of winter travel, ropes and knots, and emergency shelter construction. The temperature dropped to around 16 degrees during Saturday night and light snow was blown by a brisk wind. By Sunday morning, the once soft snow and everything else in camp was frozen solid.

I would like to thank all of those who participated! Charlie Benbow holds the dubious distinction of being the only person who attended all 10 advanced mountaineering courses held in the Southern Division; congratulations, Charlie! We were also honored by the attendance of at least one ski patroller (Gary Knapp) Central Division and several forest service and rescue squad personnel. An enthusiastic group of instructors were on hand, many of whom are new Ski Mountaineering Instructors. That group included: Charlie Benbow, Bobby Harbin, Robin Hinkle, Dennis Slagle, Joy Slagle, Tom Thomas, Milton Triplett, Elaine Wittman, Lee Wittman and Norris Woody. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to this fine group of instructors who came out in such foul weather to share their knowledge with an equally brave group of participants.

Mark Taylor
Ski Mountaineering Adv.



Tom Thomas with Ivanhoe the sled dog



Charlie Benbow demonstrates emergency firebuilding



*Photo by Joy Slagle
(Charlie Benbow hands check to Jim Underwood
for the National Junior Seminar)*

NATIONAL JUNIOR SEMINAR SILVER CREEK, WEST VIRGINIA

After a record setting warm December and a record setting cold January, February is now upon us, which means that the National Junior Training Seminar is only a month away. So far everything seems to be coming along rather smoothly; the registrations are coming in, the fund raising for the seminar has been proceeding well, and Silver Creek is open and ready for us.

I would like to thank the many people who have helped with the fund raising portion of the program. Unfortunately, I cannot list every ski patroller who has helped with the fund raising, but here is a list of people and companies who have donated money to help make the 1985 National Junior Training Seminar a success:

Ingersoll—Rand (Ski Compressors Division)
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Southeastern Medical—Dental Society
Sapphire Valley Ski Patrol (Jim Monteith)
Appalachian Ski Patrol
Dr. Robert Knoll
Mrs. Blanche S. Benjamin

Mr. Chester Brown
Dr. Rheudolph Wells
Mr. Donald D. Gilstrap, Sr.
Mr. Richard G. Greenwalt
Mr. Paul D. Monroe
Mr. Carter T. Holbrook, Jr.
Mr. John Diemer

Again, thanks to these companies and individuals for supporting the Southern Division NSPS Junior program. With such support, the NSPS can continue to provide the skiing public with free, fast, and proficient winter first aid and rescue; promote skiing safety; and be the foremost non-profit, all volunteer rescue organization in the world.

Steve Benbow
Div. Jr. Advisor

MOVING?

Send any change of address to:
National Ski Patrol
2901 Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80214

CORRECTION FOR SKI HAWKSNEST

Mark Taylor, PL
Bob Edwards, Assistant PL
Alan Cassell, Assistant PL
Ed Howard, Assistant PL

OUR COMPLIMENTS

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115 W. HOWARD ST. - BOONE, NC 28607

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135 South Stratford Road • Winston-Salem, NC 27103
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Banner Elk, N. C. 28604



Wintergreen
Mr. Uel Gardner
Wintergreen, VA 22938

