



Volume VII
Number 3

May
1978

Official Publication of the Southern Division
National Ski Patrol System, Inc.
Rt.1, Box 118, Summerfield, N.C. 27403

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FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR

The Spring Convention at Abingdon, Virginia was an outstanding success. Our thanks to the co-chairpersons Janie Bollinger and French Moore, Jr. We had over 25% of our division in attendance. Thanks to Roger Bollinger streamlining the Advisors reports, we finished the business session on time.

Thanks to Mary Ann Moore for being hostess for the outstanding cocktail party. The warm hospitality of both Mary Ann and French Moore did much for the enjoyment of the day for everyone. Our Awards Chairman, Charles Benbow did an outstanding job with the awards program this year. Since the initiation of awards must come from the individual patrols, he needs input from all of you for the best program possible. This year all those patrollers attaining Senior status were presented with a certificate in one of those beautiful Benbow Reproduction frames at the Spring Convention.

The Wintergreen Patrol received the Outstanding Patrol Award for the second year in a row for the Southern Division. The Outstanding Patroller Award this year went to Ron Geist from Sky Valley Patrol. The Outstanding Professional was awarded for the first time this year and the recipient was "Buckwheat". Since she couldn't carry the plaque, we gave it to her best friend and constant companion, Frank "Flash" Gordon. Dale Johnson was presented with Instructor Certification for the National Avalanche School in Reno, Nevada by the National Forest Service. Brian Riel gave Keith Gray a couple "Special Awards" as mementos of the trip to Bozeman. Gary Delius presented French Moore, Jr. with a "Procrastination Award" in living color. Ten year NSPS pins were given to Dale Johnson, Frank Feeney, Howard Allison, Norman Bishop, Lance Webb and Mike and Peggy Chandler. Joan Smith and John Nielsen were presented with fifteen year pins. Last, but not least, our own inimitable PL from Sky Valley, Benning Garrison, received her twenty year pin. Congratulation to all!

We are proud to announce that Western Carolina has a new Section Chief. Janie Bollinger, Cataloochee PL, will be the South's first lady chief. Tom Worley will serve as the new A.D.D. Tom is well known to all as he has been T & T Advisor for the Southern Division as well as Western Carolina Section Chief. Now is he also the National Meeting Coordinator. We regreted having to accept A.D.D. Roger Bollinger's resignation due to job pressure. Roger has served faithfully in every capacity for fifteen years of patrolling and we all appreciate his past work so very much. He plans to stay active and we hope he will be able to do so.

I would like to thank all those who worked so hard this year. No one person could take credit for all the accomplishments. It was a total team effort.

David P. Dillard

NATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN KNOXVILLE

This year the National Meeting will be held in Knoxville, Tenn. at the Regency Hyatt House June 14 - 17. Our committees are progressing well toward their object. It looks like this will be a very good time as well as interesting. If you would like more information or would be able to help us, write to: NSPS National Convention, P. O. Box 11467, Knoxville, Tenn. 37919.

SOUTHERN DIVISION SCHEDULE 1978-1979

August	12,13	Circle A, Morehead City, N.C.
	19	Executive Committee Meeting, 6 pm, Seven Devils
	19,20	Lift Evacuation Seminar, Seven Devils
September	9	Fall Officers Meeting, Beech Mtn.
	23,24	Ski Mountaineering Clinic, Mt. Pisgah Inn, Blue Ridge Pkw.
	30, 1	Lift Evacuation Seminar, Seven Devils
October	7	Carolina Highlands Refresher, Boone, N.C.
	14	Tennessee-Kentucky Refresher, Gatlinburg, Tenn.
	21	Georgia-Alabama Refresher, Atlanta, Ga.
	28	Virginia-West Virginia Refresher Charlottesville, Va.
	28	Western Carolina Refresher, Asheville, N.C.
November	18,19	Lift Evacuation Seminar, Seven Devils
	24 - 26	Circle A & Circle M, Wolf Laurel
	24 - 26	Circle A & Circle M, Wintergreen
December	15 - 17	Circle A & Circle M, Seven Devils
	15 - 17	Circle A & Circle M, Snowshoe
January	6	Test Examiner Clinic, Snowshoe
	6	Senior First Aid Test, Snowshoe
	7	Senior Candidate Clinic, Snowshoe
	7	Senior First Aid Test, Cataloochee
	* 8	Last date Certified Patroller applications accepted
	13	Test Examiner Clinic, Sugar Mtn.
	13	Senior First Aid Test, Sugar Mtn.
	14	Senior Candidate Clinic, Sugar Mtn.
	19 - 21	Circle A & Circle M, Gatlinburg
	* 21, 22	Certified Patroller Clinic, Sugar Mtn.
	21	Senior Ski & Toboggan Test, Snowshoe
	* 27,28	Certified Patroller Clinic, Snowshoe
	28	Senior Ski & Toboggan Test, Sugar Mtn.
February	4	Senior Ski & Toboggan Test, Cataloochee
	2 - 4	Mountaineering Patch Course, Mt. Rogers, Va.
	* 10,11	Certified Ski Skills Test, Snowshoe
	17,18	Junior Jamboree, Seven Devils
	* 24,25	Certified Written, Oral, Practical, Snowshoe
March	24 - 31	Avalanche Patch Course, Bozeman, Mont.
April	21	Spring Convention, Abingdon, Va.

FEDERAL CHARTER

Now is the time to put forth an extra effort to push the Federal Charter (S.1571)! Those who have already written have received supportive answers from almost half the committee. If you have not already written, please do so now!

It is becoming increasingly difficult to carry on the free services of the NSPS and still comply with all the paperwork required and do business in each state. Obtaining a Federal Charter would not only be a relief from the voluminous reports required in all the states, but would allow opportunities to purchase surplus equipment needed in the many first aid sessions, rescue operations and chair and tram evacuation.

Listed below are the members of the Judiciary Committee. Please write to each of them and have friends who are interested in NSPS write also. Senator Hatch of Utah is making a determined effort to move this bill through the committee before they recess for the summer.

Senator William L. Scott 2313 Dirksen Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510	Senator Malcolm Wallop 6327 Dirksen Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510
Senator Dennis DeConcini 4104 Dirksen Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510	Senator James Abourezk 3313 Dirksen Bldg. Washington D. C. 20510
Senator Howard Metzenbaum 342 Russell Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510	Senator Paul Laxalt 326 Dirksen Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510
Senator John C. Culver 344 Russell Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510	Senator Birch Bayh 363 Dirksen Bldg. Washington D. C. 20510
Senator Joseph R. Biden 347 Russell Bldg. Washing, D. C. 20510	Senator Charles McMathias 358 Russell Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510
Senator James B. Allen 6205 Dirksen Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510	Senator Edward M. Kennedy 431 Russell Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510
Senator James O. Eastland Chairman, Senate Judiciary Comm. 2241 Dirksen Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510	Senator Strom Thurmond 209 Russell Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510
	Senator Robert C. Byrd 133 Russell Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20510

AWARD

Cataloochee Ski Patrol would like to announce that Lynne Harrill will receive the "Most Dedicated Patroller Award" for the 1977-78 ski season. This award is given to the patroller who skied the most days of the season.

DUES

The convention at Abingdon, Va. last month gave a mandate to the officers for a possible dues increase for next year if the new budget is too large to operate in the black.

THE HISTORY OF NSPS IS BEING WRITTEN

Dr. Gretchen Besser has undertaken this monumental task and asks all of us to help if at all possible. The book will cover from the beginning of NSPS to the present and will include material about the development of the various divisions as well as contributions the local patrol has made. The book has a twofold purpose: to disseminate information about who we are and what we do to the general skiing public and also to give our own members an increased sense of our past history and the extent of our present services. She is looking for human interest stories, reports of outstanding rescues, and anything else that might "beef up" the dry recital of the facts. All this, with pictures, photographs, interviews of old-timers, unusual anecdotes - whatever will help get the story across and make people want to read it.

This is a tremendous task and to be completely successful all of you who are able to contribute information should do so to Dr. Besser at:
227 Tillou Road, South Orange, N.J. 07079

PROFESSIONAL

Attention Patrol Leaders! If your area needs pro patrollers for the 1978-79 season and would like some assistance in locating qualified personnel, I will be glad to help.

Attention all patrollers! Have you ever considered being a professional patroller? Are you looking for an area needing propatrollers? The division can help place you in a job, not just in the South, but in various places throughout the country.

Do it now, so you won't be unprepared next season!

Phil Birdsong, Div. Pro Adv.
Wintergreen Resort,
Wintergreen, Va. 22938

CERTIFIED PROGRAM

The Southern Division now has a Certification Program you now have the opportunity to become a Certified Patroller. This program is not easy, and not something you can do in a weekend and forget about. If you earn it, you aren't even guaranteed you will keep it. The Certification Program will give you the chance to become involved with patrolling at the highest level, to find out just how good your first aid is, and how much you know about patrol operations and management. If you are looking for a challenge in patrolling, and I mean a real challenge, the Certification Program may be for you.

Phil Birdsong, Div. Cert. Adv.
Wintergreen Resort,
Wintergreen, Va. 22938

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Those of you who were not at the Spring Convention probably did not see the really neat T-shirts that are for sale. They are white with navy bands around the neck and sleeves and have a navy logo of the Southern Division NSPS on the front. All sizes from small to extra large are available for only \$4.00. To order yours, write Tom Worley, 4 Pepperhill Court, Greensboro, N.C. 27407.

SOUTHERN DIVISION NSPS IS GRATEFUL FOR DONATIONS

The Greensboro Swap Shop, sponsored by patrollers Dave Dillard, Dale Johnson, Tom Worley and the Benbows was held again this year. A total of \$326. was made and will be used to help pay expenses to send the winner of the division Junior competition to the National Jamboree.

We wish to thank the Richmond Ski Club very much for their donation of \$25. to the division.

The Cataloochee Ski Patrol appreciates the \$100. donation given them by Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Winslow.

Larry Dietz, a patroller from Sugar Mtn. who has been forced to take a year off from skiing because of a "stage" accident, sent a check for \$25. for the division. He has really missed skiing this year. We miss him too.

GIFTS GIVEN FOR NSPS CONVENTION

We wish to thank the following people whose gifts added to the enjoyment of the Spring Convention.

Hal Blakely, McNeil Laboratories, Leicester, N.C.
Note Pads
Sgt. Gary Davis, U.S.A.F. Recruiter, Asheville, N.C.
Pens & Note Pads
Charles D. Owen Mfg. Co., Swannoc, N.C.
Thermal Blanket
Gene Ollis, Mgr. Hadley Corp., Asheville, N.C.
Tennis/Golf Sport Sweater
Mrs. Rachel Gordon, Mgr. Three Mountaineers, Inc.
Asheville, N.C.
Herb Scale, Measuring Cup Holder, Fireside Stool
Bob Newton, Asheville, N.C.
Tylenol Tablets
Pete Chamberlin
Emory Boards
Dave Dillard
"The Loving Coffee Pot"
Alice Aumen, Cataloochee Ski Slopes
Turtle Neck
Mr. Allen Clark, Dixie Coca Cola of Bristol
Cokes
Pinnacle Sales, Knoxville
Schlitz Beer
Brown Distributing, Inc., Greensboro
Stroh's Beer

A big "Thank You" to Mary K. Twomey and Bob Newton for getting door prizes and favors for the convention!

CIRCLE M

On April 15 - 16 a Circle M Course was held at Gatlinburg, Tenn. It began at 9 am with classroom work and lectures. At noon we had a break for lunch. By 2 pm we were gathered at the Ranger Station in Cherokee, N.C. where we proceeded up the Blue Ridge Parkway to Balsun Mt. for the field work. Instructors for the course were: Norman Bishop, Gary Delius, John Henry Looney, Lynn Pace and Lance Webb. Participants were: Dale Berry, Glenn Brown, Roy Davis, Lynne Harrill, Lenoir Hartzler, Randy Holton, Travis Holton, Chap Jackson, Gail Jones, Don Jones, Charles Latkoff, Mike Myers, Dennis Slagle, Joan Smith, Joy Stout and David Williams.

Lynn Pace, Gatlinburg FL



AVALANCHE PATCH COURSE AT BOZEMAN/BRIDGER BOWL, MONTANA (PHOTOS BY DON RUPP)

In the words of Avalanche Advisor, Dale Johnson, "Well, kiss my grits if we didn't have a fine time in Montana!" Southern Division's 2nd annual Avalanche Patch Course was an enlightening, entertaining and all-round worth while week for the 17 patrollers who attended.

Last year, snow fell at Bridger Bowl, Montana for $6\frac{1}{2}$ of the 7 days we were there -- dry, powdery snow with sub-freezing temperatures, perfect for dry snow avalanches. Bearing this in mind and packing heavy parkas and woolies, the Class of '78 was greeted by sun drenched days with temperatures in the 60s. Even better for the 2nd course. (Ask Dale how he managed that.)

Ever heard an avalanche? Or seen one? Not the kind on TV that's devastating but cut short by the commercial. Last year we didn't hear it when, in the midst of probing an earlier slide, another one headed down toward us. All we heard then was the warning from our avalanche guard. With a wet slide, the sound is the warning.

This year about 11 am the snow began to whisper: "Sawoosh, sawoosh," like snow sliding off a roof. Monday morning, March 27, we heard the whispers loud and clear. On the High Traverse, where it's super steep and super avalanchy, we were traveling in small groups for safety; 36 people from Southern and Central Division, broken up into 3s and 4s. We had until 11 am to cross the Traverse into South Bowl and relative safety. The first group from Central, starting out shortly after 9:30 am were to

move right along, stopping briefly for observations and minimal commentary. Unfortunately, someone got chatty because about 45 minutes later and only half-way across the Traverse, the small groups were again one large, very unsure and very unsafe group. Not yet 10:30 am but already the whispers had started - in front of us, behind us, all around us. (This was the only time all week Keith Gray was quiet.) Slowly methodically, like robots we played a giant game of follow the leader; one at a time we crossed path after path, always in the path of.... Thanks to the strong voices and knowledge of Velma McMeekin, a National Avalanche Instructor, who was up there with us, and Clarence Serfoos, Northern Division Avalanche Advisor, who was in the South Bowl and could more or less see us, we were directed across the rest of the Traverse, down the Bowl and out of danger. Time: 12:30 pm.

"Aha!" said Dale, "just the training aid we needed!" And he set up the following evening's simulator exercise based on the morning's events. The reality of what could have happened hit everyone.

But all was not cliff hangers and heart stopping moments. One of Dale's best ideas was to rent a van. Only a convivial group of 18 can emerge from a 12-passenger vehicle. Who sat on who's laps? Well, the only one who didn't was Eastern Division A.D.D. Tyler Davis, who got the up front seat by himself every trip R.H.I.P. Our blue sardine can gave us many laugh filled moments, and only one person complained: Mary Ann Moore, who said there

(continued on next page)

was no room for her pillow so she had to take it to classes.

Southern Division hosted Central at a cocktail party Wednesday evening, during which Bill Hotchkiss, National Avalanche Advisor, announced Velma's National Instructor certification; gave out two "Circle Zero" patches, one in each division (and don't ask me who got ours); and presented rockers to Stewart Auten, Linda Coulter, Keith Gray, Susan Jackson, Mary Ann Moore, Bruce McLean, Carolyn Preston, Bobbie and Don Rupp and Bettie Wood. Assisting Dale as instructors were Phil Birdsong, Benning Garrison, Ron Geist, "Flash" Gordon, Lynn Pace and Brian Riel.

The course was officially over, but on Thursday Dale arranged for us to go to Big Sky for the day, primarily to see a demonstration of their Avalauncher. The wind nearly blew us off the firing ridge during the program, and those who thought the day was going to be hot, goofed on clothing again. But it was a good day, the pin-point aiming of the Avalauncher intriguing, though unsuccessful on bringing down slides due to the snow conditions. Not that Big Sky's snow was any different from Bridger's. They both had peanut butter.

Our appreciation of Dale's efforts was expressed that afternoon when we took over the far end of a small bar at Big Sky, and "Flash" made the official presentation for all of us. On the ruse that it was to be a take-home present for one of the husbands, we got a perfect fit in a green and rust parka for Dale.

Friday we wrapped it up with a hike to the ridge and a wine and cheese party on top. It's so high and so steep up there, it was a perfect setting for a perfect ending.

Tune in same time, same station next year, when maybe Susan will conduct a class in motel climbing, Brian will find a successor for his Rocker "P" award, Dale might find his wayward kneecaps, and hopefully for Lynn the P.T.L. Club will be off the air. Do join us.

Benning Garrison, Sky Valley PL

FROM YOUR EDITOR

The next deadline for Southern Cross is September 9th. Do keep this in mind over the summer so that you will have articles ready to send in.

Have you moved? We would like to know! The cost of mailing has soared! We now pay 13¢ postage to be sure you get your issues promptly. Perhaps some of you have noticed "Address Correction Requested" under the return address. This costs 25¢ each time an issue is forwarded and the new address sent back to the sender. Thus, your dues are paying 38¢ for some copies to be mailed. Please help us keep down unnecessary expense!

Postage is not the only thing increasing in price. The cost of paper, ink, printing, etc. have all gone up. We have now started to have ads in the paper to help defray expenses. Can you find someone who might like to put an ad in a paper that is read by more than 400 really great people in the South? The cost is \$100.00 for the entire year (4 issues), beginning with the next issue in September. If interested, send the money and the ad layout to Jim Underwood by September 1st.

MONTANA HIGH

You racing fanatics, have I got a race for you! This year we showed 'em in Montana how them Southern Boys can go for it. Easter at Bridger Bowl is a celebration, the beginning of spring. There are festivities and joyful native rites. The Southern Division was in town for an avalanche patch course and a few of us Southern Boys were allowed to participate in these rites.

We raced canoes down the slopes, crashing and burning. We drew straws to run race patrol for the bikini slalom. We did not, I repeat did not, see any streakers. We barbecued and ate out in the sun. We smashed through soft 5' moguls that would blow up when we hit them. We were led through the local rituals of tackling trees, lifting off moguls to catch them high and unsuspecting. We drank fermented hops with the natives, standing on our heads in the traditional manner.

All of this was merely to prepare one for the BIG RACE: "The Pole, Pad & Pedal", a grueling, demanding, test of skill and endurance. About 225 contestants entered in many classes: youngsters, old folks, singles, teams, mixed teams, bigfoots and unidentified things from the mountains.

The race began at the top of Bridger Bowl with a LeMans start. At the gun you sprint 100' to your skis, leap into the bindings and downhill (2,000' vertical) to the base lodge. This is only the beginning. At the base, the next leg of the competition is to run 2 miles out to the main highway. There bicycles await to be mounted. Once on your bicycle you pedal 10 miles into Bozeman to the finish line, where refreshment waits. Then the celebration begins! A local patroller, Neil Matheson, invited Phil Birdsong and me to run with him in the race, as a relay team. Neil did the downhill, Phil ran and I raced the bicycle into town. The winning time was 57 minutes. Our team came in at 60 minutes flat. We don't know how we placed, but it doesn't seem important anymore.

"Flash" Gordon, Wintergreen Asst. PL

T & T

A Basic Test was held at the Homestead on February 26th. The following passed: Leroy Baisden, Charles Burgdorf, Will Dickman and Bill Parks.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

John Lawrence, Division Lift Evacuation Advisor, and his wife Sonia are the proud parents of John Paul who was born April 19th weighing 6 lb, 15 oz.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE A CONVENTION?

In an effort to find a centrally located city for the 1979 Spring Convention, please indicate your preference for one of the areas listed below. Additional comments or suggestions may be added. Send replies to Dave Dillard, Rt. 1, Box 118, Summerfield, N. C. 27358.

Greensboro/Winston-Salem area
Abingdon
Asheville
Other.....

