



THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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

Division Director: Charles T. Benbow, Jr.

Editor: Bobbie Rupp

Vol. XIII, No. 2

May, 1984

CHARLIE'S CHATTER

We of the Southern Division had another fine Ski Season and a great year for all our Patrollers and Patrols. One area that had been closed for several years re-opened under new management and had a good year. Renegade at Crossville, Tennessee is rebuilding the main lodge at the top of the mountain. There are two new Ski Areas in West Virginia. Silver Creek at Slatyford had numerous problems that we have all seen with the construction of any new ski area. Silver Creek had all of these and a few more. They are now constructing the large main building with its five arms for condo units. Looks like they will be one of the major ski areas next season. Winterplace at Ghent, may be the easiest of all ski areas to get to when roads are not at their best. It is only three-quarters of a mile from the West Virginia Turnpike (I-77) with no mountain roads to drive. They will spend the summer working and refining the area for next season's operations. Winterplace Patrol had a very good year recruiting new patrollers, even though they started in an area with no registered patrollers. My congratulations to everyone at these three ski areas for a fine job. We will be looking forward to good skiing there next season.

My schedule this past fall started with the Executive Committee in Boone, North Carolina the end of August, then the Full Board meeting at Appalachian Ski Mountain in September. I attended refreshers at Louisville, Ky. with the Louisville Metro and the Ski Butler Patrols, The Grandfather Section at Sugar Mountain, the Kentucky/West Virginia Section at Snowshoe (with a heck of a Halloween party that night at the main lodge), then at Ober-Gatlinburg on a Saturday and the next day with Ski Beech in the morning and the afternoon at Mill Ridge for their Lift Evacuation training. The last refresher I attended this year was at Homestead, Virginia where the patrol held it's own refresher. In mid-December I had the pleasure of helping John Lawrence and Steve Benbow with a Lift Evacuation training session at Winterplace for all their newly recruited candidates.

During the Ski Season I had the distinct pleasure of being able to visit and ski every area in the Southern Division except one. I was not able to visit or ski at Cascade because of their late opening and a very early closing. I helped with two Basic Tests and one Senior Test this year. The Ski Mountaineering Patch Course at Mt. Rogers and White Top is always a pleasure to help with and a highlight during the winter. It is nice to get out on the mountain with NO PHONE. In the midst of the season's activities, I attended the National Mid-Winter Board meeting in Denver. I am not sure we of the National Board can justify the cost of this Mid-Winter Meeting.

Another very significant training and testing program I had the opportunity to attend this year was the Certified Patroller Exam held at Snowshoe, West Virginia. After the final portion of this two day exam we doubled our Certified Patrollers in the Southern Division. With three new Certified Patrollers from three different Patrols in the Southern Division, there should be a great deal of help for many of our training programs. Congratulations to David Lilly from Silver Creek; Brandon Dean from Wintergreen; and Steve Benbow from Ski Hawksnest.

It was a pleasure to attend two meetings of the Southeastern Ski Areas Association: one co-hosted by Sky Valley and Scaly Mountain, and the other at Bruce Resort. Attending these members helps to cement the good relations the Southern Division NSPS has with our Ski Areas and their managers. We have a chance at these meetings to talk and discuss any problems they may have before it has any chance to become a major one. One of the main concerns several of the managers have at the present time is the ski safety on the hill and getting the patrollers to enforce all ski safety rules. For lack of a better wording—acting like police patrollers on the hill. It is a joy meeting with the managers trying to understand their problems, and also helping in any way we can. At the present time all ski areas within the Southern Division are affiliated with the National Ski Patrol System, with either volunteer or professional patrollers, and in many cases both.

In all, we of the Southern Division had a good year. Three new Ski Areas can make for a good Season even with not such good weather. We are looking forward to next season with the anticipation that it is going to be great Southern Skiing year!

Charles T. Benbow, Jr. DD

CALENDAR

June 1-4 Step by Step Mantracking Method
Aug. 25 Executive Committee Meeting,
Sherry Perry's house, Sugar Mtn.
Sept. 15 Fall Officer's Meeting, Beech Mountain
Sept. 16 Southern Cross Deadline

POST CONVENTION NOTES

The 1984 Spring Convention was held April 27-29 at the High Country Inn in Boone. Although the turnout of approximately 100 patrollers was a little lower than anticipated, a good time was had by all and we broke even money-wise.

One of this year's highlights was the large number of door prizes which were given away. I was extremely pleased with the response we had and I would like to recognize the following companies and businesses that donated prizes: Alpine Ski Center, Appalachian Ski Mtn. Ski Shop, Farmer's Hardware Ski Shop, Sugar Mtn. Sports, Bonnie Bell, UVEX, LANGE, Saloman, Banner Elk Hardware, General Electric (Doug Carlberg), Norton (Pete Chamberlin), and Dow Corning.

I would also like to thank the following members of the Appalachian Patrol, without whose help I couldn't have done it! Ben Fox, Jerry King, David Wray, and especially Dottie Spencer.

E. B. Fox
Banquet Chairman

GOOD PICTURES NEEDED

The executive board decided at the Spring Convention to make another printing of the PR brochures before this fall. Of the 11,300 delivered by the printer last year, all but 1200 are distributed, so another run of 10,000 will be made this year.

However, we are going to change one of the pictures—the one in the center which shows a girl with a toboggan. She's wearing a white parka. We want one with a NSPS jacket on.

Please search your picture files for just that: a girl; in a rust colored parka; pulling a toboggan. The picture must be in color and of excellent quality.

If you think you have one which might do, please send the picture and negative, or 35mm slide, to either me or Dave Dillard, prior to July 1st. They will be returned.

Benning Garrison
PR Advisor

FROM THE EDITOR

If you change your address, please notify National Headquarters. We get our labels from them, so you get two changes of address with just one card. Keep National up-to-date and receive all your editions of Southern Cross and National Patroller.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following awards were presented at the Spring Convention:

Outstanding Patrol: Beech Mountain
Outstanding Patroller—Brandon Dean
Outstanding Auxiliary—Meli Rucker
Outstanding Junior—David Knoll
Outstanding Professional—Wesley Benbow
Outstanding Administrator—Sam Bruce

SKY VALLEY—THE WINNER!

The Southern Division Scrapbook Picture Contest is over and Sky Valley is the winning patrol with Cataloochee, Sugar Mtn., Wintergreen, Appalachian, and Ski Hawksnest running close behind. Bill Warner, Patrol Leader at Sky Valley submitted pictures of the entire patrol, award presentations, lift evacuation practice, patrol party and newspaper clippings. The criteria for winning was based on best picture variety, quality and number of pictures involving the most patrollers in various activities. They will now be featured in the front of this year's book for one year. CONGRATULATIONS Sky Valley!

My deepest appreciation to everyone who gave me pictures for the scrapbooks. Thank you for all your assistance. This year's scrapbook will be a success.

Keep those pictures coming! I still have not heard from several patrols and there are plenty of blank pages.

Thanks again.

Joy Slagle, Archivist

JOY SLAGLE AWARDED SKI PATROLLER OF THE YEAR BY OBER GATLINBURG SKI RESORT

Most valuable employee awards were awarded at the Ober Gatlinburg Ski Resort end-of-the season party that included a cookout and fun races on snow. Joy Slagle, Ober Gatlinburg Patrol Leader, received patroller of the year award. Ober Gatlinburg Ski Resort awarded Joy with a beautiful plaque and a fifty dollar bill. This was a real surprise and honor for Joy. Congratulations for doing a super job!

Linda Pace

SKI PATROL NAME TAGS

As a fund raising project, the Ober Gatlinburg Ski Patrol is once again offering cloth name tags to all patrollers. The tags are blue with yellow lettering and are completely washable. They are \$3.00 each which includes mailing them to you. Please print your name clearly as you want it to appear on your tag. If your name is fairly long (over 15 letters) we advise you to use your first initial and full last name. Get one for all your jackets, vests, wind shirts, first aid belts, day packs, boot bags, etc. Orders may be sent to:

Joy Slagle
1065 Keith Lane
Morristown, TN 37814
615-581-5818

ATTENTION PATROLLERS

We have a number of advertisers in this newsletter. Please give serious consideration to using the services of these kind folks who help support us!

AVALANCHE TRIP SCORES AGAIN



TOP LEFT: Graduation night at the Rocky Mountain Pasta Co.
 BOTTOM LEFT: Probe line practice
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Bob Twomey digging snow pit



Like fine wine, the avalanche patch course seems to get better every year. Special events truly outdid themselves at this year's course: a slew of avalanches, and a live burial!

The slides took place on the day we were invited to Big Sky to join the patrol on control. The day before, in a total whiteout, the patrol had surprised themselves with a blind shot into an area high in the bowl. The surprise came when riding up the lift, they saw the slide had run to a depth of 25 feet up under two of the towers.

Our day was bright and sunny (one of the two all week). Because of the instability seen the day before, the patrol decided to blow the whole ridge cornice with hand-placed charges. Again and again, a poof of smoke above the ridge was followed by a boom! Then snow, rolling and billowing off the ridge, slid down into the bowl. The final slide was so big and slid so far, I fully expected the Star Spangled Banner and the American flag to rise in a Fourth of July display.

Two days later came the second special event. Velma McMeekin, NSP #5395 and National Avalanche instructor, who worked hand in hand with our avalanche advisor, Ron Geist, to teach 10 Southern patrollers the course, volunteered to be buried in a mock avalanche. It was an exercise for a dog being trained in avalanche rescue.

The dog, Black Bart, is a 100-pound Labrador Retriever. His owner is Ed Adams, who is working on a Ph.D. at Montana State in Bozeman. Since Ed works in back country snow a lot, he wanted a trained dog as a safety factor.

Ed dug a pit in the snow about three feet deep and long enough to hold Velma. One end he made a little larger for her head and shoulders. Those of us with claustrophobia began breathing heavily as he placed blocks of snow around her shoulders so none would fall around her head: then he shoveled the rest on top until she was completely covered. Although she wore a Skadi and had a two-way radio down there with her, we could feel tenseness in the air. . . up top. To Velma it was all in a day's work.

Earlier Bart, who rode up on the chairlift with Ed, had been tied to a tree in the woods, out of sight and hearing. When Ed was finished, he moved everyone off to the side of the area, to clear any scents but Velma's from the air. The dog is trained to search for the scent of a human body. After about 10 minutes, Ed brought Bart back and when he was ready, he gave Bart the command: "Search!"

The dog leaped out onto the "slide path," bounding through the snow, first over to us, to check us out briefly, then onto the snow we had previously trampled to resemble an avalanche path. Zigzagging back and forth in what seemed a random pattern, but is actually the method taught, he loped up the hill, stopped, spun around, sniffed and began digging. Snow flew as he pawed down into the snow. He was quickly joined by Ron and Bill Warner, who had shovels. In seconds, a gloved hand poked up out of the snow, a hand holding a chewy rag, Bart's treasure and reward for a job well done. The total time Bart took from the Search command until he started digging for her—an unbelievable 45 seconds!

Velma's observations were quite interesting: she said the inside of the pit was light, a milky white; she could hear all that went on above her and felt fresh air. Ed said that's because snow is porous, and things like that pass through. Down, maybe, but not up: when Ed told Velma to yell as loud as she could, had I not been standing right over the pit and listening, I'd not have heard a thing. A tiny sound, like the "mew" of a newborn kitten, was all that was audible.

Witnesses to the stunning events for the 1984 course were Kevin Minnix, Wolf Laurel; Mike Harris, Sugar Mtn.; Linda and Lynn Pace, Joy and Dennis Slagle and Milt Triplett, all of Ober Gatlinburg; Bill Warner, Sky Valley; Bob Twomey, Cataloochee; chief instructor, Ron Geist, and yours truly.

Benning Garrison



NATIONAL SKI PATROL®

SPECIAL INCENTIVE SPRING/SUMMER CATALOG

Message from Ronald Ricketts, National Chairman:

Dear Patroller:

As many of you are aware, mail order is a difficult business especially when you are dealing with a seasonal demand and the special needs that ski patrolling involves.

During the fall and winter many patrollers have ordered their parkas only to experience difficulties with late delivery due to heavy demand on our resources, Christmas, UPS and postal delays, and then finally when the garment arrives, the size and style is not quite right and a return is necessary. This all results in the parka not being available for the beginning of the season.

Many patrollers are not aware that due to a number of reasons, mainly shortage of money and warehouse space, we are not capable of inventorying and shipping garments directly from the National Office. We must depend on our suppliers, Sportcaster and Alti of Sante Fe, to drop ship directly from their factories, which adds time, paperwork, and delay.

We have come up with the enclosed program that will allow you to have the parka of your choice at the beginning of next season. The new program offers the additional benefit of a lower price than you will see in next year's catalog, a savings of between 10% and 15%.

I would suggest that you seriously consider taking advantage of this special offer because, as you know, the new parkas are high tech, high value and in high demand. Use the Order Form below and have yours for the beginning of next season!

ORDER FORM

NSPS REGISTRATION NUMBER _____

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

QUANTITY	ITEM NO.	MEN'S	WOMEN'S	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	PRICE
TOTAL						

Prices subject to change without notice. Offer ends September 1, 1984. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. All items delivered directly from manufacturer.

Send Order with check or money order to:

NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM, INC., 2901 SHERIDAN BLVD., DENVER, CO 80214

ALTI OF SANTA FE

WAIST LENGTH "PATROLLER"

Gore-Tex® / Sierra Cloth

A thoughtful blend of form and fashion. This rust / navy bomber style waist length parka has it all. Gore-Tex® advanced design Taslan laminate. Windproof, breathable and waterproof. All major seams are sealed at the factory with Gore-Tex® tape. Two-button side adjustments for sizing plus elasticized waist both keep out draft. Raglan shoulders provide fit and freedom of movement. Front zipper extends high into collar for extra warmth.

Quallofil® is the amazing insulation that provides warmth equal to down and excels when wet.

**703 Gore-Tex® Patroller
Waist Length Parka**

\$99.50 postpaid

**704 Patroller Waist Length Parka in
Sierra Cloth (non-Gore-Tex®)**

\$73.00 postpaid

702 Gore-Tex® Hood (optional)

\$19.50 postpaid



Men's	S	M	L	XL
will fit	38	40	42	44
Women's	S	M	L	
will fit	8	10	12-14	

"PRO" FULL LENGTH PARKA

Gore-Tex® / Sontique

Completely redesigned for this season, these new NSPS long line parkas represent the state of the art in ski patrol garments. Blue yoke and rust bottom. Featuring full garment Gore-Tex® two layer laminate. It's windproof, breathable, waterproof and really works in the ski patrolling environment. Provides protection over a wide range of temperatures. All major seams are sealed at factory with Gore-Tex® tape. The Gore-Tex people have worked hand in hand with NSPS in the design and development of these garments, and are one of our newest sponsors. Du Pont's Sontique® insulation provides warmth equal to down or polyolefin insulation and continues to do so even when wet.

**700 Gore-Tex® Pro insulated
full length parka**

\$99.50 postpaid

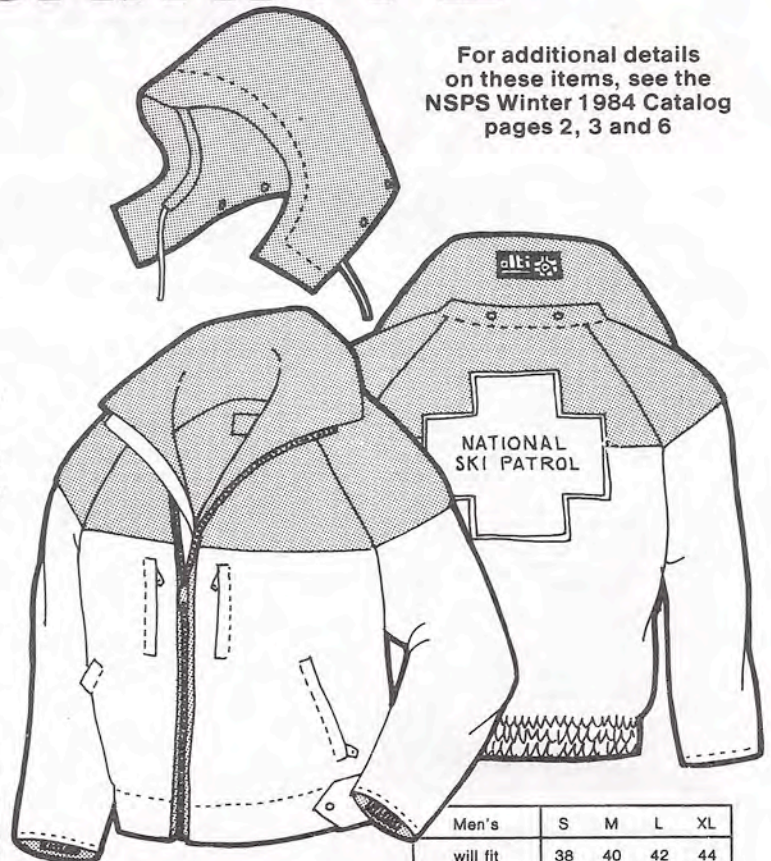
**701 Gore-Tex® Pro uninsulated full
length shell parka***

\$91.00 postpaid

702 Gore-Tex® Hood (optional)

\$19.50 postpaid

For additional details
on these items, see the
NSPS Winter 1984 Catalog
pages 2, 3 and 6



Men's	S	M	L	XL
will fit	38	40	42	44
Women's	S	M	L	
will fit	8	10	12-14	

FULL SIDE ZIP PANTS

Gore-Tex® Cordura®

For the first time ever in a garment, the combination of garment weight Cordura® and that technical miracle Gore-Tex®, waterproof, windproof and breathable. In many areas this item is indispensable and perfect for ski patrolling. Cordura® has introduced a lightweight version of the same material that has been in the tough NSPS fanny pack for years. It is more abrasion resistant than ballistic nylon.

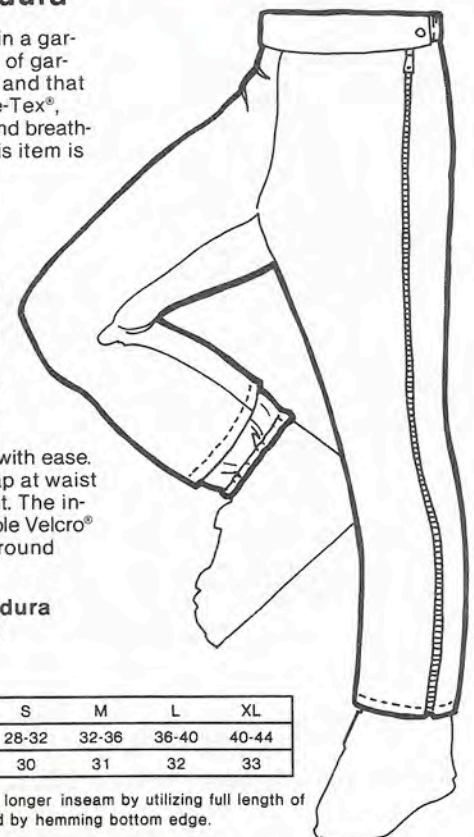
Beyond the fabric, the full-length side zip pant lets you get in and out with ease. Elastic and button snap at waist assures comfortable fit. The inner cuff has an adjustable Velcro® closure for a sure fit around boot.

**711 Gore-Tex / Cordura
Navy Side Zip Pant**

\$65.00 postpaid

Size	XS	S	M	L	XL
Waist	24-28	28-32	32-36	36-40	40-44
Inseam	29	30	31	32	33

NOTE: Pants will fit up to 4" longer inseam by utilizing full length of snow cuff. Can be shortened by hemming bottom edge.



SPORTCASTER

NEW FULL LENGTH DOWN PARKA

Sportcaster Mountain Products Design Team has combined their talents with NSPS to create a new full length down parka. This parka, with blue yoke and rust bottom provides the security that down has offered to generations of skiers and patrollers alike.

Sportcaster has been making parkas for the skiing public and the ski patrol for many years and is one of the most respected of the ski garment manufacturers in the U.S.

If it is warmth and security you are after, the Sportcaster NSPS long length down parka is for you.

New this year is the hidden knit cuff that is so popular with patrollers from all NSPS Divisions. This cuff gives an easy and tight seal between glove and parka. There is no need to adjust or position the glove to acquire that perfect union.

705 Full Length Down Parka **\$99.50 postpaid**

702 Gore-Tex® Hood (optional) **\$19.50 postpaid**

SIZING CHART

Men's	S	M	L	XL
will fit	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50
Women's	S	M	L	
will fit	8-10	12-14	16-18	



REVERSIBLE WAIST LENGTH PARKA

Sontique® Insulation

The most versatile parka in the Sportcaster and NSPS parka line. This garment has an on-duty side with sewn on back cross in navy and rust and the off-duty side that is solid blue without any ski patrol identification. Perfect for your trips back and forth to the mountain without changing jackets. Features 200 denier oxford polyurethane coated nylon navy yoke for durability. The body is 60/40 poplin blend with durable Quarpel water repellent finish.

Topping off all of these values is the Du Pont polyester fiber Sontique® that can keep you warm even when it's wet.

Full collar for extra cold chair lifts. Two full verticle pockets. Four inch nylon knit sides increase body mobility.

706 Sontique Reversible Waist Length Parka

\$73.00 postpaid

Sewn on back cross.

SIZING CHART

Men's	S	M	L	XL
will fit	38	40	42	44
Women's	S	M	L	
will fit	8	10	12-14	



For additional details on these items, see the NSPS Winter 1984 Catalog pages 4 and 5

SPECIAL SALE ITEMS

SPORTCASTER

LONG LINE PARKA-UNISEX

HB 513 Navy / Rust
Quilted Long Line

\$58.00 postpaid

Sizes
XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL

With back cross



UNISEX NON-REVERSIBLE VEST

HB 533 Navy / Rust
Unisex Vest

\$34.00 postpaid

Sizes:
S, M, L, XL, XXL

With back cross



ALTI OF SANTA FE

STORMSHED CAPE PARKA

Highly water repellent, windproof and breathable, this fully lined shell parka combines solid navy stormshed sleeves, hood and yoke with rust color Sierra body, and has waist drawcord and velcro-adjustable cuffs. Great for non-patrolling activities at a great price.

No back cross.

79 Stormshed Cape Parka

\$49.50 postpaid



SIZING CHART

Size	S	M	L	XL
will fit Men's Size	36	38	40	42
will fit Women's Size	8	10	12	

FULL ZIP FRONT SHELL

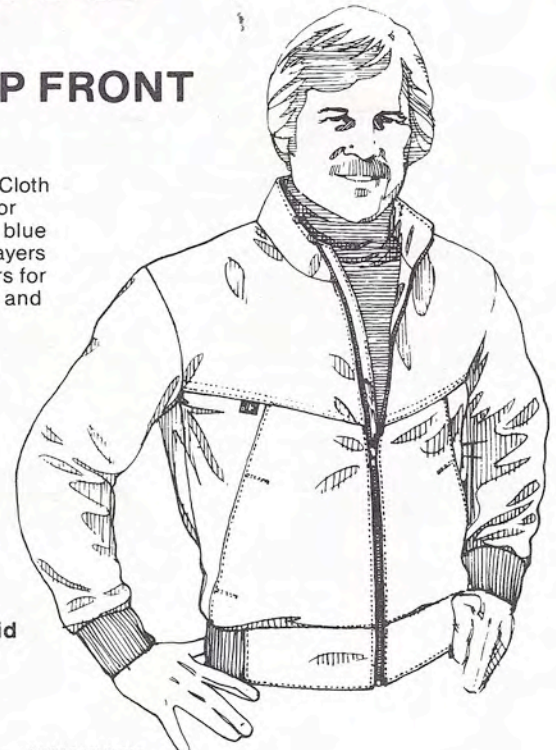
Made from Sierra Cloth in a solid rust color with an accent of blue trim. Has double layers over the shoulders for added protection and garment life.

Two zipper slash pockets, knit cuff and waist.

No back cross.

712 Full Zip Front Shell

\$27.00 postpaid



SIZING CHART

Size	S	M	L	XL
will fit Men's Size	36	38	40	42
will fit Women's Size	8	10	12	



NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM, INC.



Steve Benbow, National Junior Training Seminar
P. O. Box 10063
Greensboro, N. C. 27404

Dear Friends:

The Southern Division of the National Ski Patrol System (NSPS) is sponsoring the 14th Annual National Junior Training Seminar in March, 1985 at Silver Creek, West Virginia.

The NSPS is a health, educational and youth service organization that offers free ski rescue services to the skiing public. Its primary support is from the annual dues of its members with the assistance of tax-deductible donations from the skiing public and local companies. We are currently having a fund-raising drive to help raise money for the Southern Division sponsored National Junior Training Seminar Program of NSPS and would like to request a donation of \$100 or more from your company.

There are copies of the Executive Summary for the 1985 National Junior Training Seminar that give more information about our organization and the Junior Program if you can use them. We would greatly appreciate your participation in our program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (919) 299-0434.

I sincerely hope that you will consider an investment in our NSPS Junior Program worthwhile. Thank you for considering our request. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. All contributions are tax deductible.

Sincerely,

Steve Benbow, Coordinator
1985 National NSPS Junior Seminar

OUR
COMPLIMENTS



Resumes
Full Color Brochures
Tickets
Invitations
Newsletters

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MINOR'S PRINTING

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P. O. Box 3345 • Hickory, N. C. 28601
704-324-2409

(919) 722-6111

135 South Stratford Road • Winston-Salem, NC 27103



THE SOUTHERN CROSS
P.O. Box 36
Banner Elk, N. C. 28604



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WINTERGREEN RESORT
WINTERGREEN

VA 22958

FIRST-CLASS MAIL