



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

2018-2019, Number 2

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February 2019

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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 Mid-season issue is **May 17, 2019**.

Send submissions to:

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Update address at www.nsp.org

2019 Deadlines Southern Cross
September 13, 2019

Patrols/Units: Appalachian, Ski Beech, Blackwater Nordic, Bryce, Cataloochee, Cloudmont, Hawksnest Unit, Homestead, Massanutten, Ober Gatlinburg, Sapphire, Shenandoah Nordic, Smoky Mountain Nordic, Snowshoe, Sugar Mountain, Wintergreen, The New Winterplace, Timberline, Wolf Ridge

Byrd White,
Division Director



Tom Byron and I just returned from the 2019 Winter meeting of the National Board.

Fly to Denver, spend three days in a hotel without leaving and then fly home without even looking at a ski slope. Not too bright.

The National Medical committee, headed up by **David Johe** and **Ed McNamara**, is working hard on the OEC textbook that we hope to have out before the Spring of 2020. They have received, and are trying to heed, the advice that was received in the recent member survey while keeping the text and the Standard of Training at the current level.

The election for the National Board went as we had hoped, and I believe that the best candidates were elected. Southern Division turned out well, not as good as last election, but really well. Our own **Richard Yercheck** was among those elected. Our Division had the highest percentage of patrollers vote of all Divisions. We represent only 4.58% of all eligible voters but we cast 9.80% of all votes. Another way of looking at it is that we have twice the influence as our numbers would indicate. Beech (75.63%) narrowly beat out Appalachian (73.47%) for best participation. I thank all of you for getting the vote out and particularly **Ken Hale** and **Joe Donadio**.

Planning for the new I.T. system is underway. An I.T. Implementation Committee is being formed to monitor the development and insure that the system meets our needs. As you would guess, this is not a quick nor easy task. The goal is to have a vendor chosen by August 2020 and have a new system in place by May of 2021. The National Board is very aware of the limitations with the current system and is working to see that the next system

is an improvement while understanding that I.T. is still rapidly evolving and whatever we do will need to evolve with the times. Those of you who have things that that you think need to be available in the new system should list those items and send them to me, preferably in a list form.

As some know, our very own **Chuck Lollar** has been appointed National Legal Advisor allowing **Keith Cassidy** to step down. Both of these guys have given a tremendous amount to the NSP. Chuck has been our Division Legal Advisor and our Virginia Region Director for a number of years. And Keith, wow! Keith served two terms on the National Board, served on the Legal Committee and then stepped up to fill in as National Legal Advisor when asked by the Chair. All this while holding down a full-time job as a lawyer for the SEC and serving in the Marine Corps Reserve. The real Kudos go to his wife **Aileen** who not only takes care of the kids and the household but serves as the Division OEC Supervisor. My sincere thanks to you both.

Another who deserves thanks is **Frank Cooper**. Frank takes care of all Division finances, tracks all receipts and disbursements and is able to answer most questions before they are asked. Frank is one of many who spend many hours working on your behalf. My sincere thanks.

A new feature from National is “Meet the Members of the NSP” → they have requested posting this for patrollers to learn about fellow patrollers <https://youtu.be/dBgO7aCl05Y> (Season 3, Winter Episode 8, 2019: Meet Jim Darr from the Laurel Mountain Ski Patrol)

First Assistant Division Director,

Tom Byron - Administration

Ski season is finally in full swing, after a rough December. While we’re all focused on doing our work on the hill, many devoted patrollers are also planning and conducting clinics and events – you should take advantage of these opportunities to help develop new skills and meet other patrollers. I learn a lot from the people I meet at other patrols, who often have insights that prompt new thinking about safety, emergency care, and helping each other work at our best.



This is also the time of year to think about planning for the end of the season. ***What does this mean for you?*** Well, you can help identify nominees for awards. Your patrol representative can match up individuals with appropriate awards, which are also explained on the NSP website. But we need your help to point out extraordinary patrollers so we can recognize them. Also, please help your patrol representative gather the information about your patrol members and ski season – we need to compile this information for the national meetings in April.

And speaking of April, Powderfall will be held April 4-7, 2019, in Snowbird, Utah. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of patrollers from Southern Division this year for clinics, classes, social events and more (including meetings for many of us). Let me know if you're coming!

We're also planning our August Division patrollers' conference in Kingsport, Tennessee. If you've never been to this event, you should join us. We will have courses for a wide variety of interests, as well as the opportunity to learn about the issues facing our organization, and the chance to meet patrollers from around the Division. Stay tuned for more information about this event.

I hope to see many of you as I visit patrols throughout the Division. But if we don't connect in person, please let me know your concerns, suggestions, and ideas for how the Southern Division and National Ski Patrol can help you. You can reach me at: htbyron@gmail.com

First Assistant Division Director,

Tony Tingle – Skills Programs

I like to hang out with Ski Patrollers, and I've observed that, by and large, the people drawn to ski patrolling:

- Like to learn new things,
- Like adventure,
- Like to help others,
- Like to get better at what they are already good at, and
- Like to share their knowledge



For this reason, I want to pass along a little bit of information about the group of programs that are lumped together under the Skills Category for Southern Division. Be you a Patroller, Alpine Patroller, Senior Patroller, Certified Patroller, or Nordic Patroller there are opportunities to learn within these programs, so I want to introduce the folks that head-up the programs in the Division. Here goes....

First, the newest Southern Division Program is headed-up by **Mr. Will Allen** who skis and mountain bikes at Snowshoe. Last year, the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) partnered with NSP to allow IMBA members to become NSP members and open up training opportunities and certification for Mountain Bike Patrols. Some areas already have them, and there is interest from a few groups about forming new patrols. Will is the person to contact for more info on Mountain Bike Patrols.

Want to learn about how to survive in the woods, about ropes/knots and low angle rescue? How to be part of ground-based search and rescue operations? Look into the Mountain Travel and Rescue Program. They have basic and advanced classes dealing with these topics. All courses involve hands-on field sessions; Mountain Travel and Rescue 1 and 2 require overnight field sessions. Contact **Mr. Terry Loges** terry.loges@gmail.com for more information. Terry patrols at Sugar Mountain in North Carolina.

Ever been out west skiing during/after a big storm and thought.... I wonder what the patrol is doing this morning?.....Want to ski in the side-country or backcountry some day and be as safe as possible?.....Working on your Certified and need to know more about avalanche control? Do we have a program for you.....**AVALANCHE!** Learn about the things that make loaded slopes dangerous, how to use beacons, probes and a shovel. There are courses from basic information to advanced learning. **Mr. Scott Campbell**, a Massanutten Patroller, campbellservices@gmail.com is the program Supervisor and his assistant is **Mr. Rob Mayer** remstu@yahoo.com who Patrols at Ober Gatlinburg. Between them and their cadre of instructors, they can teach you about Avalanche Safety.

Speaking of backcountry, **Ms. Penny Dimler** penny01new@gmail.com supervises the **Nordic/Backcountry Program**. There are three Nordic patrols in the Southern Division: Shenandoah Nordic in Virginia, Blackwater Nordic in West Virginia, and Smoky Mountain Nordic along the North Carolina/Tennessee border. Penny Patrols with the folks at Shenandoah Nordic where she has developed good relationships with the National Park Service (NPS) staff and the program offers opportunities for NPS staff to train with NSP folks. Got an interest in skiing where the lifts don't go? Drop Penny a line.

Did you know that the Southern Division has our own Snowsports School? If you have been to one of their excellent clinics you sure do! Our PSIA Snowsports School has two folks that oversee the operation. On the Technical side, **Mr. Matt Weitz** weitz1007@gmail.com is a PSIA Level III instructor and Patrols at Wintergreen. **Mr. Briggs Allen**, a Patroller at Beech Mountain, handles all the administrative tasks, including arranging excellent clinics. I have heard lots of positive comments about the train-the-trainer clinic at Cataloochee earlier this season, and some folks suggested that Briggs arranged to have 20+ inches of snow fall...That's Planning! The Southern Division Snowsports School and their cadre of fine AASI and PSIA instructors are available keep us skiing and riding in good form. Keep an eye open for future clinics, and if you have snowsport school questions, give them a shout.

Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET) is a program that is integral to what we do as Ski Patrollers. The program offers refreshers and training to keep us current in our skills and provides courses and training to make us better toboggan handlers. The OET program supports the Senior Program through clinics and evaluation. **Mr. Randy Rumer** rumer@frontiernet.net supervises the program and patrols at Snowshoe. **Mr. Mark Taylor** marktaylor42@att.net is Randy's assistant and patrols at Sugar Mountain. If you need to know about OET, including how to become an OET instructor, talk to your local instructor or give Randy and Mark a shout.

Chances are that if you have been or will be at **Senior Program** event this season you have (or will) meet **Mr. Paul Gagon** pgagoncolt@hotmail.com. Paul is a seasoned patroller from the Wintergreen Patrol who is new to supervising the Senior Program and takes over from Hugh Jernigan who served in this position for many years (Thanks Hugh!). Paul plans to be at almost all of the Senior Clinics and Evaluations held in the Southern Division, so your chances of a Gagon sighting are pretty good. The Senior Program is a great way to sharpen your patroller skills (OEC and OET) along with your management of incidents. Got interest or questions? Drop Paul a line!

Finally, are you a Senior Patroller and looking for the next challenge? Been patrolling for a while and want to keep learning? Maybe the **Certified Program** is for you. The Certified Program incorporates skills honed in many of the other programs (Avalanche, MTR, OET, OEC, and Skiing/Riding) and tests your abilities in these disciplines along with knowledge of snowmaking, grooming, patrol management and slope safety. **Ms. Leslie Carter** leslie.c.carter@gmail.com a Massanutten Patroller, is the program supervisor and can tell you more. Leslie liked being the supervisor so much, she is doing it for a second time! The evaluation happens every March, usually at Snowshoe. If you find yourself in the neighborhood it is fun to watch!

I hope you take advantage of the education opportunities offered by the programs listed above. The Division website has more information on the programs too <http://www.southernsp.org/Programs.aspx>. Holler at the supervisors or me Tony Tingle at geofolks@att.net if you have questions. Cheers!

Mike Harris,

Assistant Division Director, South

AS THE BULL WHEEL TURNS

We got a great early start to 2018/2019 ski season in the southeast all the way through Christmas. The New Year has brought our unwelcomed January thaw. Fortunately, there's more cold weather in the forecast to help the snow-making. Water shortages should not be an issue this year with all the rain we've had in the Carolinas.

I was privileged to attend five refreshers, including the Dixie Region's at Wolf. Thanks to great IOR's, Instructors, IT's, and the attending patrollers the OEC refreshers again ran efficiently using the hybrid model. I will leave the individual patrol events to the Region Directors articles.

I was also able to sit in on the Senior EMM Clinic at Appalachian. **Theresa Varner** and **JoAnn Ehlinger** led a great team while Anne and Joe Donadio had everything set up making App the most welcoming environment for such an event.

I couldn't be more proud of our Region Directors and Assistant Region Directors. They are all ready to be of any help that they can to your patrols assisting your PR's and PD's.

I look forward to being out on the hill with you guys for the remainder of the season and encourage you to attend the Powderfall event at Snow Bird, Utah in April. There are a large number attending from our Region and the 750 person limit is filling up quick.

Mike Harris (AKA) Tyrone

National Ski Patrol

Submitted by R. Morgan Armstrong



The NSP Board of Directors met in Denver, Colorado in January 2019 for its first of two “face-to-face” meetings for 2019. Southern Division continues to supply talent at the national level to the NSP. While we are 1,281 members out of 31,067 or 4% of the total population, here are the national offices held by Southern Division members:

Board Members (2)	[M. Armstrong & R. Yerchek]
National Legal Advisor (1)	[K. Cassidy just retired & C. Lollar at present]
Division Directors Team (1)	[T. Byron]
Medical Committee (1)	[C. Clements, MD]
Women’s Program Director (1)	[T. Roberts]

The Southern Division should be proud of the member turnout for the past election for the NSP Board of Directors. We are small but continue to have a voice louder than our numbers would indicate at the national level.

One of the NSP Standing Committees is Governance. That committee worked on 34 Items, and cleared 30 of them at an 88% closure rate. Only four remained open at the end of the year and two of the four were filed at the end of the year. Your Board and members of the Division Directors Team are working harder for you than I can remember. All of the committees are putting in more hours to improve the NSP.

This last meeting of the Board, half a day was spent on long range planning and a half-day was spent on studying recent Federal Cases dealing with sexual harassment. These cases no longer are limited to the work place, but may touch volunteers as well. Proper conduct is expected of patrollers and our Code of Conduct requires it. Following common sense and civility to all will keep all of us out of trouble, but more importantly, will keep the Southern Division as a place that is inviting to new and old members, regardless of gender. We should not wait for government to intrude, Southern Division members should stop harassment as soon as it is observed by reporting it up our chain of command. No one should ever feel they are not being given proper respect.

The NSP Safety Team Program will continue, but be moved under the Education Program and out of Marketing. The Safety Team, Young Adult Program, Alumni, and the Women’s Program will all be joined under a new subcommittee called Interest Groups Committee. This was passed under RFA 33-18.

The OEC 6th Edition continues towards publication and when published is expected to continue as the national Gold Standard for outdoor emergency care, first aid books. The word is that it will keep the quality of the OEC 5th edition, but reduce some of the technical, medical language.

Financially, the NSP remains strong. While membership dues is the greatest source of income, the income from the store, donations from sponsors and donations from members and the public are keeping us well in the black. Grants are also being sought and we hope to begin having these added to our income stream.

It was announced that the NSP Information Technology Committee will continue to work to improve the IT system. This committee will study all possible remedies for those areas where additional improvement is needed.

Our NSP Store has sold more items than ever and its service to the membership has improved. Great deals can be found because of all the sponsors NSP has acquired. Big names, such as Subaru, Patagonia, Hestra, Rossignol and many others are present, so check out the catalog on line or the mailed hard copy.

The NSP’s goal is to support its members, industry partners and the public with quality programs and products for its members, the Gold Standard of trained patrollers for our Industry Partners, obtain the best products from our sponsors at great savings for our members, and support the public with good safety programs, the best trained patrollers possible and solid preventive measures to keep our accident rates as low as possible. Think about helping this effort at the national level by applying for national positions or running for the board. Our division is a leader because so many care and the other divisions respect us as a division.

R. Morgan Armstrong, NSP Board Member,
Chair of the NSP Governance Committee,
Member of Bylaws Oversight Subcommittee &
Member of RFA Review Committee

Election News

Rick Roberts, election coordinator

Election for the position of Southern Division Director

The Division Director serves a two-year term with a maximum of three consecutive terms, and elections for the position are held in odd number years.

This year, First Assistant Division Director, Tom Byron, has been nominated for the position of Division Director to succeed Byrd White, who presently serves in that important position.

Each Patrol shall have one vote to be cast by the Patrol Representative of record as of January 1, 2019. Ballots have been distributed in accordance with the Southern Division's Policies and Procedures Manual, and the results of the election will be announced on Friday, March 1, 2019.

NSP Board of Directors Election: *Southern Division is #1*

Southern Division had the highest participation percentage (37.52%) of all divisions in the recent election for the NSP's Board of Directors, followed by Eastern (30.28%) and Central (17.41%).

Additionally, those three divisions accounted for 81.67% of all cast ballots in electing the NSP's Board of Directors class of 2021:

- Julie Stone
- Brian Rull
- Bob Scarlett
- Richard Yercheck

Thanks to everyone who voted and to those who worked to facilitate the voting process.

Thanks to you, your Southern Division is having a positive impact.

Tom Byron

Resume for position of Division Director, Southern Division

I have been a ski patroller and NSP member since 1998. In 2007, I completed the Senior Alpine program. I am also a Nordic/Backcountry ski patroller, and a mountain bike patroller in the summer. I have been an OEC instructor since 2001, and an OEC IT since 2009. I have served as the IOR for our patrol's OEC refreshers, and as the IT for our OEC course for many years.

I am an active member of the Massanutten ski patrol, and a secondary member of Shenandoah Nordic patrol, and I previously served as Patrol Representative of Shenandoah Nordic. I was also a member of the Soldier Hollow Nordic Patrol, as part of the Salt Lake Olympics, from 2000-2002.

I received National Appointment # 11828 in 2016. I was the National Outstanding Administrative Patroller for 2014-2015.

I have been privileged to serve the Southern Division in a range of capacities. Since 2017, I have been the 1st Assistant Division Director, overseeing the administrative programs of the Division, and assisting the Division Director and 2nd Assistant Division Director in all aspects of Division leadership. Before that, I was the Assistant Division Director – North, overseeing the Virginia and West Virginia Regions. I also served as the Region Director and Assistant Region Director for Virginia. And I have been a member of the Legal Committee, advising the Division and its patrols on legal questions, since 2005.

My ski patrol responsibilities are a volunteer effort. In my career, I am an appellate litigation attorney with the United States Department of Justice, where I am Assistant Director in the Appellate Staff of the Civil Division, supervising and handling litigation involving the federal government in appellate courts around the country. I am an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown Law, where I teach Introduction to International Law. I was previously an active volunteer EMT, serving as President and training officer of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department, Chief and President of the Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad, and Virginia EMT-Instructor and Adjunct Instructor with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy.

Tom Byron

Platform Statement

for position of Division Director, Southern Division

I believe that I can help the National Ski Patrol and the Southern Division serve the needs of individual patrollers throughout our Division. Every patroller should expect that they will receive the most current training and support for their efforts to serve the skiing public, as well as those engaged in mountain biking and other outdoor activities. And our principal customers, the management of ski resorts throughout the Division, should know that NSP members are committed to safety and service, and will provide valuable risk-management efforts and the best care for guests who are injured or ill. We are an integral and essential part of the industry, and we are committed to the highest levels of emergency care and safety efforts.

The Southern Division has an extraordinary wealth of knowledge and experience. Throughout my years working with the leadership of the Division, I have had the opportunity to meet committed patrollers who selflessly offer their time, experience, and expertise to make our organization the leader in providing emergency care to outdoor enthusiasts. I want to do everything I can to make it possible for all patrollers to work to make the National Ski Patrol the best it can be.



Instructor Development...Instructor Development...Instructor Development

Teresa T. Stewart,

Instructor Development Supervisor

It is now the middle of ski season and some patrollers may be wondering either “How Do I Become an Instructor” OR I “Need a Senior Elective”. Contact your Regional Instructor Development Program Administrator for any upcoming dates and contact information. A course requires a minimum of 6 students. The course MUST also be approved by the Region Director, and an IT assigned by the Region ID Administrator before the course is registered with NSP and placed on the Division calendar.

The NSP Education Department and the Instructor Development National Committee has updated the “Instructor Development – Training the Adult Learner” (student textbook) **AND** renamed the NSP CE Course Guidelines to the new title of “Instructor Skills CE Manual 2018”. These are available on the NSP website under Instructor Development Resources.

Introduction: The National Ski Patrol – Instructor Skills Continuing Education Manual 2018” was designed by the National Instructor Development Committee as a guide for all National Ski Patrol education disciplines to use to provide continuing education to NSP instructors. This course, when presented as recommended herein, will fulfill the continuing education requirement for all instructors of all disciplines to complete a continuing education course for their specific NSP education discipline at least once every three years.

Course Objectives: The objectives of the National Ski Patrol Continuing Education Course for NSP Instructors are to provide a review of the material included in the NSP Instructor Development Course and the accompanying textbook, “Instructor Development: Training the Adult Learner”, and to provide reviews and updates to NSP Instructors on the latest materials and information pertaining to the discipline in which they teach.

The National Ski Patrol Instructor Skills CE Manual 2018 consists of Two Modules:

1. A review of some of the principles from the Instructor Development Course and the course textbook, “Instructor Development – Training The Adult Learner.” → using the 2018 CE Manual.
2. A presentation which offers continuing education and update material to instructors relative to the specific discipline in which they teach.

Length of the Continuing Education Course:

The course should be 60 – 90 minutes minimum, with at least 1/2 of that time devoted to a review of the Instructor Development material. You are not required to teach all of the included Instructor Development material. You may choose certain portions to teach to fulfill the ID material review requirement. The course can be longer than this minimum if additional educational material and updates are to be presented.

Let me know if you have any questions and how this relates to Instructor 3-year Cycle of Instructor Renewals.

Teresa Stewart – stewart.teresa@gmail.com 980-522-8410

Alumni Update

Rick Roberts, Alumni Supervisor

There are over 4,200 alumni members of the NSP, and the collective experiences of our alumni members can substantially benefit our local patrols in the Southern Division and the NSP more broadly.

So, have you taken a break or retired from patrolling? If you want to stay connected with NSP and were a patroller for at least one year, you can become an alumni member.

Alumni membership is a way for former patrollers to remain affiliated with NSP. You can choose how involved you want to be, whether as an instructor or with your local patrol.

Also, there are many reasons to “*Go Alumni*” besides retirement:

- family responsibilities
- new additions to the family
- job responsibilities
- health issues and more

So, if “life” allows you to get back in the horns, you have the option to go back to patrolling with current OEC certification and your patrol rep’s approval.

Alumni Benefits

For only \$30 a year, you’ll receive benefits including:

- An annual subscription to *Ski Patrol Magazine*
- The ability to purchase all **NSP Online Store** items except patrol uniform-specific items.
- Access to all **Pro Deals**, excluding Black Diamond and including limited (20%) Patagonia discounts
- The ability to participate and be credentialed in an NSP training or education programs
- Comprehensive support services
- Online resources
- Annual updates
- Continued years of NSP service
- Voting rights in board elections

For more information: https://www.nsp.org/NSPMember/Get_Involved/Alumni

Alumni Celebration Week

This year, fellow alumni joined with active NSP members, family and friends for the **First Annual Alumni Celebration Week** at Whitefish Mountain, Montana, which was hosted by the Far West, Pacific Northwest and Northern Divisions.

Besides great prices for exceptional skiing and wonderful accommodations at the highly rated **Grouse Mountain Lodge**, participants also enjoyed no-cost “Old Knees Clinics” during the week, special nights out at local restaurants and optional tours into Glacier National Park at no charge or Dog Sled Adventures in nearby Montana State Forests.

Be on the lookout for information about next year’s trip in upcoming issues of the Alumni Newsletter and seriously consider joining us in 2020.



Appalachian Ski Patrol's 6th Annual "Heroes on the Mtn." Saturday, March 2nd, 2019



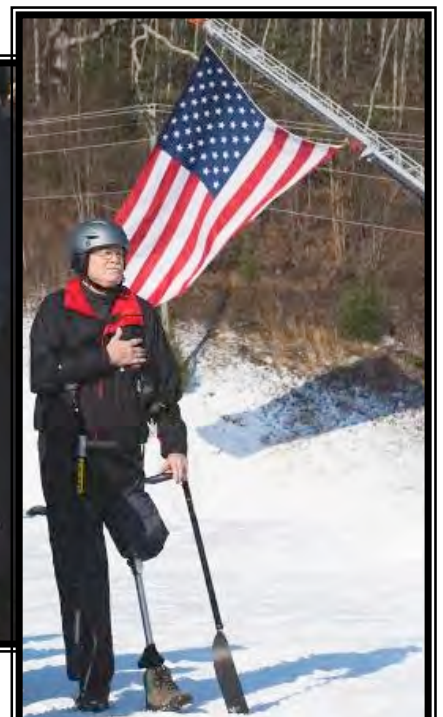
Appalachian Ski Patrol, Appalachian Ski Mtn, and the Wounded Warrior Project, are sponsoring 88 Alumni Warriors of the WWP, during the weekend of March 2nd and 3rd. We plan to respectfully provide our Nation's heroes with a fun filled day of skiing/boarding on Saturday, March 2nd, for this year's "Battle Buddy" Event. This annual, "**Heroes on the Mtn.**" event, includes a dedication ceremony, memorial service, flyby, representation from local area Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue personnel, ASU ROTC and Honor Guard, and Retired Military Personnel.

All Patrol donations fund this event and will help cover all meals and lodging during their stay, in the High Country.

This event will be advertised for participating members of the Wounded Warrior Project, on their events page of the WWP website, and on our Mtn. webpage www.appskimtn.com schedule of events.

For more information or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please call the App. Ski Patrol Room **828-295-8761** or the main office, at App. Ski Mtn. **828-295-7828**

2017 Wounded Warrior Event *(Photos submitted by Joe Donadio)*



Around the Blue Ridge Region – Beech Mountain

Submitted by Ken Hale, PR

Over the summer, Beech Mountain Ski Resort underwent major renovations to its lift system. Two new Doppelmayr quad lifts were installed, greatly increasing the mountain's uphill capacity. In addition, continued improvements were made to the snowmaking system, adding new pumps, replacing water lines and adding new snowguns.

Summer season on Beech keeps our patrol busy, on dirt (and rocks) instead of snow, complete with sign on requirements for all patrollers. Summer season consists of a full mountain bike season, several mountain bike races, a major three concert series, and other performers on weekends. Due to demand, this year Beech's summer season will be extended well into October. Exciting times for Beech Mountain Ski Resort and the Beech Mountain Ski Patrol.

To enhance use of the mountain, Beech Mountain invested in a large fleet of mountain bikes, which are available for rent to guests. To assist with accessibility for patrons on the property, Beech Mountain invested in Deason-built bike trays. Mountain bike instructors are likewise available for Beech's patrons. The mountain also maintains a summer staff of bike mechanics, lift instructors, food service staff, and other support staff. Plans this year are to add at least two more bike trails on the mountain. The 5506' Skybar and Beech Mountain Brewing Co. are now accessible during mountain operational seasons, and provide unique opportunities to Beech Mountain's guests. Ski Patrol plays a large role in support and logistics for summer operations and these events.

Overseeing patrol is **Brad Blackwell**, our new patrol director who replaced retiring **Gil Adams**. Brad has been hard at work taking over the reigns of our patrol, in addition to assuming numerous other responsibilities as delegated by mountain management. Brad is an excellent snowboarder, and shines on a mountain bike during the summer. FYI, Gil is now enjoying life in south Florida, but still gets up here to see us often.

Two Beech patrollers received regional awards for the 2017-18 season. **Bailey Birks** was named outstanding young patroller, and **Ken Hale** was named outstanding patrol representative. **Mike Ohlson** is celebrating his 50th year on Beech Mountain's Patrol. He was here when we opened in 1967!

The 2018-19 ski season has been filled with hard work for our patrol. In connection with the lift replacements, patrol was provided with new headquarters at the mountain's summit. This required our patrol to outfit the new quarters with accommodations for first aid equipment, toboggan storage, storage for signage and bamboo, as well as install a new radio system. A large task, but as usual, patrol stepped up and made an empty building into a great new home.

The winter season has been excellent, albeit somewhat hampered by the warmer weather. Patrol has been active in developing, implementing, and training our staff on new transportation protocols with the new lift system. We have 10 candidates in training for basis, several patrollers working toward their senior and one working toward certified.



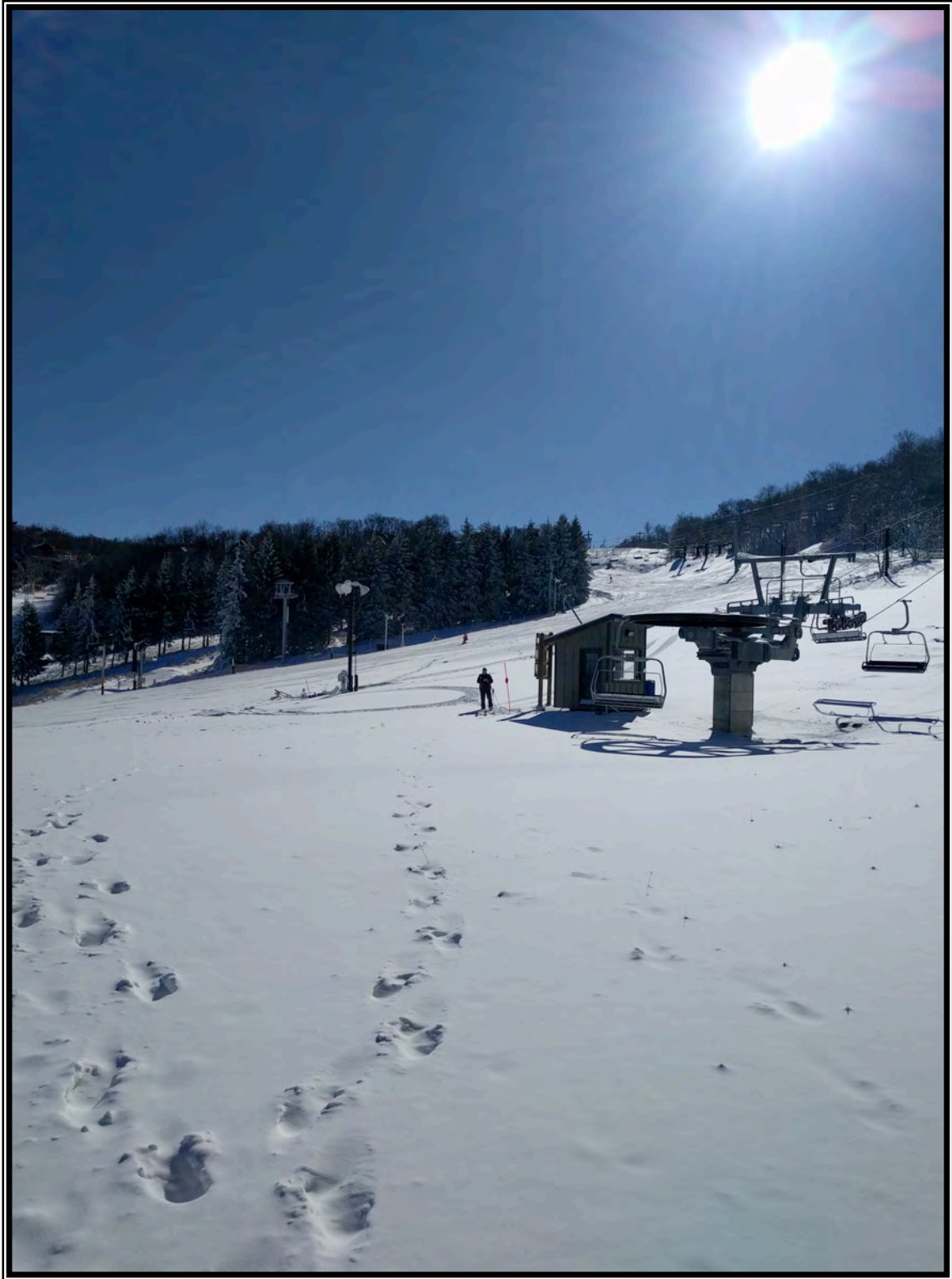
Around the Blue Ridge Region – Beech Mountain

(Photos submitted by Ken Hale)



Around the Blue Ridge Region – Beech Mountain

(Photos submitted by Ken Hale)



Around the Dixie Region – Ober Gatlinburg Marketing

Submitted by Glenn Campbell, PR

OBER GATLINBURG’S BACK IN BLUE - *Always the Southeast’s 1st snowsports competition.*

November in the Smoky Mountains is one of the most special times to visit Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The foliage changes everyday from green into gorgeous clusters of yellow, red, orange, and gold leaves. The bears are out beefing up for winter, but they aren’t the only ones gearing up for cold weather. Right on the edge of the Smoky Mountain National Park sits Ober Gatlinburg Ski Area and Amusement Park. Those leaves begin to fall, and it is go time for all of our ski area departments.

Instead of waiting around for the temperature to drop, Ober is running Snowmagic nonstop to fill out our snow tubing park. Snowmagic allows us to make snow up to 70 degrees outside. This gives Ober the ability to get guests out on snow before anyone realizes that the leaves are starting to fall. For two weeks straight, we run Snowmagic until the mounds tower over the walls of the tubing park. In order to ensure that the snow doesn’t melt, we wait to push out the snow until the morning of the competition. Then, the real fun begins. No, not the tubing fun. That can wait. It’s time to get Back in Blue.

For nine year running, Back in Blue has been the first ski competition in the southeast. Participants travel from all over the southeast to take part in Ober’s annual rail jam. The Tubing Magic Carpet carries competitors to the top of the park where they drop in and pick their line down the park. Usually we set up 7 features. These vary in difficulty so competitors can decide what suits their abilities. The great thing about Back in Blue is that you don’t need to be the best park skier on the mountain to have fun. This no stress competition is an excuse to make some turns before anyone else in the south even thinks about snow.

Patrol has a few important roles for Back in Blue. Not only do they look out for the safety of our competitors, but they can help with judging, and most importantly recruiting new patrollers young and old. The benefits of recruiting at this competition are that you know every spectator and competitor is there for the love of Snowsports.

OBER GATLINBURG’S YOUTH PROGRAM – *Recruiting future patrollers*

A unique trait to Ober is that we offer youth patrol training, led by Rob Mayer. There is no prerequisite to joining, you just need to be between the ages of 11-17. This program provides trainees with introductory courses to first aid, avalanches, using toboggans, ski and snowboard instruction, as well as some operational responsibilities like erecting fences. Trainees can learn valuable life skills for slope safety even if they decide not to continue with patrol. Senior patrollers become mentors to the younger generation so that they can carry the torch into the future and continue to improve mountain safety. The inclusivity of our patrol is really inspiring. Boys and girls are encouraged to volunteer for any and every opportunity to learn. The only cost for the program is having the desire and love to be on the snow.

OBER GATLINBURG’S WOMEN PATROLLERS – *Helping women patrollers across the division get better*

Perhaps one of the most impressive aspects of our ski patrol is the leadership of our women patrollers, Joy Jucker and Amanda Perryman. It started initially with Joy guiding the NSP Southern Division Women’s Program and subsequently passing the torch to Amanda. Each year they organize events to help guide, teach, and train women patrollers from across the Southern Division. These ‘women only’ activities are meant to promote comradery and teach techniques that make them better patrollers. This year’s big event is going to be held February 1st-3rd, 2019 at Wintergreen Resort, Wintergreen, VA. Cost is \$40. If interested contact Amanda Perryman (NSPSouthernDivisionWomen@outlook.com).

(Photos submitted by Ober Gatlingurg Marketing Department for “Back & Blue Competition”)



Ober Gatlinburg Women Patrollers (Refresher 2018)

(Photos submitted by Glenn Campbell)



Ober Gatlinburg Youth Patrollers

(Photos submitted by Glenn Campbell)



Around the Division – Snowsports

Submitted by Briggs Allen



Southern Division NSP Snowsports School Clinic



Friday February 15, 2019

Bryce Resort, Mt Jackson, VA



Ready to have some fun on the snow and improve your skiing/riding? Well this is the clinic for you! The clinic will carry SES/SR credits from National and work to improve your skiing/snowboard skills. The course, taught by our PSIA/AASI certified instructors who are also Patrollers, will be small, allowing for individual coaching. Your improvement will positively effect your sled handling abilities and more. The cost of the clinic is only \$25. Hurry registration is limited.

To register or for questions just email us at: sdsnowsportschool@gmail.com You will be sent a PayPal link for the participation fee and detailed info. [Registration closes 2/13/2019.](#)

Southern Division Annual Awards 2018

Peg Harris,
Awards Advisor

And another award banquet is now in the record books. It was another fun night of recognizing outstanding patrols and patrollers. And, to have other patrollers being the presenters. Maybe a new trend is beginning. Again, the service award recipients were streamed on a screen during dinner. Comments continue to be that folks are actually reading the names as they scroll.

So here are the recipients of all the various awards given this year.

Certificates of Appreciation

Given By Aileen Cassidy

Hugh Jernigan

In recognition and acknowledgement for outstanding service as the Southern Division Senior Coordinator from 2006 to 2018

T Harris

In recognition and acknowledgement for outstanding service as the Virginia Region Senior Coordinator

Service Awards by Patrols

Appalachian

Jim Brown	10 years	Michael Fletcher	25 years
Jeff Jones	10 years	Mitchell Davis	30 years
Oscar Knight	10 years	James Morris	30 years
Jacob Burleson	15 years	Eddie Winkler	30 years
Kim Davis	15 years	Brent Rockett	35 years
Mike Teague	20 years	E Fox	40 years
Carroll Lowe	20 years	Tony Ray	40 years
Marshall Fletcher	25 years		

Beech Mountain

Brendon Webb	10 years	Collin Waldron	15 years
Patrick Boyd	15 years	Elise Allen	20 years
Jay Farris	15 years	David Kaser	25 years
Chris Haley	15 years	Robert Schisla	30 years
Thomas Handley	15 years	Michael Ohlson	50 years
Matthew Pipkin	15 years		

Blackwater Nordic

Stephen Strothers	20 years
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Bryce

Lauren Milburn	10 years	Scott Strotman	15 years
Sydney Miller	10 years	Lisa Gravitte	20 year
Jacqueline Wood	10 years	Rodney Torp	20 years
Drew Fagan	15 years	Carlton Sampson	30 years
Gray Herter	15 years	Patricia Lessy	40 years
Bryce LaVay	15 years	Lacy Williams	45 years
Jenny Larsen	15 years	Robert McCowen	50 years

Cataloochee

Karl Bietsch	10 years	Tom Ross	15 years
James Blakely	10 years	Gordon Pettit	20 years
Eric Hutchinson	10 years	James Peterson	25 years
Lisa Skelley	10 years	David Gunter	30 years
Todd Trivette	10 years	Lee Thonus	35 years
Mark Wolozin	10 years	Doug Molyneaux	40 years
Sabine Hardin	15 years	Neil Booth	45 years
Lynne McCarragher	15 years	Robert Landin	45 years

Homestead

James Birchfield	30 years
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Massanutten

Forrest Black	10 years	Tom Byron	20 years
Thi Campbell	10 years	Charles Harner	20 years
Stephen Sherer	10 years	Michael Miller	35 years
Marc Severo	15 years	Leslie Carter	45 years

Ober Gatlinburg

Tom Barry	10 years	Toby Flynn	15 years
Daniel Dombrowski	10 years	Jeff Hostier	20 years
Erik Henley	10 years	Stanley Shue	20 years
Jessi Hunter	10 years	Brent Galloway	25 years
Robert Mayer	10 years	Mark Howard	25 years
Ronald Thornton	10 years	Thomas Davey	40 years
Dave Crawford	15 years	Dennis Slagle	40 years

Sapphire Valley

Timothy Bauer	40 years
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Shenandoah Nordic

Penelope Dimler	45 years
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Snowshoe

Thomas Merkle	10 years	David Orlando	20 years
Terri Mohnacs	15 years	Marie Mohrman	25 years
Charlotte Bradley	20 years	Anne Slayton	25 years
Timothy Estep	20 years	Les Stiers	25 years
Gregory Gill	20 years	Virginia Weisz	30 years
Henry Horn	20 years	Jon Magi	40 years
Christopher Jacobs	20 years		

Sugar

Grant Smalle	10 years	Jane Johnson	25 years
Brant Taylor	10 years	Mary Self	25 years
Thomas Jeffries	15 years	Steven Wall	25 years
Tim Hagaman	20 years	Jean Webb	25 years
Terry Loges	20 years	Doug Groce	45 years
Robert Melton	20 years	Norris Woody	45 years

Timberline

Vanessa Bennett	10 years	William Cox	20 years
Earl Bennett	10 years	Richard Dunn	20 years
Carl Bowlen	10 years	Scott Kersjes	20 years
Lanelle Fischer	15 years	Dale Schulz	35 years
Darren Bennett	20 years		

Wintergreen

Katherine LaBelle	10 years	Patricia Deane	20 years
Jessica Matula	10 years	Landon Harris	20 years
Charles Smith	10 years	Brett Henyon	20 years
Hugh Blocker	15 years	Geoffrey Stagg	20 years
Charles Lollar	15 years	Tucker Crolius	25 years
Milos Manic	15 years	William Smith	25 years
Jay Matula	15 years	James Dick	30 years
Tanya Thomas	15 years	Robin Meyer	40 years
Christopher Cuthbert	20 years		

Winterplace

David Reitz	10 years	Frank Smith	15 years
Shane Dragan	15 years	Teresa Mason	25 years
Tim Jewett	15 years	Lowell Frantz	35 years

Wolf Ridge

Bill Brazil	10 years	Sue Estridge	20 years
Hubert Cooper	15 years	Bill Herring	20 years
Derrick Erb	15 years	Rhonda Smith	25 years
Michael Erb	20 years		

National Appointments

Ed Pouncey Wintergreen (note the 3 letters of recommendation)

Sam B. Bruce
National Appointment #6119

Letter of Recommendation
National Appointment Ed Pouncey

I have observed Ed Pouncey in many situations both National Ski Patrol and public occurrences for over 30 years in two divisions. He continues to demonstrate leadership, diplomacy, a positive attitude, and the skills that make a great patroller. Moreover, he will continue to contribute into the future.

He worked diligently in Europe developing candidates at the division level, helping them with the skills of skiing, toboggan handling and then OEC. He gave safety lectures to club meetings, approved binding checks on ski trips, and on many occasions assisted the skiing public to safety.

He has demonstrated the highest skills in the OEC program. He served on the Division Refresher team as a Senior OEC instructor. He serves as the patrol registrar and go to person for corporate knowledge. He has served as an OEC refresher instructor and full course instructor.

He is called "Uncle Ed" by many young patrollers and junior patrollers and they respect his knowledge and skills. He is looked up to by many.

I have been active in National Ski Patrol for over 45 years and I know of no one who deserves the National Appointment more than Ed.

Sam B. Bruce
National 6119

Letter of Recommendation

John Edward Pouncey

February 2, 2018

To whom it may concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate this individual for a National Appointment. His entire patrol, the Virginia Region, and the Southern Division and the European Division of NSP are much better patrollers because of his leadership and talent for teaching WEC/OEC, ski and toboggan skills. This patroller has been a member of the National Ski Patrol System since 1986 and has given to his patrol, the Virginia Region, the Southern Division and the European Division in many ways over his 32 years of volunteer service. This National Appointment and recognition is long overdue.

In his earlier years as a patroller in the 80's he quickly jumped into leading the Heidelberg patrol as assistant patrol director, WEC and ski and toboggan instructor. His leadership qualities at the patrol level were there from the beginning. This patroller has always taken pride in advancing the ski and toboggan skills of his fellow patrollers. Many patrollers ski and handle a toboggan better because of this patrollers influence.

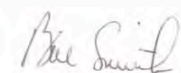
His enthusiasm and willingness to learn and teach others is something special! He has provided this outstanding leadership to the Wintergreen Ski Patrol, the VA Region, and the Southern Division and the European Division for more than 32 years!

His hard work and leadership has not gone unnoticed by his resort, patrol staff, area management, Region and Division leadership. This individual has always, without question, jumped in whenever the resort, patrol, Region or Division needed help. Whether it was contributing as an active member of the Southern Division staff when Jim Underwood became ill (Division Registration Coordinator for a one year period), qualifying as a S&T instructor, teaching the Candidate's, teaching future Seniors, or providing leadership, his heart has always been directed toward helping his resort and NSP be the best it can be.

Along with all of the other NSP Regional and Divisional positions and responsibilities, this patroller continues to pull his shifts as the rest of the patrol does. He truly exemplifies leadership by example. For a number of decades, this Patroller has averaged his required shifts each year as a patroller and/or shift leader. He brings a level of enthusiasm, attention to detail, and a passion for patrolling that is rarely seen or matched. His dedication, passion and joy of skiing and what it brings for his patrol family and the skiing public is very evident to all that interact with him.

In closing, it is indeed my sincere pleasure and I am extremely proud to recommend John Edward "Ed" Pouncey for a National Appointment.

Sincerely,



William C. Smith

National Appointment #10268

Letter of Recommendation

John Edward "Ed" Pouncey

February 2, 2018

To whom it may concern:

Ed began his National Ski Patrol (NSP) career in the European Division as a member of the Heidelberg Ski Patrol in 1986. Soon after passing his basic patroller level, he began dedicating his time, efforts and leadership to the NSP, which has continued more than 30 years later. He is noted for his fun loving personality in the NSP, but is often silently contributing by working behind the scenes unnoticed to foster the leadership and stability of his local patrol, the region, and two divisions for three decades in the National Ski Patrol. Because he seeks no recognition or attention, this appointment is long overdue.

During his time in the European Division, Ed was very active at the local patrol level where he served for three years as the Heidelberg Ski Patrol Assistant Patrol Leader. Ed served as a Division ski and toboggan trainer for the European Division in Lauterbrun, Switzerland as well as a NSP Division Senior Program trainer in ski, toboggan and WEC. He was also an instructor at the Division refreshers for three years. While in Germany, Ed was one of the first patrollers to participate in the pilot WEC program at the patrol, becoming a WEC instructor in the first year of the NSP program.

He was a member of the Heidelberg Ski Club, and volunteered to accompany American sponsored ski trips as the ski patroller in charge. He was responsible for the safety talks and injury treatment for the approximately 50 skiers while skiing in many of the famous European ski areas over several years. In addition, he volunteered at ski club meetings for ski waxing, safety talks and binding checks. He completed his Circle A (Advanced Avalanche) and Circle M (old MTR) and was an instructor for the Division Circle A and M courses on the Muterhorn mountain in Switzerland for two years. While in Europe, Ed was a member of FIPS and participated in annual events on behalf of and representing the Division NSP such as avalanche control training in France.

For those that may not know the European Division is structured more toward most activities being at the Division level. We did have two regions, but everything was done more Division wide due to geography, 100 patrollers being in the Division at the time, and area for training.

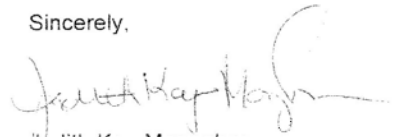
Upon returning to the states, Ed joined the Wintergreen Ski Patrol, where he was a member of a group of transfer patrollers often referred to as "the foreigners". Joining a patrol that had not had many NSP transfers prior to his arrival, Ed feverishly tried to foster the fact that we were all trained to the same "standard of training" and help develop a successful transfer orientation program for Wintergreen Ski Patrol.

Jumping right in to leadership roles with his new stateside patrol, Ed served as a regional OEC and OET instructor for the Senior Program, while never missing a year as an instructor for annual refreshers over his tenure as a patroller. He often taught at the patrols OEC basic course. He continued to devote his

time to the Wintergreen Patrol serving as its Patrol Representative for 2 years, and then continued to serve on the patrol Board of Directors for over 10 years. His most recent role is unique to the Southern Division and Wintergreen Patrol, as he has served as registration coordinator for the patrol which is an assistant position to the patrol representative and handles all patroller registration and change of status information (for the current +/-180 patrollers) acting as a liaison between NSP and the patrol. While our Southern Division Treasurer was out on medical leave for a year, he trusted Ed with his duties while out on leave.

His leadership and devotion to the NSP system has been over three decades and two continents. Ed is an example of the consistency and development of a patroller through the NSP training and educational system who has given back to the organization through his love of the skiing safety industry. He is a perfect example of a patroller deserving a National Appointment.

Sincerely,



Judith Kay-Monaghan
National Appointment
9320

MSA - For meritorious service as the OEC Supervisor for the Southern Division from 2006 to 2014.

Leslie Carter Massanutten

Patroller Cross

Gene Self Sugar
Chris Martin Appalachian

Merit Stars

For outstanding life saving first aid and extrication at the 3-11-18 Pro GRT mountain bike race.

Purple	<i>Brent Gallaway</i>	<i>Ober Gatlinburg</i>
Blue	<i>Mark Senogles</i>	<i>Ober Gatlinburg</i>
Yellow	<i>Jimmy Kuneman</i>	<i>Ober Gatlinburg</i>
	<i>Erik Henley</i>	<i>Ober Gatlinburg</i>
	<i>Armand Mendez</i>	<i>Ober Gatlinburg</i>

For outstanding dedication and commitment and work as a member of the OEC Refresher Committee, especially his work on the Instructor Guide from 2013 to 2017

Yellow *William C. Smith* *Wintergreen*

Senior

<i>Timmy Gear</i>	<i>Snowshoe</i>
<i>John Weatherford</i>	<i>Winterplace</i>
<i>Jillian Res</i>	<i>Winterplace</i>

50 Year Lifetime Plaques

<i>Randolph Trow</i>	<i>Bryce</i>
<i>Herbert Johnson</i>	<i>Sugar</i>
<i>Joy Jucker</i>	<i>Ober Gatlinburg</i>

50 Year Patrol Sign issued for being an NSP patrol for 50 years

Appalachian

Division Outstanding Winners

Alpine Patroller

William C. Smith

Wintergreen

A number of seasons ago, a mountain in our region closed early due to unseasonably warm weather. The following year they decided to not reopen their ski slopes at all and to rely on the other aspects of their resort. This left their patrollers in a lurch to find a patrol to take them in while their home area weighed its options. Several patrollers came to our patrol and one, to our good fortune, never went back. He had been a major force at his old patrol and came to ours with the same “do it all” attitude. He has been an indispensable part of our instructor cadre, there for almost all weekend candidate training sessions in the fall while being a huge help to all IORs in setting up daily activities, running scenarios, teaching his scheduled segments and covering for the occasional “no show” instructor. He is there every fall to lead stations at the annual refresher. After the refresher, it is back to candidate training which at our mountain continues as on the hill training through December. He is again always there to assist getting the candidates through this mandatory training and evaluation.

When National mandated annual sled recertification, he stepped up to organize, lead and to submit the required documentation back to National. He and his team have been impressive in getting close to 100 per cent compliance with this new National standard.

He has undertaken updating our patrol candidate application to enhance our ability to recruit candidates who match our needs. He also rewrote the Challenge Candidate handbook giving these candidates more insight into the world they wish to embark upon. Along with that, he took charge of seeing that candidates had individual scenario materials such as Sams splints, cravats, 4x4 gauze pads etc for treatment of scenario based injuries during the course.

At the division level he is routinely called upon to research or organize any number of topics. The most recent was a hybrid OEC refresher presented at the division annual conference. This allowed refresher IORs, instructors and officers that rarely get to fully participate in a fall refresher to be able to have this experience.

At the National level he has been a member of the OEC Refresher Committee for the last 3 years. He always takes the feedback from patrollers to make our annual refreshers better. He has been an advocate for the hybrid refresher working hard with the committee to make the didactic portion relevant to the material in the cycles so that the actual refresher can focus on the hands on portion. For our patrol and division, this model has been a huge success.

Our patrol, division, and National has benefited from all that this patroller contributes to the National Ski Patrol. It is with great pleasure and honor that I nominate him for Outstanding Alpine Patroller.

Non-OEC Instructor

Charles Coleman

Massanutten

As the Patrol Director at our resort, I nominate a patroller for Outstanding Instructor.

The nominated patroller has 40 years of experience as a ski patroller and Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET) instructor, having been a patroller since 1977. Since 1989, he has served as the leader of the resort’s OET training program— with the result that our entire patrol has learned skiing and toboggan handling from this master’s classes and ski and toboggan clinics. He brings significant skills and credentials to our OET program. He is a senior level patroller, a PSIA level 2 certified instructor since 2004, an NSP Alpine toboggan instructor, an NSP Alpine toboggan Instructor Trainer (IT) and for over two decades has held a National Appointment. As a lifelong learner, the nominee has traveled domestically and abroad, working on honing snow safety and skiing skills through both NSP and other organizations.

Though well deserved, these credentials are only part of the story. The nominee brings to the hill not only exceptional skiing skills and equally exceptional teaching skills but also a charm and likeability that makes it a pleasure to learn. Passing OET requires good old fashioned hard work but the Nominee makes the hard work of training something to look forward to. Candidates feel that the nominee truly cares about them because he does. And because of this, they work harder for the nominee than they might otherwise. Our patrol has numerous alpine patrollers who seemed permanently *locked in* as intermediate skiers until they worked with the nominee.

The measures of an OET program should be how much the candidates improve and how well they ski. By these standards, the resort's OET program is superb and the nominee is a key reason why. Even when candidates do not pass OET on the first attempt, they all say that their skiing improved substantially. This can be further proven by watching them ski. Many join our patrol as aid room specialists and after taking his OET class win their red jackets.

Further evidence of the quality of the resort's ski training and the nominee's skill comes from a post on a local ski blog: "I was very impressed with the patrollers' skiing. They must have a first class training program." We do, and the nominee is a major reason why. The nominee also brings great dedication to the program. Our weekend OET training begins each morning with a hike in skis up approximately 20% of the mountain's vertical to a mid-mountain lift. Every morning the nominee leads this hike. Recently the nominee broke several ribs. Although it was physically impossible to continue to lead the morning hike which was all he missed, our nominee still turned up every shift to teach the eager candidates.

It is not just candidates, and by extension patients, who benefit from the nominee's skill and dedication. The nominee has mentored and trained new OET instructors and a new OET IT while still teaching OET class.

Our nominee has also served the National Ski Patrol in various administrative functions. He served as Section Chief for 2 years and assisting other ski areas with their OET training programs for both basic and senior level patrollers.

Recently a member of the public, who was interested in joining the ski patrol engaged a group of patrollers in a conversation about the best benefit of being a ski patroller. The answers ran the full spectrum of what might be expected. But one recurrent answer was telling: the best part of being a patroller was OET training with the nominee.

It is with great honor that I nominate this patroller as Outstanding Instructor.

Paid Patroller

Michael Barber Wintergreen

How does one judge an outstanding paid patroller? My feeling goes like this...it is not what someone does on his/her paid shift that qualifies as outstanding but the things that are accomplished off the clock. The patroller I nominate for this award has always been a solid patroller but a few years ago he decided to put forward the extra effort of taking over as IOR for our OEC challenge candidates. Since many of our challenge candidates come from the EMS community this was a perfect fit. My nominee has worked for many years as an EMT at the local fire and rescue units. He is a perfect intermediary in getting these candidates to see the hows and whys of the ways OEC is different or similar to their EMT protocols. He helped to develop a new timeline for the challenge candidates by having the challenge course at the very beginning of the fall OEC course. This way if a challenge candidate fails to meet the necessary qualification parameters in the challenge evaluation, they still have a chance to enlist in the fall OEC course to give it a second try. We think this benefits both the candidates and the patrol. After accepting this role and excelling at it for several years, he mentored a replacement so that he could move on to the more demanding role of IOR for the annual regional OEC refresher. He performed admirably in this role. Our region uses a 3 year rotation in this position. He has two more years to go before moving to even more demanding roles I'm sure.

A current candidate for Senior, he has passed his OEC requirements but due to some unfortunate weather issues, he has been unable to complete the S & T portion through no fault of his own.

A dedicated paid patroller, he is willing to go beyond his paid duties to benefit our patrol and NSP overall. It is a privilege to nominate this patroller for Outstanding Paid Patroller.

Young Adult Patroller

Bailey Birks Beech

This patroller has embraced patrol life to the fullest in the short time she has been involved in patrolling. Shadowing in her father's footsteps, she aggressively completed an EMT class then challenged OEC, then worked through a rigorous candidate program in the patrol in a little over one year. This patroller always goes above and beyond to assist wherever needed. This year she spent majority of the season sidelined from the snow due to a hip injury. This did not slow her down from being an amazing asset to our patrol. She ran a tight base patrol room- commanding the radio, orchestrating the care of walk-ins, assisting with an in-season OEC class, helping with training, and managing the phones. Her sharp skills and intelligence made everything run smooth amid the chaos of 'witching hour.' Her contribution to the patrol made it possible for the patrollers on the hill to execute their roles on a daily basis. As she matures into a veteran patroller, we expect to see her in a leadership role in NSP in a few short years.

OEC Instructor

Jacob Burleson

Appalachian

This patroller is outstanding because he is always striving to give his all to the skiing public and is always looking for ways to improve our patrol's operations. He takes the initiative to teach the new candidates throughout the OEC class. As one can see, this patroller's dedication, experience and commitment to our mountain, the skiing and boarding public, and to the ideals of the National Ski Patrol is most deserving of this outstanding award.

It is indeed a pleasure to recommend this patroller for the Outstanding National Ski Patrol OEC Instructor Award. This nominee has been a member of our patrol since 2003 and is serving our patrol as a volunteer, a part time paid patroller, and as an assistant patrol representative. He has spent many hours on the hill duty this season in addition to his instructor and evaluator work within our region. This nominee has been lead instructor and helped teach OEC classes for the past two years and has also taught Introduction to Patrolling these two years as well. He gives many hours training the candidates in the OEC class and making his lessons fun and enjoyable by all. This patroller captures the attention of his students by sharing his expertise in his field. He is a senior level evaluator and region examiner. This patroller evaluated the basic patrol exam at our mountain this season.

This nominee is definitely a leader in our organization and one who goes above and beyond most patrollers. He is one of the coordinators for our "Heroes on the Mountain Wounded Warrior Event" where he works with agencies and businesses within our community to help provide a weekend of fun activities for the warriors.

This nominee provides outstanding leadership skills on and off the hill. This patroller will never ask anyone to do anything he will not do.

As one can see, this nominee is most deserving of this outstanding award. Thank you for considering this nominee for the National Ski Patrol Outstanding OEC Instructor Award.

Mary Kay Twomey Patroller

Julianne Allen

Massanutten

As the Patrol Director at our resort, I nominate a patroller for Outstanding Patroller.

The nominee completed OEC and joined our patrol in 2011 and has served in our aid room since then. Though she had her sights set on being an alpine patroller, the nominee quickly turned into a valuable aid room patroller. She caught on rapidly to all aspects of working in the aid room, from first aid to risk management to documentation so quickly that she was training new hires almost immediately. We have always been blessed with a strong aid room staff, but the nominee almost immediately became a key member of that group.

She works more than the required number of shifts and is always available to help provide coverage.

Equally important is what the nominee does when she arrives to work a shift. She provides coverage and treatment of patients with a wonderful sense of humor and compassion that makes life for patrollers more pleasant and relaxes and comforts patients. She is a joy to have on our team.

In addition to all of the above, the nominee brings to our patrol an eagerness to improve. The nominee has consistently sought to become a stronger skier and has eagerly embraced our OET training. In an effort to become a stronger skier, the nominee joined our ski school staff to both improve her skiing skills and to enhance the nominee's value to the resort. The result has been a demonstration of the adage that the best way to learn something is to teach it. At the end of this season, the nominee passed our OET training and will begin next season as an alpine patroller, unfortunately leaving a large void in our aid room staff.

The nominee successfully completed our OET training while still serving regular shifts in our aid room and while also serving a full complement of teaching shifts in our ski school. That synergism helps the entire resort. The ski patrol benefits from having someone in our aid room who is intimately familiar with another aspect of the resort's operation. Our ski school benefits from having a trained patroller on their staff who teaches students with a patroller's eye toward safe skiing. And most of all, the resort benefits from the dedication to skiing and the infectious enthusiasm the nominee demonstrates.

It is with great honor that I nominate this patroller as Outstanding Patroller.

Patrol Representative

Ken Hale Beech

This gentleman is outstanding because of his amazing dedication to the patrol. Last year, our patrol representative of 10 plus years and a 40 year veteran patroller was killed in an ATV accident. This patroller stepped into some large shoes to assume the role of patrol rep. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the transition was seamless. His calm demeanor cut a wide swath through various groups in the patrol from veterans, to new patrollers, and to the new candidate class. He is an effective communicator to the patrol, and keeps things running in an orderly fashion. This particular year started out rough for him. On the second run on opening day, he took a easy fall but managed to shatter his femur, 6 months to the day of a double hip replacement. He did not let this stop him from showing up and helping out. A few weeks later he came hobbling into the patrol room on the crutches. From that point forward, he spent the weekends commanding the radio, phone, and base patrol room. He was always smiling, giving orders from 'the chair.' He was often seen midday crutching his way from the patrol room to the main resort office so that he could assist with an in-season OEC class for our candidates, teaching multiple modules and assisting with hands-on first aid skills. On top of all this, he was the mind of reason and light in the storm. This year our patrol was struggling with the transition to a new patrol director with the old patrol director acting as a consultant for the year. There were times of tension in the patrol, and the whole patrol was on edge. However, he was able to keep everyone's feathers from getting too ruffled and by the end of the season everyone loved the new patrol director.

Thomas "Doc" Brigham for Large Patrol

Massanutten

Our Patrol is growing in both numbers and responsibility. Our resort has added new forms of mountain-oriented recreation, including climbing walls, zip lines, tubing (both snow tubing and non-snow summer tubing), mountain biking and a four-season water park. Our resort has recognized the high quality first aid that our patrollers provide and has rewarded us by expanding our responsibilities and making OEC the first aid standard of training for all these new recreation activities. This increased responsibility has expanded our numbers and resulted in our offering two OEC classes per year to meet the increasing demand. In the winter, we have continued to play host to over 88,000 ski and snowboard visitors this year and an increasing number of tubing visitors, with over 48,000 tubing visitors this year. And we serve these visitors effectively. We care for our guests and work hard to prevent accidents by effective slope marking and vigilant and visible presence on the hill. Our number of injuries is well below the national average, particularly in light of the fact that our demographic is largely beginners. Our patrol has regularly been commended by receiving trauma center staff on the thoroughness of the treatment provided prior to transport. We stay engaged with patient care, beyond simply handing off a patient to the arriving ambulance staff, and continue to assist EMS and ALS teams out the door and sometimes off the resort. Our patrol continues to focus as much on accident prevention as we do on patient care—this is a win-win situation that equates to customer satisfaction and reduced load on the healthcare system, and by extension, the taxpayer.

We strive continuously to improve slope safety through skier education and hazard elimination. Part of our constant vigil includes inspection and testing of the snow surface to recognize the aforementioned dramatic changes in surface conditions. Recommendations to the Hill Chief can result in a mid-session slope closure for the safety of our guests. Patrollers regularly monitor the off-loading ramps of all lifts, with particular attention to the lifts servicing our beginning slopes, and are known both to constructively assist novice lift operators with ramp modification to improve efficiency and safety and to assist beginner and novice skiers in safely offloading from the lifts. Patrollers are also out on the slopes in an ever-present *show of support*. We observe the skiing and riding traits of visitors and advise them to restrict their activities to easier terrain when necessary to preserve a safe environment for all visitors. If required, we will follow up by annotating a lift ticket with restrictions and conveying those restrictions to the lift operations staff. If that step fails to curb or modify dangerous behavior, we will render a ticket invalid and have the violator escorted from the property. While perhaps unpopular to the few, these steps are necessary to preserve a safe experience for the many. On the positive reinforcement front, our patrol continues to reward good behavior and to encourage proper training. In the past, we had been giving out coupons for \$5 off a group lesson to guests who appeared to need some encouragement to take a lesson. This year, we eliminated those coupons and replaced them with vouchers for a FREE lesson as a part of our #rideanotherday initiative. The coupons have NSAA's #rideanotherday graphic on them, and we have also framed and strategically placed several of the NSAA #rideanotherday posters in the lodge. Additionally, we placed signs on the lift towers of each aerial lift, each sign describing a different point of Your Responsibility Code. We added eye catching ski photos and the #rideanotherday hashtag to each. We also added the #rideanotherday graphic to our trail maps, along with Your Responsibility Code. Another

component of this initiative has been to end every guest interaction with telling them, "Be safe." We also take skier and rider complaints seriously, to the extent of patrollers continuing to carry complaint cards to capture visitors' concerns on the spot, which helps present the ski patroller as an ambassador of the sport. Our demographic is typically beginner heavy. If we can help make their first exposure to snow sports a pleasant one, we help our resort and the industry in general with the added benefit of bringing these new enthusiasts back to the resorts and to the winter sports they host.

To succeed with a level of prevention not normally associated with true ski patrol operations, we must maintain a collegial and cooperative relationship among our own staff as well as with area management and other departments. We are particularly proud of how seamlessly our area volunteers work with our paid staff to serve visiting snow sport enthusiasts. Volunteers and professional patrollers willingly share all appropriate duties, whether wielding a shovel, or supervising patrol activities. Over the years, our ski patrol has continued to enjoy a unique working relationship with the resort management resulting in part due to the promotion of one of our former patrol directors (and previous National Outstanding Alpine patroller) to the position of Director of Sports and Risk. Additionally, for the last two seasons ski area supervisors have been encouraged by area management to visit other departments in order to gain an understanding of how they operate. The visiting supervisor essentially does a "ride along" with a supervisor from the host department, watching and learning about operations from a different viewpoint. From ski school to maintenance, patrol to lift ops and everyone in between, we have all learned a lot about other departments and have improved our working relationships as a result. Having patrollers who work in other ski area departments also goes a long way in fostering inter-departmental relationships; we have patrollers who work in the snowsports school, the rental shop, the bike park, the family adventure park, and we even helped fill a few lift operator shifts this year when they were short handed.

So, why is this patrol outstanding? In short, our patrol is not content to maintain status quo; we are constantly striving to be better. We accomplish this through improving guest relations and communication, improving our OEC skills through both formal classes and daily continuing education sessions, and improving our relationships with other departments.

Runner-up National Outstanding Alpine Patroller

William C. Smith Wintergreen

Runner-up National Outstanding OEC Instructor

Jacob Burleson Appalachian

Thanks to all of you who submitted the award nominations and congratulations to all the recipients. A special congratulation to William C. (Bill) Smith for winning National Outstanding Alpine Patroller Runner-up and to Jacob Burleson for winning the National Outstanding OEC Instructor Runner-up. I would also like to thank the division judges for taking the time to judge all the division winners. I say this every year - This is a reminder to all Patrol Reps, Patrol Directors, Region Directors and Awards Advisors that this is one of the best ways to thank those who so deserve the recognition. And the Southern Division needs to submit deserving folks to be inducted into the NSP Hall of Fame. With that said, I expect nominations in all of the categories from each patrol next award season! Remember, it is never too early to start thinking about who needs to be nominated.

Peg Harris – Awards Advisor



DIVISION DIRECTORS of the SOUTHERN DIVISION

(Created from Eastern Division in 1971) National Ski Patrol System, Incorporated

1. Keith Argow 1971 – 1977
2. David Dillard 1977 – 1979
3. C. Harwell Dabbs, MD 1979 – 1981
4. Charles T. “Charlie” Benbow 1981 – 1985
5. Farris Jackson 1985 – 1989
6. Douglas Carlburg 1989 – 1993
7. Raymond B. “Bernie” Smith 1993 – 1999
8. Eunice “Nici” Singletary, MD 1999 – 2003
9. Neil Booth 2003 – 2007
10. R. Morgan Armstrong 2007 – 2011
11. Richard Boyer 2011 – 2015
12. Byrd White 2015-present

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.

In order to accommodate everyone wishing to present to the Southern Division's Executive Committee or Board of Directors and to allow for adequate time for members of the Committee and Board to review materials, please send requests to be placed on the meeting agenda, along with a summary of your topic and supporting documentation, to the Division Director in advance of the meeting. Requests must be received at least 30 days prior to the meeting, except that the Division Director may grant an exception to that deadline to accept an agenda request received at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Requests can be sent to Byrd White at bwhite@opinionsrendered.com.