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FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR

At last, a skier's winter! The prolonged cold spells have set records for length (if not coldness) at several ski areas. That's the most important variable, weather just cold enough to make snow, and not interspersed with rain and tropical breezes. This year is critical since several ski areas are operating with reduced snow making capacity to meet budget reductions. So far the record has been encouraging, particularly in the amount of snow that was put down in January.

An urgent call for patrollers has gone out from Snowshoe PL Dave Wallace. He now has a room with four beds (plus space for two on the floor) for use by visiting volunteer patrollers. He requests that volunteers planning to patrol at Snowshoe contact him in advance at 703-552-7222. Although it is National Policy that only Seniors have visiting privileges, this can be waived if patrollers contact Dave in advance and get his approval. There are also jobs available for paid patrollers at \$2.50/hour. If interested, contact Dave immediately. Snowshoe has some of the best skiing in the division and is having a very busy year.

A big thank you for a job well done to the Atlanta Ski Club and Bill Farrell (Safety and Ski Patrol Board Rep.) for organizing a successful "Swap Shop" sale. The club forwarded the proceeds of \$277.00 to the Division Treasury and we are most grateful for this gift.



(photo by Cloyd Beasley)

The seminar was held January 24-25 at Beech Mtn.

The winners in the skiing ability test:

1. Debbie Hancock Beech Mtn.
2. Wes Benbow Seven Devils
3. Ches Adams Beech Mtn.

The highest scores for First Aid:

1. Wes Benbow Seven Devils
2. Stuart Muir Cataloochee
3. Mary Lou Moore Beech Mtn.
Jane Reed Beech Mtn.

Other participants were: Kitty Calhoun, Beech Mtn. and Genell Britt, Dave Jones and Ricky Young from Wolf Laurel. Adults helping were Keith Argow, DD, Pete Chamberlin, RD, Don Rupp, SC, Charles and Doris Benbow, Chuck Hancock and Mary Ann Moore who hosted a dinner for the Juniors.

AWARDS ADVISOR APPOINTED FOR DIVISION

Charles Benbow, Seven Devils PL, has been appointed Awards Advisor. We are happy he has accepted the position and know he will carry out this responsibility to benefit the division.

HOLIDAY INN GIVES SPECIAL RATES TO NSPS

The Holiday Inn in Banner Elk, N.C. has set rates for NSPS of \$18.00 per couple, same rate for single, and \$2.00 for each additional person. We appreciate this special consideration. All patrollers must have their current registration card to take advantage of these rates.

Wintergreen, the new ski area in Virginia, had a formal opening the beginning of January complete with the governor. The patrol was hard at work even before skiing started with an on-the-hill refresher December 7th to practice using their new equipment. John Lawrence, Division Equipment & Lift Evacuation Advisor, was there to demonstrate the proper use of the lift evacuation equipment. Most of the patrol, ski instructors and lift operators had an opportunity to be lowered from a chair lift. Since that time they have evacuated the lifts twice for real. The second time was during a downpour of rain after 40 mile an hour winds had blown a tree onto the cable.

Snowshoe is open even though they are operating under formal bankruptcy procedures. Gone are the scores of promoters and real estate salesmen. The skiing is great with the snow piled up anywhere from 3 to 15 feet deep. If you haven't skied there yet, do so; but take your goggles as there are very few weekends without precipitation. They need the help of more patrollers, both paid and volunteers.

Cascade hasn't opened as yet! They are now making snow, so hopefully it will be soon.

Glenn White has been selected as Asst. PL at Homestead, helping Peter Steinfatt.

On January 18th a Basic Test was held for 3 members of the Wintergreen patrol. The new patrollers are Bill Blakley, Lilli Farrell and Jim Grover. Bill is a transfer from Europe while Lilli and Jim have been working 4 and 5 days a week. Examiners were Randy Avery, French Moore III and Ron Smith.

CONTRIBUTORS

Randy Avery	Dale Johnson
Cloyd Beasley	Dick Thalacker
Pete Chamberlin	Randall K. Thomas
Gary Delius	Tom Worley
Larry Dietz	

CATALOOCHEE

The following took and passed the Basic Test at Cataloochee January 11th.

Ellen Chumbly	Junior	}	Cataloochee
Todd Debrececi	Basic		
Gail Jones	Basic	}	Wolf Laurel
Dave Jones	Junior		
David Massey	Basic	}	Wolf Laurel
Bill Phillips	Basic		

The test was given at the top of the hill in a 30 to 40 mile an hour wind.

The Senior Test at Cataloochee has been changed to February 7th. The spaghetti supper is still set for that evening. There will also be ski movies, door prizes, fashion show and tap beverages.

MILL RIDGE

Mill Ridge needs more patrollers. Meals and courtesy fee are as listed below.

Weekdays: 1st patroller to arrive is given \$5.00 courtesy fee and lunch.

The next two will be given lunch.

Weekends: 1st two patrollers to arrive are given \$5.00 courtesy fee and lunch.

The next two will be given lunch.

Nights: 1st two patrollers to arrive are given \$5.00 courtesy fee.

(Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

All other standard priviledges and responsibilities apply as usual.

The area operates from 9:30 - 4:30 each day and from 6:00 - 10:00 evenings.

Randall K. Thomas is the FL.

EXAMINERS CLINIC

Approximately 18 Southern Division patrollers attended the clinic at Sugar Mountain. The outdoor session was a lot of fun and laughs. We had a rare opportunity to have Tom Terrific all to ourselves. Patrollers from Wintergreen, Cataloochee, Sky Valley, Seven Devils, Gatlinburg, Sugar Mtn. and the Division Administrative patrols spent the day constructing courses and practicing patrol maneuvers and skills.

NEXT DEADLINE - MARCH 1st

ERIC DEGROAT DAY



(photo by Don Rupp)

Eric DeGroat watches as his wife prepares to cut the cake baked for the occasion.

On Saturday, January 31st, Appalachian Ski Area honored one of the Southern Division's most dedicated patrollers. Eric DeGroat has been active since the beginning of NSPS in this area. He has contributed much in his wholehearted support not only in patrolling faithfully for so many years, but also as Division Communications Advisor, First Aid instructor and FL at Appalachian. This evening a small group of his many friends and admirers were privileged to be invited to a dinner in his honor. He was presented with his Yellow Merit Star certificate in a frame crafted by Benbow Reproductions.

PICTURES ANYONE ???

Gary Delius, Tennessee-Kentucky Section Chief, is making a collection of slides and/or pictures of patrol activities in the Southern Division. If you have any good ones, please send them to him so that our Division Pictorial History will be as complete as possible. A notation should be made as to when and where they were taken and if possible names of those in the pictures. Gary's address is: 2321 Pleasant View Lane, Knoxville, Tenn. 37914 (phone 615-525-2671).

BREAKING CAMP AT THE END OF (M) COURSE AT SNOWSHOE

MOUNTAINEERING ROCKER COURSE



(photo by instructor Dale Johnson)

Pictured are: Wes Benbow relaxing in the snow; kneeling Don Rupp, Bobbie Rupp, Gary Delius, Susan Jackson, Farris Jackson; standing Kim Annas, Steve Benbow, Gwen Moody, Mark Poole, Doris Benbow, Liz Johnson, Mickey Lawson, Charles Benbow (instructor) and Bob Edwards.

Due to a conflict in schedules there has been a change in dates. The classwork for the course will be given Sunday, February 8th at Seven Devils Ski Lodge at 8:00 AM. The fieldwork will begin Friday evening, February 20th and end Sunday. This part of the course will be given at Mount Rodgers, Virginia. Details for the fieldwork will be given at the session on February 8th. Both class work and field work MUST be attended for the rocker award.



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