



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

2002-03, Number 2

January 2003

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(Entries in blue are navigational links.)

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 spring issue is May 19, 2003. Send submissions to:

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A Division to Be Proud Of!

Nici Singletary, Division Director



This is my last article to you as Director of the Southern Division. Yes, it's hard to believe, but when the May issue of *Southern Cross* is released, we will have a new Division Director. I will have served two terms (four years) and will pass the baton to a new, highly capable Division Director.

Looking back at the past 4 years, I can say that almost all of my goals as Division Director have been accomplished. We are an incredibly strong, highly respected Division. We have a rich history of producing leaders throughout the organization, and our instructors and trainers are second to none! Many of our patrollers have moved on to jobs in Colorado, Utah, Washington or California, and the patrols they joined have been pleasantly surprised at how well-trained we are, and how strong our ski, snowboard and toboggan skills are. We have much to be proud of in our Division!

Over the past 4 years, we have seen an improvement in bi-directional communications, through email, letters, personal visits, newsletters, the website, and the online *Southern Cross* initiative. With visits to ski areas I have met many patrollers and made lots of new friends, while simultaneously gathering grassroots feedback and encouraging potential future leaders. Patrollers and patrols are today more visible to the area managers and the Southeastern Ski Areas Association. They understand our potential benefit to ski areas in terms of accident prevention and education, and have supported our efforts in this arena. In return, they have been more supportive of us as we seek locations to train and hold special events.

One thing I have learned through my Division travels is that Southern Division patrollers all have unique talents and backgrounds. Our membership diversity is one of our greatest assets. The "glue" that holds us together is our genuine desire to help others, and our membership in NSP. One of the most satisfying aspects of my time spent as Division Director has been the opportunity to give back to this organization. I hope each of you will consider giving back to your organization, by serving in a future leadership role!

I would like to thank all the members of the Executive Committee, the Section Chiefs, Program Supervisors, Advisors and especially the Patrol Representatives for all the time and effort they have donated to their administrative positions in the Southern Division. Please come celebrate a great season and help us plan for the next on May the 3rd in Roanoke, Virginia. Our Division Spring meeting is open to ALL patrollers and their families, and will be held at the Wyndham Hotel (near the Roanoke airport). The registration form is inside this edition of *Southern Cross*.

From the Assistants...

Awards, Reports and New Appointments

Morgan Armstrong
First Assistant Division Director



Awards: Section Chiefs should have awards well underway by the publication of *Southern Cross* with each patrol submitting at least one nomination for each of the awards for “Outstanding” unit or person. Also, each line officer should submit any awards you feel necessary for those who have given outstanding service and work. Remember—the awards being submitted for an “Outstanding,” unit citation, must be written so the test judges will not be able to recognize the person or unit.

End of Year Reports: A new form is being used this year. Neil Booth made several improvements during 2002, and these are now incorporated into the form sent to each line officer by e-mail. If you have not received a form for your end of year report, please contact R. Morgan Armstrong, 1st Assistant Division Director:

Post Office Box 699
Collinsville, VA 24078-0699
(276) 629-1654
RMASP@Adelphia.net

Notice To Line Officers: Upon the change of Division Director, all line officers must submit a resignation. The new administration will then appoint those people to fill the officer positions as needed. To assist in an orderly transfer, each Region Director and Section Chief is requested to compile a list of interested people who would desire to be appointed to these positions. Please ask as many patrollers as possible to obtain a large group of people who are interested. This greater depth of potential officers will make our division much stronger. It also will allow interested patrollers to begin training to take over the positions in the future. Anyone interested in serving as a section, region or division officer should send a written request to his/her section chief and region director. These should in turn be forwarded to the new division director or to me. Thank you for your assistance.



About The MTR Course

Dennis Slagle
Second Assistant Division Director



The Mountain Travel and Rescue (MTR) course in the NSP curriculum is thought of as a Nordic specific course and for “outback” types. The *real* backbone of the course is SAR (Search And Rescue). The course is aimed at teaching someone how to assist, be a vital part, or run a search and rescue according to the course taken. The basic course is the Fundamentals course and has NO overnight stay and is ONLY classroom. Previously, even the basic course had an overnight stay and field exercises in orienteering and SAR. Now only the level 1 and level 2 courses have overnight stays.

MTR teaches SAR which is vital to each and every sky area. Each patrol should have a search plan for their area. It should detail who and what should be done to find a missing person specifically at that area. Any patroller at any area can set up their plan if they have taken the MTR courses or has

had precious experience in SAR operations. Imagine a weekend when there are patrollers present who have no experience in SAR and a frantic parent comes up at the end of the day and cannot find a child. How do you start? Where do you start? The MTR course will teach students the fundamentals of how SARs are conducted.

As previously stated, MTR is thought of by many as a Nordic course. The intent is to conduct an “out of area” search and rescue. When you get out of area, all the other course content becomes more critical. When going out of area, you may be out over night and need the instruction to be able to stay overnight (in cold conditions) and resume operations in the morning. Additionally the orienteering portion teaches map reading and path finding if you are searching in unfamiliar territory.

Hopefully everyone can understand the importance of the MTR course in the NSP curriculum and understand for what it is specifically intended. Even if you have never and will never venture out of area, the SAR portion is the essential part that should be integrated into each patrol.

From the Divisions...

Dixie Region

Neil Booth, Region Director

You cannot stop winter from arriving and you cannot stop our SnowSports enthusiasts either! The southernmost region and resorts are doing what we all do everyday. Manage our opportunities to the maximum and manage our obstacles with minimal disruption to our consumers.

During my visits to the four OEC refreshers, pre-refreshers and Instructor refreshers, it became apparent that there had been a great deal of preparation put into this year's cycle. We appreciate and congratulate Dixie Instructor Trainers, Instructors of Record, Instructors and Region OEC Supervisor Bob Lang. The Division OEC Supervisor, Judi Kay Monaghan and her staff set the stage for success with the mandatory IT and IOR meeting in Wytheville. My personal thanks are extended to everyone for the excellent job and total commitment to excellence that was executed.

Now we are on to our on-the-hill annual ski and toboggan refresher requirements. This process should be nearing completion or completed. My thanks to all Toboggan Instructors for their fine efforts and skills.



We hope that our new candidates are working hard on their ski and toboggan handling skills. OEC should be behind most of you at this point. Work as hard in these training sessions, plus on your own. Your level of achievement is directly related to your individual drive and motivation. As you have noticed, there are a lot of qualified, helpful and enthusiastic members who are here to mentor you through all processes. Good luck to all.

Our last group of taskmasters is our Ski and Toboggan Examiners, along with our NSP-PSIA Instructors. They are well into their training process within the system. They are here to assist everyone. Like our OEC Instructors/Examiners, the S&T and PSIA personnel are another quality assurance program ready to assist membership within NSP.

Make sure you acknowledge the extra efforts of all instructors, administrators, examiners and your Patrol Representatives and Patrol Officers for the countless hours and days they give to helping membership. They are always willing to lend unconditional giving assistance to making you and our system better.

Have a great season doing what you professionals do best—serving the SnowSports industry and consumers.



West Virginia Region

Jan Starr, Region Director

Whoever got us back in good graces with Mother Nature; I thank you and all the skiers' thank you. We have been blessed with cold and snow here in WV. All the areas were open in plenty of time for the Christmas rush with ample acreage to ski.

Our areas have new candidates to work with, and have plenty of time to train and participate in the scheduled clinics.

A clinic I just had the opportunity to help teach, was the Women's Toboggan Clinic [See complete article on page 5.] held at Massanutten. What a great fun time we had and everyone learned something too! My thanks to Massanutten for hosting and putting up with the 22 women that invaded them.



I'm sure many of the women that participated in this clinic will look forward to the next one and pass the word along to their fellow female patrollers. We hope to have this again next season.

There are still Senior and Certified clinics and evaluations that will be held this season. Don't hold back, jump on in there and participate. I guarantee you'll learn something new and have fun while doing it. Please check the calendar for the events nearest you.

There will be an executive meeting in February, and of course our Spring meeting, so there is still time to get in any suggestions to me for the re-organizational committee for things to change or how to better ourselves. My email address has been changed to:

middleviewfarm@onlinewv.com or you can reach me at: jstarr@snowshoemtn.com.



Blue Ridge Region

Butch McLean, Region Director

The ski resorts in the Blue Ridge Region are having a super season. It appears that this year the south is in a weather pattern that brings a major shot of cold air on the weekends. Yes, we are skiing with the guns going full blast and yes, we are having a little bit of wind now and then, but it sure beats the fool out of 75 degrees and no snow.

The Christmas Holiday has come and gone and we had lots of snow to tempt folks to come and visit. All of the areas had a highly successful holiday season and it looks like this year is going to be a good money maker for all of the areas. As this article is being penned the forecast for the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend is for six to ten inches of snow for the high country. Those groups that have made plans to ski this weekend should not be disappointed.

The leaps in technology in the ski industry have brought us many cool innovations such as shaped skis, Gore-Tex, comfortable boots and floating bindings to name a few. This publication is a prime example of how we can use technology to make our lives a little easier. By signing up for electronic delivery of the *Southern Cross* we not only save postage but



we can include more material and pictures. We have several patrols in the region that are using electronic newsletters.

Appalachian Ski Patrol uses electronic newsletters to keep its members up to date on mountain happenings and to remind patrollers of their assigned duty days. It is full of news, stories and tips for the Appalachian patroller. They have been using this medium for several seasons and it has proven to be a highly successful form of communication.

Hawksnest is another patrol that uses electronic newsletters. What's that you said? YES, HAWKSNEST IS BACK! Last year Hawksnest was strictly a tubing area. This season skiing/boarding is going great as well as the tubing park. The patrol has returned with the majority of the patrol intact.

We held our regional senior ski and toboggan clinic at Beech Mountain in early January and the turn out was outstanding. Patrollers who were interested in becoming seniors attended from each mountain in the region. Rick Laws, Chief Examiner for the region had enough senior examiners on hand so that the aspirants were divided into three groups with one senior examiner to act as liaison in each group. The patrollers rotated through three stations with two examiners in each station. They were given an opportunity to see what was included in the senior test, ask questions and have fun. Thanks to the efforts of many patrollers the senior program is alive and well in the Blue Ridge Region.



Virginia Region

Mike Fisher, Region Director

The ski season is off to a racing start with the drought worries far behind us. Most of the region's mountains opened much earlier than expected due to the cold weather and much needed rain collected in the lakes. Snow conditions have been excellent with little loss due to warm weather or rain. Bryce and Massanutten have most to all of their slopes open and the patrols are doing well. Wintergreen has had a very good early season with decent skier numbers. The Plunge tubing park experienced a rather large mudslide that ran into the tubing park and the lift building at the



bottom. They got the dirt moved quickly and were back to full speed in several days.

Lacy Williams reported that the Women's Toboggan clinic held at Massanutten was a great experience and super for those wanting to improve their ski and toboggan skills. She felt that the program went so well that we should consider having another clinic next year.

Our Senior Program is starting January 25 with the Senior Emergency Management clinic and Senior Ski and Toboggan clinic at Wintergreen. The final exam for the Senior program will be at Massanutten February 22 for emergency management and February 23 for the ski and toboggan handling. The Certified clinics will be held February 1 at Wintergreen and February 2 at Massanutten. Ski ya on the slopes.

From Supervisors, Advisors and Representatives...

Women's Toboggan Clinic

*Tim Asbury, Alpine Ski and Toboggan
Advisor*

For the first time the Southern Division offered a women only toboggan enhancement and skier enhancement seminar at Massanutten ski resort. Held on January 11th and 12th, eighteen NSP women from all over the Southern Division came to Massanutten to learn new ski and toboggan skills.

The Lead instructor, Deb Daniels, came down from Bromley Ski Resort in Vermont to teach this program. Deb is



Deb Daniels, the creator of the Women's Ski and Toboggan Clinic, doesn't hide her enthusiasm when it comes to sharing her considerable skills with clinic participants.



the person from the Eastern Division who originally designed and implemented this program about five years ago. She has since taught this program at Powderfall at Snowbird and Whistler. This program has also been given in the Central division. The three other instructors from the Southern Division were Jan Starr, Melinda Souder and Leslie Carter.

The weather at Massanutten was made to order—nice and cold. Lows in the 20s and highs just over 30 made for perfect skiing conditions. In contrast, the welcome the resort gave to all the participants was extremely warm thanks to Bartek and the management at Massanutten. Six training sleds were available for the clinic to use. Additionally we had the use of our own section of the lodge. After the clinic on Saturday, the Massanutten ski patrol threw a wine and cheese party at the patrol house while the clinic participants looked at training video and videos shot on the slope that day.

With the inaugural clinic over, plans are already being made for next year's clinic. The clinic has information for every skier level. This year we taught participants from candidates through Senior level patrollers with even the Certified level instructors learning new tricks. So put it on your calendars for next year, the weekend before Martin Luther King weekend and please register early. This year I had to turn down five or six people because the course booked up early.



This clinic is for women of all skiing levels. Ethlyn (Hawksnest) is looking good in the handles on her first day of toboggan handling. Peggy (Wintergreen) is on the tail rope.

A Full House! If you're interested in attending next year's clinic, mark your calendar now for January 10 and 11, 2004, and get your application in early. This year's clinic filled up early, and most of this year's participants are already making plans to return next year.

Southern Reorganization Committee Update

Neil Booth, Chairman, Reorganization Committee



Progress is being made as of this writing, however, slower than the committee had hoped for. When we began, we set very ambitious schedules, but, as everyone would expect, OEC refreshers began. Now we are involved in our most important jobs, patrolling at our respective resorts. Let us not forget the ongoing training we now do and training of candidates!

As the committee continues with due diligence, positive results will occur. It should not and will not disrupt our membership. The task of the Division is to provide education and services to membership. The task of the Reorganization Committee is the same. The main areas we are looking at are structure/alignment; education; nordic; communications; election procedures for Division Director; bylaws; and

Policies and Procedures of the Division. Other areas of focus will be financial, leadership, legal, staffing and any other areas that surface which need to be studied. We feel this will be a multi year project before it is concluded.

You may hear rumors of impending change. At this point, that is all it is—RUMOR. We do not plan on beating any change or changes to death, within the system. Plans are to study and make sound recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will review recommendations, then, if merited, pass recommendations on to the Board of Directors, of which your respective Patrol Representatives are members. If the Board of Directors approves recommendations, change or changes will be enacted according to Division bylaws.

Will it change how you patrol at your area? NO! It should only affect how we deliver to you, the members of Southern Division.



News From National

*Nici Singletary
Member of NSP Board of Directors*



The first meeting of the newly restructured NSP Board of Directors has just concluded. This was a very exciting meeting! The Board has been trimmed to 13 members, including Massanutten's Kenny Hess and myself. Our meeting was held in Denver over two days. The first day was spent meeting the new members of the board and bringing the entire Board up to date on the process and actions leading to the restructuring, and how we will function in the future. There are several new Board members with unique expertise that will help us as we attack the backlog of critical issues for our organization.

Bill Sachs was once again elected our National Chairperson from among the Board members. The remaining Board members were assigned to one of three standing committees: Planning, Governance and Finance. The duties of each committee were delineated, as well as the process for identifying issues, prioritizing, researching and recommending actions.

One issue that was discussed in detail was the OEC Program. This is the flagship program of NSP. OEC is facing a number of challenges, such as: increasing competition in the marketplace (e.g., Wilderness EMT & First Responder); difficulty with access to OEC courses by members and potential members; an increase in the number of OEC

“challenges” by EMTs; and a decline in the ski industry overall (and a parallel decline in the number of new candidates). Did you know that in many parts of the country there are people who would like to join a patrol, but they are unable to find an OEC course within hundreds of miles of their home? At the same time, when they do an internet search for nearby Wilderness First Responder courses, they have no difficulty finding these courses—and they gladly pay to attend, thus allowing them to eventually challenge OEC and join a patrol!

The challenge facing NSP is to determine how we can broaden the market for OEC and increase access to OEC courses, thus potentially expanding membership in our organization. The entire Board of Directors is exploring this complicated issue in great detail, with help from the OEC Committee, the National OEC Program Director (Hawksnest patrol representative Larry Bost), National Education Director Leif Borgeson, and the NSP marketing department. A distance-learning/online OEC course was recently piloted in Southern Division with successful results. OEC students did their didactic work online, then met for several sessions to train on skills, followed by their evaluation. This is but one of several alternative solutions to the OEC access issue currently being looked at.

Another topic being addressed is the proposed OEC Enhancement Seminar. This seminar is intended to be a tool for OEC Instructors to offer continuing education at all patrol levels. It is designed to provide patrollers the opportunity to

learn, review, practice, question and challenge themselves with OEC skills in a non-threatening, non-evaluated environment. For instance, some patrols at areas with low accident call volumes might use this approach (as opposed to a “yellow card”) as a means to review OEC skills and stay fresh. This seminar is being developed and piloted in a few locations this winter and will be brought back to the Board to consider adopting as a regular seminar offering.

New this year is the NSP Mountain (Safety) Host Program. This program allows interested persons to join NSP in a separate (nonpatroller) category. Minimum requirements include completion of the online Guest Services module, Outdoor First Care, and CPR. Areas that use Mountain Hosts may have their own additional requirements, such as radio use or snowmobile operations. We foresee a need for Outdoor First Care courses at areas using this program (a potential patrol fundraising activity!). Registration was opened for the Mountain Host Program just over a month ago, and there are already about 120 new Mountain Host members.

Some of you may remember former Bryce patroller and Southern Division Avalanche Program Supervisor Shep Snow. Shep retired to Idaho and has spent the last several years as National Avalanche Program Director, refurbishing the NSP Avalanche Program. Shep has recently stepped down as the Program Director (he’s busy chasing his own kids on

the ski race circuit!), and our new Avalanche Program Director is John Barth, of Far West Division. We will miss Shep, and thank him for the great job he did with the avalanche curriculum and bringing our program to the forefront of the avalanche community!

There are many other interesting topics and projects being addressed by the Board, National staff and volunteer staff of NSP. Please help keep yourself informed by regularly checking the member website —www.nsp.org—under “What’s New”. Also, remember to update your email and postal addresses online, so that you may continue to receive news and publications without interruption.

Don’t forget PowderFall 2003! This National Education Conference is scheduled for April 16 – 20 at Snowbird, Utah. It may seem late in the season to ski, but we almost always have fresh powder and great skiing. What better way to ski powder, work with PSIA Demo Team members on your technique, attend some of the many electives offered each year, and to meet patrollers from all over the country! Even better: the meeting fee is tax deductible! The deadline for sign-up is Monday, March 10. The registration form can be found on page 22 of the Fall 2002 issue of *Ski Patrol Magazine*. You can also register on line by going to the www.nsp.org web site. Hope to see you there!

From Around the Division ...

*[Nominations were solicited in the Fall 2002 issue of **Southern Cross** for the position of Southern Division Director to succeed outgoing Director Nici Singletary. The following letter and supplementary information were submitted by Neil Booth. —Ed.]*

From: Neil Booth, Candidate for Southern Division Director

To: Membership of the Southern Division:

I hereby announce my running for the Division Director, Southern Division of NSP. I have been a member of NSP since December 31, 1972, when I passed the Candidate Ski Off at Vernon Valley, New Jersey. I transferred to the Southern Division in 1983 and have been involved in many leadership positions in Patrol, Region and Division levels.

My personal life kept me busy in Corporate America with various companies. In February 2000, I elected to take early retirement from the Coca Cola Company. Throughout my career, I held various sales and management positions. I have gone through several reorganizations over the years. I know what it takes to work in a team environment, be a participating team member, achievement of team goals, and to lead the process. The Division is about to enter a new phase of life beginning with this next election. The Division

Director is no longer a member of the National Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2003. National is empowering Divisions to operate more autonomously and do what is needed in each Division. Change is something that can and should be expected in the future.

I believe I am qualified to lead this change in the life of the Division. The Division is an extremely diverse membership organization, comprised of Volunteer and Paid members, from all walks of life, performing many and varied tasks as we patrol. The following information profiles my history and involvement. I have helped bring about a lot of change, when change was needed.

I have worked with many people within the Division. For those of you who do not know me, I am actively involved in the day-to-day operations of the Dixie Region in my

current capacity and a Division Executive Committee Member. I completely understand the role of the Division. We are here to deliver educational and training needs to Patrols and Membership. We are here to develop our members for future leadership positions. We are here to assist Patrol leadership and Area Management. We are here to support you!

My first goal, if elected, is to help bring about changes resulting from the new structure of National and work performed and recommended by the Division Reorganization Committee, to the Division, as effectively and efficiently as possible, with minimal disruption.

My second goal is to select, mentor and develop personnel in the Division to assume future leadership. We have just over 1000 members in the Division and more members need to be involved. No one person should be over-involved. We all have other jobs and interests in our lives. We

cannot let NSP consume our lives to the point of burnout. I have seen and experienced this factor since joining NSP. This is our, not mine, nor select individuals system!

My third goal is to deliver education and training needs to patrols and YOU. We all need to continuously learn how to do our jobs better, more efficiently, more effectively and with total confidence. This is accomplished through continuous education and training.

My fourth and final goal is to place quality people in position, actively engaged in the snow sports business. It is not just skiing anymore. The industry is growing and requires strong leadership.

We are an extremely professional organization. We are a proud and prideful organization with a vested interest to make sure the system flourishes for years to come. I hope you enable me to become your next Division Director and allow me to ensure this occurs.

Neil Booth
Candidate for Southern Division Director
Personal

4769 Brent Court, Mableton, Georgia 30126-1446
 770-941-4268 (Home); 770-941-4268 (Fax)
neil.booth@attbi.com

Ski Patrol Leadership Positions:

1999-present Dixie Region Director
 1995-1999 Patrol Representative, Cataloochee
 1993-1995 Patrol Team Leader, Cataloochee
 1988-1992 Assistant Division Director Staff
 1986-1988 Division Proficiency Advisor
 1984-1985 Dixie Region Proficiency Advisor
 1984-1989 Dixie Region S&T Exam/Trainer
 1979-1981 Patrol Leader, Vernon Valley, NJ

Patroller History:

1975-present Senior Patroller
 1973 Basic Patroller
 1972-1973 Candidate

NSPS Courses:

1995 Phase II Toboggan Instructor
 1995 Global Phase II Instructor Dev.
 1999 Phase I Instructor Development
 1986 Basic Mountaineering
 1986 Basic Avalanche
 1975-80 1st Aid Instructor, Vernon Valley

Awards:

2002 National Certificate of Appreciation—Div. Mtg/Banquet Host
 2002 Yellow Merit Star—Outstanding
 2001 Southern Division Outstanding Admin Patroller

1986 National Certificate of Appreciation, Transportation Coordinator, Atlanta National Meeting
 1987 National Appointment 6751
 1976 NJ Region Certificate of Appreciation, Outstanding Service to Vernon Valley

National Meetings Attended:

1984 NSP Midwinter Meeting, Lakewood, CO
 1986 NSP Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA

Publications:

1986 Co-Created the *Southern Division Ski and Toboggan Patroller Training Manual*

Related Activities:

2002 PSIA ProJam Workshop, Killington, VT
 2001 PSIA Educational Credit Workshop
 2000 PSIA Workshop by Demo Team
 1999 PSIA Experiential Credit Workshop, Wintergreen, VA
 1998 PSIA Alpine Certified Level I Ski Instructor
 1998 Member, Southern Div NSP PSIA School
 1988 NSP Southern Div Workshop by Demo Team
 1987 NSP Southern Div Workshop by Demo Team
 1986 NSP Southern Div Workshop by Demo Team
 1986 NSP National S&T Committee Member
 1985 NSP National S&T Committee Member

Announcing the 2003 Southern Division NSP Spring Meeting and Awards Banquet!

The Spring Meeting and Awards Banquet are open to ALL PATROLLERS and their families. This year, the meeting is being hosted by the patrols of Virginia Region on Saturday, May 3rd.

The site of this year's meeting is the beautiful Wyndham Hotel -- Roanoke Airport, Virginia. Conveniently located off I-81, the Wyndham is offering us a special rate of \$79 per night, single or double occupancy. King or 2-double-bedded rooms are available. The hotel has both indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a fitness center, sauna, three restaurants, and discounted rates for an adjacent golf course. There is a large mall nearby, and, of course, the famous Farmer's Market in downtown Roanoke. To make your reservations at this special rate, you must call 1-800-996-3426 and mention you are with the NSP group. Our block of rooms will be released on April 7th, so make your reservations now!

The Division meeting will cover topics such as recommendations of the Division Reorganization Committee, scheduling plans for each Region for the 2003-2004 season, proposed Division Bylaw changes, and a report from the new NSP Board Meeting.

The Hospitality Room will be open both Friday and Saturday nights, with special "nibbles and liquid refreshments" provided by the Virginia Region patrols!

An OEC Instructor Update Seminar will also be held on May 3rd at the Wyndham. Further information and a separate registration form for the event can also be found inside this edition of *Southern Cross*.

We have two special guests. Kenny Hess, of the Massanutten Ski Patrol, is a new member of the NSP Board of Directors. He will report on the NSP "New Board" Meeting, held in Denver in January. Mermer Blakeslee, a former member of the PSIA Demo Team, novelist and author of the highly acclaimed book, *In The Yikes! Zone: A Conversation With Fear*, will be our keynote speaker. Her presentation on conquering *Fear* both on and off the slopes is terrific and very entertaining.

The awards banquet will be a night to remember! A 4-course dinner will be prepared by the chefs at the Wyndham and will include wine service. This gala affair will be a time



to celebrate and honor the work of all our Division Officers and Patrollers, as Nici steps down and a new Division Director takes the helm. Do come and join us at the Wyndham in May!

Please complete the enclosed registration form and mail it with your fee to John Dobson (who has kindly agreed to coordinate this meeting). For your convenience, a plated luncheon has also been arranged at the hotel. This will allow us to have a sit-down lunch in a timely manner, while permitting us to remain on schedule!

Directions to the Wyndham Hotel Roanoke Airport: From I-81 north or south take exit 143 to I-581S, then take exit 3W to the Hershberger Road exit. From Route 220 take I-581N then exit 3W Hershberger Road exit. From Route 460 take I 581N then exit 3W Hershberger Road exit. For reservations and further information call the Wyndham at 800-996-3426.



**SOUTHERN DIVISION NSPS
 SPRING MEETING and AWARDS BANQUET
 May 3, 2003
 Wyndham Hotel Roanoke Airport***



Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Patrol: _____ Title: _____

Meeting Registration Fee (check one):

Division Meeting and Awards Banquet: \$26 X _____ persons = \$ _____

Division Meeting, Luncheon and Awards Banquet: \$40 X _____ persons = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Names of Additional Persons in Party (for name badge preparation):

Name: _____ Title: _____ Patrol: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____ Patrol: _____

**Mail completed form and check (made out to “Southern Division NSP”) to:
 John Dobson
 Rt. 1, Box 525
 Roseland, VA 22967**

**RESERVATION FEES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 15, 2002
 ALL FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE AFTER APRIL 25, 2002**

* From I-81 North Or South Take Exit 143 To I-581S Then Take Exit 3W To The Hershberger Road Exit.—From Route 220 Take I-581N Then Exit 3W Hershberger Road Exit.—From Route 460 Take I 581N Then Exit 3W Hershberger Road Exit.

SOUTHERN DIVISION OFFICERS & STAFF DIRECTORY

2002 - 2003 (rev. 09/017/2002)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Division Director

Nici Singletary
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Past Division Director

Bernie Smith
(see Awards)
Bsmith112@triad.rr.com

1st Ass't Div Dir

Morgan Armstrong (Jo Ann)
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BR	JAN	26	BASIC S&T EVALUATION	BEECH MTN	RICK LAWS 704-396-7792
DIXIE	JAN	26	SR S&T EVALUATION	GATLINBURG, TN	TIM ASBURY 828-697-6188
VA	JAN	26	SENIOR S&T CLINIC	WINTERGREEN	JOHN SHAFFER 703-719-5945
WV	JAN	26	BASIC S&T EVALUATION	SNOWSHOE	BECKY SHARP 304-572-5695
WV	JAN	26	BASIC S&T EVALUATION	TIMBERLINE	STEVE CVECHKO 304-776-8540
DIV	JAN	26	CERT. CLINIC - OEC & MTN OPS	SNOWSHOE	BECKY SHARP 304-572-5695
VA	JAN	31,1	MNTN TRAVEL AND RESCUE I	TBA	BOB CHATMAN 410-721-0921
WV	FEB	1	SR S&T CLINIC	SNOWSHOE	BECKY SHARP 304-572-5695
WV	FEB	1	NORDIC SEMINAR	WHITEGRASS	PENNY DIMLER 703-425-2736
BR	FEB	1,2	SENIOR S&T EVALUATION	HAWKSNEST	RICK LAWS 704-396-7792
DIV	FEB	1-2	STUDENT SEMINAR WEEKEND	APPALACHIAN	DENNIS SLAGLE 919-528-9279
VA	FEB	1,2	CERTIFIED CLIN. ALL MODULES	WINTERGREEN	LESLIE CARTER 434-325-1262
WV	FEB	2	SENIOR S&T CLINIC	SNOWSHOE	DAVE CLINE 304-748-0336
WV	FEB	8	EMERGENCY MGMNT CLINIC	SNOWSHOE	JASON HALL 304-572-5493
DIV	FEB	8,9	CERT CLINIC - ALL MODULES	HAWKSNEST	BILL STYRES 828-252-3335
BR	FEB	9	EMERGENCY MGMNT EVAL	HAWKSNEST	HARVEY VARNER 336-785-4533
WV	FEB	9	SENIOR S&T CLINIC	TIMBERLINE	NATE WAGELEY 703-858-5618
DIXIE	FEB	9	DEEP SOUTH BASIC S&T EVAL.	SKY VALLEY, GA	STEVE WALDREP 828-654-8493
DIXIE	FEB	9	EMERGENCY MGMNT CLINIC	CATALOOCHEE,NC	LARRY ERB 828-645-4718

Region	Month	Date	Event	Location	Contact
VA	FEB	9	CERT CLINIC- OEC & MNTN OPS	MASSANUTTEN	B. DREWNOWSKI 540-289-4954
DIXIE	FEB	15-17	PRESIDENTS WEEKEND	NO ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULED
VA	FEB	22	EMERGENCY MNGMT EVAL	MASSANUTTEN	MARY GRAHAM 919-510-0850
BR	FEB	22	BASIC S&T EVALUATION	HAWKSNEST	RICK LAWS 704-396-7792
DIXIE	FEB	23	BASIC S&T AT GATLINBURG	GATLINBURG, TN	DAVE PARKER 770-751-7255
VA	FEB	23	SENIOR S&T EVALUATION	MASSANUTTEN	JOHN SHAFFER 703-719-5945
WV	FEB	22	BASIC S&T EVALUATION	WINTERPLACE	TOM WAGNER 304-469-8039
WV	FEB	23	SR S&T CLINIC	WINTERPLACE	TOM WAGNER 304-469-8039
WV	MAR	1	SR S&T EXAM	SNOWSHOE	BECKY SHARP 304-572-5695
VA	MAR	1	BASIC OEC EVALUATION	MASSANUTTEN	B. DREWNOWSKI 540-289-4954
BR	MAR	2	"BASIC"	APPALACHIAN	RICK LAWS 704-396-7792
DIXIE	MAR	2	EMERGENCY MNGMT EVAL	CATALOOCHEE,NC	LARRY ERB 828-645-4718
VA	MAR	2	BASIC S&T EVALUATION	MASSANUTTEN	B. DREWNOWSKI 540-289-4954
WV	MAR	8	EMERGENCY MNGMT EXAM	TIMBERLINE	STEVE CVECHKO 304-776-8540
DIXIE	MAR	9	MOUNTAIN TRAVEL & RESCUE	TBD	JOHN PARKER 828-648-1931
VA	MAR	9	PATROL COOKOUT	MASSANUTTEN	B. DREWNOWSKI 540-289-4954
DIXIE	MAR	15	AVALANCHE FUND. & RESCUE	WEST. CAROLINA U.	DENNIS SLAGLE 919-528-9279
VA	MAR	15	AVALANCHE FUND. & RESCUE	WINTERGREEN	BILL KOST 703-671-5678
WV	MAR	16	BASIC S&T EVALUATION	TIMBERLINE	STEVE CVECHKO 304-776-8540
DIV	MAR	21,22	CERTIFIED EVALUATION	SNOWSHOE	LESLIE CARTER 434-325-1262
DIV	MAY	3	OEC INSTRUCTOR SEMINAR	ROANOKE	WYNDHAM HOTEL 1-800-996-3426
DIV	MAY	3,4	SPRING CONVENTION/AWARDS	ROANOKE	WYNDHAM HOTEL 1-800-996-3426
DIV	AUG	16-17	FALL OFFICERS MEETING	WYTHEVILLE, VA	NICI SINGLETARY 434-325-1024

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Nordic Skier Enhancement Seminar Whitegrass, WV Feb. 1 & 2, 2003

- Ski Skills (Cross Country & Telemark) with a PSIA Level 3 Instructor
- Practice Toboggan Skills & Compass Skills
- Eat the best food in the Canaan Valley

Join us at the East Coast's renowned Nordic Ski Area, Whitegrass, WV, where patrollers will work together to sharpen all Nordic Ski Patrol skills. Patrollers can be evaluated on elements of the basic or senior Nordic S&T requirements if requested.

When: 8:30 am, Saturday, Feb. 1—9:00 am, Sunday, Feb. 2.

Where: Meet inside the Whitegrass Lodge

Lunch: On-the-trail. Bring your own or order the Whitegrass box lunch, \$8.

Dinner: Whitegrass Café. We are holding reservations until cob, Monday, Jan. 27.

Lodging: Motels in Davis, at the ski areas, lodges at the state parks. 1-800-782-2775

For Directions & Information about Whitegrass & Canaan Valley: www.whitegrass.com

Please RSVP by mail or e-mail with the following information:

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Nordic Skier Enhancement Seminar at Whitegrass Registration

Name: _____ NSP#: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Patrol: _____ Patrol Director: _____

Circle your Nordic status: candidate... or...auxiliary...or...basic...or...senior

Do you plan to join us for dinner? Yes ___ No ___

Mail or E-mail registration information to Penny Dimler: 4824 Ponderosa Drive, Annandale, VA 22003
penny01@cox.net; 703.425.2736

[The following notes are being reprinted from the NSP ENews Update — Ed.]

Steeper and Deeper

Rip it up and maybe learn a thing or two at NSP's **Powderfall**. Avalanche field sessions, toboggan enhancement, and of course, personal coaching from the **PSIA Demonstration Team** are all on the agenda. And if you need further incentive, consider the spectacular venue: **Snowbird, Utah**. Spending time with other patrollers from all across the country will certainly broaden your view, and the interchange of ideas and techniques will be valuable for yourself and your patrol. Space is limited, so [Login to NSP Member Services](#) to register on-line today!

Knock Three Times...

Alpine skiers will be thrilled with the latest offers from **Rossignol**, **Tecnica**, and **Nordica**. These additions to the Promotional Offers section of the NSP website are sure to brighten your season. [Login to NSP Member Services](#) where you'll find a "Promotional Offers" link in the left-hand column under Member Services.

Subaru VIP Program Goes Online.

Getting member pricing on any model new, unused Subaru has never been easier. You can now apply to the **Subaru VIP Program** directly through the NSP website. [Login to NSP Member Services](#), where you'll find a "Promotional Offers" link in the left-hand column under Member Services. Click on that link to access information about how to take advantage of this outstanding member benefit.

Expand Your Literary Horizons

Your association has worked out an agreement where you get seven great issues of **SKIING** magazine as part of your NSP membership. Things change, however, and you may want to change your address, contact customer service, or even cancel the subscription. If so, [Login to NSP Member Services](#), where you'll find a "Promotional Offers" link in the left-hand column under Member Services. You'll find a link to **SKIING** providing the details.

Are You Avvy Savvy?

The National Avalanche Foundation will conduct the **18th National Avalanche School**, October 26-31, 2003, at the Reno Hilton in Reno, Nevada. Long known for its comprehensive curriculum, the school offers instruction by the nation's top avalanche professionals. This course lasts six days and is only held every other year, so don't miss out. Start planning now to attend next year's school. For more information, visit www.avalancheschool.org or call (303) 987-1111.

**Southern Cross, National Ski Patrol
c/o Bob Weed
2609 Willena Dr, Huntsville, AL 35803**

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