



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

2006-2007, Number 2

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In This Issue

From Division Director	1
From the Assistants:	
Division Director Election ..	5
First Assistant	8
South Area	9
North Area	10
From the Regions:	
Virginia	11
Blue Ridge	12
Dixie	13
From Supervisors and Advisors:	
Instructor Development	14
Senior Program	14
Transport Program	15
Ski-Snowboard Program	17
OEC Program	17
Awards Program	19
Around The Division:	
'Lost Soul On The Slope'	26
Calendar / Sapphire Valley	27
NSP News	28

(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 Mid-Winter issue is May 21, 2007.

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Remember Who We Are and What We Represent.

Neil Booth, Division Director

Remember! As I think back to 1973, and the personal interview I had with my first Patrol Leader (now Representative), I still remember as if it were today, what my response was to his question of “why do you want to be a patroller”. To me, it was a very simple response. “I want to help those that have unfortunately hurt themselves attempting to enjoy the sport of skiing, something I truly love.” I felt that then, and I feel the same way today. Well, I guess I would have to change skiing to snow sliding now! I joined the patrol unit on December 31, 1972 and began my career in patrolling.



As years continued, things began to focus more. Who we are was realized almost immediately. We are a group of individuals that work as a cohesive unit to provide a vital service to our consumers. We all come from vast backgrounds and experiences, yet when we sign in for duty, we are all patrollers, nothing more, nothing less. We are there to serve resort management and the consumers that make the industry vibrant. As time went on, I began to understand the role of NSP in greater depth. NSP was the source that provided programs allowing patrollers to become the qualified persons they are. My first involvement with NSP leadership began in 1985, and with the exception of a 4-year hiatus, I

have been involvement until today. I learned the importance of Sections, Regions and Divisions. What I personally learned, in all levels, was the association is there to provide programs to members. What I personally learned, is what I stated to you when I became the Southern Division Director in 2003. *First*, there will be change! *Second*, changes occurring should be seamless and transparent to members. Changes should have occurred whereby no one really noticed the changes. The end result should simply be improved, more efficient results. I believe we accomplished this during my four-year tenure at the Division level and below. The Division Staff has worked hard to make sure this seamless approach occurred. I have also learned a lot about the National organization, but will save these stories for discussions around the bar and fire!

When it all boils down, what we represent to our members, patrols and resorts is very simple. We represent quality emergency services which including OEC and transportation skills to our guests. We are a self-teaching organization which also monitors our skill sets on an ongoing basis. Education also exists for individual patrolling skill sets like Instructor Development and classification advancements, just to mention a few. These skills are the most obvious outcome of what we do every time we patrol. However, as the industry has grown and matured, we are drawn into the areas of safety and risk management. It is no longer just first aid and transportation. We are the people on the slopes who continuously ensure the slopes are safe for snow enthusiasts. The ongoing monitoring of slope markings, crowd control, monitoring hazards that might develop throughout the day are just a few of the varied tasks we do. With our eyes constantly open, we look for areas of risk and advise management accordingly. None of us enjoy the policing we do, but it is part of being a patroller, something management and the public require of us.

Perhaps the biggest issue to all members across the U.S. is the challenge of customer service and relations. The consuming public in our industry comes to resorts with disposable dollars and it is the charge of everyone representing the resort, to make sure our guests have the best experience possible. This puts patrollers in a peculiar position, requiring special talents on behalf of everyone. We potentially deal with people who are injured, hurting, frustrated, angry and perhaps disappointed their recreational activities may have come to an end. This can be the result of an incident they had, done completely by themselves, or, it could be the result of someone else causing them to become injured. We have to deal with our own members perhaps being involved in an incident while attending to an injured person. One of our family members may be the injured, caused by the public! Whatever the situation is, patrollers have to stay calm and keep foremost in their thinking, these are our customers, the people enabling resorts to exist, and for members to continue as a part of this wonderful organization, fulfilling the very important mission of care, with their skills. So, this is what we represent at the end of each day. We represent ourselves, the patrol, the resort and industry to our sliding consumers, our customers. Think customer, the people enabling this

industry to exist. Think customer, enabling your resort to exist. Think customer which enable you to be a patroller and member. Without our customers, we have no purpose or existence. Treat customers with your best services and ensure they have a memorably experience, within your control.

As I begin winding down my final days as Southern Division Director, I hope everyone will continue to support my predecessor. Please review the candidacy letter from **Morgan Armstrong** in this publication. Continue to give your support to each other, our members, and to the entire organization, of which we all belong to.

It has indeed been a pleasure being the Southern Division Director for four year. Like everything, it is time for change. The one thing that will not change is the many friends and relationships I developed over the many years.

I want to personally acknowledge the fine efforts and work the entire staff of Southern Division has done these four years. Thank you Staff! You have been a tremendous asset to everyone, especially me.

Division Director comments as we move ahead:

Congratulations to **Larry Bost, Mark Rees, Barbara Dixon** and **Terry La Liberte**, the newest members to the National Board, serving a three year term.

Everyone should be aware that the past few years have been filled with much turmoil, above the division level. We are undergoing radical changes with our organizational leadership. We still have another year before the National Board will be fully seated. There is a tremendous amount of work before the leaders of the organization. They will need your thoughts and prayers as they move ahead.

The minutes for the National Board meeting should be posted shortly on the NSP website. The minutes cover all the topics during the January 5-6, 2007 Mid-Winter Meeting. I would like to advise you of a few outcomes:

- **National Immunity:** Morgan Armstrong developed and presented a proposal to the board, to proceed legislatively with work towards obtaining national immunity for members, instructors and resorts. A committee was charged, of which Morgan is a member, to begin developing a strategy towards making this a reality. As plans develop, you will be hearing greater detail. This is perhaps one of the biggest values that NSP can provide members, if approved. It is not an overnight process. It is anticipated that it could take upwards of 4 years to complete. Congratulation to Morgan for this concept and the tenacity to move it forward.

- **Opportunities to expand your services beyond NSP:** The National Board is working with several organizations attempting to enable our members to offer their talents and services to outside agencies such as the National Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) , chartered by Homeland Security after 911; the National Association of State Emergency Medical System Organization (NASEMSO), working with states in areas such as wild fires and mind rescues; Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), also under Homeland Security. These are organizations that are learning what we do and understanding how we can integrate those who want to volunteer their services to these local community organizations in dealing with emergencies that need additional resources to call up during national disasters.
- **Liability Insurance for members:** The National Board is working with one of the major carriers to explore opportunities whereby the entire membership could obtain insurance through a national blanket policy. This is a work in process, but being studied as we speak. This would be a program offer that would require all members to participate. The fee, still to be determined, would simply become a part of every members annual dues.
- **First Responder National Registry:** Work is being done for those wishing to potentially bridge from OEC to this national registry. A proposal is in the works for this 2-year certification. It requires 12 CEU every two year, of which the attendance of annual refreshers would count toward these 12 CEU. We spend in excess of 6 hours per year with OEC refreshers. The cost would be \$60 for the two years. This again is an option to members who desire to do so. This is a program that is above the First Responder, but not at the level of EMT-B. You will see more information as this potential program develops.

From the Division Election Coordinator...

**National Ski Patrol / Southern Division
2007 Division Director Election Qualification, Procedure & Schedule**

The following is from Lee Wittmann – Election Coordinator for the Southern Division:

The Election Coordinator received one nomination from the Division for Division Director – from Morgan Armstrong (currently First Assistant Division Director).

Ballots will be sent out electronically to the Patrol Representative for each Patrol to cast a vote electronically – directions will be sent to the PR's.

Attached are the following documents for the division patrollers:

- The nomination letter for Morgan Armstrong – from Richard Boyer with qualifications.
- The letter of interest from Morgan Armstrong.
- Acceptance Letter for Division Director Nomination

Any questions or comments can be directed toward Lee Wittmann at lwittmann@skybest.com.

**Richard H. Boyer, Jr.
4559 Collins Avenue
Acworth, Georgia 30101**

October 1, 2006

Lee T. Wittmann, Election Coordinator
Southern Division, National Ski Patrol
104 Rainbow's End
Beech Mountain, NC 28604

Dear Mr. Wittmann,

It is with considerable honor that I request the name of Morgan Armstrong be placed on the upcoming ballot for the election of Division Director, Southern Division of the National Ski Patrol.

I have known Morgan Armstrong for more than 10 years and have had the privilege of serving with him on the Southern Division Board of Directors for the past 5 years. He has an impeccable reputation and an uncanny life's balance. More than once he has served as the voice of reason and source of leadership in times of turmoil, confusion and in simple day to day situations.

Attached are two documents, one of which serves to confirm that Mr. Armstrong has agreed to run for this position and the other to outline his abundant qualifications for same.

Some of his accomplishments are:

1. Serving National Ski Patrol 25 years
2. OEC (and WEC) Instructor, Ski & Toboggan Instructor, Phase I & II Instructor, OEC and S&T Evaluator, Senior S&T Evaluator, Instructor of Record OEC
3. Leadership positions include:
 - a. 1988 & 1989 Chief of the Hill, Wintergreen
 - b. 1993 Patrol Leader Wintergreen
 - c. 1989-1994 Board of Directors Wintergreen Ski Patrol
 - d. 1995-1996 Section Chief
 - e. 1996-1999 Region Director
 - f. 2000-2006 1st. Assistant Division Director
4. Numerous Outstanding Leadership Awards, Certificates of Appreciation, Outstanding Patroller Awards from the patrol, the region, the division and national levels. Recipient of the Yellow Merit Star in 1994 and again for the ski season of 2002-2003
5. Attended many Powderfalls since 1995
6. Legal Advisor to Wintergreen as well as several Virginia Search and Rescue Squads and the Henry County SWAT Team
7. Former attorney and presently State of Virginia Judge for General District Court
8. College Professor, Patrick Henry Community College for 15 years

Morgan Armstrong really knows this Division from the ground up and it is with great confidence in his abilities that I request the placement of his name for nomination to the very important position of Division Director of the Southern Division of the National Ski Patrol in the elections to take place in 2007.

Sincerely,

Richard Boyer, Patroller
Cataloochee Ski Area
Maggie Valley, North Carolina
Assistant Division Director – South
Southern Division, National Ski Patrol

Attachments: 1. Letter of interest in the Division Director's position
2. NSP detail of accomplishments, classes, offices and awards

Letter of Interest

My name is Morgan Armstrong and I am interested in the position of Division Director for the Southern Division. I have been an active patroller for 25 years. I am a patroller at heart. I will continue to patrol to some extent if elected to this position, just as I have patrolled while serving in all of my previous officer positions. I believe patrolling for a certain number of days each year makes me a better officer.

I will however, be required to devote most of my time to the Division Director position. I will perform the duties to the best of my ability and I realize I will have to reduce (but not give up) patrolling. I will gladly make this sacrifice for as long as I believe the division needs my services and we are together accomplishing the work of the division and the National Ski Patrol System.

If you want me as Division Director, I ask from you two things. First, I request you commit your time and effort (as you are able) to make your patrol, your region and the division better. We need your help. Second, I ask you make your voice heard. Voice your opinion on any and all issues that concern you and of course be willing to listen to the solutions others present. I believe we can and should make division decisions as a unified group despite differences of opinion. Consider this carefully and if you agree with me I would appreciate your support not only for this vote, but your commitment and support throughout my term of office. If you do not agree with me on these two issues, you will favor me by not electing me as your Division Director.

Signed this the 24th day of October, 2006,

R. Morgan Armstrong

Post Office Box 699
Collinsville, VA 24078-0699
October 24, 2006

Mr. Lee T. Wittmann, Election Coordinator
104 Rainbow's End
Beech Mountain, NC 28604

RE: Acceptance Letter for Division Director Nomination

Dear Mr. Wittmann:

This is to confirm that if nominated I would run for the office of division director and if elected would serve as the Division Director for the Southern Division. Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,
R. Morgan Armstrong

From the Assistants...

R. Morgan Armstrong,
1st ADD, Southern Division

IMMUNITY PROPOSAL PASSES STEP ONE: The National Ski Patrol Board of Directors has approved the Immunity Proposal and has set up a work committee to begin preparation for submission to Congress and we hope having the bill passed. A great deal of legal work and checking how best to word the act so this will help the membership has yet to be done but we are hopeful that some day each volunteer member, instructor and the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. will enjoy a type of immunity for their charitable work. If you would like to become involved or might know a member of Congress, let me know.

END OF YEAR REPORT: Each Patrol Representative is reminded that March is the month for submission of your End of Year Report on how the patrol has done this ski season. It would seem the “days patrolled” might be short this year but if the weather returns to a normal cycle, we could have a fairly typical year. If you are not familiar with the form and how to submit it, please give me a call or send me an email and I will walk you through the steps. Last year every single patrol filed a report and we hope this year we can have 100% compliance for two years in a row. Please check your math so the totals are accurate. We have had reports in the past that said 5 candidates, 10 basics and 5 seniors equal 25 total members. I will need to give you a call to figure out what needs to be corrected if the totals do not add up. Help me out on this one and the reports will get into the division and home office much quicker. ***Remember the final deadline is April 1, 2007.***

Each Program Supervisor is reminded you also should send in an End of Year Report on what your goals for the ski season were and if you accomplished your goals. We would also appreciate a brief summary on how you accomplished your goals or if they are still considered by you to be “work in progress.” Program Supervisors should send in your reports in March and the final due date is April 1, 2007.

ADMINISTRATION CHANGE: The Division Director is about to change and when that happens it gives officers a chance to change and try new jobs. It also is an opportunity for patrollers who desire to get more involved in the region and division to let their desires be known. If you would like to take on a leadership role in the region or division in a line officer or program position, please let me know and also copy any of the Southern Division Assistant Division Directors or Program Supervisors. This will get your name in front of the people who are looking for help in any of the given areas. We have many jobs and are always looking for help to make the division better.

MY OPINION OF THE NSP: There has been a lot of concern over the past several years on the health of the National Ski Patrol. I attended the Mid-winter Meeting in Lakewood and was very happy to see how the Division Directors from each of the divisions worked in concert with each other. The Board and Directors are involved in the three areas of NSP life. The three areas are reflected in the committees on governance, planning and finance. Each committee is comprised of three board members and the committees have direct conference meetings with the division directors. Any patroller is welcome to sit in on all board meetings and make comments with one exception (the closed executive meeting). All organizations have the need for this type of closed meeting but it was used only once while I attended. The meetings are open and ideas are exchanged freely. The Southern Division is blessed with **Larry Bost** and **Mark Rees** on the National Board and our division should be very proud of our leadership role in forming the new direction of the National Ski Patrol. I believe we are about to see a great opportunity for the NSP to excel in many areas of charity work and each of us should be proud but also ready to take on the work we feel is so important. The only thing that will hold us back is the limit of our imagination.

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS: Comcast has purchased Adelphia Cable so my email has changed slightly. Please note the new address: rmasp@comcast.net.

R. Morgan Armstrong,
1st Assistant Division Director

Richard Boyer,
Assistant Division Director – South Area

North Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama are well into our 2006-2007 ski season and the skiing is great. Cataloochee was one of the first ski areas (if not the first) to open East of the Mississippi in November of 2006. Although weather has made staying open a challenge for many of our areas, the season is in full bloom and crowds have been plentiful.

This refresher segment was successful and reports I got were appreciative of the NSP refresher program, as usual. I have been watching the ski patrols in Colorado as they care for injuries during the popular X-Games being held in Aspen this year. It is with considerable pride that I look on as they tend to the hurt competitors right on national TV. I am proud of our organization and all it does off screen that the public doesn't see each day of the winter ski season year after year. We perform a very important function so that many millions are able to enjoy winter sports, knowing if they get hurt the NSP will get them to proper medical help. The management of many ski mountains are dependant on our levels of service.

To that end, I'd like to comment on substitution. Most of us have other lives besides that of being a NSP first responder. These lives sometimes mandate that we cannot serve when we're scheduled and it is necessary to make arrangements for someone to take our place. I'd like to remind all of us that when this happens it is absolutely necessary in most of our areas that the patroller find who is going to stand in their stead and communicate this to their team leaders prior to their duty day. On weekends, management depends on us to be there for their customers. If we cannot be there a call by email or telephone asking just anyone available or who just happens to be at the area to substitute for them is not enough! A specific and equal substitute is necessary and that must be lined up, committed to and communicated to your team. Not doing this is a severe breach of our responsibility and is unacceptable! If you cannot be there when scheduled you must find someone who can be, or you will be letting down your fellow teammates and possibly the management of your ski mountain. Please adhere to this with no exceptions.

Let's make this a stellar year and continue the great service the NSP performs to our fellow snow sports enthusiasts.

Notes From The North...

Jan Starr

Assistant Division Director – North Area

I am looking out the window on one of the few days this season so far that it is snowing! Global warming has been upon us this season thus far with sunny days in the 50's but cold enough most nights to make snow. Our blessings on the snowmakers that have made it possible for us to slide down the hill.



Even with the mild weather, we still have a commitment to ourselves, new patrollers and to our guests to make our best better with training. Check the calendar in this issue (*on the web-site*) to see when there is a training seminar near you. Even better, participate in one at another area other than your home area. First aid seminars don't need snow to happen. Skiing/riding in a training seminar at another area will give you an opportunity to learn new procedures that other areas use. In both of these disciplines you meet new people that have the same interests that you have – skiing/riding and the love of the sport that gives us all a common ground.

Congratulations to the new National Board representatives from our Division. Their goal should be the same as all patrollers. To better themselves and our system. We have an organization we should be proud of.

Let's hope winter is going to visit us all in February and March with lots of cold and snow to get us through the season. Hope to see you on the hill soon.

Jan

From the Regions...

Virginia Region

Bill Smith
Virginia Region Director

Virginia News



Since early December, Mother Nature has tried to get the best of us here in Virginia by sending warm weather and rain our way. As I write this article, our areas have mostly survived the thaws and are finally beginning to recover with the arrival finally of some cold weather.

This season, a great deal of emphasis is being placed on training throughout the region. There are many great opportunities for patroller's to gain new knowledge and skills in order to better serve their patrol and area.

Four refresher programs were held in Virginia this year giving everyone an opportunity to complete that requirement in a convenient manner. Between **Peg Harris** and myself, we managed to get to each of them and I must say the folks involved in putting those programs together and those assisting in conducting them, did a really GREAT JOB!!! My personal thanks to each of the IOR's and Instructor's that were involved.



Smith and Booth were on hand to present Bartek Drewnowski his recently awarded National Appointment.

At the Massanutten Refresher in October, **Bartek Drewnowski** was surprised and honored with a National Appointment for his hard work within their patrol, the region and the division. A hardy "CONGRATULATION's" to Bartek!!!

Candidate classes are progressing nicely with final evaluations scheduled a little later in the season. Out of these classes, a whole new crop of patrollers will have been grown.

The Virginia Senior program appears to be very strong this year with at least 6-8 candidates scheduled for the various clinics and evaluations that will be held in late January and late February. This year, Bryce Mountain will host the Senior Emergency Management Clinic and Wintergreen will handle the S&T Clinic. Then in late February, evaluations will be held at Massanutten. **“T” Harris** is the Shepard and contact person for the Virginia Region program this year. Please see the Regional Calendar for contact information.

Additionally, several other educational programs will be offered in the coming weeks. They include: a Toboggan Enhancement Seminar on January 27th; a Skier Enhancement Seminar on January 28th; the Certified Clinic’s that include: Operations, OEC and S&T on February 3rd & 4th at Massanutten; a Skier Enhancement Seminar on February 11th at Massanutten; and finally a Avalanche Fundamentals & Rescue course, March 10th at Wintergreen. Check the calendar for further information on these and the programs mentioned above and be sure to sign up early. Also, don’t just show up at a Clinic or Exam if you have not signed up ahead of time. This is very important as we need to have the appropriate resources and staff on hand to handle the number of personnel we are expecting. Your cooperation with this request is greatly appreciated.

Under the leadership of **Meggan Monaghan**, and with active support from recent candidates **Paul & Debbie Gagon**, and **Britton Wood**, Wintergreen has revived its **Youth Patroller** program for the 2006-2007 season. Open to strong skiers and riders ages 10 - 14, the program is designed to give interested kids a real flavor for all the different aspects of patrolling. The Youth Patrollers are recognized by arm bands, and are accompanied on the hill by members of the Patrol. They'll spend eight weekends learning about the history of the NSP, some first aid skills and CPR, as well as spending time with our lifts department, snow-making and groomers. And when conditions are appropriate, they'll come out early and learn about opening the mountain and about snow safety. We're excited about this program as a way to get our local kids interested early in patrolling!

Blue Ridge Region

Mike Harris

Blue Ridge Region Director



After a few fits and starts at our instructor refresher, Grandfather and Carolina Highland Sections had two of the best refreshers ever. I was proud for our first Assistant Division Director, **Morgan Armstrong**, to witness first hand the interaction and camaraderie of our four patrols working together. In spite of the slow start to this season and the postponement, **David Hall**

and Beech Mountain hosted an enthusiastic and informative Toboggan Enhancement Seminar December 17th. Eighteen patrollers from all four mountains had a great experience. At the writing of this article other postponements loom on our calendar. Cold weather is arriving in the High Country. **Lisa Adams** and **David Hall** are working hard to get the senior clinic, basic and senior evaluations coordinated, snow conditions permitting.

What a region we have. We have two members on the National Board of Directors. Congratulations to **Mark Rees** and **Larry Bost**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Beech, Appalachian, Hawksnest and Sugar Mountain Patrols for the opportunity to represent you as Region Director. You have all made me a part of your own patrol over the past few years. That is something I will never forget. With the election of the Division Director, there will be a new regime and I hope we will all give them our full support.

Mike Harris



Dixie Region

Brent Bowman
Dixie Region Director



Well, I guess my comment in the last newsletter about hoping for an Early Ski season was on the mark for some of the Dixie Region. Cataloochee was off to a great start with an opening date of Nov 4. Others opened for a short while in December until the 70-degree temperatures hit around Christmas. Now that winter is back, everyone is making snow and we are gearing up to “start” our season.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel some of the early January clinics. These are being re-scheduled as I write this. The Senior EMM program will be holding a clinic January 21 at Cat and by the time this prints we should have held the Senior S&T Clinic. Remember it is NEVER too late to sign up for the Senior program. This is a GREAT way to hone some of the skills that those of us who are not in the medical profession do not usually use. Also, coming up in April is PowderFall. If you have never gone then you are truly missing out. There is no better way to ski Snowbird, Utah then with 8-10 patrollers from around the country and a PSIA Demo Team Instructor for 3 days of VERY personalized instruction.

See you on the hill..... BRENT

From the Supervisors and Advisors...

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

Ann Wood,
Instructor Development Supervisor

There will be an instructor development course at Appalachian Ski Mountain Area Saturday, 14 April at 9:00am. Everyone is asked to bring a sandwich for lunch. The **INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE** covers the various areas of instruction and how instructors can apply them to create a positive learning experience for their students. It helps build a strong foundation of educational knowledge for use when planning and delivering lessons. The general information covered in Instructor Development is applicable for all potential NSP instructors, regardless of instructional specialty. Students should order their own book, #502: [Instructor Development, Training the Adult Learner](#). For those wishing to attend, please contact awood@ptcog.org to register.

This is also a Senior Elective!

Senior ...Senior Program...Senior Program...Senior Program...Senior Program...Senior

GO FOR IT!!!

Dave Quidort,
Division Senior Coordinator

Snow and Cold weather have arrived, Yeah..... Most of us are trying to get our ski legs back and working at our own areas. There is also another item that we all need to work on and that is improving ourselves as patrollers. Most of us attend the refreshers, get out and run a few sleds for check off or as part of our normal duty. We all as patrollers should be looking for ways to advance our skills. One of those opportunities is the Senior program.

I just finished this past weekend attending two Senior events, I can say that everyone had a great time, laughed some, worked very hard and learned from each other. I think that last comment is one of the driving factors within the Senior program. Since Senior is a Division program we all get to work with other Patrollers from areas outside of our own. It is this interaction that we all grow and

expand our skills, not only those that are working on Senior; the Instructor Trainers also gain exposure to new ideas.

I have said this before and I will continue to say, Senior is something that is earned over time. There is a wealth of ideas and experiences that we all can tap into by working with others from different areas. The Senior program offers that opportunity to everyone. I encourage everyone to seek out opportunities.

We have been working very hard to unify the Senior EMM portion of the program, by having additional training for the Instructor Trainers. They have been attending clinics and exchanging their own ideas learning from each other. The learning never stops.

If you are a Basic or Auxiliary, I encourage you to go for Senior. We all will benefit from the learning and interactions that occur when working with others outside of our own area.



Transport ...Transport Program...Transport Program...Transport Program...Transport

Tony Tingle,
Division Transport Supervisor

Well it looks like old man winter has finally decided to visit the Southern Division and stay for a while. As a result of the late start (or intermittent start) to the season, training, evaluations, and clinics have been juggled in the schedule and the transportation folks in your Region are adapting, as ski patrollers do. I would like to commend the transportation folks and the mountains for working with an already full schedule to fit in clinics, training, and evaluations as best they can.

Senior Ski and Toboggan tests are a-comin'. And I've had a lot of questions raised by patrollers on the changes in the transportation program, as it relates to this evaluation. I'll try to answer some of them here. If you have a question, that I don't get to or if you need further clarification, please drop me a line. Here we go!

How does the Transportation program support these tests? The short answer is, by providing a set group of instructors (ten in each Region) to the Senior Coordinator in each Region.

Why the change? The responsibility of putting on the Senior Evaluation is placed in the hands of the Senior Coordinator. That way, one person knows who all the Senior Candidates are and can track them through the emergency management, ski, and transportation parts of the evaluation. As a result, the Senior Evaluation is no longer solely put on by the Region Transportation Administrator. This person now is responsible for maintaining a core group of evaluators, from which, ten are selected to grade the Senior Evaluation.

Why Ten evaluators? We pulled that one out of the air and it seemed like a good number to start with. This number can be adjusted up or down as necessary.

Is this group of ten evaluators set in stone? Absolutely not, these folks are looked at by the Division Senior Coordinator, Region Senior Coordinator, Region Transportation Administrator, Region Director, and Me each season. I do not foresee the entire group turning over every year, but people need a break, for one reason or another, so I'd expect to see some new faces in the group of ten each year. Actually, the Region Senior Coordinator is the catalyst to create change in the group. This person actually runs the show for the Senior Test. Evaluators will be asked to rotate in and out of this group as the time goes by.

If I'm not in the group of ten evaluators, does that mean that I can't help with the Senior Evaluation? Not being in the group selected to grade the evaluation means that you are not grading and providing feedback on the scores. Other help is usually needed so check with the Senior Coordinator in your Region to see where you can help.

If I'm not in the group of ten evaluators, does this mean that I'm not an evaluator anymore? Absolutely not! If you are not among evaluators selected to grade the Senior Test, you are still an evaluator. There are Basic Tests (if your Region or Mountain does them) and you are still in the pool of folks that are tapped to staff the group used for the Senior Test. AND Please remember as a transportation instructor your PRIMARY function is TRAINING of candidates and members and (if you choose to do so) your SECONDARY function is examination. Think of it as 95% training and 5% examination. So, in that time you are not one of the ten senior evaluators, Train, Train, Train. We all get better because of your work!

I hope this answers some of the questions about the changes for the Transportation folks involved with the Senior Program. If you have any questions or comments, drop me an e-mail.

Think Cold.....Think Snow!

Ski..Ski-Snowboard..Ski-Snowboard..Ski-Snowboard..Ski-Snowboard...Snowboard

John Shaffer,
Ski and Snowboard Director

The COLD and snow god's have not been good to us this season, but I hear that the ski and snowboard instructors/trainers have still been working hard to get candidate training done. It's hard to master new turns when you have to jump from white spot to white spot. But it's just got to make you better, right?

Just who is it that is training you or assisting you in your skiing and snowboarding improvement? Your local patrol trainer in most cases is also a member of the NSP Southern Division Ski & Snowboard School. These instructors have gone thru training and testing by the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) or the American Association of Snowboard Instructors (AASI). The division's goal is to have all instructors at level II. It normally takes a minimum of 3 years to reach level II, with many hours of practice and preparation and a minimum of 3 two day tests (both skiing and teaching).

Several instructors have signed up to continue their certification progression with level II ski testing to be done at Wintergreen in March. We wish them the best as they continue to improve their skills and learn how to better work and teach you.

Think COLD, Think WHITE.

OEC Program...OEC...OEC...OEC...OEC...OEC...OEC...OEC...OEC Program

Leslie Carter,
OEC Supervisor

Southern Cross Article.....HMMM... where to start.....For those of you who don't know me I feel an introduction is in order:

SKI PATROL HISTORY:

- Learned to ski in Massachusetts when I was 8 (participated in local "Learn to Ski Program" held every Wednesday after school). Leather lace up boots, cable bindings, ski pants from Sears Roebuck – you get the picture.
- Joined NSP 1973, while I was in High School - parents did it – not really a choice – wore solid blue coat with gold cross – tractor PTL's hauling rope tows, T-Bars & Poma Lifts.
- Hung in there through college, marriage, graduate school, kids, corporate transfers...
- Passed Senior in 1989

- Invited to try my hand at Certified in 1990 – passed in 1993 – knew more than I thought I did. Asst. Program Supervisor 1999-2002, Program Supervisor 2002-2005. Wrote Southern Division Certified Policies & Procedures Manual currently in use.
- Paid / Volunteer Experience – Volunteer 1972–1986, Full-time Paid 1986-1995, Paid/Volunteer 1995-present. Currently part-time paid with Massanutten Ski Resort, VA .
- OEC Instructor Experience –American Red Cross Instructor in mid 1970’s, OEC Instructor 1989 – present, OEC Instructor Trainer 2001-present

PERSONAL:

- Husband – Glenn (non-skier)
- Children/Step Children – Erin (23 & patroller), Conor (21), Wes (29), Gretchen (27)
- Grandchildren – Piper (2), Lily (3 months)
- Job that pays the Mortgage – Office Manager , Glenn R. Carter Plumbing LLC
- Fun things I like to do – gardening, off-shore fishing (we have a boat), reading, sewing
- Things I REALLY enjoy - Single malt Scotch, a warm fire, friends to share the Scotch with!

REASON I AGREED TO TAKE ON THIS POSITION: One of the things that has made my various jobs in NSP challenging is a lack of “task specific” information – what do I do, when do I do it, and who gets the paperwork ???

GAME PLAN:

- Develop Organizational Chart for Southern Division OEC Program (**DONE**)
- Assign accountability to specific positions on Organizational Chart (**DONE**)
- Staff (**IN PROGRESS**)
- Train (**IN PROGRESS**)

CURRENT STATUS SOUTHERN DIVISION OEC PROGRAM:

- All Cycle B Refreshers and “make-up” Refreshers complete
- OEC Classes – on going
- 1st Draft “training” manual developed for Regional Administrators(ROA) and Instructor Trainers (IT) including previous Instructor Trainer Draft Material and specific forms for various IT tasks
- Regional Administrator (ROA) Positions – **FILLED**
- Instructor Trainer – Primary Assignments made in all Regions, ongoing assignments being re-visited as season progresses. Training provided in VA

Region, WV Region (except Timberline), schedule pending for Timberline, Blue Ridge Region and Dixie Regions.

PENDING PROJECTS:

- Complete Staffing and training prior to 2007 Refreshers
- 2007 Instructor Update – topics so far: Power Point Presentations, How to be a Mentor, Risk Management, Build-a-Scenario, IOR Round Table- would like to have 1 or 2 more so email your ideas to me at CARTRPLMBG@aol.com
- Plan “B” for those Instructor’s who are required to attend the Officer’s Meeting and cannot attend the break out sessions (more on this in the Spring Edition of Southern Cross)
- Plan “B-1” for those unable to attend Instructor Update (more on this in the Spring Edition of Southern Cross)

AND ON THE HORIZON... A new OEC book is in the works, due 2008. Currently seeking input regarding content – see email address above & put OEC Book in the subject line.

So that’s a pretty good summary of where we stand at the moment. I want to remind everyone of our commitment to a “Standard of Training” and to let you know that I perceive my job as providing YOU with the information and resources to do your job.

And finally, don’t try to reach me on Tuesday until the end of March – I’ll be skiing....feel free to join me.

Leslie Carter

[Annual Southern Division Awards](#)

Peg Harris,
Awards Supervisor

This article is being written to honor the Southern Division awards recipients who were unable to attend the annual awards banquet held back in August. The recipients are not announced in the fall edition of the Southern Cross in order for them to be presented with their award without prior knowledge of getting the award. So without further discussion, here they are along with their letters of nomination.

Judith Kay-Monaghan

Meritorious Service Award

The strength of the National Ski Patrol lies in its members and their dedication to each other, and to the skiing public they serve. Having made this statement, I can affirm without question that no patroller lives this commitment better than the individual I now support! From the day she joined the NSP, this nominee has demonstrated an energy and responsibility rarely matched by others in our organization.

Using her imagination as a first year patroller in Europe in 1987, she developed a pilot program for the then new Winter Emergency Care curriculum that earned her a Yellow Merit Star. She moved back to the US in 1988, joined the Wintergreen Patrol, and immediately assumed a full weekend patrolling role. Her efficiency, dependability and people skills were soon recognized, and she was placed in patrol leadership roles early on. In 1989, this individual became an OEC Instructor, and soon after, a Division OEC Instructor Trainer, all the while establishing herself as an award winning “Chief of the Hill” at Wintergreen. While an OEC IT, she participated with several other instructors in her region to form one of the most dynamic Phase I/Phase II instructing teams the NSP has known! Her dedication to her fellow patrollers moved up several notches in 1999 when she became the OEC Supervisor for the Southern Division. In this demanding position until 2006, her creativity, determination, and hard work have brought our division NSP flagship program to prominence across the country. This nominee always has a set of clear cut goals, and moves toward them with a singleness of purpose. She has the professional competence to know what to do, the tireless conviction to decide to do it, and the dynamic leadership qualities to inspire others to get it done. A single mother working as a fitness administrator, this devotion to the search of excellence has been carried out with a continued full commitment to her two patrolling children and her local patrol.

Service was not this individual’s only motivation. She also supported the NSP through frequent attendance at the National Education Conference Powderfall, volunteering as a CPR Instructor/Instructor Trainer for multiple disciplines, and volunteering as an Olympic Patroller in 1996 in Atlanta. She inspires the skiing public and her fellow patrollers with an infectious enthusiasm that elicits the cooperation and support of others. Her desire for self improvement culminated when she became a Senior Patroller, and was eventually recognized with a National Appointment in 2001!

Patroller, Instructor, Supervisor, Marketing Executive, and Mother – this woman has done it all – and with enthusiasm and excellence. It is with great pride and admiration that I nominate her for a Meritorious Service Award!

National Appointments Recipients

Since joining the NSP as a candidate, it has been evident to all that the individual recommended for this National Appointment has displayed an enthusiasm and willingness to learn and teach that was something special! After only two years of patrolling, he entered the Certified Program and became the youngest patroller in the Southern Division to attain certified status.

His hard work did not go unnoticed by his resort patrol staff and area management, and within the same two years, this dedication resulted in his promotion to Assistant Patrol Director. Given the new and more demanding responsibilities, his leadership skills flourished. This individual has always, without question, jumped in whenever the resort or patrol needed help. Whether it was teaching OEC, toboggan, lift evac or snowmobile safety, or actively making snow or slope grooming, his heart has always been directed toward helping his resort be the best it can be.

These efforts were further rewarded six years ago when he became the Patrol Director at his area. Later, from 2003 to 2005 he took on the additional responsibilities of becoming his patrol’s NSP Patrol Representative.

This patroller's growth however has not only been channeled locally. His energy and enthusiasm for the Division Certified Program is evident at the many clinics and evaluations he has participated in as the program assistant supervisor. The Division certified program director stated to me that "Bartek has been very active in the program, clinics and exams ever since becoming certified. He is truly an asset to the program."

His appointment as Professional Director of the Southern Division in 2003 recognized the respect he has garnered from the Division leadership and his industry peers

*In 2004, the Southern Division was proud to honor **Bartek Drewnowski** as its Outstanding Paid Patroller. Adding to that honor, he went on to become the runner up as the National Outstanding Paid Patroller and was awarded a Silver Star for that accomplishment.*

Since becoming the Virginia Region Director several years ago, I have always found Bartek to be a very personable, high energy and helpful individual. His dedication, passion and joy of skiing and what it brings for his patrol and the skiing public is very evident to all that interact with him. Over these past years he has consistently assisted me with the delivery of educational programs for the region while still finding time to perform his day to day responsibilities to his patrol and local ski area. Bartek's leadership at all levels has indeed been a model for others to follow

Finally, it is indeed my sincere pleasure and I am extremely proud to recommend Bartek Drewnowski for a National Appointment.

Sincerely,

*Bill Smith
William C. Smith
National Appointment #10268*

*Attached for your review is a National Appointment Nomination for **Cathy LaMarre**. It is my pleasure to nominate someone so deserving of recognition by her peers. During this nominee's 16 year ski patrol career, she has consistently served NSP in leadership roles, both to her home patrol and to the Region/Division. As an OEC Instructor, she has:*

- taught 10 OEC courses as Instructor of Record*
- certified over 100 Blue Ridge Region Candidates in OEC*
- served as IT 4 years*
- served as Regional Supervisor 2 years*
- named Regional Outstanding Instructor 3 times*
- named Division Outstanding Instructor in 2000*
- named NATIONAL Outstanding Instructor in 2000*
- served on the NATIONAL OEC 3rd Edition Re-Write Committee*

Her OEC activities alone makeup a nice resume, but Cathy does not stop with OEC. She has also served:

- as Assistant PD*
- as PD*
- as Division Archivist Historian*
- as Toboggan Instructor/Examiner*
- as Patrol Basic Candidate Coordinator (the worst job on the patrol and she does a stellar job of it).*

The above speaks volumes about her dedication to the NSP. Cathy freely volunteers her time to NSP and deserves recognition for her hard work. Considering the National impact of her career (served on the 3rd Edition OEC Rewrite Committee AND was recognized as National Outstanding Instructor), she more than meets the qualification standard.

I have always heard that a National Appointment should not be handed out easily, or given prematurely. In the case of this nominee, she exceeds the qualification standard and an award is well overdue. NSP is fortunate to have an individual of Cathy's caliber who is willing to devote countless hours to an organization she loves.

*Sincerely,
Ben Fox, Jr., National # 10264*

.....

Blue and Yellow Merit Star Recipients

*On Saturday March 4, 2006, Catalooche ski patrollers **Ric Lavallee** and **Frank Cooper** were summoned from their patrol aide room to the resort office, to evaluate a man with chest pain. Upon arrival, Ric immediately recognized the signs of cardiac stress in the patient -- a 65yo male, sitting in a chair – profuse sweating, pallor, extreme difficulty breathing, weak rapid pulse, and the symptom of severe chest pain. EMS was called immediately, and high flow O2 started by non-rebreather mask. Vital signs at this time were: BP--160/120, pulse--128 and thready, and respirations labored and shallow. The patient was moved to the floor as his condition appeared to deteriorate. Ric Lavallee grabbed the AED from its location adjacent to the resort office, and the pads were applied as a precaution. O2 was maintained and the vitals monitored. Patroller Joan Boyer arrived to assist, and was positioned at the patient's head to observe his breathing pattern and check the carotid pulse. About four minutes later, the patient suffered a cardiac arrest, demonstrated by an unobtainable pulse, a cessation of breathing, and a purple/red/blue skin color. The AED was activated, and after the first rhythm analysis, a shock was advised and administered. Over the next minute the patient was somewhat combative but slowly began to respond. The AED leads were left in place, and the vital signs and patient's general condition monitored continuously. Approximately five minutes passed, and the man slowly became verbally responsive as his O2 saturation gradually improved. EMS arrived about 20 minutes after the cardiac arrest and the patient's care was transferred to the ALS team. While in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, the patient arrested several more times and was successfully converted, but eventually died before reaching the hospital.*

*Patrollers **Ric Lavallee**, **Frank Cooper** and **Joan Boyer** acted in the finest tradition of the National Ski Patrol that Saturday afternoon. I am therefore proud to present Ric Lavallee and Frank Cooper with Blue Merit Stars and Joan Boyer with a Yellow Merit Star in appreciation for their outstanding use of emergency care skills on March 4, 2006 at the Catalooche Ski Resort, Maggie Valley, North Carolina!*

.....

Ric Lavallee Outstanding Alpine Patroller

The next patroller we honor transferred to the Catalooche Patrol in 2001 from Thredbo Australia and Lake Louise Canada. He obtained his PSIA Level III certification in 1990 and had been an Alpine Canadian Level I Race Coach since 1988. He has completed the Senior S&T and Senior OEC, and Instructor Development programs since transferring to our patrol. He has taught toboggan and ski enhancement courses at his home resort as well as at other ski resorts in the Southern Division (Wolf Laurel and Gatlinburg). This year he organized a Snowboard Enhancement Seminar in

refresher cycle. All this makes the nominee a total asset to the division. This is an extremely important administrative function for the entire NSP system. Yes, someone has to do it and this someone is the Nominee!

Last, and in closing, Nominee is a confidant to me, and others within the division. It simply does not end here however. If there is something that needs a person with attention to detail, this is the person that can be relied upon. If you want to assign a project to someone and be totally confident that the project will be handled from start to finish, and on time, this is the person that can be relied upon. When division administrative manuals need to be printed and bound, this is the individual that does all the work to get it done. I am sure I have forgotten other accomplishments, which make this nominee deserving of the National Outstanding Administrative Award in our system.

I request the national awards judges consider this nominee as the best of the best. I hope this nominee receives this award, not because I want it, but simply because nominee has earned it.

Michael Benbow Outstanding Paid Patroller

The individual we honor next completed his third year as a paid ski patroller this season. His commitment and dedication are highly commendable. He is a full time college student, majoring in Business Management, and is on track to graduate with a bachelor's degree this spring.

Our honoree was a member of our volunteer patrol for several years before he became a paid patroller. When he decided to further his education in the mountains, he was a natural to move into the paid ranks of the patrol. During his tenure as a paid patroller he has become a senior level patroller and consistently contributed to the training of volunteer and paid patrollers. This season he acted as my assistant training officer to aid in the ski, sled and OEC training for the entire patrol. He would come in on the weekends to patrol as a volunteer and aid in the scheduled training. When we adopted a training model that required the training staff to be on the mountain prior to opening he was there. Numerous times he was on the hill prior to 7:30 to set up for training or other events taking place at the mountain that day.

As a member of the paid staff, he has continually set the example by being on time, watching for areas that needed attention and taking the appropriate action. This patroller is the type that does not wait for someone to direct him but seeks out areas that need attention. He demonstrates leadership by examining the methodology used to operate the mountain and the ski patrol, and communicates his suggestion to the appropriate person. He always looks for better ways for the patrol to meet management's expectations. He continually fosters better interdepartmental relationships by trying to understand the operations of all areas of the mountain.

It is a pleasure for me to present the 2005 Southern Division Outstanding Paid Patroller Award, along with a Yellow Merit Star, to **Michael Benbow!**

Chuck Quillian of Wolf Laurel received the Runner Up Outstanding Paid Patroller award.

Chelsea Baker Outstanding Student

It is indeed a pleasure to honor this student as the Southern Division Outstanding Student Patroller. In only her second year of patrolling, this individual was actively involved this season in her area candidate training program. She attended forty-two ski training sessions and a toboggan

enhancement seminar. Her peers have found her to be an outstanding professional, and a great supporter of the National Ski Patrol. Her Patrol Rep's observations have revealed that this young woman is a very caring patroller -- one who wishes to see every candidate succeed while learning to provide the very best emergency care possible. She demonstrates a real eagerness to continue her training and enhance her own Outdoor Emergency Care skills. To do this, she attended and helped teach almost every OEC class last fall. She spent extra time outside of regular patrolling hours to work with individual candidates who needed help. This individual is always the first patroller on the mountain when she volunteers. With so much enthusiasm, she grabs the drill and is first on the hill to do all the work.

*It is with pleasure that I now present the 2006 Southern Division Outstanding Student Patroller Award, along with a Yellow Merit Star, to **Chelsea Baker!***

***Jessica Butler** of Wintergreen received the Runner Up Outstanding Student award.*

***Jay Matula** of Wintergreen received the Runner Up Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller award.*

***Chris Cuthbert** of Wintergreen received the Runner Up Outstanding Instructor award.*

It is such a pleasure to present these awards to such deserving patrollers. I am hoping that the upcoming awards season will once again be just as exciting.

LOST SOUL ON THE SLOPE

As I look down from on top this slope,
My face is pale; I have no hope.
The ice is blue, the moguls clear.
I would jump right in, except for fear.

So here I wait as I freeze to death,
Afraid to move – can only watch my breath.
Now I bow my head and quietly say,
“Lord help me down, that’s all I pray.”

My prayer is done so I continue the wait,
No answer received; I’m resigned to my fate.
My life is over, no saving grace,
This icy slope will be my final resting place.

Hypothermia over me now does creep,
My limbs won’t move, I want to sleep.
When suddenly I hear a patroller say,
“Don’t stand on the bunny slope, you’re blocking the way.”

Dedicated to RCA
Christmas 2006 by
Morgan Armstrong

Southern Division Calendar

Please refer to the Division Website for updated schedules!

www.nsp.org/divisions/Southern/cross.htm

There have been many changes in the schedule due to weather – please check the calendar and/or with your patrol representative / Region Director for the most up-to-date changes.

Sapphire Valley News

To all Patrol Reps:

We want to welcome **Justus Baird** as the new Patrol Representative at Sapphire Valley. Justus has been a member since 1994 and been a member of Scaly Mountain, until they closed; Sky Valley, until they closed and has worked with the Sapphire patrol for the last two years before assuming this role as PR. Welcome and congratulations to Justus.

Neil

PS: Don't worry, Sapphire has a contractual obligation to provide skiing to property owners so this resort should not close. Justus has the advantage of knowledge with three patrols and how they function. This is something most do not have.

Here is his contact information:

Justus Baird
5305 Skidaway Drive
Alpharetta, Ga. 30222

(H/O) 770-343-8990

jbaird@mindspring.com

Notes from NSP.org / eNews from 12-04-06

<http://www.nsp.org>

Avalanche Transceiver Battery Warning

Mike Laney, national Avalanche Program director, would like to remind all owners of avalanche transceivers to use only battery types specified by your transceiver manufacturer. Not all batteries deliver power the same way, and new battery technologies have emerged for the electronics market, especially for digital cameras and other high-drain devices. Using one of these new battery types in your transceiver may result in irregular performance. It's just common sense not to tinker with something when your life depends on it.

New CPR Certification Approved for NSP Members

Each member of the National Ski Patrol is required to be currently certified in professional-rescuer level CPR. Another provider has been added to the list of approved certifying agencies. Welcome the Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI), brought to you by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) and American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)! Please visit their website at <http://www.ecsinstitute.org> to find out more.

Call For Nomination Committee Member

The nomination committee formed at the NSP Mid Winter Meeting seeks a member to participate in selecting candidates for the next board of directors election. Go to <http://www.nsp.org> for more information.

Medical Reserve Corps

At its recent meeting, the NSP Board of Directors unanimously showed its support for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and in growing the relationship between this group and the NSP. The MRC was founded post 9/11 and is dedicated to establishing teams of local volunteer medical and public health professionals to contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need. Individual members of the NSP who are currently certified in Outdoor Emergency Care may join their local MRC and help out when able. To find out more, go to <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage>. Don't be a "spontaneous unaffiliated volunteer (SUV)!"

Last call for Powderfall!

The registration deadline for Powderfall has changed, and you only have until January 31 to get those reservation forms into the national office. Those of you who have been "snow starved" this winter shouldn't miss the great spring skiing we're sure to find in Snowbird, Utah, April 18 to 21. Ski with the PSIA and AASI team members each morning, and enjoy a variety of afternoon electives, from tail roping to big-mountain avalanche wrestling. Go to <http://www.nsp.org> for more information. See you there!