



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

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www.southernnsp.org

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Southern Cross is published three times a year—Fall, Mid-winter and Spring. Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the Fall issue is September 10, 2010.

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R. Morgan Armstrong,
Division Director

News from the Division Director

Patrollers are all invited to the Southern Division Patroller's Conference set for August 2010. This year we have a Special Events Committee in addition to the Program Committee. We are going to try to include events for the entire family so this Patroller's Conference will be fun for the family and beneficial to the members of the Southern Division NSP Members. Our guest speaker will be **Bela Musits**, National Chair of the National Ski Patrol, who will bring us up to date on the events of the NSP over the past year. Many news items will be discussed including the publication of the new, OEC 5th Edition and how the NSP Board of Directors is evolving into a more dynamic group with the passing of the new Bylaws.

Again this year the centerpiece of the Patroller Conference will be the Awards Dinner on Saturday night. Join us for the Board of Director's Meeting, OEC Instructor's Update, a Transportation Committee Meeting, Instructor Development Instructor's Workshop and the Snowsports Committee Meeting. A lot will be going on for patrollers and their families at the Meadowview Resort and Conference Center so please join us for fun and a chance to participate in the governance of the Southern Division.

Forms for the Conference may be found in your email box and on the Southern Division Website at www.SouthernNSP.org so join us for a fun weekend at Kingsport, TN.

R. Morgan Armstrong

Richard Boyer

1st Assistant Division Director

End of Year Reports

We've done it again...

...finished the ski season and gotten the NSP reports finished. No small feat, either one. By next year I hope we can have the report forms so they can be filled out on our web site and emailed back right from there. I also hope we will be streamlining the forms to give us the important info we need and no more.



Was this an unusual ski year for you as it was for us? Lots and lots of snow, much more than usual and very busy. I continue to marvel how all the elements come together, coordinating to finish all re-certifications and get all courses handled. You are truly an amazing group working in concert with each other. Snow Sports Patrollers are a wonderful group of very giving individuals. My hat's off to you, again!

We'll go to our meeting in Wytheville, VA in mid-May, to set up the Fall Conference to which we hope many of you will consider attendance and give us guidance in the running of the Southern Division. Please visit this conference and help our fine division run even better.

At any rate, hope to see you back on the slopes when the snow flies and the ground gets cold next Winter.

Please have a safe Summer.

Richard

Mike Harris,

Assistant Division Director – South Area



Spring Article

Wow, what a season we just had. We had one area in Blue Ridge and one in Dixie to stay open through April 11th. All programs appeared to go very smoothly and I will leave the reporting of that up to your respective Region Directors. NSP put on another great PEC conference this year at Snowbird Utah. We had nineteen vendor sponsors at the Cliff Lodge. The snow was deep (7ft in 7 days just prior to our arrival) and the weather was nice. Out of 154 attendees from all divisions, Southern had 13 participating in various activities. Sugar Mountain fielded a team for the **Patroller Challenge**, **Kyle Hassler**, **Erich Rosenbusch**, and **Joe White**. I am proud to say, they were second in sled competition and fourth overall.

The other attendees from Southern Division, taking advantage of the clinics, activities, and comradely were **Bill Boughton**, **Bob Brewster**, **Leslie Carter**, **Sarah Hampton**, **Jimmy Kuneman**, **Shaun Lowery**, **Lisa Skelley**, **Jean Webb**, **Norris Woody**, and myself aka **Tyrone Harris**. I urge all to ask anyone of these patrollers for their impression of PEC. In closing, I hope you all will consider attending the Southern Division Conference in Kingsport TN. at the Meadowview Marriott on August 14th & 15th.

Mike Harris

Jan Starr

Assistant Division Director, North Area

Notes from the North

Wow! What a winter there was! Hope everyone got to enjoy all the fresh snow that the areas experienced this season, I know I did! It sure put a new perspective in toboggan training in fresh snow as opposed to our Southern hard-pack. Congratulations to the new basic patrollers and to the folks that got through Senior and Certified.

Onto the planning of the upcoming season, which will be here before we know it. Keep in mind that the Region Director finalizes the calendar and all courses should be OK'd by them so there are no conflicting dates. It is hard some times to spread instructors and evaluators through out the areas. The calendar is updated once a month during the off-season and twice a month during the season. All courses need to be registered with National to get a course number.

Please check out getting a Ski Patrol Visa card through the Southern Division web site. Division gets funds from this as does National, which every little bit helps the budget.

Have a great summer, and make plans to attend the Patroller Conference in August. Great way to make new friends and get updates.

Jan Starr

Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports

Briggs Allen,
Snowsports Supervisor

Southern Division NSP Snowsports School

What a great 2009-2010 ski season!!!! The Southern Division Snowsports School, its members and participants also had a great season too. Clinics were successfully held and well received at Appalachian, Beech and Cataloochee. Additional clinics were scheduled at Snowshoe and Massanutten. Unfortunately, the Snowshoe was canceled due to lack of participation while the Massanutten clinic had to be canceled due to heavy snow that prohibited our instructor from getting to the resort (not often that occurs). The clinic held at Ski Beech was superb and completely full with a waiting list. We were fortunate to have 2 PSIA Level III instructors that were also certified patrollers from the Central Division to teach the program. They not only brought shorter "teaching" skis for the participants but also used video extensively (a humbling experience). It is not often that ALL of the patrollers participating gave the clinic great reviews and wanted to know if another clinic was possible next season.

Congratulations go to Snowsports School members **Randy Trow** (Bryce) and **Matt Weitz** (Wintergreen) for completing their PSIA Level II certification. I also had the good fortune of completing this as well. Additionally, **Elise Allen** (Beech) successfully passed the PSIA Level II written examination and **Russ Lindsey** (Wolf Ridge) passed PSIA Level I. A lot of long hours and hard work goes into achieving PSIA/AASI certification and thanks for your dedication. If I missed anyone that tested, I'm sorry and let me know how it went. By the way, the Snowsports School has developed a plethora of materials that you should obtain and study prior to taking the Level II exam. Just contact me for further information.

Plans are well underway for the 2010-11 Snowsports School programs. We are hoping to have a teaching clinic, 2 ski clinics and 2 snowboard clinics as well as the PSIA/AASI clinic with National Demo Team Members. Be sure to check the Southern Cross and Division calendar for dates and more information.

At the August Patroller Conference in Kingsport, Tennessee the Snowsports School will meet to discuss our program and *hopefully* preview the latest video teaching software. All are welcome and encouraged to attend especially all Patrol Leaders and Representatives as well as their Designated Instructors.

Finally, due to other commitments, **Ric Lavallee** has resigned as the Snowsports School's technical director. We wish him the best and appreciate all his past efforts with the program. BTW if you are a Level III that is hiding in the Southern Division now is the time we could use your help!

Well I guess that about does it, just remember snow sports are simple.... turn right, turn left and repeat as necessary.

See Photos on page 8

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

Teresa T. Stewart,

Instructor Development Supervisor

The NSP Instructor Development course is an integral part of all the NSP Educational courses. This is a required step before the mentoring stage with an instructor within the specific discipline that you are becoming involved with (Outdoor Emergency Care, Toboggan and Ski, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche, Outdoor First Care, etc). This is also a SENIOR ELECTIVE.

There are a number of steps in the Instructor Development Program:

- Course Registered with NSP by the Instructor Development Instructor.
- Training materials (aka – book) ordered – class schedule given to students.
- NSP Event Training Release Form completed for the course and kept by the instructor.
- Instructor Application Form with each discipline the student is interested in becoming an instructor for (ie, OEC, MTR, S&T, etc) completed and sent to the Instructor Development Supervisor (IDS).
- Senior Candidate Application Form filled in as needed.
- Southern Division ID Observation Form - This is completed for each student in the course for each topic they taught and they are returned to - NOTE - some students may require more than two evaluations.
- Division Course Completion Form

If the student is ONLY taking the course for a Senior Elective - (The IDS will need to know that AND the student will need the form for the Senior Candidate Application filled in)

Once the Student Application Forms have been submitted to the ID Supervisor – the ID Supervisor will copy and forward the form to the appropriate Educational Supervisor (OEC, S&T, MTR, etc) - then the Division Program Supervisor (DPS) for each discipline will assign the mentors for the mentoring phase. Once the DPS assigns the mentors and that phase is complete - that DPS will recommend that student for Instructor Status.

Interested students should look at the Division Calendar for registered courses in their Region and contact the Region Instructor Development contact or drop me an email at (stewart.teresa@gmail.com).

Fred Wessels,
Historian /Archivist

Time for a little Southern Skiing trivia.

What do the following Ski areas have in Common? High Meadows, Afton Alps, Coonskin Park, Scaly Mountain, Ski Cherokee, Hounds Ears, Alpine Lake, Cascade Mountain, Hawksnest. If you answered “never heard of them” you could be correct. If you answered they are lost Ski areas, you would be correct. These Ski Areas have gone the way of at least 10 other Southern Ski Areas. Some of the lifts have gone on to other areas, others have gone to rust and rusty memories.

I think we all know of other Ski Areas that were saved by the weather this past season. You are probably also aware of some that are one or two warm winters away from being added to the list. This is the reason that every Southern Division Historian has begged for photos and information. I am begging again. I would like to get a history and photos from your mountain. Email them, mail them, or burn them to a disk. I will even provide the disk and pay for postage. If you bring photos to Kingsport, I will scan them and give them back to you.

Name this Ski Area. Here is a hint. It was in Virginia. Answer hidden somewhere in the Cross!



See you in Kingsport.....

Fred
southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com

From Around the Division... Blue Ridge Region Senior S&T

Appalachian Ski Patrol provides a Low-Country Boil Cookout every year at the S&T basic evaluation and this year Ben Fox and Tony Ray fed all the candidates including three from Sugar and one from Beech plus all the evaluators. The patrol plus Ben and Tony deserve a big *atta-boy* from the Blue Ridge Region.



Snowsports Clinic

(Photos submitted by Briggs Allen)





“Ski Fast, Take Chances!”

Although this is not usually what a NSP member wants to hear, that headline is written atop the website of 16 year old skier Scott Snow and is a very apt description of the style that earned him a spot on the 2011 U.S. Ski Team, becoming the team’s youngest member.

Scott Snow learned to ski and race at Bryce Mountain, where his father and mother Shep and Joy Snow were on the Bryce Resort (VA) Ski Patrol for about 15 years. Scott, Shep, Joy, and sister Bonnie moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, when Scott was 4. Scott’s brother Jonathan Snow is still on the Bryce Mountain Ski Patrol, so the Snow family connection to Bryce endures!

Snow won J2 Gold in both the Downhill and Super G during the past ski season and impressed the U.S. Ski Team coaches enough to earn one of the 20 berths on the 2011 Men’s Alpine Team.

Scott possesses a rare mix of physical and technical tools and the inner drive that make him a natural in the sport he loves. He’s spent nearly one-third of his days on earth on skis, honing a graceful yet powerful technique that meshes well with his 6-1, 200 pound frame. He skis all four disciplines well, but most people believe downhill might be his strongest event.

Proud father Shep Snow has been stewarding Scott along the way to this point, much of it as the coach of Independence Racing, a blue-collar non-profit youth ski racing team from Sandpoint. Shep plans to accompany Scott until he turns 18, helping him adjust to the rigors of year-around professional skiing as well as a quick baptism into adulthood.

“Scott’s worked really hard, and it’s good to see hard work rewarded,” said Shep, who along with Joy felt Scott was ready for the challenge. “You come in at the bottom of the pipeline and work your way up. This is a step, and the end state is the world cup and Olympics.”

Scott has dominated the competition at every level he’s raced, accumulating more than 40 USSA Gold medals. Last year alone, Scott and Shep logged more than 150 days and 25,000 miles on the road, capping a stellar season that helped Snow earn a berth on the team. It will ratchet up a couple more notches next year, as Snow will be skiing in all 12 months of the season on the North American Cup circuit (NORAM).

Snow is currently enrolled in the Idaho Virtual Academy, an online home-schooling program, allowing him to pursue his high school education while striving to drop precious tenths of seconds on the slopes.

Every year since he was little, Shep has pulled Scott aside and asked if he wants to continue pursuing his passion. Every year the answer is a definitive yes, as Snow is having as much fun as ever tearing down the slopes at breakneck speeds.

It should also be noted that the deep Snow family connection to Southern Division runs not only through Bryce, but through Cataloochee (NC), where Shep and Joy patrolled in the early 1990’s. Patroller friends of the Snows will be glued to the TV for years to come, watching our protégé on the US Ski Team, and all of Southern Division will hopefully one day be proud to see one of our progeny on the World Cup and in the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia!

To keep up with Scott, visit “www.scottsnowski.com.”

Written by Lacy Williams, Bryce Mt Ski Patrol

Traditions and Change: Do they hold us back or allow us to move forward?

By [Bill Smith](#)

I spent my professional career in the fire/EMS service and often heard the phrase that many volunteer organizations were "100 Years of Tradition, Unimpeded by Progress." Since that time, volunteer fire organizations as a whole, have come a long way into the 21st century. In thinking about it, that same phrase could also easily be used to describe other types of organizations such as ski patrols. As another year begins, we have an opportunity to look at our traditions and see which ones are holding us back and which we can learn from and also take a look at changes that may need to be made within our own organization.

Often one of the biggest traditions holding us back is the tendency of organizations to be run by a select group of friends or family, to the exclusion of all others. This comes in many forms but most often I hear about how the patrol leader's drinking, hunting or other social group is running the organization. Anyone outside of that group is shunned, ignored or forced out.

Usually this becomes most apparent when it comes time to elect or appoint officers and continues year after year. The result is that new ideas, or ideas from "outsiders," are ignored or rejected outright, stalling the organization's progress. These good ole' boy networks have caused many organizations to not only fail to grow, but actually close or be shut down.

The second tradition often holding organizations back is a general reluctance to change. Change is both inevitable and difficult. I always think of "[Who Moved My Cheese](#)" when I think of change. Unless we change to meet our environment, we risk losing everything we have.

Let's accept the fact that change sometimes has a destructive streak. It can rip the heart out of an organization.

At the very time an organization needs the best performance from its people, change can leave job commitment lying wounded and weak.

But change can be utilized to charge up the organization. That's because change opens up doors to people's hearts and minds that otherwise might stay forever locked.

Taking Risks

Patrolling, like firefighting, is often about taking calculated risks, but when it comes to change, we often forget to do the calculation and get stuck with the mantra of "we don't do it that way here." Obviously, not all change is necessarily good, but steadfastly refusing to consider change is a tradition that we cannot afford. Organizations that refuse to change, especially in these difficult economic times, are doomed to failure.

Traditions have caused conflict in all areas, and resulted in a battle between the so-called "dinosaurs" and "robots." These battles between those who have been with the organization forever and newcomers represent tradition coming directly against change, with egos thrown in to add fuel to the fire. Both sides think they are right, and both sides are right to an extent, but neither can stand alone. Some years ago I was definitely more in the robot camp, but after nearly 20 years of patrolling I am slowly learning to appreciate the dinosaurs more and may even be becoming one myself!

Many of us have forgotten that there are lots we can learn from our resident dinosaurs, as not all of our traditions are bad. Traditions, such as maintaining the brotherhood of patrollers are being forgotten, much to the detriment of organizations as a whole. So is the tradition of passing down knowledge from member to member. Knowledge and kinship are priceless traditions that act as the glue that holds organizations together.

Making decisions

As our members age and retire, we lose both our traditions and institutional knowledge. Unfortunately we do not always realize how much knowledge our dinosaurs possess or their importance until they are no longer around. Every organization has that member or even a couple if they are lucky, that you can always count on when an obscure question comes up. The answer to the question may not always make sense, but they can usually explain the reasoning, even if it is obscure. Knowing the background of an issue, even if you do not agree with it, can help an organization to make an informed decision when change has to occur.

The problem with a tradition is in deciding whether it is good or bad. Some traditions, such as only promoting the boss's friends, need to go. But other traditions can help our organizations survive and thrive. Rather than just disregarding an "old" idea outright, it would help each of us if we asked what the source of the tradition was. Maybe the reluctance to change actually comes from a bad experience with trying a similar change. These can be used to learn from and to find a compromise that will work for everyone. What's the old saying about history keeping us from making the same mistakes over and over?

As 2010 begins, I encourage each of you to take a good look at your personal and organizational traditions. I also encourage each member to reach out to someone with five to 10 years more experience than them and five to 10 years less than them. In reaching out to both more senior and junior members, we can share both our traditions and knowledge. Together we can find ways to learn from each other and improve.

Bill Smith began his patrolling career with the Homestead Ski Patrol in 1991. He is currently a patroller with Wintergreen Ski Patrol in Virginia. Bill has taught and written extensively about Organizational Change, Leadership and Training.

May 4, 2010

Jack Melill Advisor Ski Flight

425 313 4632

jack.melill@Juno.com

SKI SYMPOSIUM TO EUROPE

Switzerland, Austria, Germany

And Magical Castles

Set for Ski Flight 2011

Depart Jan. 30-Return Feb. 9

Full Tour 11 Days \$2650

Ski Patrol Symposium Ski Flight 2011 has scheduled a spectacular training and ski vacation to Davos, Switzerland plus Innsbruck, Austria, followed by a guided tour of the famous Bavarian Castles or skiing Garmish, Germany.

The tour will fly the Polar Route on Air France Airlines via Paris then Zurich and return home directly from Munich.

Our base in Davos, the deluxe Club Hotel featuring a heated lobby swim pool, hot tub, spa plus spacious comfortable rooms with bath and many more amenities. Breakfast and dinners are included daily as well as transfers and round trip airfare.

MEETINGS WITH SWISS AND AUSTRIAN PATROLS

Meetings with the professional Swiss Ski Patrol, plus visits to the world famous Swiss Avalanche Institute and meeting or demonstration with the Austrian Ski Patrols and local mountain rescue groups are being arranged.

SKIING THE WORLDS LONGEST RUN

Ski the longest groomed and maintained ski run in Europe. Twelve miles of skiing through charming villages, Swiss farms and alpine chalets, then ride a narrow gauge railroad back to Davos. In Davos, enjoy ice-skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, curling and other winter sports. We may visit nearby St. Moritz for a ski day.

SKI ISGL THEN INNSBRUCKS OLYMPIC AREAS

Following five full skiing days in Davos, we motor coach to the Olympic city of Innsbruck, skiing the huge resort of Isgl (sharing the border with Austria and Switzerland) en-route. We ski here three days, experiencing this historic cities palaces, museums and grandeur, Ski four major Olympic ski resorts or the high Stubai Glacier. Following Innsbruck we have a guided tour of the famous Bavarian castles and Oberammergau or choice of skiing Garmish, Germany. Tonight a gala Tyrol Farewell dinner, then flying home the next day.

Included In Symposium Fee

- * Round trip on Air France Airlines
- * All Hotels Based on Double Occupancy
- * Nine Skiing Days, Ten Ski Resorts
- * Breakfast and Dinners Daily
- * All Group Transfers
- * Meeting with Swiss and Austrian Patrols
- * Guided Castle Tour or Skiing Garmish
- * Gala Tyrol Farewell Dinner
- * Escorted To and From USA

For an informational flyer or more information contact: Jack Melill Ski Flight Advisor at “jack.melill@juno.com” or call 425 313 4632

Ski Flight ski symposium is the official fund raiser for the Pacific Northwest Division of the National Ski Patrol.

Answer to history question: Skyline/Big Devil/Rappahannock ... see page 6

Southern Division Calendar & Staff Directory

Please refer to the Division Website for updated schedules!

www.southernnsp.org

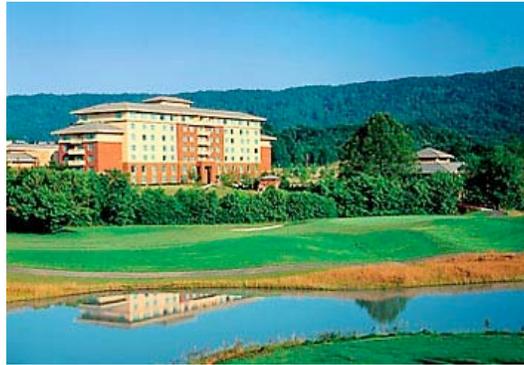
The calendar is flexible dependant on the weather – please check the calendar and/or with your patrol representative / Region Director for the most up-to-date changes.

Join us for Fun in the Mountains

Southern Division Patroller Conference

August 13-15, 2010

MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center



<http://marriott.com/hotels/travel/tricc-meadowview-conference-resort-and-convention-center/>

Please reserve your room at the rate of \$94.00 plus 16.5% tax (\$109.51 total) and ask for the National Ski Patrol 2010
Call (888) 632-3697 (Central Reservations) or (423) 578-6600 / (800) 820-5055 MeadowView direct.

Hotel deadline for reserving rooms at the NSP rate is **July 16, 2010.**

Here are the events scheduled for patrollers this year:

- Annual Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday and Sunday
- OEC Instructor Update – Saturday (all day event)
- Instructor Development Instructor's Meeting – Sunday morning
- Division Snowsports Meeting – Saturday
- Transportation Roundtable Meeting – Saturday
- Awards Banquet Saturday Evening

NEW – Special Events Committee will be planning events for the family – information to follow!

This is a full service hotel and conference center that caters to the needs of its guests. There are two State Parks close by for outdoor recreation. The hotel has its own golf course, plus swimming pool and hot tub. The meeting facilities are first class, and the Hospitality Suite is now an experience.

This is the Official Notice for the Annual Board Meeting and I would like to add my official invitation to all members and alumni. This is your event! Please join us for a fun, informative, and educational experience deep in the mountains of Tennessee.

See you there!

Sincerely,

R. Morgan Armstrong – Division Director *Rob Raff* – Division Meeting Coordinator



**Southern Division - NSP
Patroller Conference
Reservation Form
2010**



Saturday, August 14, 2010 @ 8:00 am
Sunday, August 15, 2010 @ 8:30 am

MeadowView Marriott Conference Resort and Convention Center - Kingsport, Tennessee

Please complete one form for each person attending:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number you can be reached at: _____

Patrol: _____ Title: _____

Please register me for the following events: ****Schedule is subject to change – Final schedule available @ Conference

Please register me for the following events:	Saturday	Sunday
Board of Directors Meeting – Main Meeting Room	8:00 am – 3:00 pm	8:30 am–10:00 am
OEC Instructor Update (Saturday all day)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	
Southern Division Snowsports Program Instructors Meeting	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	
Southern Division Transportation Program Meeting	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	
Instructor Development Instructors Workshop		10:00 –12:00 am

	<i>Earlybird</i> Before Aug. 1	After Aug. 1
_____ FULL Meeting Conference Registration, Lunch, and Awards Banquet	\$70.00	\$80.00
_____ AWARDS Banquet (6:00 pm) and Conference Registration on Saturday	\$50.00	\$60.00
_____ LUNCH (12 Noon - 1:00pm) and Conference Registration on Saturday	\$38.00	\$48.00
_____ Conference Registration (Hospitality Suite Included)	\$18.00	\$28.00

Total enclosed = _____

Mail completed form and check (made out to “Hawksnest Ski Patrol –So. Div. Fall Conference”) to:

Fred Wessels, 522 Jervey Road, Tryon, NC 28782

For your convenience, you may pay your registration fee online using Paypal. Send your payment to hnsptres@gmail.com. Select "Service/Other". Your confirmation will be your receipt.

Reservation Fees Must Be Received At Above Address By August 1, 2010 And Are Nonrefundable After That Date.