



# Southern Cross

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**Southern Cross** is published three times a year—Fall, Mid-winter and Spring. Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the Mid-Winter issue is May 21, 2011.

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**R. Morgan Armstrong**,  
*Division Director*

The Southern Division Election process is nearing completion. Thanks to **Lee Wittman**, who once again ran a perfect election. Now I am looking forward to a little less work and a lot more patrolling with my fellow patrollers, which is what I like to do the most.

The Division Director and all staff positions will end at midnight on March 31, 2011 and the new administration will begin on April 1, 2011. Any failings were mine, but I believe we have gained a lot in organization, accomplishments and fun for the members over the past four years. Our line officers and program supervisors and staff all pulled together to make the Southern Division, the premier division in the National Ski Patrol System.

I recently returned from the National Ski Patrol, Board of Directors, January meeting and the Southern Division effort was noted throughout the meeting. Our division is one of the smaller divisions but we rank tops in number of members on the Board of Directors with **Larry Bost** and **Norris Woody** both on the Board. We have staff and members who have stepped forward to help with many of the National Programs and our expertise and knowledge is helping the NSP achieve great things. **Richard Boyer** attended the meeting with me and met all of the other Division Directors and Board Members.

Our National Board along with the Division Directors, acting as a body of counselors on all Board issues, all are meeting and sharing ideas without animosity. Issues are given a thorough discussion and the tone of the meetings is constantly – HOW CAN WE BETTER THE NSP AND HELP THE PATROLLER. Sure,

tough issues are before the Board but we are in an excellent position to work our way through to a good solution. My perspective indicates to me, our National Board of Directors and the National Ski Patrol Office Staff are only going to improve. Our next Division Director will not have to worry about if we will improve but only how fast we can accomplish the improvements.

I want to thank each member of my staff for a job well done. We have tried to govern with good humor and I hope each member of my staff had as good a time over the past four years as I have. I will remember this period in my life as the best of times without a doubt. My work will continue. I have been assigned and I have agreed to accept a couple of projects from the National Ski Patrol Board so I will continue to have contact with our NSP Officers and Staff in an official way – just a different way.

Now to ask your help! I have been assigned to ENHANCE certain portions of the NSP through a bill we intend to present to the U. S. Congress. All Southern Divisions Patrollers with a friend in the Senate or House of the U. S. Congress or who knows someone who has a friend in the Senate or House is asked to contact me at once and let me tell you what I need. We have an opportunity to make the NSP a true – National Asset. This will strengthen our first and foremost priority of taking care of the resorts we serve and secondly it will allow us to become a better citizen of our country.

I conclude by saying a special thanks to the current Executive Committee for your support and sharing your vast knowledge with me to make us better. My special thanks to my right hand, our 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Division Director, **Richard Boyer, Jr.**, and to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Division Director, **Brent E. Bowman**, the Assistant Division Director – North – **Jan Starr** and the Assistant Division Director – South – **Mike Harris**. **Jim Underwood** kept us financially solvent as he had done since the Southern Division was formed and he always knows where the money goes (to the penny). Thanks to **Kelly Drenowski** and **Teresa Stewart** for keeping us informed, the line officers for making things run smoothly and for all of the Program Supervisors and their staffs for keeping the NSP the best at what we do. **Chuck Lollar** kept us legal, **Ian Archibald** kept us medically correct, **Bartek Drenowski** kept the paid members informed and **Leslie Carter** kept the OEC Program on the right path. **T. and Peg Harris** were great with awards and made my life at the awards ceremony so easy, it allowed me to shorten the event and still give every award in what we hoped was a sincere and thoughtful way. Region Directors and Patrol Representatives and Directors were so nice and understanding – even when I was slow to pick up. Finally, I am proud to have served as your leader for four great years with patrollers that spread honor to our name – THE NATIONAL SKI PATROL.

R. Morgan Armstrong, Southern Division Director

**Richard Boyer,**

1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Division Director



Wow! **Morgan Armstrong** and I recently got back from Denver, Colorado and a National Ski Patrol System board of directors meeting. He was there in an advisory capacity at the board's request, and I was there at Morgan's request, to observe the processes and to meet some of the Division Directors from the US and Europe. I also was honored to meet most of our national board members and to witness the election of a new Chairman of the Board, **Burt Mitchell**, from Connecticut.

The first day the Division Directors met and discussed all the items which were scheduled to be brought up before the Board in the following two days. It elicited some lively discussions and enlightening outlooks. This, my friends, is a very talented body of men and women who are dedicated to the NSP and individual patrollers. I could not have been any more impressed by them individually and as a group.

I got to see the headquarters facilities and again came away very impressed, not only by the facility, but by the personnel employed there, as well. Morgan showed me the **Charlie Benbow** desk and credenza set contributed by the Benbow family in honor of our past Division Director and appropriately located in the National Director's office.

On the first day of the board meeting, my second day in Denver, the first order of business was for the board to elect a new Chairman, as **Bela Musits** stepped down from the chairmanship, but will remain on the board until his term expires. **Burt Mitchell**, as I reported, was elected and presided over the remainder of the meetings. The people on our national board are an impressive group of patrollers. The Southern Division is very capably represented by **Larry Bost** and most recently elected, **Norris Woody**. As a matter of fact we are very fortunate to have this amount of representation and thus influence in board affairs.

In a similar vein, I was very impressed by the earnest admiration and respect shown to our Southern Division Director, **Morgan Armstrong**. I believe the contributions he has made have earned him a degree of respect above and beyond the ordinary, from virtually all board members and fellow division directors. His commitment to future participation in the national arena is a real gift to us in Southern and to the whole NSP system. Each of us patrollers owes a large debt of gratitude for the work he has done as our Division Director.

## What is needed for the future of our NSP system?

**First**, we need to find ways to increase funding for programs, both current and future.

**Second**, we must further the considerable effort toward successfully achieving national immunity for our volunteer members similar to many states' "Good Samaritan" laws. This will now be designated as "Enhancement of the NSP System" as a "National Asset" to our country in times of emergency and disaster. We are so uniquely trained and equipped to be critically responsive to these potential national events, that it is obvious to me the immunity of our members can only make us all the more valuable as a PRIME national asset.

**Third**, we need to elevate more patrollers to the ranks of leadership system-wide. We need more folks to be Patrol Representatives, Instructors, Regional Directors, Assistant Directors, Division Directors and aspire to the Board of Directors, which requires special abilities of strategic experience and thinking. Please, each of you, who may be inclined, let it be known to your Patrol Representative or Regional Director that you are willing to participate in the future of our Division or NSP.

Thank you for the privilege of being a patroller, like you!

Richard

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### Mike Harris,

*Assistant Division Director – South Area*

#### As The Bull Wheel Turns

I was able to travel to only three different OEC refreshers this year. Several dates were changed this year that had quite a few OEC refreshers on the same dates. Our IOR and IT staff are doing a great job. It is such a pleasure seeing what progress this process has made.



The way this season is starting, it looks like it could be as good as last year. In the early season there were some highly publicized fatalities out west and a lift derailment in the northeast. By the time you are reading this article, National Safety Awareness Week (January 15-23) will have come and gone. As NSP members, we should promote safety at our ski areas every week by encouraging our customers to ski on slopes that they can control their speed enough not to collide with another skier below them on the hill. It is amazing how few beginners and intermediates that have any idea of their liability if they cause an injury. On a brighter note, all the programs in Dixie and Blue Ridge are running well. I hope to see as many of you on the slopes this year as possible.

Mike Harris (AKA) Tyrone

**Ted Forbes,**

*Virginia Region Director*



Virginia Region Update – January 2011

Winter 2010 – 2011 so far in Virginia is a good news/bad news story. The bad news is that we are caught in the Virginia Voodoo Vortex! V3 has set up a barrier that runs roughly along the North Carolina border to the south, along the Tennessee/West Virginia border to the west, and along the Maryland border to the north. This bizarre weather phenomenon has successfully prevented all but about four inches of natural snow from entering the state. All of you outside the V3 are enjoying tons of snow – but not us.

The good news, however, is that V3 can't hold back the cold ... so across the Virginia Region the snow guns have been running almost non-stop since Thanksgiving. We have superb conditions! I can't remember the last time that our resorts were reporting 100% of terrain open for the Christmas/New Year's holiday!

And boy, are we taking advantage of that terrain. As I write this, Wintergreen has just finished hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Wounded Warrior Weekend, and the Virginia Region Senior clinic has just concluded.

You may recall that I wrote last year, asking you to think about what you were going to do this season to raise your game as a patroller. Let me do a commercial for the Senior program. This past weekend, eight candidates in the Region started the program. On Saturday, we all travelled to Bryce Resort, where Executive Chef/Patrol Director/Patrol Rep **Carter Lewis** and local mountain coordinator **Nancy DiBenedetto** hosted us for the Emergency Medical Management clinic. The candidates from Massanutten, Bryce and Wintergreen all focused on three big areas – managing more complex/multi-patient scenarios, leading a team of patrollers in responding to the scene, and thinking more like mountain management in approaching these complex accidents.

Then on Sunday, the whole crew of candidates and evaluators travelled to Wintergreen. There, **Trace Higgins**, Region Transportation supervisor, **Randy Trow**, Southern Division Ski School instructor, and **T Harris**, Region Senior coordinator, were joined by **Hugh Jernigan**, our Division Senior Program Director and **Tony Tingle**, our Division Transportation coordinator. We had a fantastic clinic on a blue bird day with fresh made powder. Our candidates worked on skiing and riding skills in the morning, and sled skills in the afternoon.

When this group comes back together at Massanutten in late February for the exams, we'll have the chance to see how they have taken their game to the next level. ***Why do they do it?***



(Senior Candidates work a multi-victim scenario at Bryce – photo submitted by Ted Forbes)

Because it's fun, and because we are all the types of folks who are achievers. So personal satisfaction plays a huge role ... but there is another reason. A Senior patroller, with refined skills and a broader perspective, is a real asset to mountain management. And let's face it; if it weren't for our resort management team, we would be doing what we all love to do. So I'll leave you with a question – what are you doing to make sure you provide your mountain with the greatest asset you can be? Maybe the Senior program is one way you can answer that question!

See you on the hill!

*Virginia Region Senior Candidates and Evaluators*



Senior candidates negotiate a toboggan slalom course at Wintergreen



Virginia Region 2011 Senior candidates and evaluators (photos submitted by Ted Forbes)

**Jonathan Hale,**

*Blue Ridge Region Director*

In this position, I have come to work with many Ski Patrollers over the past few years. As you all know, Ski Patrollers are an interesting group of people. We are as follows:

- Partly insane,
- We can take charge when others know to run away,
- Compassionate,
- We care about others,
- We prefer speed mixed with fluid motion,
- Love Floridians, because they give us something to do,  
And most all..... giving



Of the above, two patrollers that embody the word giving are those that have made the biggest difference in helping the Blue Ridge Region to move forward over the past years. The positions that they have held require a very large commitment of time. They have both committed more time than anyone can imagine. They do the thankless tasks of writing policies, establish detailed programs that are worthy of the lifesaving and painstaking job that we do. They have sat at a desk, doing the late night administrative paperwork that has kept them away from the slopes and their families so that you and I can make carving turns. Most importantly, they have established integrity, equality and uniformity to programs that needed it. Simply said, when you go to take a test, you can be assured that the test will be organized, fair, and without bias. Ask anyone that has been tested over the last few years in the Region and about the integrity with which these programs are run. In fact, the Blue Ridge Region and the Dixie Region are looking at ways to make our testing procedures more uniform between Regions. We will learn from them and they will learn from us.

I am speaking of course of our Region Senior Program Administrator, **Toni Cheek** and Regional Transportation Administrator, **David Hall**. These programs have, in turn, inspired patrollers to become more involved and become ***better patrollers***. I truly feel that the success of our Senior Program and Transportation Program are, in a large part, attributable to them. The bottom line is that their tireless work for this Region has translated to better patient care. Please thank them sincerely when you are able for their sacrifices and altruistic dedication.

*Jonathan*

*From the Supervisors and Advisors...*

*Outdoor Emergency Care ... Outdoor Emergency Care ... Outdoor Emergency Care*

**Leslie Carter,**  
*OEC Supervisor*

I would like to start the New Year with CONGRATULATIONS to 27 new OEC Instructors bringing the total number of OEC Instructors in the Southern Division to 370. At a time when NSP membership is being challenged to grow, it is refreshing to see that the OEC Program, the cornerstone of NSP, remains strong here in the Southern Division. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the people who make this possible.

**Staffing Changes for the 2010-2011 Season:**

Bob Brewster, Cataloochee - Assistant OEC Supervisor, Southern Division & Administrative IT  
Jim Peterson, Cataloochee – Dixie Region OEC Administrator  
Sylvia Talley, Cataloochee – Observing IT  
Charlotte Bradley, Snowshoe – Administrative IT  
Richard Yerchek, Beech – Blue Ridge Region OEC Administrator  
Anne Donadio, Appalachain - Administrative IT  
Tony Tingle, Hawksnest – Observing IT  
Roger Bushnell, Sugar - Administrative IT  
Carl Smith, Wintergreen – Administrative IT

I would like to thank the following people for their past services as they move on to other projects and responsibilities within our organization – **Joe McNeer**, Timberline (Observing IT), **Steve McCarragher**, Cataloochee (Administrative IT), **Sylvia Talley**, Cataloochee (Dixie Region OEC Administrator), **Jason Hall**, Snowshoe (Administrative IT), **Hugh Jernigan**, Appalachian (Blue Ridge Region OEC), and **Debbie Lentz**, Appalachian (Administrative IT).

**RECORDS** – By now many of you have realized that there have been some issues with the National Data Base. I am currently working with the National Office as they address the problems. Please check your personal page and contact me if you have any questions or discrepancies. All OEC Instructor status records appear to be current as of January 9, 2011. However, there is still a problem with the “Delinquent OEC” Roster – this is the list of individuals who have missed a Refresher Cycle at some point. Many names are showing up on this list erroneously – I am working on it!

**SENIOR EMM** – The new Senior Outdoor Emergency Care Manual / Training Coordinators Guidelines was reviewed and approved at the December 2010 OEC Supervisors Meeting and should be available shortly from the National Office. This document outlines the NSP National Standard for the training and testing of the Senior Program OEC Component. For the Southern Division there are no major changes since we have been following these guidelines for several years already.

**INSTRUCTOR TRAINER MANUAL** – Is in the final phase of approval from the National Board.

And now for the news I'm sure you have all been waiting for – **THE OEC 5<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

Due to changes in the American Heart Association CPR protocols that will affect some of the material in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, the publication date was moved back to May 1, 2011. This poses some obvious concerns and challenges for Patrols who normally start OEC Classes in the early spring – more on this later but for now **I am requesting that no one register any courses with a start date prior to June 15, 2011.**

At the 2010 Southern Division Conference the Board approved a “reimbursement” plan for the purchase of the OEC 5<sup>th</sup> Edition for all current OEC Instructors. This plan will be administered as follows:

- OEC Instructor purchases 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (either the Hard Copy or the Electronic version)
- OEC Instructor attends a “New Material” training course and receives a “voucher” confirming attendance
- OEC Instructor mail voucher and “Proof of Purchase” to Jim Underwood, Division Treasurer who will then send a reimbursement check to the Instructor.

Some patrols are discussing purchasing the books in bulk to save on shipping so please check with your Patrol Director or Administrative IT for any plan of this nature. Individual Instructors will still need to obtain the training voucher before a patrol can submit a request for reimbursement.

The OEC Instructors Manual will be available on-line to all OEC Instructors through the Brady Publishing web site. Details on how to access this site will be part of the New Material training course.

While I cannot tell you details (copyright law) of the new material I can tell you that **Bob Brewster** and I, along with all the other OEC Supervisors and Medical Advisors, spent over 12 hours at our December meeting, reading assigned chapters of the draft with the express purpose of identifying specific subject matter. This information is what will be used to create both the Instructor training course as well as the 2011 Refresher. It is expected that the training course will require a full day.

It is VERY important that all OEC Instructors be trained on the New Material contained in the 5 Edition PRIOR to teaching either at an OEC Class or at a OEC Refresher!

And now the fun part – attempting to schedule training dates, locations and participants. As mentioned earlier, priority will be given to those Patrols who normally start OEC Classes in the late spring and early summer. In addition, we will be scheduling training with our Affiliate Group, WPRO, in West Virginia who conducts their Refresher in June.

## **Tentative Training Schedule:**

May – West Virginia, location & date TBD, focus on WPRO Instructors and West Virginia IT's

June – Dixie Region, tentative location in Atlanta, date TBD, focus on Atlanta, Ober and Cataloochee OEC Class Instructors and Dixie Region IT's.

August – Southern Division Conference, August 13, 2011, focus on as many Instructors as possible since this is the best facility to meet our needs for this training. Please plan to attend!

September – smaller Regional training courses to be taught by the Region OEC Administrators and assisted by their IT's, focus – anyone who missed the Conference Training session. Please be aware that these courses may not coincide with needs for Instructors who plan to teach at Refreshers and Courses in the fall. In addition it requires additional work on the part of the ROA's and IT's. Please make every effort to attend the August session at the Southern Division Conference.

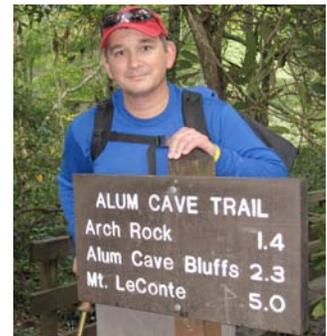
SO – the obvious challenge here is that it is hard to plan a curriculum when you have no idea what the material is. Bob and I will do our best to keep everyone updated as information becomes available. Meanwhile, thank you again for all that you do and have a happy, safe and FUN season!

*Transportation ... Transportation ... Transportation ... Transportation ... Transportation ...*

### **Tony Tingle,**

*Division Transportation Supervisor*

Here we are in January and boy does it feel like January! It is snowy and cold here in the Tennessee Valley. I hope everyone is having a great season. Last weekend was great. I was tutored at a clinic in Winterplace, WV on Saturday and was put in touch with my feminine side at a women's clinic at Wolf Ridge on Sunday. Both days were fantastic and have me fired up for the season.



Now that we are in the midst of the season I thought I'd pass along a few reminders/requests:

- Remember; if you are conducting toboggan training on your mountain and you want to be covered by the NSP insurance, register your training with NSP (e.g. register a course). Drop me a line at [geofolks@att.net](mailto:geofolks@att.net) if you need help with this.
- If you have registered a course with NSP there are two potential outcomes: The course does not run or the course runs and is completed. In either case PLEASE close the course with NSP (it takes about 10 minutes). This allows the folks in Colorado to remove the

course from their books and, if the course ran, it assures that your students get the credit (and updates to their profiles) that they deserve. If you need help closing a course, give me a shout and I'll be glad to help.

Be on the lookout for good future transportation instructors. We have a talented cadre of transportation instructors in the Southern Division, but more help is always better. If you find someone that has an interest, encourage them, and put them in touch with the transportation IT on your hill, your Region Transportation Advisor (**Tom Hughes** in WV, **Trace Higgins** in VA, **Jimmy Kuneman** in Dixie, or **David Hall** in Blue Ridge), your PD, or me. We can get them started in the program.

- Be thinking about a Women's TES in your neck of the woods. It would be great to run one in every Region. The TES last weekend at Wolf Ridge was a hoot! Thanks to **Joy Juker**, **Rhonda Smith**, and **Carla Tingle** for teaching the ladies. Being the Transportation Supervisor has some benefits (see the picture below). Plans are in the works for another clinic next season in Dixie. Stay tuned.

Please shout if you have question or comments for the Transportation Program. I look forward to seeing you on the snow.



*Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snow*

**Briggs Allen,**  
*Snowsports Supervisor*

## **Very Surprised .....**

That's the way I felt when I recently was invited to attend a patrol refresher and asked several questions:

1. Who is familiar with the Southern Division NSP Snowsports School program? Maybe 5 out of about 70 people indicated they were.
2. Who feels that their skiing and riding abilities need no improvement? Almost 100% indicated they could use some improvement.
3. Who regularly reads all the Southern Cross? Perhaps 8-10 out of 70 patrollers present.
4. Who reads the "E-Blasts" that National sends? Probably 80% of the 70 patrollers present.

What a revelation!!! The Southern Division Snowsports program has been around for quite some time and if this patrol is indicative of the majority (and I have no reason to believe that it is not) we have a major PR problem!!! If the few of you out there reading this have any better ideas to get our message across please shoot me an e-mail. It seems that after patrollers participate in one of our clinics they are excited about our program. After all, why would any instructor not want to teach snowsports more efficiently and why would any patroller not want to be able to be a better border or skier? The Snowsports School is here to help you achieve your goals.

Now the good stuff. In early December we had a great turnout of 21 patrollers at our 2-day **Cataloochee Teaching/PSIA-AASI exam prep clinic**. Our clinic started with a general session regarding teaching and then segregated into both skiing and boarding groups for on the snow instruction. On Sunday morning we reviewed the visual cues for good skiing and had a presentation on movement assessment. Special thanks go out to our skiing instructors **Neil Booth, Ron Clyde, Wayne Morgan** and **Randy Trow** and snowboarding instructors **Pete Jucker** and **pNut Laney**. We were very fortunate to have Pete teach with us as he is an AASI level III who just joined the patrol at Ober Gatlinburg. Just to see what you're missing. Here are several quotes from the event evaluation: "Excellent course!" ... "Instructors are extremely competent, personable and encouraging and created an excellent learning environment.", "Very eye-opening, really enjoyed it.", "I had several areas of substantial improvement." and "Awesome!!! "Thank you NSP. All instructors should be here." As always, I cannot thank enough the Cataloochee Ski Patrol, management and especially **Wayne Morgan** for their extreme hospitality and making this event great.

This past fall the Snowsports School was asked to assist in the skiing portion of a **Ladies Ski and Toboggan Clinic at Wolf Ridge**. After coordination with Wolf Ridge patrol rep **Randi Lowry** and Division Transportation Supervisor **Tony Tingle** the clinic was all set. We had nine eager and enthusiastic ladies (from several patrols) and the clinic came to fruition on January 8-

9, 2011. I drove over from Bristol Virginia the morning of the 8th in an epic snowstorm to Wolf Ridge (not having been there since I passed my basic patroller test 20 some years ago). What a treat!!! I arrived to well over a foot of fresh powder and still snowing from a storm that had left 20 inches by night's end. My carefully thought out lesson plan was immediately trashed for powder instruction. . As the day progressed, we were able to film and critique video of all the participants. If you've never been videoed while skiing it can be a humbling experience even for the best skier. It seems we all have a vision of our skiing, however this vision may not be totally accurate. We attempt to video whenever possible in all of our clinics, as this has been universally well-received. Quotes from the event evaluation included: "I saw a lot of improvement in the groups skiing", "Thanks so much your patience and knowledge was much appreciated and valuable," and "I was very nervous about taking this due to not knowing the content and conditions (powder). I am so happy that I took it as it exceeded my expectations and gave me several things to work at. Thank you." Of course a big thanks to the Wolf Ridge ski patrol for their hospitality and providing a great facility for our classroom work, the management for welcoming us and providing free lunch vouchers and Randi Lowery for all of her work in bringing this together.

The day after the Wolf clinic I drove to Snowshoe for the 2-day **PSIA-E Snowsports School Southern Management Seminar**. This program is for snowsports school directors and trainers updated information from PSIA National as well as PSIA-East. The clinic was taught by **Bill Beerman** who is the Eastern rep on the national board of PSIA. The Level II PSIA exam now consists of 3 parts: an online written exam, a skiing exam and a teaching exam. The new online exam that must be taken before attending the skiing exam, will consist of 50 random questions from a larger test pool and be timed. At the completion of the exam you will immediately learn your score (70% is passing) with references on the questions that you missed. The cost of the exam is \$25 and your Snowsports school director must sign the application allowing you to take the test. Should you be unsuccessful there is a 48 hour waiting period before the test can be re-taken. The on the snow portion of the clinic included a drills and skills portion as well as what the PSIA-E examiners are looking for in the children's module and the new movement analysis module that now combines creative teaching. It was very helpful to go through the modules in a testing situation and see exactly what will be expected for successful completion. It was required that I attend this program so that our Snowsports school can remain PSIA certified.

#### **Upcoming clinics include:**

- **Snowboarder Improvement Clinic at Massanutten Resort on January 22.**
- **Skier Improvement Clinic at Winterplace on February 11**
- **Skier Improvement Clinic at Ski Beech on February 12-13**
- **Demo Team Clinic at Wintergreen on March 4-6**

The clinics at Winterplace and Ski Beech are being taught by PSIA level III instructors from the Central Division NSP Snowsports School. These highly qualified patrollers/instructors taught this clinic at Beech last year and there was a waiting list. Video analysis again this year will be used.

The 2 1/2 day Demo Team Clinic at Wintergreen is sure to fill so watch your e-mails for an E Blast concerning this much-anticipated event. At the time this was written writing specific details were not available.

Lots of clinics, learning, camaraderie and fun are taking place within our Snowsports School so why not join us. Remember skiing/boarding is easy just turn right and left and repeat.

### *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 through their Regional IT and placed on the Division Calendar by the Region Director.
- Course Completion Record is submitted to the Division Supervisor and NSP educational department.
- 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).
- Mentors are assigned by OR through the Division Supervisor for that discipline.
- Senior Candidate Application Form filled in as needed. → Remember- this is an elective for the Senior program.
- 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.

*Remember .....*

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](mailto:stewart.teresa@gmail.com)).

## *Senior Program ... Senior Program ... Senior Program ... Senior Program ... Senior Program*

**Hugh Jernigan,**  
*Senior Program Supervisor*

### **Senior Program News and Updates**

The Senior Program in the Southern Division is going strong this season! I have had the privilege to attend several exceptional Senior clinics early in the season and am looking forward to attending other clinics and evaluations as the season progresses.

The Blue Ridge Senior EMM clinic was held at Appalachian Ski Mountain on January 8<sup>th</sup>. **Toni Cheek** conducted an excellent clinic with the assistance of about a dozen Senior Evaluators for 9 candidates. To even have a clinic was an accomplishment due to a heavy snowstorm with high winds and bitterly cold single digit temperatures. The Blue Ridge Region is holding a second Senior EMM clinic for additional Senior Candidates who were “snowed out” or otherwise unable to attend.

The Virginia Region Senior EMM clinic was held at Bryce Mountain on January 22<sup>nd</sup> under the expert and well-organized direction of **T. Harris** and Virginia Region Senior Evaluators. The 8 candidates in attendance received valuable information and practice to aid them for the February EMM evaluation.

Congratulations to **Trace Higgins** on a well run Senior S&T clinic at Wintergreen on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Senior S&T candidates and S&T Evaluators were rewarded with a beautiful day to clinic on the evaluation parameters for the Senior S&T Evaluation in February. The candidates received very positive and useful feedback on skiing, boarding, and toboggan handling techniques.

Thanks to everyone in the Virginia Region for ideas on enhancing aspects of the Senior Program!

With Senior EMM Evaluations being held over the next two months, the following may be helpful to Senior Candidates. From observation and analysis of Senior EMM Evaluations over recent years we have generated a list of ten common mistakes by Senior Candidates during scenario evaluations. Most are simple and patrollers would never make those mistakes in “real life” situations, but in the environment of being evaluated, simple things are sometimes addressed.

Ten Common Mistakes by Candidates During Senior EMM OEC Scenarios (with explanation or example)

1. *Not addressing or obtaining adequate SAMPLE.* (Potentially missing a condition or illness critical to the care of a patient).
2. *Failure to observe BSI.* (Examination gloves....).

3. Inadequate patient assessment and physical exam.  
(Potentially missing an injury or illness requiring immediate care).
4. Not identifying high priority patients or injuries requiring interventions during initial triage. (Spending time on a patient with minor injury and not addressing a serious injury, or failure to assure airway).
5. Not requesting proper equipment or assistance.  
(Such as not calling for a backboard after initial assessment identifying serious back injury).
6. Failure to correctly utilize available equipment. (Need to have working knowledge for all splints, oxygen delivery devices, adjuncts,...).
7. Improper use of people resources.  
(Not directing bystanders or trained personnel and/or locking yourself into a position where you lose your capacity to manage situation).
8. Failure to check CMS before and after.  
(Always after any splinting, bandaging or other first aid care).
9. Not maintaining stabilization or traction.  
(Once C-spine stabilization is initiated or traction initiated for a femur, it must be maintained).
10. Failure to observe, periodically check, or record vitals .  
(Noting any pertinent change in patient status).

**As always, thanks to all the Instructors and Evaluators who give so freely of their time and expertise!!!**

Hugh Jernigan

**Ian Archibald MD, FACS**

*Medical Advisor*

**Report from Medical Committee Meeting Dec 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2010, Denver CO**

The Medical Committee of NSP met in conjunction with the OEC Supervisors for a “first look” at the new 5<sup>th</sup> Edition OEC. The meeting was Co-chaired by Dr **Dave Johe** and **Ed McNamara**. Approximately 12 physicians from the different divisions of NSP attended with background medical expertise in Orthopedics, Neurosurgery, Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine Intensive Care.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition OEC will have a different look and feel and all present were impressed with the work being done by the publisher. The release date will be prior to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The next refresher in fall 2011 will include new material from this manual.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition has been expanded to 36 Chapters. Skills and Scenarios have been incorporated into the relevant chapters and overall my impression was a more cohesive text. Some of the larger chapters from 4<sup>th</sup> Ed have been broken up, for instance Chapter 15 on Environmental Emergencies now has separate chapters on burns, cold, heat, water, and altitude emergencies. This should allow a more focused discussion and ease of referencing. Some of the detail in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition has been removed to focus content on the key concepts. Finally there are new chapters on communication and documentation, geriatric issues, and plant and animal emergencies. The communication and documentation chapter is particularly relevant in our increasingly litigious society.

The remainder of the meeting was used to discuss other issues, of which the increasing scrutiny by State EMS on our ski patrol activities was the most interesting. **Tim White**, NSP Executive Director gave an update on 3 separate State EMS Systems that have attempted to regulate NSP OEC technicians. Washington, Idaho and Pennsylvania have all made efforts to regulate OEC Techs, much as they do with EMT's. To date, NSP has been successful in maintaining our independence. However, the writing is on the wall and we ignore this issue at our own peril. The NSP Legal Committee is currently working on National Immunity Legislation with **Morgan Armstrong** actively involved. However the Medical Committee believe we should also be proactive and develop our own programs that assess quality of care at the patrol level.

Quality Assurance Programs are already commonplace and often mandatory in all aspects of patient care across the entire medical care continuum. One example is the SCIP program (Surgical Care Improvement Project), which monitors hospital compliance with the use of antibiotics, anticoagulants and appropriate pre-op skin prep during the peri-operative period. Each hospital has a score, which is available in the public domain and is used, not only as positive advertising but also to reduce reimbursement to hospitals that perform poorly.

NSP's OEC Education Program already has an excellent monitoring program in place for assessing the teaching and refreshing of OEC skills. We do not have any monitoring of our actual patient care activities, such as; response time to injury, use of O2, accuracy of splinting, to name a few. A quality assurance program that monitors and collects this type of information would help negate the need for State EMS oversight. Further, it would help set benchmarks for patrols to compare themselves to, with a goal of improved patient care.

While there are certainly obstacles to this approach, including wide variability of record keep by patrols and legal concerns by ski area management, the Medical Committee has made a recommendation to the NSP Board that a Quality Assurance program be developed.

As a preliminary step, the Medical Committee recommends each ski patrol identify a medical provider (MD, DO, PA, NP, RN) in their community who has an interest in wintersports, and is willing to be involved with education activities and quality programs.

Overall, this was a very productive meeting.

Ian Archibald MD, FACS

*Historian / Archivist ... Historian / Archivist ... Historian / Archivist ... Historian / Archivist*

**Fred Wessels,**  
*Historian / Archivist*

***“Plans that either come to naught or half a page of scribbled lines.” Roger Waters***

I first want to thank **Tucker Crolius** of Wintergreen for the 50 back issues of the Southern Cross dating back to March 1976 and to **Gordon Pettit** for Lift Evac. pictures from Sky Valley, GA (one of our lost mountains).

It seems that every time I meet with a Patrol or Patrollers, I ask for pictures or a history of the Mountain and the Patrol. The response is always the same. “Man, I have so much stuff. I will send it to you”. With the rare exception, these plans “come to naught”. I would settle for “half a page of scribbled lines”.

Based on what I have found, we have **more** lost ski areas in the in the South than we have active ski areas. I am sure that many of you have fond memories and pictures of hills of the past. I need any information you can pass along. If you need for me to copy pictures and send them back, that is fine. If you can scan them and send a disk, that would be great. Email is also great. I will take whatever you can give me. If you were a Patroller at a Lost Ski Area, how

about “a half a page of scribbled lines. Don’t let these areas fade away. If you are old enough to remember this song, you have a story to tell. Turn up your volume and enjoy.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=iv&v=MUt7qmSvxLI&annotation\\_id=annotation\\_347449](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=iv&v=MUt7qmSvxLI&annotation_id=annotation_347449)

Congratulations to **Angela Jones** of Appalachian Ski Mountain and Hawksnest Ski Patrol for being the winner of the two Dixie “Son of Sam” splints. Not only was she the first to mail in all of the correct answers, she was also the only response. You guys can do better.

***Now for a little Southern Ski Trivia.*** On a warm day in mid-February 1985, a lift operator stepped out of the shack to enjoy the 55-60 degree temps. He slipped and fell and his hand went under the shack he suddenly felt extreme pain similar to a Hornet’s sting. He noticed two puncture marks and called for Patroller assistance. Turns out that this was a Copperhead bite. (The dreaded venomous snow snake) OEC is not just about skiing. It is Outdoor Emergency Care.

See you all soon!!

Fred

[Southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com](mailto:Southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com)

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*Division Elections ... Division Elections ... Division Elections ... Division Elections ... Division*

**Lee T. Wittmann,**

*Election Coordinator*

Election for the position of Southern Division Director

Richard Boyer is the sole member running for the Office of Division Director, Southern Division and National Ski Patrol. Mr. Boyer meets the requirements and ballots resumes and platforms will be e-mailed to all Patrol representatives of record on February 1, 2011. The deadline for the receipt of ballots is February 21, 2011. Ballots may be returned via USPO or e-mailed. The results of the election will be announced on February 21, 2011.

Any concerns or procedural questions should be directed to the Election Coordinator.

**Lee T. Wittmann,** Election Coordinator

102 Rainbows End

Beech Mountain, NC 28604

828 387 3505

[lwittmann@skybest.com](mailto:lwittmann@skybest.com)

**RICHARD BOYER**  
4559 Collins Avenue  
Acworth, Georgia 30101

November 12, 2010

Mr. Lee T. Wittmann, Election Coordinator  
Southern Division, National Ski Patrol  
102 Rainbows End  
Beech Mountain, NC 28604-7206

RE: Division Director Nomination for the Southern Division's 2011 Election

Dear Mr. Wittmann,

I would like to offer my name in nomination for the office of Division Director, Southern Division for the election to be held in 2011. I also make the required statement, that if elected I would be willing to serve in this position.

I have many working relationships and enjoy a good rapport with all levels from both volunteer and paid patrollers at many ski areas to officers at the division level. I am presently serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Division Director of the Southern Division and have been working at the division level for 10 years. I have served as a Patrol Representative, Section Chief, Regional Director and Assistant Division Director. In the future, in addition to keeping the division operating efficiently, and employing the views and experience of the ski patrol members, I believe one of our biggest challenges will be to bring new people into each and every patrol and into the activities of the division.

Through the years I have witnessed a smooth and remarkably coordinated operation of this division. I wish to concert all efforts we can toward continuing these achievements and good results. Great strides have been made toward working together and clarifying how we want to move forward as a division and at the national level. The Southern Division enjoys the reputation of being a mover and shaker within the National Organization. We are engaged and respected and I'd like to enhance this record. We have a strong group of dedicated and talented men and women who are our patrol representatives and our program supervisors are as good as the best in the National Ski Patrol System. I would compare our rank and file as patrollers individually with the best in the national system. It is of paramount importance that we continue this trend of excellence.

For the above reasons I hope to continue to be able to work and share in the Southern Division of the National Ski Patrol as your Division Director.

Sincerely,

Richard Boyer

## Richard Boyer

### Professional Experience:

**Bridgewater Management Company** - President and CEO - Third party administrator which has had developmental and operational responsibility for over 30 insurance companies.

**Risk Management Associates** - President - Development and operations of multiple captive insurance companies for the medical field.

**Communications International, Inc.** - Project Manager for Television Microwave Link Project for the FAA, Finance Department, forecasting, pricing and strategic planning, MIS and LAN supervisor.

**Paces Investment Properties, Inc.** 1982 -1986, President - Identification, evaluation, acquisition and property management of commercial real estate for office, industrial and retail properties.

**Boyer Group, Inc.** 1979 -1982, President - Property management, commercial real estate brokerage, investments and sales.

**Cecil B. Day Companies** 1967 - 1979 - Various capacities with the Day Companies including Project Manager for apartments, offices, motels, and restaurants in planning, construction, development and operations. Member of the Board of Directors for Days Inns of America, Day Realty of Charlotte and Day Realty of Atlanta. Held positions of Vice President, Executive VP and President of listed Day Companies. Managing equity partner in Day Realty of Charlotte and Atlanta and minority owner of Days Inns of America.

### National Ski Patrol:

Currently a Toboggan Instructor, Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor and Senior Patroller, at Cataloochee Ski Area, NC.

**1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Division Director**, Southern Division of NSP - 2007-2011

**Lifetime Member of NSP** -2008

**NSP National Number 10812** - 2008

**Assistant Division Director – South**, Southern Division of NSP - 2004-2007

**Region Director**, Smoky Mountain Region, Southern Division of NSP - 2002-2004

**Section Chief**, Deep South, Southern Division of NSP - 2001-2002

**Patroller** for Cataloochee Ski Area, NC - 2001-present

**Alpine Senior Patroller** - 2001

**Patroller** for Sky Valley Ski Area, GA - 1997-2001

**Patrol Representative**, Ski Scaly, North Carolina - 1991-1992

**Patroller** for Scaly Mountain, NC - 1987-1997

**Winter Emergency Care Course** - Sky Valley Ski Area, GA - 1986

**Junior Ski Patrol**, Lassen Volcanic Nat'l Park, California - 1961-1963

### Education, etc.:

**Georgia Institute of Technology**, BS in Industrial Management, 1971

**Georgia Tech Varsity Track Team** (grant in aid)

**Sigma Chi Fraternity**

**Real Estate Broker's license** from 1971

# Cataloochee Teaching/PSIA-AASI Exam Prep Clinic

(Photos submitted by Briggs Allen)



Pete Jucker lecturing at Cataloochee



Classroom Fun!



On the Snow at Cataloochee

## Women's Clinic @ Wolf Ridge

(Photos submitted by Briggs Allen)



*NSP ... National Ski Patrol ... National Ski Patrol ... National Ski Patrol ... NSP*



When you are driving up to the mountains, do you ever worry about how your car will handle in the snow and ice? The National Ski Patrol wants all its members to stay safe on the roads, and that is why NSP and Subaru have partnered to offer members an amazing NSP member benefit.

Subaru offers all NSP members the advantage of the Subaru VIP Partners Program. With this program, NSP members can save up to \$3300 on the MSRP of a new Subaru, depending on the model and accessories chosen. If you finance or lease a new Subaru, you may also qualify for special rates. All the popular Subaru model lines, including Outback, Forester, Impreza, Legacy, and Tribeca, are included in the VIP Program.

To get the VIP Partner pricing, you must receive an approved Dealer Visit Authorization form **prior** to visiting your local Subaru dealership to choose your car. To receive an Authorization form, go to the NSP Pro Page, accessible from the Member Services section of the NSP website, and click the Subaru link. You will need to enter your member number, name, home address, daytime phone number, e-mail address, the model of car you are interested in, and the dealer you want to purchase it from. If you do not indicate a dealer at this time, one will be assigned to you based on your home address. This form is good for 45 days.

Once your eligibility is verified, NSP will forward the request for participation to VIP Program Headquarters and a Dealer Visit Authorization form will be processed and mailed to yourself and faxed to the selected dealer within 48 hours. VIP pricing will not be honored without the Dealer Visit Authorization form.

After filling out the Subaru info, check out all the other great discounts you can receive from sponsors available on the NSP Pro Page, many of which do not appear in the catalog. The number of sponsors has doubled in the last three years, and includes a variety of excellent outdoor gear manufacturers. Among the many companies offering gear are Patagonia, Polarmax, Dynastar/Lange, Rossignol, Nordica, prAna, Merrell, Smith Optics, Hestra, GoPro, Backcountry Access, and Yakima.

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## Southern Division Calendar & Staff Directory

Please refer to the **Division Website** for updated schedules!

[www.southernmsp.org](http://www.southernmsp.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.

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