



Southern Cross

A Publication of The Southern Division of The National Ski Patrol

2013-2014, Number 2

www.southernnsp.org

February 2014

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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 Spring issue is **May 23, 2014**.

Send submissions to:

Teresa T. Stewart, SC Editor
stewart.teresa@gmail.com

Update address at www.nsp.org

Richard Boyer,
Division Director

NSP Board of Directors and Division Directors meetings January 2014

As we usually do, the Division Directors arrived and met the day before the Board meeting began. We go over the proposed Board agenda item by item discussing whether anyone feels our group should “weigh-in” on topics before the Board.



The first on the agenda was selection of a Board Chair. This, of course, is done solely by the Board and they selected **Ed McNamara** to head the Board for the coming year. There are two new faces on the Board this year, **Tom Sherry** and **Dave Walker**. Both will serve you well and bring good and unique talents to the Board of Directors.

Of interest to most of you is the re-design of the website of NSP. This process is being done correctly, in that they are using an outside consultant to plan the web architecture to fit our end needs, then they will lay over the necessary components to make a logical, workable, maneuverable site we can depend on and utilize.

We were introduced to the new Executive Director, **John McMahon**. John is knowledgeable in the ski industry, brings much to our organization in the areas of vision, experience running organizations such as ours and a great personality with which we all can work. I left the meeting encouraged with the choice of John as our new Executive Director.

We are working on clarification of how to fully utilize the changes in our National liability insurance program. Patrollers involved in the instruction of registered courses now are covered by National’s liability insurance. We are working out the details of if and how this can also be utilized for training of

candidates on each individual mountain during the ski year. Candidates in this case could be basic, senior, or certified candidates. **Tony Tingle** will be communicating with PR's, etc. as we get clarification as to the best way to accomplish this.

Jim and Mary Underwood are stepping back after this year from their considerable contributions to the Southern Division. They both will move to Alumni status and won't completely hang up their helmets, so we'll still get to take a few runs with them. Jim will continue to handle the Annual Registrations for the Division. We can't thank them both enough for the wonderful jobs they have done! They will be very sorely missed!

We are in the process of accepting resumes' for Treasurer for the Southern Division and will also begin the process to find Mary's replacement as Leadership Development Coordinator. If anyone has an interest in either job please contact your Regional Director or Jim Underwood or me.

I hope to see you on the slopes this year.

Richard Boyer

Brent Bowman,
2nd Assistant Division Director



Well, I am sitting here in Mid-January at my second home, a hotel near a ski hill (as I am sure many of you are). The 2013-2014 season started in Blue Ridge and Dixie. We were skiing in Mid-November. Other areas in the Southern Division opened soon after. By December 1, most areas were open for business and welcoming customers. This is what we have all been looking forward to for the past 9 months. Once the snow is on the ground and the area is open, On-The-Hill training quickly begins. Many of the courses have already been posted for the season but you should still visit <http://www.southernnsp.org> and specifically <http://www.southernnsp.org/Calendar.aspx> to find out what is happening near you. The class that I am most excited about this year is the first ever Telemark Improvement Seminar in the Southern Division. This will take place Feb 22-23 at Timberline. As I write this article there are still a couple of openings in the clinic we would love to see you in WVA.

Please remember that all of us can still learn something in a Ski, Board, Telemark, Toboggan seminar. We have many dedicated instructors in the Southern Division that would love help you attain that next level proficiency.

SEE YOU ON THE HILL.....

Mike Harris,
Assistant Division Director – South

The season is off to a great start this year. OEC refreshers went extremely well this year. Terrific OEC class in Boone thanks to Cathy LaMarre. Lots of events left in the remainder of this year.

Dixie Region

1-11 Senior ski clinic @ Ober Gatlinburg, 1-12 Senior toboggan clinic @ Ober Gatlinburg, 1-18 Basic S&T evaluation @ Ober Gatlinburg, 2-2 Senior OEC clinic @ Cataloochee, 2-8 Senior ski evaluation @ Ober Gatlinburg, 2-9 Senior toboggan evaluation @ Ober Gatlinburg, 2-15 Basic S&T evaluation @ Ober Gatlinburg, 2-23 Senior OEC evaluation @ Cataloochee.



Blue Ridge Region

1-11 Senior OEC clinic @ Appalachian, 1-26 Senior S&T clinic @ Beech, 2-2 Basic S&T evaluation @ Beech, 2-22 Basic S&T evaluation @ Appalachian, 2-23 Senior OEC evaluation @ Appalachian, and 3-2 Senior S&T evaluation @ Sugar.

We have lots of programs ahead for the remainder of this year. I hope to see as many of you as possible this season. Please try to join us in Kingsport the first of August.

Mike Harris (AKA) Tyrone

Blue Ridge Region

Brent Rockett,
Blue Ridge Region Director

Blue Ridge Region Message

With the record cold temperatures and all the recent additional snowmaking that has been added at all three of the Blue Ridge region resorts, the snow has been wonderful this season. I am looking forward to the conditions continuing to be great and a lengthy season. After the success and the positive response from the participants and the patrollers last year, the Appalachian Mt Ski Patrol will be hosting another Wounded Warrior Day at Appalachian Mt on March 1.



Even though we are just in the middle of the ski season, it is not too early to start preparing award nominations. Last season the Blue Ridge Region had the following Southern Division Outstanding Winners: **Mark Cook** of Appalachian Mt as the Outstanding Ski Patroller; **Joe Donadio** of Appalachian Mt as the Outstanding Patrol Representative and also was the National Runner-up; and Appalachian Mt was selected as the Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol. All of these were well deserving. A lot more patrollers are also deserving but you have to submit your nominations for them to be considered. Though we don't patrol for it, what better way to say thank you and be recognized by your peers for a job well done. Take the time to consider some of your patrollers for these awards.

Finally, the Southern Division Conference will be held again in Kingsport, TN but the date has been moved up one week. It will be held on August 1-3 this year. There will be more on the conference in the future but go ahead and get it on your calendar.

Looking forward to making turns with you this season.

Brent

From the Supervisors and Advisors...

OET... Outdoor Emergency Transportation ... Outdoor Emergency Transportation ... OET...

Tony Tingle,

Division Outdoor Emergency Transportation Supervisor

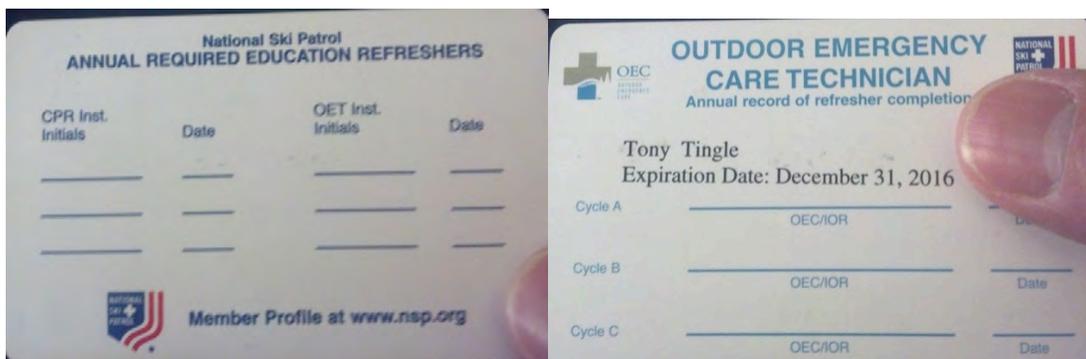


Outdoor Emergency Transportation Winter 2014

Judging from the webcams across the Division, all of the mountains are in good shape for the season. I see lots of white stuff and lots of folks sliding on it. Howdy from the Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET) program for the 2013-2014 season. Just want to check in and let you know about a couple of changes in the program and I hope to give you a couple of things to look forward to.

Changes to the NSP OET Program

What's changed First the name. Transportation is now Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET). Second, there is now a requirement in the NSP Policies and Procedures (P&P) that every Patroller who handles a toboggan as part of his or her duties needs to complete a toboggan refresher each year. Toboggan Refreshers can be registered by any active toboggan instructor by selecting a TREF on the course registration drop-down menu on the NSP course registration web site. TREFs are like any other course and must be closed with a course completion form. **What does this get me?** Documentation of your Toboggan Refresher in the NSP records. **Why is this important?** The NSP P&P makes this a requirement of being a Patroller. This is just like your annual OEC refresher and CPR refresher requirements that we all do each season. In fact, the new membership cards include a space for the instructors of record to sign that your OEC refresher, OET refresher and CPR refresher are complete. I just got mine in the mail last week and have included a photo.



Back

Front

I have seen several TREFs registered in the Division. That is fantastic! If you are having trouble getting one registered or you have questions, drop me an e-mail or give me a call.

For OET instructors, the P&P changes include the requirement that we attend at least one Region, Division, or National continuing education event during our three-year instructor period. As of right now, the National OET committee does not specify which courses satisfy this requirement (that will be clarified in the future), but I can tell you that instructor recalibration refreshers (RECAL) and Ski Trainer Workshops (STW) will satisfy the requirement. I will be working with the Regional Transportation Advisors and the Division Ski School to make these courses available and will keep you all in the loop. When the final list of courses that satisfy the requirement is available, I will let you know. Remember, that is one event sometime in the next three years, so we have some time. **Why the requirement?** The continuing education requirement brings the OET program in line with other NSP education programs. This is a familiar requirement if you are an OEC instructor. Another requirement is that OET instructors should be actively teaching and keeping track of what you have taught. There is an online tool on the NSP website that allows you to record your teaching activities and I use it, but I also recommend keeping a notebook in your boot bag. When you are taking off your boots at the end of the day, jot down what skills you taught, where you were, and who you worked with. I enter this info on the NSP site later. I'm old....I like having paper and a pencil! As a bonus, when tax time comes around, I can fish-out my notebook and figure out my mileage driven for volunteer work.

Something to look forward to....**Jay Zedak** and the National Transportation Committee are working on developing a bank of videos to use for your toboggan training. This is a work in progress, and I will let you know when it is available for use. If anyone has any video that they would like to share for the video bank, give me a shout, and I can get it to the correct folks.

Ski Instruction

What's this I hear about the exemption for ski instruction being removed from the NSP insurance policy? Old-timers remember the days when the Ski Patrol taught skiing. For the newer patrollers, this has not been the case. After a lawsuit in the early 2000's, the insurance carrier added a clause or exemption to the NSP general liability (GL) insurance policy stating that ski instruction was not an activity covered by the insurer. The NSP GL insurance covers the patroller if the NSP is pulled into a lawsuit. The policy is not a personal liability policy therefore patrollers must be aware that personal injury during an event ad hoc or otherwise would fall under their personal liability insurance.

For years, that exemption remained, until this season. But whoa! Hold your horses! Before we all run out and start teaching skiing.....there are some limits on who can teach skiing skills. I was tasked to provide a list of instructors who are sanctioned to teach skiing. I am working with **Briggs Allen** to finalize the list. The list will include all active toboggan instructors and members of the Southern Division Ski School who are not OET instructors. Here is the reasoning behind this selection. Ski skills are routinely taught by OET instructors during regular toboggan training (balance drills, edging exercises, wedge skills, and drills to pressure the ski edges, etc) so they need to be on the list of sanctioned instructors. Adding the ski instructors from the Division Ski School is self explanatory. If I am missing someone please give me a shout. The list of Patrollers who are sanctioned to teach skiing skills is dynamic list and will change throughout the season.

NSP General Liability Policy - Questions and Answers

The removal of the exemption for ski instruction got me and some other folks talking about how to best protect our members during training and testing activities. We got **Jay Zedak** (NSP OET Program Supervisor) and **Darcy Hanley** (NSP Education Director) involved and both worked diligently and quickly to provide some

answers to questions we had and I thought I would pass the information on to you. As is stated above, the NSP GL insurance covers the patroller if the NSP is pulled into a lawsuit. The policy is not a personal liability policy therefore patrollers must be aware that personal injury during an event ad hoc or otherwise would fall under their personal liability insurance.

The easiest way to protect patrollers under the NSP GL policy coverage during toboggan training is by performing training and testing activities in *REGISTERED* courses taught by current OET instructors. Likewise, *REGISTERED* ski instruction courses such ski enhancement seminars (SES) and snowboard enhancement seminars (SBES) taught by credentialed PSIA/AASI instructors (members of our NSP ski school or visiting instructors from another NSP ski school) gets everyone covered. So if you can register it that is the best way to go.

What about general toboggan training on my home mountain?

Registering a Patroller 101 (PAT) for the entire season covers the OET and ski training (assuming the instructors are current OET instructors and/or sanctioned ski instructors) for candidates. This includes Basic, Senior, and Certified candidates.

General ski and toboggan training at your home area is covered by the GL policy because it is a NSP sanctioned program, requirement, or event.

What about Professional Patrollers? These guys and gals work for a mountain and are generally covered by the liability insurance at their hill but, if they attend an event as an evaluator and or instructor and it is a NSP sanctioned event and they are NSP members, on their own dime, they are covered on the GL policy. The key here is an NSP sanctioned event (this can be training, evaluating or teaching.)

What about patroller who are visiting another mountain? If a patroller goes to another mountain to do training or for instruction, (or evaluation) for an upcoming evaluation, the best practice is to *REGISTER* a course, participate under that course ID, and then close the course. For example, a Senior candidate would like additional toboggan training on the Senior hill in their Region, and are invited by the mountain to visit and train with one of their OET instructors. The instructor can register a toboggan enhancement seminar (TES) for the day the patroller visits, include all participants on the course closure form, and close the course. That is the best practice; however, if the activity is sanctioned by NSP then the visiting patroller is covered under the GL policy.

Thanks to **Darcy** and **Jay** for the immediate attention to the Southern Division Questions and the quick clarifications from the NSP insurance carrier. Thanks to all the Southern Division OET instructions and other Patrollers for what you do. Register those courses, and PLEASE close them. Be safe. I look forward to seeing you on the snow.

Tony

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

Briggs Allen,

Snowsports Supervisor



As I sit down to write this for the midwinter edition of the Southern Cross things are going great! The weather has been corporative with temperatures being quite conducive for snowmaking and at least this week it seems to be snowing, just a little, every two or three days. We are in the midst of our Divisional Snowsports School

Skier/Snowboarder Improvement Clinics at Beech and Winterplace and are looking forward to the first-ever NSP Telemark Clinic at Timberline Resort February 22-23.

As of this date (1/16/2014), several slots are still available for the telemark clinic. If you are considering this event don't wait to register as space is limited. This clinic is being taught by PSIA-E D Team member Jay Nation and is not to be missed.

Our annual December "Train the Trainer" clinic at Cataloochee Resort went well. We had enough qualified instructors so that all of the groups were small and quite productive. The clinic included "on the snow" work, video analysis of the participants as well as an introduction to movement analysis. As usual, the clinic participants had a fine social Saturday evening at the local Mexican restaurant. Thanks to the management, staff and Patrol at Cataloochee for their great hospitality.

In December, your Snowsports School had the opportunity to apply for and was chosen to receive three \$50 grants from PSIA-E. These grants are to be awarded to members of *our school* that are taking PSIA/AASI level II testing this season. It has been decided that the first three test applications submitted to me prior to sending to PSIA-E will be eligible for this grant.

Speaking of PSIA, some of the most frequent questions I receive are do I really need to join, how do I joint and is it worthwhile. First some background, **the Professional Ski Instructors of America - American Association of Snowboard Instructors (PSIA-AASI)** is a nonprofit education association dedicated to promoting the sports of skiing and snowboarding through instruction. With more than 31,500 members, PSIA-AASI establishes certification standards for snowsports instructors and develops education materials to be used as the core components of instructor training. PSIA is comprised of nine divisions and the Southern Division NSP is in the PSIA's Eastern Division. The Eastern Division is PSIA's largest division having 10,695 members in over 250 schools. To join, you must be at least 16 years old, a member of a Snowsports school (i.e. Southern Division NSP Snowsports School) and have 25 hours of training/teaching experience as attested by your ski school director or other designated individual. The application is submitted to the Snowsports School for approval and forwarded to PSIA-E along with your check for \$128 annual dues (July 1-June 30). Should you join after February 15 your dues cover you for the remaining part of the year as well is the entire next dues cycle.

After becoming a member, you are eligible to utilize extensive video and written resources on all phases of alpine, snowboard, adaptive and nordic snowsports. Numerous clinics are presented throughout the Eastern Division as well as 2 week long programs. In PSIA/AASI there are three levels of expertise, being level I, level II and level III. When you have a PSIA/AASI certified instructor you can be assured that they have met a national standard and you are learning from the best.

The National Ski Patrol as well as the Southern Division embraces and supports PSIA/AASI instruction. The Southern Division NSP Snowsports School wants to make sure that each patrol has PSIA/AASI trained instructors that are responsible for training our candidates and providing continuing improvement opportunities for our Patrollers. Our Snowsports School is here to assist the trainers as well as Patrollers in achieving and improving their “on the snow” abilities. Like OEC our skiing/boarding skills as well as equipment changes over time. It is imperative that we as patrollers constantly improve our skiing/boarding skills not only for our safety and appearance, but also for the safety of the general public in which we serve. The bottom line, we would like you to join us. You can do so by participating in our clinics, joining our Snowsports School and becoming an instructor or if you are a current instructor volunteering to help with our training programs. If you are an examiner, you owe it to yourself and those you examine to join and participate with us. The absolute worst that could happen.... you will improve your skiing/boarding skills. For further information please feel free to drop me an e-mail.

Finally the Snowsports School is fortunate and pleased to announce that **Matt Weitz** of the Wintergreen Ski Patrol has consented to become our Assistant Snowsports School Director. Matt is an incredible instructor that is in the last phase of obtaining his level III Alpine certification. Welcome and thanks for your service.

And remember Snowsports are simple just turn right, turn left and repeat as necessary. Have a great rest of the season!



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

Teresa T. Stewart,

Instructor Development Supervisor

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

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

Instructors and Instructor Trainers can expect to see changes rolling in place as courses are planned. Also, coming soon is an on-line Instructor Development Continuing Education module.

The Instructor Development Program has changed as of December 2013! The ID Instructor Manual, the student text *Instructor Development: Training the Adult Learner, 2013* and the NSP Mentor Guide have all been updated and approved by the education committee and the national board of directors. Along with these changes a number of educational forms have also been updated and include the following:

- NSP Course Registration Form (2013)
- NSP Course Completion Roster (2013)
- NSP Instructor Application (2013)
- NSP Mentoring Form (2013)
- NSP Instructor Appointment Form (2013-2014)

There is also an emphasis to use the web-based Instructor Activity Log and move away from the paper version so that national has visibility.

Course Completion Rosters should be completed and email directly to education@msp.org and no longer faxed or mailed in – this allows the document trail to be tracked through to completion.

There are numerous clarifications for instructors that are notable.

- EVERY course must be registered with NSP → register on-line
- The hybrid e-learning course is **NOT** a stand-alone course. Hybrid indicates that the learner must demonstrate in person the six-pack teaching.
- **Instructor Log** must be maintained by every instructor. Recording in this log directly attaches to the member profile in the national database.
- Instructors will teach in their discipline(s) a representative amount of classes (OEC is at least one lesson per year).
- Instructors will attend a continuing education event once every three years.
- Instructors will be observed by an IT at least once every three years.

Alumni Program ... Alumni Program ... Alumni Program ... Alumni Program ... Alumni

Milton Triplett,
Alumni Program Supervisor



As the new Division Alumni Supervisor, let me introduce myself. I was a patroller at Ober Gatlinburg and Great Smoky Mountain Nordic for 18 years. I was the Division Mountaineering and Nordic Advisor for three years each. I'm 79 and still ski regularly but you wouldn't want to ride my toboggan. After a few years absence from patrolling (and always missing it) I've volunteered to be the Division Alumni Supervisor.

Randi Lowery, Asst. Dixie Region Director wrote an excellent article for the summer edition, 2013 Southern Cross answering the question: "What is an Alumni?" Anyone wanting more details about the Alumni program should access the National web site (nsp.org).

My first action as Alumni Supervisor was to obtain the division Alumni contact information and send it to each patrol for possibly using Alumni at fall refreshers.

I have requested each region appoint an Alumni Supervisor. In time, I would like to have a designated contact in each patrol. This should promote more Alumni activities, provide a source of feedback on what's working and become a source for filling vacancies as they occur.

Currently the National office obtains information on an Alumni's last patrol but does not include it in an accessible database. If patrols use the accessible database to notify Alumni of patrol activities, some are missed and leave the program. The National Alumni Advisory Committee (I'm a participating member) has started having conference calls to address important issues. The database issue is being added to the agenda.

The latest edition of the Ski Patrol magazine listed the topics they'd covered from 2000 until the present. Not a single Alumni article was published. The situation is now being remedied by an article submitted by the National Alumni Advisor.

Southern Division currently has 147 registered Alumni. What a pool of talent that can be used to enhance the rest of the program! I'd love to hear from you with ideas about how Alumni can be more effective.

Milton Triplett

SOUTHERN DIVISION ALUMNI CONTEST

The Southern Division Alumni program is sponsoring a contest to determine which patrols are utilizing the skills and experience of its registered Alumni. The contest is also to determine which registered Alumni are continuing to contribute to the Southern Division Ski Patrol program. A variety of Alumni tasks have been accumulated by the National Alumni Advisory Committee and are found on the following web site:

<http://tripletpphotos.zenfolio.com/Second>

Each patrol will be able to make a Patrol and Alumni submission. Each submission will be limited to a single, letter-sized, double-spaced sheet. The Alumni must be currently registered but not necessarily on a secondary patrol roster.

The winning Alumni and Patrol will each be awarded a gift certificate to the NSP Catalog. The submissions will be evaluated by a committee formed by Alumni from each Region. Patrol and Alumni awards will not necessarily be selected from the same patrol. Submissions are to be received by the Division Alumni Supervisor by 4/30/14. Awards will be presented at the Southern Division Conference in Kingsport, TN (August 2014).

Milton Triplett, Southern Division Alumni Supervisor mtrip67@comcast.net
116 William Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
[865-220-0967](tel:865-220-0967)

Avalanche Program ... Avalanche Program ... Avalanche Program ... Avalanche Program ...

Scott Campbell,
Avalanche Program Supervisor

Avalanche Safety and Rescue Training Course Offerings

We plan on offering the NSP “Introduction to Avalanche Safety and Rescue” in the Southern Division twice during each year. This eight-hour course introduces fundamental principles of avalanche hazards, safety, and rescue. It does qualify as an elective requirement for the NSP Senior Program, but it does not meet Level 1 avalanche course standards and does not qualify as a prerequisite for enrollment in the Level 2 avalanche courses. For this year, the plan is to offer it sometime in April or May at a location in the West Virginia Region and later in the year at a location in the Blue Ridge or Dixie Region. This plan is contingent upon a patrol offering a location in each of these regions and a minimum of ten patrollers enrolling for each course.



If a patrol would like to volunteer their location or any patroller would like to register for one of these planned courses, please contact Scott Campbell at campbellsservices@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please call him at home at 703 241-2640.

Fred Wessels,
Southern Division Historian

Happy Birthday Sapphire Valley!!!!

From what I can determine, “Downhill in Dixie” started in Virginia. However, it seems that it did not become a viable option until North Carolina got in the business. By this time, Appalachian (Blowing Rock Ski Lodge), Cataloochee, and Wolf Ridge (Wolf Laurel) have already turned 50.

Time to give Sapphire Valley an AARP card.

This is a small hill located in Sapphire, NC. Just outside of Cashiers NC and a stones’ throw from the NC/SC state line. The first season for Sapphire Valley began in 1964.

As you can imagine, getting into the ski business in extreme southern North Carolina in the early 1960’s seemed like a pipe dream. I can remember a person from Sapphire Valley visiting my Father in the late 1960’s trying to sell land and explain snowmaking to someone born and raised in Savannah, Ga. Of course, they had a slide show. Actual slides. PowerPoint was still another 40+ years away. My Dad missed out.

I had the privilege of being able to patrol at Sapphire over the past MLK weekend. It really has the feel of a “Mom and Pop” ski area. They have a single quad lift, a surface lift for a very nice beginner slope, and a surface lift for tubing. For the size of the hill, they have overkill snowmaking.

Sapphire is a quick and easy drive from the Atlanta, Greenville and Asheville area. If you know a family looking to take up skiing, tell them to put Sapphire at the top of the list.

With the season we are having this year, I am sure that everyone has tons of pictures. I need them. Please email them to southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com.

Time to cut some more wood!!

Fred

Women's Program ... Women's Program ... Women's Program ... Women's Program

Joy Jucker,
Women's Program Supervisor

2014 Southern Division Women's Clinic

This January, women from around the Southern Division of the National Ski Patrol were invited to join other patrollers for a weekend of training, practicing, sharing, riding and skiing on the many slopes of the Cataloochee Ski Area located high above Maggie Valley, NC. After a hardy breakfast provided by the Cataloochee Ski Area, Saturday's event of toboggan training was halted by Mother Nature and a huge rainstorm containing lightning and wind. By 11:00 AM all had booted up and headed to the slopes for a tour of the area. The new Cascade Cruiser SS was inspected and differences noted by the attendees and toboggan instructors. A game of driving the sled in a wheelbarrow fashion was followed by edge practice. The group had lunch courtesy of the ski area and then groups were formed to divide up the ones desiring sled practice and the ones who wanted to try their hand at rope-a-goat and chop sticks. Sunday the women met again and proceeded to work on ski and ride skills. The group met their PSIA and AASI instructors and again broke into groups.



Big thanks go to first Wolf Ridge Patrol for a donation of \$150 for food and wine for the Friday night social meeting. Cataloochee Ski Area for the excellent hospitality and delicious meals. Thanks to all the attendees from Sugar Mt., Cataloochee, Ober Gatlinburg, and Wolf Ridge. We had a total of 9. **Cathy Margiotta** from Wintergreen and **Judi Bruns** from Cataloochee our two fine PSIA instructors and **Christine Martin** from Ober Gatlinburg who participated as our certified AASI instructor.

And last but not least, the program's event could not have happened without the women toboggan instructors **Rhonda Smith, Randi Lowery, Carla Tingle** and **Tanya Thomas**. Huge thanks to them for volunteering and assisting. Thanks to **Wayne** and **Terri Morgan** for cooking the most delicious spaghetti dinner. This was enjoyed by all on Saturday night followed by door prizes, gift bags, games and hot-tubs.

Milton Triplett, Southern Division alumni supervisor and photographer, took pictures on Saturday and Sunday to make a DVD with music to record the activities of the weekend. This can be viewed at the fall meeting in August.



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

Hugh Jernigan,
Senior Program Supervisor

Profiles in Dedication Your Region Senior Program Administrators



The success of the Senior Program in the Southern Division is attributable to the hard work of many region Senior OEC and Transportation Instructors who readily give their time training Senior Candidates. These Instructors work with the Senior Candidates at their home mountains, provide valuable technical assistance during regional clinics, and serve as expert assessors during the regional Senior Evaluations.

But, the driving force in the four Southern Division regions are the **Region Senior Program Administrators**. They assure the Senior Candidates understand the process and completion standards of the Senior Program and are responsible for coordinating both the OEC and S&T portions of the program. This involves staying up-to-date on national directives and program changes, keeping track of the Senior Candidates on their progress, assuring the “paperwork” is correct, scheduling of events, and arranging for qualified instructors for the clinics and evaluations. There is an old saying “What you put in to something is what you get”. In this case the saying is absolutely true, because the quality of Senior Patrollers in the Southern Division is a testament to the efforts of the Region Senior Program Administrators and everyone else involved in the program.

Our Region Senior Program Administrators:

Virginia Region:

T. Harris is the “dean” of the Region Senior Program Administrators, having directed the Virginia Senior Program for the last 8 years, resulting in many well-trained Senior Patrollers. T. is a member of the Wintergreen Patrol, has been patrolling over 25 years, and has been involved in many other ski patrol programs in addition to the Senior Program. When asked what he would consider his title at Wintergreen should be, he replied “Handy Man”. One example of T.’s dedication is his willingness and time spent with new Senior Region Administrators in the other regions, gladly “showing them the ropes”.

It is difficult to just say “*T. Harris*”, because it usually comes out “*T. & Peg Harris*”. Peg Harris always works as T.’s assistant during the Senior OEC clinics/evaluations, and they even bring their granddaughter as a patient for OEC scenarios. Of course, T. returns the favor to Peg, being her assistant for the Southern Division Awards Program and helping with the process of getting a “car load” of awards ready for presentation at the Division meetings. Both are unsung heroes of the Southern Division!!!

Blue Ridge Region:

JoAnn Ehlinger has served the Blue Ridge Region as Senior Program Administrator for the past 5 years. She was a long-time member of the Hawksnest Ski Patrol and now a valuable member of the Beech Mountain Ski Patrol. Even at such a tender age, JoAnn has been involved in programs and held positions at the Patrol, Region, and Division levels. She is a National Ski Patrol “Gold Star” recipient for recognition as the National Ski Patrol-Student Patroller of the Year. JoAnn began ski patrol as a teenager (and by her admission struggled

with the medical/first aid aspects). From her ski patrol experiences she decided upon a profession in medicine, graduating from Nursing School, and now is a highly respected nurse at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. JoAnn has been an OEC and S&T instructor, and Senior Examiner for many years (she “wowed” both candidates and instructors with her demonstration of short radius turns at the recent Senior S&T Clinic at Beech Mountain!!). Her enthusiasm, wide range of knowledge, and willingness “to do whatever is need” to get the job done is a great asset to the Senior Program.

Dixie Region:

Bill Clarke has been a member of the National Ski Patrol for 33 years (passing his Basic Patroller test in Wisconsin), and is in his 4th year as the Dixie Region Senior Program Administrator. He was a long-time member of the Hawksnest Ski Patrol and now serves with the Division Administrative Patrol, along with being registered with Cataloochee as a secondary patrol. Bill is a highly qualified ski patroller, attested to by passing the rigorous evaluation requirements in the Certified Patroller Program, earning the rank of a Certified Patroller. He teaches an OEC Class every fall semester at Western Carolina University where he is employed as the Director of the Ramsey Activity Center and Coordinator of Events. Bill has initiated numerous refinements to the Senior Program in the Dixie Region and has created a strong program within the region. The recent Senior S&T Clinic held at Ober-Gatlinburg on February 8th and 9th had 10 new candidates participating. Due to Bill’s efforts (and all the Region instructors/evaluators), the Dixie Region has produced the largest Senior Candidate classes and most new Senior Patrollers in the Division over the past three years.

West Virginia Region:

Mary Lou Legg is the newest of the Region Senior Program Administrators, accepting the position last year. Mary Lou has been patrolling at Snowshoe Mountain since 1995, and is the Snowshoe Ski Patrol Training Officer. She is a gifted snow boarder, and is talented in many other areas (and apparently inexhaustible), exhibited by the fact she loves to rock climb, bike, kayak, and work as a river guide for Class VI River Runners, in addition to running her family business, Legg Plastic Products, Inc. located in Roanoke, Virginia. Congratulations West Virginia Region! Mary Lou’s example, leadership, and enthusiasm is a tremendous asset to the West Virginia Region Senior Program.

Please take time to thank these Region Senior Program Administrators and all the Instructor/Evaluators for their dedication and efforts to make us all better patrollers.

National Ski Patrol Safety Team ... National Ski Patrol Safety Team ...

Brett Henyon,

Division National Ski Patrol Safety Team



The season is now in full swing for all of us and we are half way through Safety Month. **Please send me updates from your mountain and/or region on the 'happenings' of Safety Month so that I can share with NSP.**

I will be travelling to some other mountains in my region over the coming month and look forward to spending some time with many of you.

Update from the Team:

1. This month the Safety Team welcomed **John McMahon** (the new National Executive Director) who joined the call.
2. Reviewed Safety Month activities in each division. There has been a definite increase in patrol participation for safety month (week). It is encouraged that each patrol, area or division that has safety month/week activities to take pictures and send to **Cara Crowley** (ccrowley@nsp.org) You can send this information out in your divisions as well. You can also send directly to me: bretthenyon@gmail.com.
3. In addition if you have **Lead By Example** pictures send those to Cara as well.
4. Congrats! To **Shauna** who has been selected as advisory board member for High Fives.
5. I will be completing a helmet fitting video to be shared.
6. Safety Materials: We have depleted the inventory and have sent items out to over 70 patrols. I still have pins, bandanas, cards and lanyards. At this point we are not going to reorder but determine the best course of action for next season.
7. The Safety Team will submit an article for the next issue of SPM. All team members will contribute to this article.
8. High Fives Foundation has been sent a safety package.
9. Mike gave an update on the AI. (updating the accident investigation guidelines)

As always – if you have any questions or needs from your Safety Team – please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

You may also wish to forward this to your patrols (which I encourage)

Regards – Brett Henyon

434.249.5164

Sapphire Valley

Dean Melton aka Mr. Smiles - PR, PD, "GO-pher"
SapphireFunInTheSnow@gmail.com

Just weeks before the 2012/2013 season the reins of the Sapphire Valley Patrol were thrusts into my hands. After the initial whiplash, Sapphire is now up and running smoother than ever. Still in process but operating smoother than ever. Mountain Management is on board supporting the Patrol, numerous enhancements have been made, the Patrol is growing and the newly initiated Mountain Service Team is providing vital support.



We have a hilltop shed that is in process and we are maintaining the company line; *"It's Just the Right Size"*. Some would contend that it is large and realtors have desired to show it to interested clients. Management has supported a portion of the material cost and the patrol with friends have provided the brains & muscle. Thank you to all who have been part of this process including GGDABD.

The newly initiated Mountain Service Team is providing vital support to the patrol & guests on the hill. Being a learning hill, lost skis and poles are the norm. This team provides assistance as needed to guests and in many cases are first on scene to incidents. Sapphire is using the OEC material in conjunction with the Red Cross Wilderness First Aid material to equip this team to provide support effectively.

If you are in the area, please stop in.

Life is a Journey, Enjoy the Ride!



The Accidental Patrollers at Sapphire Valley

(Submitted by Teresa T. Stewart)

Sapphire Valley - For most of you an Introduction!

I would like to introduce to you a wonderful ski are in North Carolina, Sapphire Valley. Back in August at the Southern Division Patroller Conference – I first met **Dean Melton** aka “Mr. Smiles”. He has been patrolling for 15 years and was initially from the Sky Valley Ski Patrol before they closed. As we talked at the conference he suggested dropping by Sapphire Valley. And so – sight unseen – and first trip to Sapphire – we magically appeared at Sapphire for MLK weekend to help patrol and learn about Sapphire Valley and what it has to offer the community.

Fred Wessels and I were welcomed as additional patrollers for the busy MLK Weekend. Dean provided a tour of the facilities that includes the patrol room and annex, slopes, the community center where the groups meet and check-in for their equipment, restaurant facilities and lastly the “shed”. The shed is still under construction and once completed will be an additional “base” station for patrolling the mountain. The other patrollers met that weekend included **David Castaldini, Tim Bauer, Ken Collins and Ben Tholkes**.

"The Hill" as described by the patrol, consists of a main slope with a quad lift, learning slope with a surface lift and snow tubing with a surface lift. "The Hill" is truly family oriented and most importantly is an environment that allows individuals the opportunity to be introduced to snow sports in a smaller less intimidating setting. In addition, many individuals heading on more extended trips come to test out their legs, equipment & teach their children.

Located in Western North Carolina near Cashiers on NC Hwy 64, Sapphire is 2 hours from Atlanta, GA and 1.5 hours from Greenville, SC.

For more information, read Fred's article on Sapphire's 50th skiing anniversary this year, Dean's article on what is happening now including the Mountain Top Shed that is "Just the Right Size" & check out www.SkiSapphireValley.com. Better yet give them a visit.

Beech Mountain S & T Clinic – January 26, 2014
(Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan)



Beech Mountain S & T Clinic – January 26, 2014

(Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan)



← Snowboard Group L-R: Megan Laws, Ashley Laws, Pete Jucker (instructor), Caitlin Pearce, Kenneth Stanford

Back Row L-R: Jerry Stevenson, Ron Clyde, → Thomas Bingham, Mark Needham, Skip Cooper, Terry Bygate, Matt Weitz (instructor), Greg Sowers, Tom Worley (instructor), Dale Mihuta (instructor), Andrew Smith (videographer), Kenneth Stanford, Mark Pipkin
Front Row L-R: Kim Shahbazi, Caron Sowers, Jane Miller, Megan Laws, Katherine Bygate, Ashley Laws, Pete Jucker (instructor), Caitlin Pearce, Stas Warner.



Winterplace Clinic – January 24, 2014
(Photos submitted by Briggs Allen)



Winterplace Clinic Skiers



Group listens to National S&T Supervisor as he performs movement analysis on the clinic participants.

Massanutten Senior S & T Clinic – January 12, 2014

(Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan)



Evaluators and Candidates



Snowshoe Senior S & T Clinic February 2, 2014

(Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan)



Mary Lou Legg with snowboard candidates.

Snowshoe Senior S & T Clinic February 2, 2014

(Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan)



Loaded sled on Lower Shey's Revenge



**Appalachian Ski Mountain voted November 2, 2013
(National Board of Director's Election Voting Station as part of the OEC Refresher)**

(Photo submitted by Cathy LaMarre of Appalachian Patrol)



Ober Gatlinburg Ski Patrol Celebrates 50 Years!

During its 50th Anniversary celebration, the Ober Gatlinburg Ski Patrol awarded 8 of its members the Distinguished Ski Patroller Service Award. Pictured from left to right are **Lynn Pace** of Alcoa, TN; **David Oakley** of Knoxville, TN; **Eugene Henderson** of Sevierville, TN; **Dennis Slagle** of Morristown, TN: and **Milton Triplett** of Oak Ridge, TN. Those recipients unable to attend included **Joy Jucker** of Sevierville, TN; **Dr. Scott Marland** of Utah (current National Ski Patrol Chairman), and the late **Dr. Harwell Dabbs** of Roane County. These Patrollers have given an accumulative total of over 200 years of service to the Ober Gatlinburg Ski Patrol since its foundation in 1962.



(Photo submitted by Ober Gatlinburg Patrol)

WRINKLES AND BALD SPOTS ARE O.K.!

Both the “Alumni” panel on the NSP Program web page and the Alumni Manual need updating. A gross mistake was made in their original configuration, and not by any volunteer Alumni Advisors.

It is a NSP requirement that Alumni members are not allowed to wear official ski patrol parkas. The photos in these locations are all of patrollers wearing parkas, hence cannot be Alumni members.

The National Alumni Advisory Committee has requested that all Alumni members be alert for photo opportunities for the updating the web pages and the Manual, and also to illustrate future articles on NSP Alumni in the Ski Patrol magazine. With the proliferation of smart phone with cameras, it ought to be easier than ever to get the kind of candid/action photos that are needed.

“Boots on the snow” photographs of actual Alumni operating at a ski area either on the slopes and trails, or working inside, are needed. Photos supporting patrolling away from the ski area via instructing, or similar support activities, are also needed, as are photos of Alumni get-togethers and picnics during off-season activities. Notice the word “actual.” That means wrinkles, bald spots, white hair, mustaches, bald pates, and beards (neatly trimmed) are all OK, for we Alumni members are all beautiful on the inside.

Wherever possible the official Alumni Badge or patch should be visible on the Alumni but active patrollers wearing parkas can also be in the photos (for contrast?)

I have a lot of suggestions to share where “photo ops” may occur, but I’m sure the many Alumni members might have a lot more! For more ideas for photos and when you might have some better ones, please e-mail me at patmarty@srv.net.

Marty Huebner,
Chair, National Alumni Advisory Committee



Patricia Huebner (#3795) at Sun Valley's Dollar Mountain in the reversible NSP Parka.

What are Alumni Patrollers?

(submitted by Milton Triplett)

BOOTS ON THE SNOW - INSIDE

- Serve as "the calming persons" or "the reassuring person" in the first aid room.
- Serve as the official and designated first aid room supplies replenishment manager
- Help coordinate transfer of persons needing additional care from the first aid facility to vehicles.
- Serve as a radio dispatcher at a patrol facility
- Help the PD with routine paperwork such as daily trail reports, etc.

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**BOOTS ON THE SNOW-OUTSIDE**

(For operations at the ski hill or Nordic center)

- Help the patrol in morning "opening" operations, or closing "hill sweeps."
- If given the means to readily contact on-the-job patrollers, such as a radio, be another pair of eyes looking for instances of which the patrol should be made aware.
- If no Mountain Hosts are operating, experienced alumni should be excellent prospects for serving as "courtesy ambassadors" on the slopes for a ski area, as well as meeting/greeting tour busses, etc.
- In any in-the-field avalanche simulated practices or courses, serve as "hysterical witnesses" or "caught victims".
- Serve as the "talker" in chair lift evacuations, both in actual evacs and simulated/training evacuations.
- When qualified and equipped, and when assigned by the Person in Charge, serve as the official patrol "go for" person for non-routine tasks, such as:
  - Taking (for the record) photos of where accidents/incidents occurred.
  - Make sure the items in rescue toboggans are properly restocked before they are returned to their normal stowage location.

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BOOTS IN THE CLOSET (These are activities that can be enjoyed away from the ski hill or Nordic center, or off-season)

- Stay qualified to serve as an instructor in ski patrol courses such as: avalanche search and rescue , mountain travel and rescue, outdoor emergency care, training in chair lift evacuation, etc.
- If qualified, help out in training candidate patrollers to be qualified patrollers.
- Work on recruiting candidates for ski patrolling.
- Work on recruiting certain now active patrollers to become Alumni Members.
- Serve as the Alumni representative of a patrol.
- Volunteer to serve on the staff of the Division's Alumni program.
- Serve as a senior advisor on patrol disciplinary committees.
- Serve as "persons needing assistance" in patrol first aid courses or in refresher scenarios.
- Write a "ski column" for a local newspaper" or be the "go to" contact when news media want to know about some aspect of NSP operations.

Final Sweep – In Memory of the Fallen



TROY EUGENE “GENE” HEAD

Scaly Mountain Ski Patrol

January 11, 2014

Gene was born in Scaly Mountain, North Carolina, the son of the John Dellon Head and Annie Dryman Head. He graduated from Rabun Gap School. Gene loved his family as well as hunting, and fishing. He had a heart for all people and never met a stranger. He was a farmer, real estate developer, owner/ Founder of Scaly Mountain Ski Area and served on the Bank Of Clayton, Board Of Directors for many years. He loved serving the Lord and was a member of Battle Branch Baptist Church and also attended Clayton Church Of God.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother Clyde Head and one Sister Edith Head Wilson.

Gene is survived by his wife Jeanette Dryman Head of the home; twin daughters Jeanne Head Bleckley and husband Bryan of Clayton, GA, Julie Head of Scaly Mountain, NC; three brothers Claude Head and wife Barbara of Akin, SC, Ray Head of North Myrtle Beach, SC, Ellis Head and wife Gail of Scaly Mountain, NC; three Grandchildren Chelcey Bleckley, Dillon Bleckley, Noah Hamilton, and a number of nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral Services were held in the Chapel of Beck Funeral Home on January 13, 2014 with Rev. Madison McCrackin, Bryan Alexander officiating. Gene was laid to rest in the Scaly Mountain Methodist Church Cemetery with Robert Dryman offering the committal.

Memorial Donations may be made to Battle Branch Baptist Church P.O. Box 483 Clayton Georgia 30525 or Clayton Church of God P.O. Box 1089 Clayton, Georgia 30525.

**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.
