



Far West Division – Division Director Report, Winter 2008

Division Director Report to the National Board of Directors, National BOD Meeting Lakewood CO., 2008

This report identifies past recent accomplishments, efforts underway and in progress, and includes a discussion piece to identify where the Division is heading in terms of organization and management. Most of the contents of this report and the documents referenced within are available online at www.farwest.org. Questions, comments, and the identification to volunteer your support in accomplishing these efforts can be sent to the Division Director or any of the identified FWD BOD or Appointed Staff Members via their email address located online at <http://www.farwest.org/?page=Contacts>.

Thank you for your on-going support to this fine and worthy organization.

Kind Regards, Stephen M. Simi, Director – on behalf of the FWD BOD.

I. Past Recent Accomplishments

The past seasons were a true test of the Far West Division. Faced with difficult circumstances, tested were ones abilities, highlighted was ones character, and identified were improvement areas for both the organization and the administration's members. The current administration transitioned well and we are moving forward with lucid zeal toward supporting our organization's mission. This mission enables our membership to serve the outdoor recreation community (and ultimately others in their time of need).

The current Board is positioned to continue to build relationships with partner agencies as we grow. Accomplished were three objectives. First was to define and populate a long-term planning document titled Program Guide 2006-2007 & 2007-2008 Far West Division. This document, which sets the goals and objective and parameters of each program, is located online for your preview at <http://www.farwest.org/?page=DocumentLibrary/index>. The second accomplishment was to fill back up our Division roster with quality folks empowered to supervise their program areas, as they so see, with leadership accountability. The third accomplishment was to provide our supervisors the resources they need to accomplish their goals. We are in a phase where we have to allow time for these longer-term program ideas to grow; for quality ideas cannot be forced nor massed produced. This spring we will be once again in position to take-score, look back upon our goals and objectives set for ourselves, compare them to results, and adjust accordingly for the next season.

There has been intense work performed by this Administration and set in motion are a series of supporting concepts creating flexible form and process for the benefit of our successors. Here is a list of a few accomplishments and other underway.

II. Accomplishments, Efforts underway and in Progress

The Far West Division is on track with and will continue to align our energy toward the National Ski Patrol's Charter and Mission Statement. From that core and using these as guidelines; we'll continue to Educate and Train, through the delivery of our well-established NSP programs in: Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC), Safety, Transportation, and Leadership and in Divisional sponsored educational events: like our FWD Summer Conference, Tri-Advisory, Spring Fling, and newly added support for APP's Certified Spring Clinic. If you were one of the 150 attendees at the Summer Conference 2007 in Davis California, you were exposed to not only every one of NSP's core program disciplines, but to other opportunities for us to serve in an emergency responder role. Introduced below is each of these events and a highlight where we are headed and conclude with other accomplishments the FWD BOD, Staff, and Program Supervisors have prepared for you this season.

Tri-Advisory. This mature educational event is held every November (first weekend 3-4) in Yosemite. It features engaging guests' speakers in and around the Avalanche, Nordic, and Mountain Travel and Rescue (MTR) NSP disciplines. On its own dedicated page, you'll find this year's guest speakers, Andrew McLean, Howard Donner, MD, and Deputy Chief Matt Scharper. The event includes breakout group sessions where FWD Supervisors and instructors and patrol members meet and network. Contact any of the TA staff – see their page at



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<http://www.farwest.org/?page=Tri-Advisory/index>. This is a very popular event and is growing. Last year we had visiting patrol members from the Eastern Division attend.

Spring Fling. A newly sponsored event, scheduled Feb 29-Mar 1 2008, hosted by the Sky Tavern Ski Patrol. This event is the “on-the-hill” compliment of Tri-Advisory. It is a coordinated set of enhancement seminars in: Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET) (aka toboggan), Snowboard, Ski, and Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) – all Senior program electives. The fee is only \$119, and Ski Tavern will reserve the entire hill exclusively for Ski Patrol members and their families – Dudes, that is the whole hill for just us, that’s slammin!! To get some steep conditions, arrangements have been coordinated with Mt Rose, right next door. This event, as you can imagine, requires a tremendous amount of resources to staff all these seminars. So plan your trip, and weekend, and we’ll see you there. Contact Jimi Francis at jfrancis@unr.edu, or register online at <http://oectools.org/SpringFling/>.

APP Spring Clinic. The Association of Professional Patrollers runs the Certified Program. www.propatrollers.org. This program offers some of the highest levels of training and education available in the National Ski Patrol, and it has been gaining in popularity since the time it has been made available to the volunteer membership of the Far West Division. Everyone I talked to commends the educational experience of this program. Our contact is FWD Certified Program Supervisor David Rhodes, [drhodes528@sbcglobal.net], or the APP President, Scott Hoffman at lokesh@aol.com, or contact our FWD Professional Representative, Richard Bailey at rbskis4lvn@aol.com, who was a past APP President.

On the National Level, NSP has been working relationship building with Federal Emergency Responding Agencies, FEMA and HHS, that being the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). The members of this Division are very aware of both the natural and made-made threats facing the states of California, Nevada, and Arizona. On 13 October 2007, the FWD attended 2nd Annual National Emergency Preparedness Conference, hosted by the Sacramento Region Office Homeland Security. This three-day conference highlighted our vulnerability, our current state of preparedness, and emphasized the need to coordinate volunteer emergency rescue and medical resources, if and when a disaster occurs. Whether it’ll be quakes and floods in Sacramento, quakes in LA, or fires in San Diego or Lake Tahoe, it is clear that local Fire, Police, and Utilities resources will be overwhelmed. The answer is a combination of a state of self-preparedness of the population, and coordinated volunteer responders with rescue and medical training. Well it is clear where the membership of the National Ski Patrol fits in. The conference culminated with the Nation’s Largest Volunteer Emergency Exercise to date. I participated (along with another Donner Ski Patrol member), wearing my NSP ski patrol jacket, which was loaded and ready. During the exercise, it was clear that Ski Patrol Outdoor Emergency Care training and education fit-well within and alongside the CERT and MRC team members. The FWD networked and made strong contacts with the CA Governors office, with Fire Department Chiefs throughout the State and Country, and by participation, served to make our skills as first responders and medical providers known to these disaster responding organizations. The FWD will continue to forge relations with MRC and CERT and work to bridge our resources so that we can assist in serving our country in her time of need. This was an introductory topic at the last FWD Summer Conference, and lets expect additional progress to be reported at the FWD Summer 2008 Conference, again in Davis California.

Other Fine accomplishments that the Far West Division Board and its committees have accomplished include:

Signed Memorandum of Agreement between the FWD and the Northern California Public Safety Training College. As of November 2007, the FWD has contracted the JPA to contract negotiate and manage the College Community Program throughout the State of California. This program has provided educational opportunities for members in the FWD, and now has been re-established. It is now designed to be better managed and more available to the larger membership (all of the CA Regions). If your ski patrol is interested in participating, your Patrol Representative needs to first contact BennettM@SacHomeland.Org. There are very specific participant and reporting guidelines for this program that must be understood and adhered to. This program is an enabler of education and training, but its participation is a privilege and will be managed very closely. Enjoy. Thanks to the committee for their efforts.



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Use of Funds Document – Our second version of Guidelines for the Acquisition and Expenditure of Ski Patrol Funds is posted. This is such an important issue for non-profit organizations; and let it be known that National is in the process of revising its policies on use of funds. So any national document published will supercede this document once it is available. This document provides guidelines for the acquisition, expenditure, and reserve holdings of funds by ski patrols. It is intended that this guide support compliance with IRS 501(c)3 rules and NSP regulations for the use of non-profit tax-exempt organizations. Thanks to Chuck Hebert, John Levy, and Stewart Foreman for their efforts on this important work. This is a very important and helpful guideline for all of us. These forms are available online at <http://www.farwest.org/?page=DocumentLibrary/index> within the document library.

FWD Program Liability Release Forms and Procedure. A committee revised for us another very important document. The FWD is providing this document to all members, patrols, and instructors for the use with every event and NSP educational program. The committee, led by FWD OET and FWD Legal, with review by NSP's National Legal Advisor, did a great job on this form and procedures for its use. Like the Use of Funds document referenced above, this effort is also being used by National to generate National Release forms. These forms are available online at <http://www.farwest.org/?page=DocumentLibrary/index> within the document library. Use these forms; protect yourself, and this fine ski patrol organization. Great work guys!!

FWD Program Guide 2007-2008. This is the second year of this FWD program guide. Within this document is the mission and objectives for the NSP programs that support safety, OEC, and transportation services. Each program supervisor has been tasked to identify and communicate their objectives and goals, build a program around them, and implement their plan. From each program plan evolves a budget for the season. It is a major piece of work (14 sections, 19 pages); it describes the education and training planned throughout the Far West Division. As you read this, and if you do not see your education/training need being met; let any FWD program supervisor or any staff member understand your educational and training need, and we will strive to meet your need in the next program cycle – talk to us folks, Patrol Representatives, and let us know your needs. So if you are interested in how we are conducting business, just take a look at this document available online at <http://www.farwest.org/?page=DocumentLibrary/index> document library. This was a collaborate effort involving every one of the 12 program supervisors, FWD ADDs, and myself.

In Progress Efforts

Bylaws. The gruesome process of keeping our rules of conduct updated and current is again underway. Bless this committee's efforts; for we are expecting a much thinner, easier to read set of bylaws to be produced for your reading pleasure soon. Thanks for the bylaws committee efforts of: FWD Assistant Division Director and FWD Secretary (who has been in this position for ~30-years – *thanks* Janice).

On behalf of the FWD BOD, staff, and appointed Program Supervisors, it has been a pleasure to serve this organization – You are the 1,800 ski patrolling membership that volunteer and dedicate your time and efforts to ski patrol and make up this Far West Division. We will continue to focus on the National Ski Patrol's Charter and Mission statement.

III. A Discussion Piece – The Far West Division – The Organization and Efforts

The National Ski Patrol has a proud and rich history of serving the ski recreation community with both volunteer and professional members since 1938. The organization has evolved, and continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of local ski areas and industry, by forming ski patrol units of competent skiers skilled in leadership, safety, transportation, and emergency first care.

Becoming a member of the National Ski Patrol requires a commitment to a journey of development and growth. It is a great commitment of time and energy with the rewards being self-development and those that stem from serving the community and helping others in a time of need.

The National Ski Patrol is organized on two-basic levels: National and Divisional. The National-level keeps all members records and develops the educational products required by the organization. NSP's vision is to be recognized as the premier



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provider of training and education programs for emergency rescuers who serve the outdoor recreation community. The NSP Charter is ...

The organization is then sub-divided into Divisions. It is the Divisional level that forms, develops, and works to meet the educational needs of individual ski patrol units. More specifically, the Division needs to form, develop, and maintain skilled and fiscally strong ski patrols which are adequately prepared to serve the needs of ski areas. In order to accomplish this need we need to: develop competent skilled national ski patrol members and educational instructors; identify and meet member's program educational needs; promote skiing; recognize accomplishments; and serve the community with education, emergency quality first care, and leadership.

Divisions accomplish these needs with the formation and assistance of Regions and Local Ski Patrol units. The organization employs the efforts of officers, instructors, and individual ski patrol members. The Far West Division is composed of 5 Regions, ~50 ski patrols in CA, NV, and AZ, ## instructors in various educational disciplines, and ~1,800 skilled ski patrol members.

In order to support the National Ski Patrol Charter and Mission and the activities of the Division; the activities of the Far West Division have been categorized into three (3) groups:

- Leadership, Development, and Recognition
- Communications, Programs and Events, and
- Finance, Governance, and Oversight

Staffing:

We continue, as we have in the past, to staff these groups with our elected officers (ADDs, 5-RDs, Patrol Representatives), appointed and BOD approved staff and program supervisors, and also employ other subject-matter experts (Comms, IT, and Finance *gurus*) within the FWD organization. If there is a specific member or program need that is beyond that of our volunteer capacity; then the group may propose to fund the activity to the BOD.

Activities are identified below:

- **Leadership, Development, and Recognition**

- What is, becoming, or requirements for:
 - NSP member
 - Candidate
 - Basic Patroller (Alpine, Nordic)
 - Auxiliary Patroller
 - Senior
 - Certified
 - NSP Instructor (instructor, IT, Regional Advisor, Divisional Supervisor, National Program Director)
 - Officer (Patrol Representative, Regional Director, Divisional Director, National Board Representative, National Director)
- Awards
- Elections
- Promotion of:
 - Opportunities to Serve the Community
 - FWD, Region, Patrol-Level Educational Events
 - National Ski Patrol
 - Warren Miller
 - Sony STEEP
 - Publication of Articles to promote NSP/above

- **Communications, Programs and Events**

- Supervise/Direct of Program Supervisors
- Web-Based Program Calendar
 - FWD, Region, Patrol-Level Educational Events
 - Summer Conference – thread to our members
 - Mid-Winter Meeting
 - Spring Fling
 - Tri-Advisory
- Promote College Community Participation

- **Finance, Governance, and Oversight**

- NSP & Divisional Bylaws – form and operate volunteer/paid ski patrols
- Centralized Financial Reporting (access protected)
- Centralized Data Repository (access and level protected)