



Far West Division News and Views

News and Views of the Far West Division, NSP; www.farwest.org, December, 2014

Volume Six, Issue Three



From the Far West Division Director, Bill Gibson

Hello and Merry Christmas!

So far this season is starting to look a bit better than the skiing we had last year. Most of our areas are open and the snow continues to fall. Even you in SoCal and Arizona are hitting the slopes with some fresh powder.

In this edition of the News and Views you'll find everything you need to know about the NSP programs being offered in the division this winter. But first, Tom Sherry and Bill Hummer check in with the latest from the National Board.

Unfortunately Bill will not be returning to the Board this year and will really be missed. He has really done a great job representing the member of the FWD. Thanks Bill.

On the division level, our staff has already been busy preparing for this season. Tri Advisory had a wonderful turnout with perfect weather in Yosemite this year. If you have not attended this event, you really should. The division supervisors in Avalanche, MTR and Nordic pull

together the latest information and present it in a beautiful outdoor setting of the Yosemite Valley. Speaking of Avalanche, our divisions newest supervisor, Keith Church has included in the issue an update on the roll out of the newest avalanche material.

Daryl Witcher, our OET supervisor, checks in with tips you need to know about the transportation programs. He reminds us to all be sure to take a toboggan refresher, it's required and a lot of fun. He has also

listed a calendar of the major events this year so you can start to plan on attending them. OEC refreshers are over and Kevin Qualseth has a few comments on the new hybrid OEC refresher course. I think most of you that took the hybrid course will agree it is a simple way to start the refresher process.

Also, Karl Chulski has some great information on MTR, plus he lists the classes that are already in the works. MTR is not just for back country patrollers so you might want to give some thought taking an MTR class this year.

And while you are out patrolling this season, give some thought to the outstanding patrollers you spend time with. Ken Bergmann reminds us to start writing them up for this year's awards. The FWD patrollers usually do a good job pulling in many of the

Please see Director, continued p. 7

Mark your calendars:

Alumni event staged by ESR and MLR, March 18, Sugar Bowl, p. 8

Sea Otter Bicycling event fund-raiser, April, 2015, p. 10

Tri-Advisory returns to Yosemite, November see feature on p. 3.

Continually check out the FWD (and, your own Region's) web site for updated calendar and training opportunities: www.farwest.org!



What's Inside...

- [Avalanche updates, p. 4](#)
- [Alumni Celebration event, p. 8](#)
- [Awards due to FWD, p. 15](#)
- [Bike aid shares NSP brand, p. 7](#)
- [Calendar of events, p. 11](#)
- [Communication enhancements, p. 11](#)
- [Donner Ski Ranch hosts event, p. 4](#)
- [FWD Board Updates, p. 2](#)
- [FWD Officers, staff, p. 16](#)
- [Hummer offers thanks, p. 5](#)
- [Instructor Development, p. 15](#)
- [Life Tribute, Hugh Pendleton, p. 14](#)
- [Mountain Travel & Rescue, p. 9](#)
- [OEC lays out program, p. 6](#)
- [OET says "here we go", p. 5](#)
- [Sea Otter Bike Classic, p. 10](#)
- [Tidbits of good info, p. 12](#)
- [Tri Advisory in Yosemite, p. 3](#)
- [Web site offers Community Service opportunities, p. 11](#)

Lots more; see inside!

Mailing address and email up-to-date?

Is your mailing address and e-address current with the National office? Remember, the FWD gets its mailing lists and email lists directly from the National office in Denver. If you change your US mail or email address, drop a note to the Denver NSP office: www.nsp.org, or call 303-988-1111; and, notify your own patrol.

Don't miss out on exciting future issues of FWD 'News and Views' and other NSP publications designed to help you maximize your membership in the Far West Division and the NSP!

FWD News and Views

News of the Far West Division, NSP

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The FWD News and Views is published three times yearly, in September, December and February. Deadline is the end of the month prior to publication. Features, photos; send to Tim Viall, fwd-newsletter@farwest.org, or mail to 5854 Turtle Valley Drive, Stockton, CA 95207.

From Your Board of Directors: Bill Hummer and Tom Sherry

As the snow begins to fly and lifts start to turn we return to the slopes with renewed passion for a powder filled season. We know from experience that absence makes the heart grow fonder, we hope that you are re-connecting with you "patrol family" and are excited for another high season holiday!

We have an election behind us and yes, they're will be another one next year; and the year after that. It's imperative that the FWD continue to participate in national election process. This is how we create a balanced organization. Bill Hummer's term will unfortunately end on the 31st of this month, but perhaps this is only a hiatus from national leadership? Maybe you'll see Bill sliding down the slopes at Squaw Valley or your home resort this season? If you can keep up with Bill, please convey your thanks and encouragement for the future.

Throughout 2014, we as a board have worked to protect our brand, expand our brand, and increase the relevance for our organization into the future. We have strengthened industry ties and increased sponsorship. Yet, I'm sure you'll all agree there is more we can do and we are excited for the opportunities that the 2015 board will present to the NSP.

Have you seen the IT updates in "The Sweep" national email newsletter? Our Director of Information Technology, in conjunction with the IT Committee, is working on a functional specification document that will hopefully result in a scalable and robust IT system for NSP sometime in the future. Our IT issues are front and center and are being addressed at every level. We understand that this doesn't solve your issues today, but we ask for your continued patience during this transition process.

Please feel free to contact Bill Hummer or myself regarding any national issue. We would respectfully ask that before calling the national office you reach out through your chain of command. This will allow our small national staff to focus on issues that affect us all.

We would love to attend your patrol's educational, social events, or even a shadow day at your resort. We look forward to seeing you again this season either on the slopes or at an educational event! Thank you again for your continued support. We are honored to represent you on The National Ski Patrol Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Bill Hummer - billhummer@gmail.com

Tom Sherry - nsp@thomassherry.com



Tri-Advisory celebrates at Yosemite in November

Held in Yosemite Valley the 36th annual Tri-Advisory was enjoyed by all attending. Everyone starting arriving on Friday November 7th, the event was Saturday, and some were able to extend their weekend and stayed until Monday.



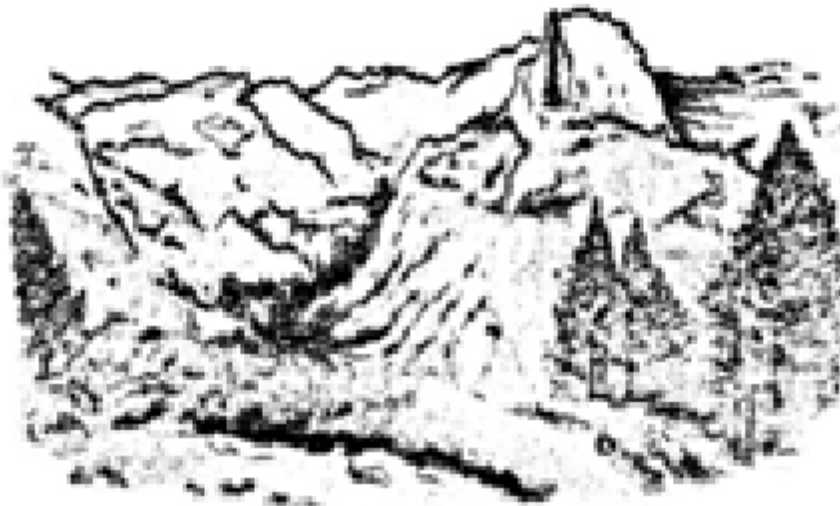
With fantastic weather to camp all enjoyed the solitude of the special camp site the Park reserves for their special groups.



Starting off on Saturday morning was the Z-system challenge pitting the Northern against the Southern. Winning this year was James Pruett (Mt Waterman) defeating the reigning Northern title holders.



Natalie Muraciov (Snow Summit) and Mike Kelly (Northern Winter SAR) conducted a navigation exercise that was based upon finding your way back to the camp site after being dropped off (blindfolded!) somewhere in The Valley without a map, only a compass and a general heading to follow. All did make it back to the camp site without needing any help!



In the afternoon the Avalanche Instructors discussed the roll-out of the new Avalanche Instructors Manual while the MTR Instructors discussed the future for the MTR program with ideas and thoughts to be presented to the National MTR Supervisor to be incorporated in the new MTR Instructors Manual that is under re-write. These were Continuing Education Courses for the Avalanche and MTR instructors. The event was also an MTR Enhancement Course for those

that have had a MTR 1 or 2 courses.

The dinner was again organized by Larry Cody and Mellissa (Mt Pinos) and was again certainly memorable! Plenty of home-make food cooked at the camp site and brought by everyone was certainly a feast and is now a must attend event.

Tri Advisory is sponsored by the MTR (Mountain Travel & Rescue), Avalanche, and Nordic programs and is opened to all members that wish to gain and enhance their knowledge of the winter back country. Lodging is either camping at the site where Tri Advisory events are held, or at the RV camp site, or the lodges.

Karl P. Chulski, Far West Division Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor, at this email: fwd-mtr@farwest.org



FWD Avalanche Instructors Turn Out for AIM Roll Out

The roll out of the 2014 Avalanche Instructor Manual is in full swing and the turn out for Instructor Continuing Education has been stellar. To date, we have prepared 29 instructors and candidate instructors to teach NSP's new avalanche curriculum. That's over 60% of our A V Y instructors/instructors-in-training in the Division!



Far West Division avalanche instructors gathered last season for course updates and on-snow training

So far, we have held sessions in Davis, Yosemite and Mammoth. Contact your Regional Avalanche Administrator if you still need your 2014 AIM roll out CE. It is important that we get everyone in the Division trained. Instructors cannot register an avalanche course until they have participated in a roll out session.

Many thanks to the instructors and candidates who have attended thus far and special thanks to Rob Morrow for his work on the continuing education outline and materials.

Focus on Human Factors:

Those of you who take the new, modularized Level 1 Avalanche course this year will see an increased focus on "human factors." This follows a trend in the industry to address psychological factors that play a role in avalanche accidents.

While forecasting, evaluation, and rescue tools and techniques have evolved markedly in the past two decades,

avalanche fatalities have not plummeted. In fact, they have risen steadily (35 persons died in avalanches last season in the US; 2 have already died this season).

Failures in decision-making attend nearly every avalanche accident (as they do in most ski-related mishaps---hence, we ask "what could you have done to prevent this accident?").

I encourage you to take a look at Ian McCammon's brief article on human factor's here:

<http://www.mec.ca/AST/ContentPrimary/Learn/Snowsports/AvalancheSafety/HumanFactors.jsp> His "FACETS" acronym is also reviewed in the first of a five part, multi-media series on avalanche awareness by Powder Magazine which can be found here: <http://www.powder.com/human-factor/>. The series is sponsored by Black Diamond and I think you will find it entertaining and enlightening.

I hope to see you on the snow this season...and not under it!

Keith Church, FWD Avalanche Program Supervisor;
fwd-avalanche@farwest.org



Donner Ski Ranch to host Ski-enhancement Seminar, Feb. 7

Donner Ski Ranch Ski Patrol is hosting a Ski-enhancement Seminar at Donner Ski Ranch on February 7th with NASTC. The cost will be \$50.00 per student. This will include instruction, lift ticket, and lunch. Hope you can make it. Best regards, Ron Evenson, Donner Ski Ranch. Limit of 10 students; act soon by sending a check for \$50.00 made out to Donner Ski Ranch Ski Patrol, C/o Ron Evenson, 4322 El Macero Drive, Davis, CA 95618.

For insight, or more information, contact Ron at 530-756-6082, or Fax. 530-756-8406, or Cell. 530-304-7273.



TRANSPORTATION NATION

HERE WE GO....

As the winter recreation season gets rolling here in the Far West Division – and each of you sled heads out there start refreshing the Transportation skills of your patrollers, brushing the rust off your fellow instructors and buying Christmas presents for your family and Division Program Supervisor – here are a few things to look forward to this season:

Preview of Upcoming Events:

Powderfall – April 9-12 at The Canyons, Utaaaahh!

18th Annual Women’s Clinic – Squaw Valley March 8th, 2015

Women's Summit PSIA 3 day clinic – March 9-11, 2015 Squaw Valley

Squaw Valley Clinic – March 11, 12, 13

Course registration is in full swing, with the FWD totals now over 50 OET courses registered for the season. Early season emphasis is certainly on instructor recertification, and with recert. Classes leading the way, it seems like our TREF registrations are low.

Remember, each Patroller is required to attend a Toboggan Refresher (TREF) annually, and so we, as instructors, need to provide that opportunity with registered courses. As I write this, Stormmeggedon has blown through, with follow-ups lurking just off the California coastline, so let's get those TREF numbers up quick!

OET Course Update:

As many of you know, the Transportation Committee has been reworking the 'menu' of transportation courses for the past 16 months. If you were in attendance at the Davis Instructor Clinic, you know that the smorgasbord of 22 different menu options has been whittled down to 7 offerings.

These seven course descriptions have been submitted to, and approved by the Education Committee and are slated to debut on NSP.org this season. In the interim, there may be some level of confusion as instructors and our Lakewood staff get used to these new acronyms; you may even see some course designations that you are unfamiliar with. In that event, please contact your Region Administrator with any questions or difficulties with the course registration process that you may encounter.

Still in the process of being finalized is the NSP Course Audit form. The National Transportation Committee has completed some minor revisions to this form which still needs to be reviewed and approved by the Education Committee. In the interim, please utilize the FWD Course Audit Form that was submitted to your Region Administrator back in August.

**Daryl Whitcher is
Outdoor Emergency
Transport Advisor for the
FWD, and can be reached
at fwd-oet@farwest.org**



Thanks from NSP Board member Bill Hummer

Thank you for your support these past three years. I tried hard to represent the Far West Division Patrollers on the board and to work cohesively. I have great appreciation for all the members who dedicate time and energy to make the national organization operate as well as it does.

It's apparent to me now more than ever that we should support Tom in his reelection campaign in two years because I believe he represents us extremely well. I am looking forward

to having more time in our division, regional events and with my local patrol.

**Sincerely, Bill Hummer,
National Board Member**



Outdoor Emergency Care anticipates a great season!

NEWS LETTER FOR NOV 25th, from K. Qualseth;

Most OEC classes are finishing up, our Cycle A refresher courses are almost all complete. I want to thank all of the IOR's the instructors and the IT's for taking part in the training of our new patrollers, and keeping our patrollers up to date and refreshed with their OEC training. Thank you again.

I have received many of the Quality Assessment forms from the Instructor Trainers for the Cycle A refresher, almost all have turned them in. Within each QA form, there were suggestions on how there could be some type of improvement in the day. Great feedback and observing.

I will share these with the other OEC Supervisors when we meet face to face, these will use these as a tool to improve further refreshers. Again, thank you for filling these out in detail, as most did.

Hybrid refresher, We had some good feedback, and some not so good feedback for the Hybrid Refresher, all in all the good feedback outweighed things by far. This will get better as we move forward with creating new ideas and have more people involved in the process.

Your Personal Education Profile

We need to be checking our Personal profile for corrections. Your education information is important to you and to National so lets try to remember to check this out at least twice a year. Corrections are easier to make earlier than later.

NSP EDUCATION UPDATE
FWD News and Views, December, 2014



The Outdoor First Care online hybrid course has been delayed to make necessary refinements to the learning modules. Hopefully this teaching tool will be available by the time our FWD newsletter is published.

Alumni members

Current Alumni members can now renew your membership through the NSP Online Store, please take advantage of this easy way to register for Alumni.

Choose the renewal that corresponds to the FWD. After your membership is renewed you will receive a new Alumni card. This online renewal applies to only current Alumni. I urge our OEC Alumni instructors to keep their OEC teaching credentials up. With all the years of experience, our Alumni members can be a valuable tool for us in teaching our new patrollers and keeping our current patrollers updated.

Look for announcements on our Senior Program training clinics they will be posted soon by our Senior Trainer Coordinators. Evaluation dates have not yet been announced but these will be up soon for us to see.

Now all we need is some snow to put our Winter OEC skills to work on the slopes.

Kevin Qualseth, FWD OEC Supervisor or

Thank you all, Kevin Qualseth, FWD OEC Supervisor, fwd-oc@farwest.org



Bike Ride First Aid - Displaying the NSP Brand!

Two Eastern Sierra Region patrollers favorably displayed the NSP brand at the Multiple Sclerosis Wave to Wine fund raising bike ride. Jerry Milana, Patrol Leader of the Tahoe Donner Nordic Patrol and Chuck Herbert of Squaw Valley manned first aid stations at rest stops on September 20 and 21 in West Marin. Many of the 2000 riders showed interest in NSP as patrol belts and parkas were in evidence and an NSP Subaru was parked near Jerry's Medic Tent.

Service consisted principally in making available sun screen for exposed skin and ice bags and ample Ibuprofen for sore muscles. More serious were many road rash abrasions due to falls that fortunately did not involve loss of consciousness or head injuries – they were treated by assessment, BSI, cleansing with alcohol swabs, applying Neosporin antibiotic and a sterile dressing.

Very unusual was the care of 18 bee stings at one station caused by a large number of yellow jackets - after assessment for allergies and cleansing, relief was provided by application of meat tenderizer and ice packs. These treatments, somewhat beyond NSP protocols, were prescribed by the medical guidelines for the event.

It is hoped that next year even more patrollers may serve in this fun, but highly useful function that also enhances the image of NSP.

Submitted by Chuck Herbert.



Pictured, from top: Medic Tent layout with NSP belt; Jerry Milana, NSP Subaru and riders on Sept. 20; and Chuck Herbert at Medic Tent on Sept. 21



Division Director's report, continued from p. 1

National Outstanding Awards. This all starts with you recognizing you fellow members and it's not too soon to get started.

So I hope you have a safe and wonderful ski season and to you and you families, Merry Christmas. Bill Gibson, FWD Division Director.

Pictured below, the OEC test at Squaw Valley, top right, OEC participants and FWD Subaru at Squaw, and, below right, ESR and MLR ICE participants with FWD Subarus.



ESR and MLR Alumni plan big gathering March 18

We are pleased to announce the annual NSP Alumni Day for the the Eastern Sierra Region and Mother Lode Region will be hosted by the Sugar Bowl Ski Resort on March 18, 2015.

Please join your fellow ESR and MLR Alumni Patrollers for a day of skiing, lunch, and the chance to reminisce on all of your fond memories of patrolling.

Sugar Bowl will be providing lift tickets and lunch to participants. Please RSVP to Reed Sorenson at sodapop08@att.net. Additional event details will be forthcoming shortly, so, stay tuned!

Submitted by George Hardin, Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol,
ghardin57@gmail.com

916-741-2090



Pictured at top are Eastern Sierra alumni who gathered in March, 2014 to share old patrol tales, catch up and remain involved in the NSP. This year, ESR and MLR alumni are invited to gather at Sugar Bowl, pictured above!



New communications modes enhance FWD and regions info flow!

In recent months, both the FWD web site and the FWD Facebook page have been enhanced and improved to share information with patrollers and alumni.

As an example, the FWD web site offers a new look, new organization and sports new options like Community Service Opportunities. This option offers patrollers a place to post events and recruit NSP members to take part. To see the start of this new resource for you, the patroller, go to: <http://www.farwest.org/MemberPrograms/CSO/CSO.html>. The FWD Facebook page continues to grow in interest

and utilization as more patrollers and patrols use it as a place to communicate their successes, fun activities and to recruit patrollers and alumni into off-hill and on-hill activities. Take a look, and get in the habit of posting those cherished photos and success stories that come with patrolling! Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/448272738574183/> and Join the page! It's there for you and your patrol!

And, take a look at your region's offerings in these areas, as well. The whole idea is to better communicate programs and opportunities to you, to improve your NSP experience!

Mountain Travel & Rescue offers plentiful options!

Winter storms are finally upon us with more approaching! We at the MTR program are looking forward to El Nino bring sufficient snow conditions in the back country to enjoy this season.

The MTR course presents how to confront the winter environment and be prepared. Clothing, nutrition, weather, shelter are just a few of the topics presented to prepare for the winter environment in the event of an emergency, SAR, or just for the enjoyment of the winter backcountry. The public is expecting us to be skilled in the mountain winter environment in all aspects of it, on the slopes of the resort and being able and knowledgeable of the winter survival skills.

Here are the courses that have been scheduled. If you would like to learn more about the MTR program and join in a course contact myself (numbers below) or the instructor listed for the course of interest.

Northern California Region:

None scheduled at this time. Make plans to attend one of the other courses.

Mother Lode Region:

MTR 1 Classroom, To be scheduled webex
Field session, Feb 21-22, Pinecrest

For more information contact Keith Gale at keith_gale@hotmail.com

Eastern Sierra Region:

MTR 1 classroom, Dec 6-7, LinkedIn Campus (Mountain View)

Field session, Jan 31, Castle Peak

Overnight session, March 7-8, Castle Peak

For more information contact Mike Kelly at fwdsar@gmail.com

MTR 2 Classroom, Dec 6-7, LinkedIn Campus (Mountain View)

Field session, Jan 31, Castle Peak

Overnight session, March 7-8, Castle Peak

For more information contact Mike Kelly at fwdsar@gmail.com

Southern California Region:

MTR 1 Classroom has already been held.

If you have had your classroom but not the field session contact Natalie.

Field session, February 7-8 and March 7-8, location TBD

For more info contact Natalie Muraciov at sblackdiamond@yahoo.com

Arizona Region:

MTR 1 Classroom, TBD Phoenix area

Field session, Jan 31 – Feb 1, Ski Sunrise

For more info contact Guy Roll at guy.roll@gmail.com

These courses are designed for the patroller and will increase the skills and knowledge of winter mountain survival and travel.

These courses are opened to all patrollers, Alpine, Nordic and Auxiliary. This course is designed to expand your knowledge and experience of the mountain winter to a higher level and gain confidence in how to survive in relative comfort and how to be an effective member of an SAR (Search And Rescue) team if called upon by your Hill management.

These courses and skills are designed for the patroller that has not taken this type of activity and are designed to increase your confidence in the winter environment.

Submitted by Karl P. Chulski, Far West Division Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor; fwd-mtr@farwest.org



Learn more or refresh your outdoor, mountaineering and wilderness skills by taking an MTR course this season! Get more out of your NSP experience!

Karl P. Chulski, Far West Division Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor, at this email: fwd-mtr@farwest.org



Join Far West Ski Patrollers at Sea Otter Bike Classic!

First aid, marshal service, fun for all at Laguna Seca, April 16-19, 2015

Join 40+ ski patrollers, family and friends for first-aid duty and course marshaling at the **Sea Otter Classic, April 16-19, 2015** at Laguna Seca

SUBARU

SEA OTTER CLASSIC

POWERED BY SRAM

more insight, check the Sea Otter web site at: www.seaotterclassic.com.

Raceway near Monterey/Salinas, CA. This event is the USA's largest outdoor biking extravaganza.

Last year, Dodge Ridge Patrol led in numbers, with their 20+ members joined by Donner Ski Ranch, Sugar Bowl, Squaw Valley and Heavenly patrollers. NSP members and friends get free camping and free admission to the event, enjoyed barbecues and find time to ride their bikes, attend the huge trade show and make new NSP friends!

The Sea Otter Classic features everything from mountain biking, dual slalom, road racing and cross-country - thrills and spills that draw 9,500+ (yes, 9,500) competitors, ranging from avid pro and amateur bikers - and 50,000 spectators. A trade show with 500+ vendors wowed our attendees! For

first-aiders, course marshals and non-medical SAG wagon drivers, the patrollers and friend's volunteer service earned almost \$4,500 for their patrols!

Patrollers, family and friends are offered **FREE CAMPING and ADMISSION** right in the Laguna Seca paddock at Ski Patrol Central. Motorhomes, camp trailers and tents make for cozy accommodations and all will enjoy the Friday and Saturday night NSP barbecues!

Mark your calendars, April 16-19, 2015: To volunteer or for more info, call or email **Tim Viall, Coordinator for NSP Volunteers for the Sea Otter Classic**, Cell ph: 209.969.3875; or email Tim at tviall@msn.com.



Pictured are a number of NSP Sea Otter volunteers celebrating after their first-aid duty shifts and "action shots", two bikers ascend Skyline Road on the cross-country course in old Ft. Ord backcountry; BETA team members (Bicycle Equestrian Trail Assistance volunteers, in orange vests/shirts) and NSP patrollers, and tents, motorhomes made for cozy evenings at "Ski Patrol Central". Hats off to the NSP and BETA team and their friends and family!



New option on FWD website for “Community Service Opportunities”

Check out your Far West Division web site for updates and new options/opportunities!

Recently added: “Community Service Opportunities”, a place to list upcoming events that showcase NSP first-aid and leadership talents - such as major events that utilize NSP first-aiders (like the Sea Otter Classic). This option offers patrollers a place to post events and recruit NSP members to take part. To see the start of this new resource for you, the patroller, go to: <http://www.farwest.org/MemberPrograms/CSO/CSO.html>.

So, plan to post your items, if you are working to organize NSP first-aiders for Tough Mudder events, annual Cerebral Palsy bike-a-thons, community fund-raising events, big outdoor events like the Sea Otter Classic and more.

And, make a habit of scanning the FWD website for continuing updates on such events and programs - as well as new developments in your Far West Division!

Send your event and activity postings, with the “who, what, where, when and how” to **FWD Webmaster Rye Livingston**, webworker@farwest.org. Also send your events to **Tim Viall**, **FWD Newsletter Editor**, tviall@msn.com and we will profile them in FWD ‘News and Views’.



Pictured, left to right, Dori Bietz and Mike Fanelli worked the Tough Mudder event at Northstar this summer; NSP members and an NSP Subaru worked the Headwaters 50 K Trail Run this summer, and almost 40 patrollers and family members worked at, and enjoyed off time, at the Sea Otter Bike Classic in April. Please post notices for such events on the FWD website, and, scan the site for volunteer opportunities!

FWD Events Calendar:

ESR and MLR Alumni Celebration Day, March 18, Sugar Bowl Resort

April 16-19, 2015, Sea Otter Bicycling Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, options to serve as first-aiders, course marshals and earn income for your patrol. See p.11 for details!

Far West Awards Dinner, August, 2015, Davis, TBA

Educational Training Day, September, Davis, TBA

Tri-Advisory Conference, coming to Yosemite, November TBA

See the FWD Web site for updated calendar and training opportunities: www.farwest.org

Winter ‘To Dos’ for better sled-handling...! Easy as the “A, B, Cs”!

A: Skis:

Get those skis tuned (take them to a ski shop for an edge and base job).



B: Breakfast of

Champions? Plan to eat well and improve your diet with good nutrition. And, get plenty of hydration - you’ll be a better athlete because of good food/drink choices! And, stay hydrated on the slopes!

C. Keep fit:

Give some time to getting fit; drop a few pounds,

walk, play golf, jog or get into the gym! Rewards come “on slope”! Winter returns to the Sierra soon; be ready!



Tidbits and intriguing ski insight!

Winter Ski Camps from Ski Magazine:

Seven winter ski camps to improve your skills; check these exciting skills-building ski camps out: <http://www.skinet.com/ski/galleries/winter-ski-camp-roundup>

SKI
MAG.COM

"Ski to me, one at a time, and stop right here," says Jim Kandolin, our Jackson Hole ski guide. He points to a small tree just above him, a few turns above the entrance to Zero-G. I spot him while he ski-cuts the top of the rock-hemmed cute, and then spins a few turns downwards and out of sight into a safe zone behind a cliff wall. I'm with a group of four other Jackson locals who've peeled off \$140 apiece (not including lift ticket) to hire Kandolin on a 10-inch powder day to show us around. We also get to cut the lift lines. Thanks to Kandolin, we are able to log six rides on Jackson's famous tram by 2 p.m. That's 24,000 feet of skiing, almost all of it on terrain far steeper than most heli-ski outfits will let you ride.

Experts Only: 5 Resorts Where You Should Hire a Guide (from Outside Magazine):



There are plenty of ski areas where you can show up without a map and dink around on mellow (read: boring) terrain all day. These aren't those kind of resorts.

By: Frederick Reimers

Photo: Zach Dischner/Flickr

A guide can take the hidden gems of the backcountry and make them into a crown jewel of a ski trip.

I'd have never found Zero Gravity couloir on my own. One of the classic lines in the backcountry just beyond the Jackson Hole ropes, Zero-G is a 50-degree notch through a 100-foot high cliff. Especially on a big snow year, it's good to go, but the entrance looks just like a lot of spots in the Jackson Hole backcountry—gentle, snowy slopes that soon roll off a terminal cliff. Guessing wrong could mean an arduous and sketchy climb back up to safety, or worse, a tumble off the cliff. It's no problem for my group—we just follow the guide.

Equipped with avy gear, we reel off lap after lap down Rendezvous Bowl and out the ski area boundary, threading our way through cliffs and floating down aprons of untracked snow, only to duck back into the resort base and do it again. With its relentless verticality, Jackson is uniquely equipped to deliver lift-service backcountry runs.

It's no wonder that their guide service emulates those of the famous French resorts like Chamonix and La Grave, where a guide not only can show you to the hidden goods, but can also keep you alive in the crevasse-riven terrain. Today, I'm thankful to be shown the safe line. I draw the long straw on this run, and get to drop in first, slashing a turn against the far wall and plunging down the steep canal with powder billowing up around my waist.

The article goes on to profile these other iconic ski areas:

Kicking Horse, British Columbia
Alta and Brighton, Utah
Whistler, British Columbia
Revelstoke, British Columbia

For the full article, go to Outside magazine: http://www.outsideonline.com/snow/snow-report/Experts-Only-5-Resorts-You-Should-Ski-with-a-Guide.html?utm_source=snow&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=11192014.



Patrols of the FWD:

Here are the stellar patrols of the FWD:

Arizona Snowbowl
Alpine Meadows
Alta Sierra
Bear Mountain
Bear Valley Ski Patrol
Boreal Ridge
Buckhorn Ski Club
China Peak
Coppervale
Diamond Peak
Dodge Ridge
Donner Ski Ranch
Heavenly
High Sierra
Homewood
Kirkwood
Lake Alpine Nordic
Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort
Lassen Volcanic
Mammoth Basin Nordic
Mount Lemmon
Mountain High
Mt. Baldy
Mt. Pinos Nordic
Mt. Shasta
Mt. Waterman
Northstar
Pinecrest Nordic
Reno Ski Patrol
Sierra Ski Patrol
Snow Valley
Snow Summit (formerly Big Bear Valley)
Soda Springs
Squaw Valley
Sugar Bowl
Sunrise
Tahoe Backcountry
Tahoe Donner
Tahoe Donner Nordic Center
Yosemite

Have you skied them all?

Best ideas for Alumni involvement sought by Mother Lode Region!

The Eastern Sierra Region does an annual Alumni Reunion, a number of patrols in the Far West Division work hard to involve their alumni in patrol affairs and patrol activities/celebrations, and several FWD alumni are regulars at such annual off-hill activities like the Sea Otter Bike Classic each year.

Of course, the questions remain: how do we retain patrollers as alumni members of the NSP (rather than just “dropping out”), how do we involve them in patrol and/or regional activities; can we use their skills to mentor newer patrollers? I am sure you have more questions or thoughts.

Can alumni perform duties in administration, in the patrol room and more - that might free up active patrollers to provide on-hill first-aid or customer service? All these ideas are being explored and developed by the National office, and many active alumni programs exist in the Far West Division.

Please share your best programs and success stories with Tim Viall, Mother Lode Region Alumni Advisor (and FWD Newsletter Editor), tviall@msn.com. We shall compile the “best ideas, top programs and events that worked like crazy”, and tap the National office for their advice, as well.

Watch for an article soon in ‘News and Views’!

We want to hear from you!

Your Far West News and Views newsletter is actively seeking news and photos of the patrols and patrollers of the Far West Division. FWD News and Views is published three times yearly, in September, January and end-of-season. Deadline is the 25th of the month prior to publication; NEXT deadline is August 25 for our September, 2015 issue!



Features, photos welcomed, please submit items with the “Five W’s: Who, What, When, Where and How, and, if sending photos, please include an identifying “cut line” noting the photo’s content. If you are mailing photos and want them back, please enclose self-addressed envelope.

Send submissions to FWD Communications Advisor Tim Viall, either electronically to: fwd-newsletter@farwest.org, or by U. S. mail to 5854 Turtle Valley Drive, Stockton, CA 95207. If you are sending photos and want them returned, please send a self-addressed envelope.

Life Tribute – Dr. Hugh Richard Pendleton

Hugh Pendleton was born on February 25, 1928 in Columbus, Ohio, the only child of Dr. Paul & Mabel Pendleton. The family moved to Southern California in the 1940's. Hugh graduated from Santa Ana High School in 1946 and joined the Army serving as a jeep driver during the Korean War. He remembers receiving a whopping \$6.40 a month for his service.

Hugh returned to California after his Army enlistment and attended Whittier College receiving his B.A. degree in 1952, the same year he married his bride, Marilyn Del Mar. The two met in 1949 at a mountain summer camp in Crestline where they worked as collage counselors together. The young couple would settle in Rancho Palos Verdes where Hugh continued his education, graduating with an M.A. in 1957 from U.C.L.A. and a PhD in Education from USC in 1970. The family grew to include Susan in 1958 and Steven David in 1961. Hugh worked first as a teacher, but soon became a Principle and later Superintendent of Schools. He had an inquisitive nature and was a hard worker. Hugh regretted retiring from work when he was 80 years old.

Summer backpacking and water skiing in the Sierra's and skiing in the winter were perpetual hobbies for Hugh. He enjoyed Christmas ski holidays in Montana with his daughter and her family, as well as ski traveling to Europe, Canada, China, and more. He had a private pilot's license, appreciated a lengthy succession of cars, and paid cash for every one of them.

Hugh enjoyed only classical music and classical music along with live theater. He relished going to the symphony, absolutely hated television, and didn't care for organized sports, so time listening to music or having conversation with people was



valued. In fact, he would make you sit down and spend time talking so he could get to know you.

Hugh was active all his life with skiing, mountain biking, and backpacking into his 70's. As a 40 year volunteer with the Sierra Club, he was still leading moon light hiking events into his 80's.

Hugh began Ski Patrolling in 1957 at Shirley Meadows, California where he was Patrol Director for several years. Through his commitment to NSP, his local patrol, and his service, Hugh was awarded National Appointment Number 2520.

In 1964, after patrolling at both China Peak and Holiday Hill in the Angeles National Forest, Hugh transferred to the Snow Summit volunteer patrol in Big Bear Lake. The Snow Summit Patrol membership became a second

family to him and he opened his mountain home to patrollers for ski season lodging. He was extremely happy when he drove up to the mountains and proud of his NSP service and friendships.

This dedicated man was the patriarch of the patrol. Over the last few years when members would talk with him about patrol, sometimes the subject of retirement would come up. He would look them right in the eyes and with a twinkle say, "I'd prefer to die with my ski boots on." Hugh Pendleton was a member in good standing for the 2014 season. He patrolled his final and 57th season this year.

Hugh Pendleton

February 25, 1928 – October 5, 2014

Worst Student, continued from p. 15

with me, and believe me, we don't give up easily, we were not able to impart the skills to those students to become ski patrollers. And while I feel bad about not being able to pass a student and I encourage them to succeed in other endeavors, I still feel that being an instructor has been an extremely positive influence in my life. I bet many of you also feel that way.

If you are not currently an NSP Instructor and have thought about teaching in one of more of the NSP disciplines, take the challenge and begin your NSP teaching career by enrolling in an Instructor Development Course in your region. You can change patrollers' lives, and I think you may change your life as well.

For more information on the Instructor Development Program for the Far West Division, or if you are interested in attending an Instructor Development Course or would like the course offered to

your patrol, please contact me, Douglas Hill, at fwd-id@farwest.org.

**Contact FWD Instructor
Development Supervisor
Douglas Hill at his email
address:**

fwd-id@farwest.org



FWD Awards nominations due, end of February!

Over recent years, we have had many stellar award winners from our Far West Division.

You may not realize behind each of these winners is a small group or a dedicated individuals that took the time to sit down and write up a nomination. In my view just being nominated for one of these National Outstanding awards is an honor in itself because someone thought enough of you to take several hours out of their day, do some research and type up your nomination. It is time to start thinking about who you should nominate for an award.

The NSP has two categories of awards, the National Outstanding Awards and what I call the general awards. The general awards include things like Merit Stars, Angle Pins, Service Pins and National Appointments. These awards can be written up and submitted to your local awards advisor at any time. The National Outstanding awards include Outstanding Alpine Patroller, Outstanding Auxiliary, Outstanding Instructor and Outstanding Patrol. These awards are on a timeline and must be submitted to your region awards advisor in February. (Check with your region awards advisor or your regional calendar for the specific date.)

To nominate any individual for any award you can start by choosing the correct award for the individual. You can see the criteria for each award by downloading chapter 10 of the NSP Policies and Procedures. For help, ask your region awards advisor or you can ask me directly at percuss@pacbell.net.

Once you have selected the award, download the form from the

NSP website, Or again, you can ask me or your regional awards advisor. We can send you the forms. Review the form and start gathering the required information. For Merit Stars you will need to get the facts, timeline and specific actions of the nominee. For National Outstanding awards you will need to do some research. Useful information for a National Outstanding nominee includes information on the nominee's outside activities that support the NSP, relationships with other ski related organizations, use of NSP skills outside of the industry, the nominee's contributions to patrolling, a detailed history of the nominees patrolling career, including NSP offices held, classes taught, hours on and off the hill, and awards received. One of the items you will need is the nominees NSP history.

Allow time for the award to work its way through the system. These awards are reviewed by your Patrol Representative, Region Awards Advisor, Region Awards Board, Region Director, Division Awards Advisor, Division Director, and even the National Awards Advisor. Take a little time to write them up and honor them for their many contributions. Again, if you need help, your regional and division awards advisors are here to provide you with the assistance you need. Submitted by **Ken Bergmann, Far West Division Awards Advisor**, kennyb@pacbell.net.



The Worst Student in Class

Admit it. At some point in your life, you may have been the worst student in class. Yeah, me too. As NSP Instructors, we sometimes encounter challenging students that bring out the best and sometimes the worst in us. But it is still up to us as instructors to try to get through to these students to give them the opportunity to succeed. That requires us to try to get to the heart of the problem; what is hindering their success? Is it an academic problem or a behavioral problem?

Behavioral issues can manifest themselves in many ways. Is the student attending class, paying attention, and studying the material? Are they getting involved in the learning in the class? Is it possible that there is a learning disability that is preventing them from succeeding? Some students have difficulty reading or comprehending written material, some have difficulty writing and communicating, some are easily distracted and have trouble concentrating, and some have problems taking tests even though they may know the material.

If English is not their first language, is there a language barrier? Are they shy and have trouble opening up with others, or is there some physical limitation that is keeping them from understanding, perhaps a hearing problem? If it appears the student is trying to apply themselves and not succeeding, perhaps a private discussion outside of the classroom situation will allow them to share with you one of the problems or difficulties above so that you can have an opportunity to help with or correct the issue.

If we are able to rule out any of the behavioral issues mentioned above, then the problem may be more of an academic issue. Are we

keeping their attention and motivating them to learn? Are we being careful to address all of the learning styles in our teaching. As you recall, adults learn in three different ways. Some are visual learners and learn best by reading, drawing and observing. Others are auditory learners, and respond best to hearing and listening. Still others are kinesthetic learners, and learn best by touching and feeling, either physically, or emotionally. They like hands-on learning and learning that evokes emotion. Some students are well-balanced learners and learn with all three methods. While we don't have to teach every point with all three learning styles, we should try to involve as many senses as possible in the total lesson.

If more than one student is having trouble with the material, then we need to look closely at how we are teaching: evaluate ourselves! Are we mixing up the instructional activities and changing what we are doing about every 15 - 20 minutes, the average attention span of an adult? Are we encouraging all of the students to get involved in the learning activities? Are we creating a comfortable environment where the students can experiment with learning and not be afraid of making mistakes? Are we making the learning fun for us and the students?

As an NSP Instructor, it is our responsibility to give all of the students the best opportunity to succeed in our classes. What if nothing works? We've tried everything above and still the student doesn't get it. I hate to admit this, but in my 32 years of teaching in NSP, there have been a handful of students I couldn't salvage. Despite all of my best efforts and those of the instructors teaching

Please see Worst Student, continued p. 14



Far West Division

News and Views

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