



The Patroller Peek

A Publication of the Far West Division of the National Ski Patrol

Fall 2002 Edition

Changes Come To The National Board

Ray Bryan, *Division Director*

Reaching a major milestone in the process to change the governance of the NSP, the National Board of Directors voted in June to make important changes to the board structure. Beginning January 1, a new, smaller board will take the helm. This comes as a result of internal and external research, study of organizational models, evaluation of the current NSP structure, difficult decisions, and a willingness to change for the better. Key points about the new board include;

- Smaller in size for more responsive action.
- Selected with needs-based criteria.
- Use of knowledge based decision-making.
- Strategically focused on national issues.

Gone with this change are a number of elements that have become increasingly cumbersome to the asso-

ciation in recent years. Our governance has been gradually evolving in complexity over decades into something that has carried differing local expectations to the national level. This was a threat to the future opportunities of the association that would keep members at the forefront of our industry.

Gone from the new board is also myself. You can't have a smaller board and keep everyone. Actually, with 9 years on the National Board of Directors and 5 of those on the National Executive Committee, it has been a pleasure to serve and very rewarding to have been part of this change. However, if the past year is any indication, activity as Far West Division Director will keep me busy.



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Changing Times

By John Kretschmann,

Assistant Division Director and National Board Representative

*"In an age when change comes with frightening rapidity, future-blindness is a deadly flaw"
Osborne & Gaebler - Reinventing Government*

This has been a contemplative year for patrollers in the NSP and FWD. We've seen changes in programs and changes in management and leadership, and today as we speak the wheels of progress evolve as we witness the change and implementation of the re-structure in the National Ski Patrol Board of Directors ... and our very own Far West Division's political and business structure as well. I don't know about you, but I've always been somewhat tentative when I would hear of changes being contemplated, wondering how they would effect me as a patroller on the hill - my enthusiasm for jumping on the supportive band wagon linger guardedly until I knew more about changes and proposals on the table.

This brings to mind a presentation I sat in on while attending the 2002 NSP Powderfall conference at Snow Bird Utah; a presentation that painted a rather uncertain future for our National Ski Patrol. There were the usual buzz word phrases tossed around such as competing recreational opportunities, time poverty, loss of brand loyalty, etc., with the general conclusion being that we are losing membership to various competing factors which are disenfranchising us from the mission and goals that we as patrollers have committed to serve.

In a theoretical conversations I had with another patroller, (a patroller with many more years of service than I) the question was posed; would we have joined the National Ski Patrol (a waayyy back when) if we knew upfront that we would be confronted with today's levels of commitments that beset the new in-coming candidate patroller, i.e.; the endless and enduring hours and days of training, countless required days of patrolling, and all of the seemingly superfluous rules and regulations that the average patroller is ostensibly confronted with ... in today's Ski Patrol? As a volunteer? I pose this introspective question to each of you as well. The

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NEWS BRIEFS

New NSP Board of Directors - Members of the new, smaller NSP Board of Directors have been selected. This 13-member board will take office January 1, 2003. You will receive a ballot to confirm the selection of this new board in the fall issue of "Ski Patrol Magazine". John Kretschmann - Assistant Far West Division Director has been selected by the nominating committee as a member of the new board pending your confirmation. See www.nsp.org/nsp2002/whats_new_template.asp?mode=message for more information.

Summer Conference - Feedback received from this year's Far West Division Summer Conference in San Diego was very positive, with many attendees thinking it was our best. Thanks go to our Bill Sachs - National Chairman, and Leif Borgeson - National Education Director for being our guests and presenting during a few of the several excellent sessions at the conference. Thanks also need to go to Diana St. Clair for her excellent job as Conference Coordinator. Next year's Summer Conference will be held August 1, 2 & 3 at Sierra Summit in central California. Look for additional details in the spring.

Tri-Advisory in Yosemite Valley - The Tri-Advisory conference will be at the Yosemite School on November 2 & 3, 2002. This educational conference is a gathering of instructors and non-instructor patrollers interested in Avalanche, Mountain Travel and Rescue, and Nordic Patrolling. Contact this year's host, Mike Laney at stauchwall@hotmail.com for more details.

New OEC Text Books - Shortly after their arrival at the NSP warehouse, the Far West Divisions OEC Instructors received copies of the OEC 4th edition hot off the press thanks to a special allocation of non-dues funding. This allows every patrol in the division to get early benefits from these new materials. Thanks go to our Division OEC Supervisors, Sam Bradley and Doug Hill, for handling the logistics of this distribution. Go to www.nsp.org/nsp2002/whats_new_template.asp?mode=new_oec for more about the OEC 4th edition.

California Legislation - The California Ski Industries Association (CSIA) has reported that two pieces of California legislation which could have been harmful to the ski industry were defeated. At the request of CSIA and the NSP national office, Ray Bryan - Far West Division Director participated with CSIA members in testimony before the California State Senate on AB-2218.

Patrol Structure and Voting - During consideration of proposals at their annual meeting, the Far West Division board enacted two policies dealing with patrol structure and voting within the division. One implements a new voting method where each patroller, rather than their patrol representative, will vote for Region Director, Division Director, and Assistant Division Director. Due to the need for bylaw changes, this is planned to be in place for the spring elections in 2004. The other requires an area patrol structure that conforms to guidelines in the national Policies and Procedures. Members currently belonging to a service patrol need to be primary members of the area patrol by the due date of this registration cycle, January 1, 2003. These members may continue to have secondary registration with their service patrol.



At the Val d'Isere avalanche site where 6 people had perished the previous week are Ralph Eschenbach, Michel Hania Gajewska and Fritz Herbert.

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Division Administration & Staff**Division Director**

Ray Bryan

Asst. Division Directors

Steve Francisco

John Kretschmann

Board of Directors

Stephen Simi - Arizona Region

Tim OBrien - Eastern Sierra Region

Ken Bergmann - Mother Lode Region

Koll Buer - No. California Region

Larry Acord - So. California Region

Rich Bailey - Pro Patrollers

Division Staff

Dave Ritchie - Awards

Geoff Hutcheson - Legal

Dr. Eric Lamberts - Medical

Sandy Kowallis - Meetings

David Coffin - Publications

David Coffin - Web Site

Peggy Jamison - Registration

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Vern Herr - Treasurer

Program Supervisors

Mike Laney - Avalanche

Jennifer Bryan - Instructor Development

Susan Kaempfer - Leadership

Joanne Barnes - Mountaineering

Mike St.Clair - Nordic

Gerry Calonico - Toboggan

Sam Bradley - OEC

Doug Hill - OEC

2002 Far West Division Awards Banquet

Dave Ritchie - Far West Division Awards Coordinator

Our division awards were presented at our summer meeting in San Diego. Diana St. Clair and her staff of Susan Kaempfer, Doug Hill, Jack Moskowitz, and Larry Acord were given certificates of appreciation for their efforts in putting on a fine meeting. Debbie Speer also was awarded a certificate of appreciation for her early meeting coordination. Region awards coordinators/division awards judges Dan Orr II of Arizona Region, Frank Shoemaker of Eastern Sierra Region, Debbie Whitcher of Mother Lode Region, Norene Sullivan of Northern California Region, and Rick Williams of Southern California Region also were awarded certificates of appreciation.

Outgoing region directors Mike Laurance of Mother Lode Region and Mark Giebel of Southern California Region received service plaques in recognition of their efforts over the past years. Bob Ashcraft, outgoing assistant division director and outgoing national board member, received a plaque from the Far West Division and a nice award from the national office.

Ray Bryan presented the Division Director's Award to Vern Herr, division treasurer, in recognition of his many hours of quiet work in a very vital job.

We were honored to have Bill Sachs, our national director, present at our awards ceremony. As the program progressed, he played a significant role in the presentations. Alex Heilig was awarded Outstanding Student Patroller. Andrew Morse received the Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller Award. Our Outstanding Paid Patroller was Scott Hoffman, for the second time. Keith Tatsukawa, a past FWD Outstanding Alpine Patroller, got the Outstanding Instructor Award this time around. Outstanding Nordic Patroller went to William Lowell, and Outstanding Alpine Patroller went to Linda Eckhart.

The exceptional members of the Far West Division have always done well at the national level of competition, and this year we again did well. Matt Brooks was selected to be the National Outstanding Patrol Representative. Sugar Bowl Patrol garnered the National Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol Award.

Nice going, everybody! It's great to be recognized, so if you know someone who might be eligible for an award, see what you can do to get the process started.

European Seminar For Patrollers Zermatt - Val d'Isere- 2002

By Chuck Herbert -

A very successful seminar was held in Europe for members of the Far West Division from March 1st to March 17th. Nineteen persons participated including patrollers and former patrollers from the Tahoe Basin and Southern California.

During the first week members of the group became thoroughly familiar with the three mountains around Zermatt and skied at Saas-Fee ant to Cervinia in Italy. One of the highlights of this phase was the demonstration of the equipment and procedures of AirZermatt by Diego Lareida, the head paramedic. Because of the extremely long runs and vertical drops of up to 7200' most serious injuries on the slopes are transported by helicopter. He also told of the difficult rock caused by the many attempts to scale the Matterhorn each season.

Val d'Isere was the base for the second week. Our patrollers were invited to ski with a 'pisteur' who showed them much 'off-piste' territory of the three Val d'Isere complexes and at the neighboring Tigne resort. Most interesting was a visit to the site where the previous week 6 persons had succumbed in a major avalanche. The recovery operation required using grooming machines to remove up to 30' of snow and debris. Badges and items of clothing were exchanged during bonding with all the pisteurs at an apres ski party on Thursday.

Participating patrollers were Ralph Eschenbach, Katherine Coakley-Baker, Fritz Herbert, Hania Gajewska, Dr. Edwin Jacobson and Tom Uttley of Squaw Valley, Bill Johnson of Alpine Meadows, Charley Gallagher and Chuck Herbert from Tahoe Donner and Joe Ravenis from San Diego.



At Val d'Isere - Katherine Baker, Hania Gajewska, Joe Ravenis Pisteur Michel Fritz Susan Gallagher and Charley Gallagher

Nordic Program

Nordic News of the Fall of 2002

Mike St. Clair, Nordic Supervisor

I can feel this winter is going to be great! We'll have lots of snow to ski on. Okay, so I'm trying to be a bit of an optimist. Part of preparing for the great skiing is to participate in some sort of continuing education. Of course, climbing and skiing in South America is a great way to do it. However, if you can't quite swing that much time away from work or the price tag involved, taking part in some of our great ski patrol programs is a little cheaper and a lot more fun, especially since you'll be doing it with friends.

We also have training and learning opportunities with some of our allied agencies. The Search and Rescue (SAR) community puts on approximately 60 classes over various long weekends. Northern California has SAREX.

In Southern California, SAR City is held at Barstow Community College on October 11,12 & 13. You can take a Man Tracking course, get your Ham License in a weekend, and learn High-Angle rescue, Desert Survival, Posse Training, K9 operations, Urban SAR, Drug Recognition, Hug-A-Tree program, Trench Rescue, and a host of other courses. These are all skills that would only enhance us as patrollers. The Tri-Advisory held every year in Yosemite, November 2-3, is a great way to learn and share new ways of teaching, as well as see and try some of the new technologies.

Going for Nordic Senior is a great way to improve your skills. To learn more about the Nordic Senior program and where and when the clinics are being held, in Northern California contact Steve Barr at (209) 526-9070 and in Southern California contact Lynne Frick-Lee at (310) 410-9315. The Nordic Senior evaluation will be held at Badger Pass on March 29 & 30. The Nordic patrols are interacting more and more with the Alpine patrols. When we go to the Alpine hills, our first aid skills improve because of the high number of incidents. Our ski and toboggan skills benefit from the steeper terrain. Which leads me to the Certified program.

The Certified program has nine areas of skills that are evaluated and the Nordic patroller can benefit from all of them (Skiing, Toboggan Handling, OEC, Explosives, Legal & Risk, Hill Management & Operations, Avalanche, Transceivers, Ropes [rappelling, chair evacuation, knots, and low-angle rescue]). The main benefit to all the new skills and knowledge is what the Nordic patroller becomes and what the patroller brings back to the Nordic patrol.

THE DEPOSITION ZONE

A Pile Of Stuff

From Mike Laney's Desk

Mike Laney, FWD Avalanche Program Supervisor - In the last issue I mentioned all the great changes taking place in the Avalanche Training Community. Before that, I talked about the great improvements in the NSP instructor development program. Now, it's time for you to put my words to the test. Enroll in an avalanche course this year. Courses are being organized and scheduled from Arizona to the Oregon border. If you don't get word of course offerings, contact your region's avalanche program administrator.

If you have already received avalanche training, and if the whole avalanche phenomenon interests you, consider working toward an instructorship in the program. We all became the patrollers we are largely because of the training we received from our fellow patrollers. This system will only work as long as new talent keeps entering the instructor force. It is a wonderful way to meet and influence interested, motivated and dedicated people like you. Not only will you learn more about avalanche phenomena, you will also discover and become part of a much larger avalanche community that is practically invisible to the average course-taker. Besides that, how can we test our instructor development program without people using it?

There are just two firm prerequisites for entering the avalanche instructor development program: you must have passed the NSP Level II (formerly Advanced) avalanche course and the NSP instructor development course.

The next step is to apply (we are not very dependable mind readers). If you recently took the NSP Instructor Development Course, you should have an application to copy; if not, download one from the NSP web site. Send it to your region avalanche administrator, who will find a mentor to get you started. For more information, contact your regions avalanche administrator.

Arizona Region

*Henry Truebe, 520/577-9494
(htruebesprint@earthlink.net)*

Eastern Sierra Region

*Mike Kelly
mjkellyattorney@aol.com*

Mother Lode Region

*Ted Hullar, 510/655-2302
(ted@hullar.com)*

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Outdoor Emergency Care No Looking Back

Stephen Francisco, Assistant Far West Division Director

Well what happen to the NSP you ask. How much change can we take? WE are about to find out.

This past year has brought more change to NSP in a given year than I can remember in all my years of patrolling. I also believe as many do that these changes are about to make us stronger. I am not taking away from what others have done but the future is upon us and were about to be left in the last century.

Lets start at the top with the break up of the board. This New Year will bring about the first time in our history the everyday patroller will have a direct voice in who our leaders are. Yes the slate is being selected for you, but the certification process has to begin somewhere. As we move in this direction the members will be more vocal and faster response times to our and managements needs will happen. This will trickle down to the Divisions being able to govern themselves and select their programs more to their needs and improve the local delivery of NSP programs. The smaller board will give way to a more proficient operation.

Next we have a new Education Director to break in as well as a new OEC Program supervisor. Top that off with a new OEC book, New Avalanche book, Mountain Travel and Rescuer Book, No more Phase two's and a New Mentoring Program, New Instructor Development. Holy Cow how can we keep it straight ??

Now lets move to our Division. We have a new Assistant Division Director, Local Patrols having to make realignments and then throw in the new voting procedures. It may seem a little overwhelming all these changes but I believe it is best to do it and move forward . There is no time to look back.

I feel that the everyday patroller is in more of a position to voice their concerns than ever before. I ask each and everyone of you to ask your Patrol Rep's, and Region Directors to make sure you are kept informed on what is happening with NSP. That way you can make the best choice for yourself come election time. Remember that in the division you will be voting for your leaders on a local Region and Division level.

As your new Assistant Division Director I will make myself available to everyone for your questions, and

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Mountain Travel & Rescue

CONFLICT, CONTROVERSY, CONSENSUS REDUX

Joanne Barnes, FWD MTR Supervisor

Last year's conflict and controversy was sparked by the new Mountain Travel & Rescue (MTR) National Director's guest presentation at the Tri-Advisory Educational Conference in Yosemite the first weekend of November, 2001. Monica Spicker requested that the FWD strictly adhere to Chapter 13 of the 2001-2002 Policies and Procedures, specifically in reference to our division including an overnight in the Basic Course. For those of you who are not familiar with the annually updated NSP Policies and Procedures, this document "constitutes the approved national policies of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. All other publications are educational documents and may or may not reflect current NSP policies."

During the 2001-2002 season, FWD MTR instructors did modify the MTR courses to adhere to this mandate to be covered by nsp liability. The controversy sparked

an organizational review of the existing program. The national MTR Committee (whose players include all 10 Divisional MTR Supervisors, Monica Spicker (MTR National Program Director), Mike Baker (Assistant National Chairperson overseeing the MTR program), and the National Educational Director (Judy Over until her retirement and now Leif Borgeson) initiated a revision of the program that would meet nsp needs and satisfy all nsp constituents via conference calls, e-mails and subcommittees.

Consensus is here! Chapter 13 of the 2002-2003 Policies and Procedures (now available on the nsp website under member services) outlines the three MTR courses. Mountain Travel and Rescue Fundamentals and Mountain Travel and Rescue 1 are parallel courses. They can be taught separately or concurrently with some people opting out of the overnight camp out. Either one is a prerequisite for Mountain Travel and Rescue 2. The time line is to have Interim Guidelines sent to all MTR instructors by the end of September. All FWD MTR instructors need to follow these guidelines for their 2002-2003 courses.

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point I wish to make is, (to coin an overused phrase), we should be “thinking out of the box” in regards to the controllable factors we have around us, i.e.; time poverty, loyalty, commitment, etc., as it relates to the initiation process of induction of new candidate patrollers.

However, I digress... Getting back to the presentation I reference above; Aging, Leisure and Lifestyle trends are changing. Today we are looking at the NSP Patroller median age being 45, and getting older. In 1960 there were 500 people in America over the age of 100, it is predicted that by the year 2010 there will be 5,000,000. In 1995 the average person was involved in 4.0 leisure and recreational activities, just one year later this dropped to 3.3 and today it continues to decline. We work 20% more and sleep 20% less than a decade ago. Women are the CFO's of American Households making 90% of financial and logistical decisions. Those of you under 25, can expect to change careers every decade, and jobs every 4 years. Women now own more than half of all businesses in the United States.

Your National NSP Board of Directors and staff are very aware to these statistics; having taken on the task to redirect, reorganize and reconstruct a must needed business management/operational structure that is dedicated to think out of the box ... formulating an NSP organization as a 21st century proactive corporation dedicated to providing quality educational programs and trained resources to the recreational industry. That said, we must always remember - they, (the BOD's and staff), do not act alone - YOU, (the Patrollers on the hill), are an active participatory component of this dynamic evolving corporation. Future successes of our organization will lie in how well we communicate within this diverse business conglomerate - the business unit and the working unit - The Board of Directors and the Patroller on the Hill.

So why am I going on about all of this? Why can't we just let you guys alone to do the job you've signed on to do - PATROL! This gets me back to the previous question on whether or not I would join today's Ski Patrol. Personally I derive accomplishment from what I am doing, I like helping people having a good time, and I enjoy the camaraderie that has come from meeting and working with so many wonderful and skilled associates. I benefit from being identified with a National Ski Patrol that is recognized as being prominent, meaningful, and viable. I want to see our NSP recreational & educational organization at the forefront, as a focal

point, a leader in organizations dedicated to the fulfillment of dreams, enjoyment, and satisfaction by public end users. But I know, I can't be a consequential part of this if I'm not involved, active, and attentive to what's going on around me, and neither should any of you as membership patrollers of the NSP.

In speaking with many of you I presume uncertainties in regards to your futures with ski patrol. I gather thoughts such as “we're not having fun anymore” and “it's become too much like a job”, (in mind that we do this as volunteers). As I look around I see many familiar faces; faces I have seen for many many years, but less I see are those under 30, or even 40. This concerns me. What are we doing to ourselves? Take a moment and ask yourself, what brought me into ski patrol those many years ago? Are those same goals and aspirations available now to our younger, more time stressed individuals of the new millennium? Are we reaching out to make entry into ski patrol an enjoyable and rewarding experience, or are we hammering potential new patrollers with 20 days of patrolling plus another 100 - 200 hours of training before they can don the jacket of the NSP Patroller. These introductory methods (what ever their manifestation) set the stage for potential new patrollers, a stage set and controlled by the area resort and the ski patrolling unit therein. You can do something about this!

Predictions for Ski Patrol:

- *NSP membership will decline as members downsize leisure choices.*
- *Less patrollers will choose to become Instructors.*
- *Less patrollers will volunteer for leadership positions.*
- *Energy quotient will become increasing important in training due to “time Poverty”.*
- *More women will become patrollers*
- *Ski areas & patrols will find it increasing difficult to recruit and retain qualified staff.*
- *Age of average patroller will increase.*
- *Ski areas will hire older volunteers who retire from their regular jobs.*
- *Loyalty to National Ski Patrol “Brand” will decline.*
- *Brand loyalty to local areas will increase.*

To survive the future, the National Ski Patrol and local ski areas need to:

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Certified Program

Certified Supervisors Report*Jim Otto - Division Certified Supervisor*

The Certified Program enables patrollers to build on those experiences gained while patrolling, and through other NSP programs, e.g., Senior, OEC, Avalanche, mountaineering, etc. The purpose of the Certified Program is to help patrollers identify and supplement training resources and to provide training clinics as skill checkpoints and verification of personal progress. Being a Certified Patroller means you have accepted the challenge to expand your horizons, have exemplary Patroller skills, and are expected to share your skills and experiences with other Patrollers.

The NSP Ski Patrollers Manual, 14th Edition, identifies 6 modules for the Certified Program: 1) Area Operations and Risk Management; 2) Avalanche Management; 3) Outdoor Emergency Care; 4) Rope Rescue and Lift Evacuation; 5) Skiing/Snowboarding; and 6) Toboggan Handling. The program requires independent training and advanced research, and participants must complete all modules to receive Certification. In the Far West Division, the completion of these 6 modules is done in conjunction with the Association of Professional Patrollers (APP) clinics.

Certified candidates must possess highly developed teamwork skills, because those who advance to the Certified classification must be able to direct other patrollers during day-to-day services as well as multiple casualty incidents. More important, they must have the attitude and ability to subordinate themselves to other NSP and Area Management Leaders, and be a team player. It is strongly recommended that patrollers complete the Senior Program before entering the Certified Program.

Certified Training for the 2002/2003 Season will be determined by the following Region Certified Advisors:

*Arizona**Leon Wachtel bawach@hotmail.com**Eastern Sierra**Tim O'Brien (RD) tobrien@tahoedonner.com**Mother Lode**Dave Rhodes dgckrhodes@cell.net**No Calif**Koll Buer (RD) buerk@water.ca.gov**So Calif**Tom Caldwell tarzanatom@mindspring.com*

Division Certified Training Events: 15-16 February 03 at Sierra Summit, and 22-23 March 03 @ June Moun-

tain. APP mid-winter clinics (date and location TBD, estimate 4 clinics January - March 03, and Spring Clinic (date and location TBD, estimate last week of April 03).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Region Certified Advisors or Jim Otto at (714) 894-8735 or e-mail: james.r.otto@lmco.com

Ray Bryan - Continued from page 1

Serving on the new board will be a familiar name from the Far West Division; John Kretschmann, Assistant Division Director. John has many of the characteristics that the selection committee was asked to find with the first "needs-based" criteria. The change to the board is just a first step in implementing our "six elements of structure", so John will be very busy.

One requirement placed on the new board members is that they not concurrently serve in other NSP administrative positions. Thus, John will be creating a vacancy in his Assistant Division Director position. A special election will be conducted to fill his vacancy beginning immediately with the acceptance of nominations. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please send the nominations to Janice Waits, Division Secretary and Elections Coordinator, per the instructions found elsewhere in this issue

Not Getting Magazines, Catalogues,
Newsletters or other NSP materials??

Visit NSP Member Services online at

www.nsp.org

And update your mailing and contact information. Include your e-mail address to receive periodic Far West Division news releases.

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concerns. I will do my best to help lead this Division and keep the Far West at the top of the pack in NSP Program Delivery. I feel my 25 years plus including years as a paid patroller in New York, and Utah as well as Mountain Manager in Southern California give me a broad background and views of this industry and the role we all play as NSP. You can contact me at stazski@aol for any of your needs. I look forward to serving you and meeting you on the slopes.

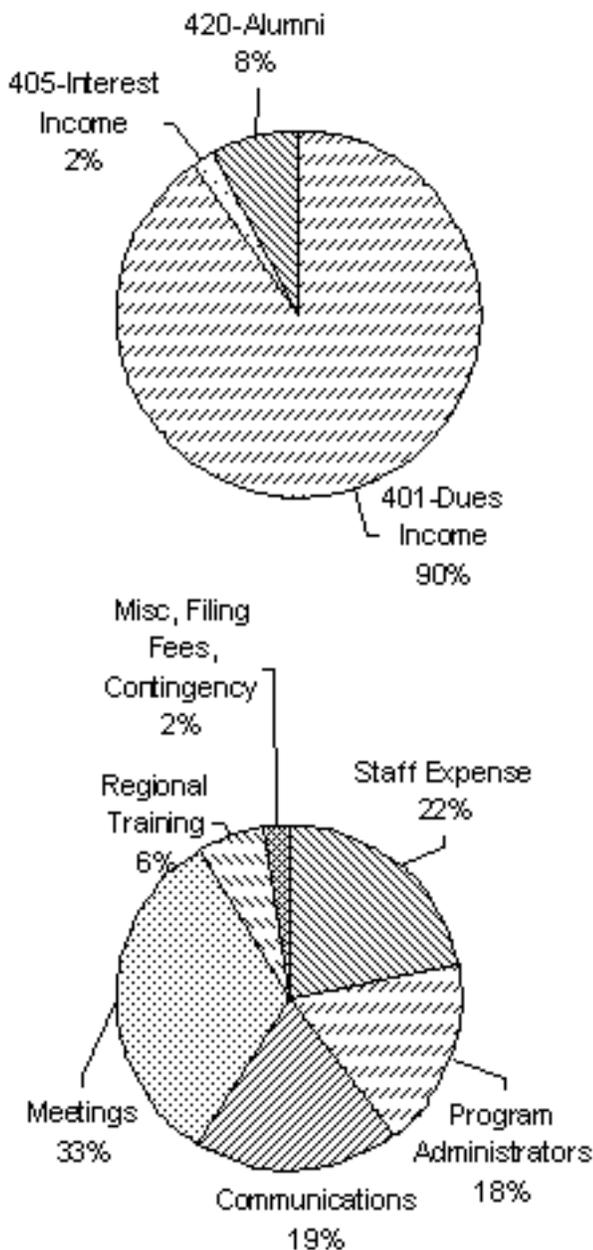
Far West Division Budget 2002-2003

REVENUE

401-Dues Income	\$22,150
405-Interest Income	\$500
420-Alumni	\$1,900
Total Revenue	\$24,550

DISBURSEMENTS

Staff Expense	\$6,830
Program Administrators	\$5,553
Communications	\$5,950
Meetings	\$10,160
Regional Training	\$2,000
Misc, Filing Fees, Contingency	\$650
Total Expenses	\$31,143



Tri-Advisory - Continued from page 4

Northern California Region

Mike Laney, 530/432-8366

(stauchwall@hotmail.com)

Southern California Region

Stanley Arai, sarai@kaiserep.com

Now, here's something for instructors and potential instructors alike. Attend the FWD Tri-Advisory conference in Yosemite Valley, November 2-3. The conference is a gathering of division supervisors, region administrators, Instructor Trainers, instructors and non-instructor patrollers in the fields of Avalanche, Mountain Travel and Rescue, and Nordic Patrolling. We meet to refresh and expand our knowledge and skills; to network and plan events; to swap ideas and resources; to socialize and get to know each other better. The conference fee covers the cost of Saturday meals, which are provided on-site by a volunteer crew. Attendees are encouraged to bring their families along to enjoy the recreational opportunities in the park and to join the conference Saturday evening for dinner and entertainment. Additional dinners for family/friends may be purchased separately (Advance purchase is necessary for us to know how much food to buy and prepare). The spectacular setting alone is worth attendance.

On Saturday, the conference is held in the multipurpose room of Yosemite Elementary School, which can accommodate about a hundred people. There will be interesting, informative presentations on a variety of topics, plus breakout sessions run by the program supervisors.

On Sunday, there will be clinics and games to help participants to learn, refresh, and hone skills that interest them, including rope work and climbing activities, map/compass and GPS courses, avalanche beacon drills, and an IT orientation. Participants are on their own for Sunday meals.

Lodging in the park can be a problem if you wait until the last moment. Rooms at Yosemite Lodge are usually booked a year in advance, but there is always a possibility of cancellations. Curry Village is further away, but is a better prospect for availability of rooms. Tent Cabins are usually available. The Upper Pines Campground will be open, but advance reservations are required (800/365-2267). New this year are the Yosemite Four Seasons Condos (800/669-9300) at the El Portal entrance. Each condo can sleep up to ten.

A Tri-Advisory Conference preregistration form is included elsewhere in this issue of the Peek. Hope to meet you there.

Far West Division Tri-Advisory Conference

Yosemite National Park

November 2-3, 2002

PRE-REGISTRATION

Conference Registration Fee: \$25.00 (*includes Saturday meals*)

Guest – Dinner only: Adults - \$12.00, Children (*twelve and younger*) - \$6.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____ E-mail: _____

Patrol Affiliation: _____

Your position in the patrol: _____

Discipline Interest: ___ *Avalanche*, ___ *Nordic*, ___ *MTR*, ___ *Other* (_____)

If an NSP instructor, discipline(s)? _____

Please state any food allergies, or if you are vegetarian _____

Prepayment of fees would be greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to National Ski Patrol.

Please send this form with payment to:

Mike Laney FWD Avalanche Supervisor

18784 Lake Forest Drive

Penn Valley, CA 05946-9458

	Number	\$ Amount
Registration	1	\$25.00
Additional Adult Dinners (@\$12)		
Additional Child Dinners (@\$6)		
	Total Enclosed	

Take A Tour

by Jennifer Bryan, Instructor Development Supervisor

Have you been to the NSP website or the Far West website lately? If not, you won't believe what you've been missing! Take a few minutes and open these two sites.

When you log on to www.nsp.org select Member Services. Once there, input your patroller number and your password. If this is your first visit, register a password by opening Activate Your Account. Now, you'll have to wait for your password confirmation, but once you're registered into the system the first thing you should do is check out your member profile and update with any necessary changes. Review your education courses, address, and other contact information. Along the left margin you'll find three main selections including a link to the Far West Patroller Peak! Under Member Services are choices like, Downloads, Catalog, Policies and Procedures, and even NSP logos. Open Downloads, here you can review and download many things; from Patrol Officer Bulletins (P.O.B.s), to Award Forms, Education and Registration Forms. Just under Member Services is Education Info. Here you'll find a posting of registered education courses listed by division and their links for contact.

At your next opportunity login to www.farwest.org and check out our new and improved website. Many thanks go to David Coffin, also the Patroller Peak Editor, for reinstating the website and loading it with tons of useful information. When you login you'll see an easy to read selection from Contacts, to Links, to Newsletters and Calendars. Inside Calendars you'll find it broken down into division or separate by region. By region you can locate all kinds of events; refresher dates to OEC classes, just to name two. In an age where time has become very precious, he has created an inviting and user-friendly site. And Mr. Coffin welcomes your suggestions for further additions. Simply contact him at: patroller@socalnsp.org.

The focus of these sites is communication. And communication can be a vital component to supporting a successful patrolling career. But it's just a tool; you can turn it on or let it sit. And like any tool, if you just let it sit, it can't help you.

Go for it; take a tour. I think you'll like what you see!

Changing Times - Continued from page 6

- *Recruit women*
- *Make volunteering a fun and flexible family experience.*
- *Package & simplify training.*
- *"Compensate" instructors and leaders.*
- *Grow new volunteers from existing families.*

High Touch Leadership in Changing Times.

Whether you've already had privy to the above report by Mike Shellitto, or not, you must agree it is worth restating. Starting Jan 1, 2003, you will have a new national board of directors. Thirteen professional dedicated business leaders focused on YOU THE MEMBER. The new board will be charged with reinforcing and building bridges between the membership and business components of the NSP. Educational programs, the backbone product of the NSP will be broadened to approach and represent new partners in the outdoor recreation industry. Through a process of assigned committees, our membership patrollers will have opportunities (like never before) to be existent and active contributors and participants in the future of the NSP.

Locally, on the Division, Regions and Patrols level we have renewed and enhanced opportunities to become more proactive in the delivery of the products of the NSP. Each patrol has opportunities to broaden and reinforce understandings with their area management in the delivery of quality resources and services. In support of our Regions and Patrols your FWD board is restructuring as well. The political nonsense of justifying member representation by an antiquated process of voter equality will be replaced with an all member voice in who will manage the strategic issue of our FWD, (pending a vote of approval by the FWD BOD's). The focus for all of us, working together ... will remain on the quality program delivery of education and skills programs that prepare new candidates for entry into the NSP, as well as ongoing patroller skills development.

As we go forward, I ask that you share my enthusiasm and excitement for changes evolving, changes that enhance the futures of the NSP patroller. I hope you will be an active part of this change as well. Certainly to be guarded and tentative is understandable, but to do nothing is not an answer. Apathy is awful. It stifles creativity, undermines positive direction, and stands in the doorway of progress. You can do something about this - share the dream.

Mountain Travel - Continued from page 5

The 2002-2003 Catalog will also include a description of the new MTR programs. On October 10th-14th, the spokespersons for the three MTR subcommittees will meet with Monica Spicker at nsp headquarters in Lakewood, CO, to finalize the draft MTR Instructor's Manual that the whole committee has been diligently working on for the better part of the year. I'll be there as the spokesperson for the MTR 1 subcommittee. After that, I'll have a better idea of the publication date - most likely early in 2003.

So, for this season, the MTR program will offer MTRF, MTR1, and MTR2 courses. New instructors

will take the Instructor Development Course, be mentored, and have a final evaluation by an Instructor Trainer. Sunday morning's session at the Tri-Advisory in Yosemite on November 3rd will be about the role and responsibilities of Instructor Trainers in all of the nsp educational programs. FWD has once again met the challenge of questioning existing policies to better meet the interests and needs of all patrollers and achieve consensus - congrats, that's the way to go!

Look For Far West Division Election Information on the Back Page.

In Memoriam

Walter Singletary (1935-2002)

The NSP, and especially the patrollers from around Lake Tahoe, have lost one of their outstanding and most beloved members. Walt Singletary succumbed to brain cancer on September 3 in Reno, NV attended by his close family, of which two, both his wife, JJ and daughter, Cindi, are also patrollers.

Walt's energy, leadership abilities and dedication to NSP have left considerable impact on the organization from almost the moment he joined the Tahoe-Donner Patrol in 1985. This small, but very active patrol has never been the same since he became Assistant Patrol Director in 1988 and Patrol Director from 1988-92 and again from 2000-2001. He significantly raised its proficiency in skiing and OEC and the level of service it has been able to provide to the area and the skiing public. He served as Section Chief from 1992 to 1994 and Eastern Sierra Region Director from 1994 to 1998. Walt was especially influential in bringing order and modern communications to this region of over 600 patrollers in the Tahoe Basin, leaving a well oiled and smoothly running machine for his successor. Besides ensuring that NSP programs were being delivered to all patrollers, he organized special seminars on awards to encourage recognition of good work. His adroit ways of disarming difficult people or situations were often very helpful in making the deliberations of the Far West Division Board less onerous and more productive. Finally, during the 2001-2002 season Walt did an excellent job as Professional Patrol Director at Boreal Ridge, a major ski area on Donner Summit..

In addition to being an inspirational leader, Walt also greatly enjoyed his role as instructor which permitted him to indulge in one of his great loves, to teach what he knew to others. He was an instructor in the NSP disciplines of toboggan handling, OEC and avalanche and taught skiing as a certified PSIA instructor. After his retirement from the government, Walt spent almost all the days during the winter patrolling or teaching skiing. He was instrumental in organizing many Ski Enhancement Seminars in the Tahoe Basin, taught at refreshers, OEC courses and proficiency clinics and continuously encouraged younger patrollers to become instructors.

As a result of his many contributions, Walt received recognition via most of the awards available in the NSP. He has a Lifetime Membership and was Outstanding Patrol Representative in Eastern Sierra Region in 2001. He received a Yellow Merit Star in 1988, a Distinguished Service Award in 1991 and Leadership Commendation Award #2008 in 1993.

Everyone whose life was touched by Walt will remember him with great fondness. Typical may be an instance of sitting in a stormbound patrol shack while Walt cheers everyone up with humorous anecdotes from his past in the service, the government or the ski patrol. Walt will certainly be missed in the NSP which represented such a big part of his life. - *Chuck Herbert*

In this Issue:
Far West Division
Tri-Advisory Conference

8430 Truxton Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

~~The Patroller~~ Peak
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2002 - 2003 FAR WEST DIVISION ELECTION NOTIFICATION

SPECIAL ELECTION-Nominations are now open for Assistant Division Director. Due to changes at the National level, the position of Assistant Division Director, presently held by John Kretschmann, now requires a special election. Please note the following dates.

- **December 1, 2002** Nominations DUE for Assistant Division Director Position. A nomination or announcement must be accompanied by a one-page resume of the candidate's membership in NSP which demonstrates the candidate's eligibility for office, and may be accompanied by a one-page statement of the candidate's platform. A nomination also must be accompanied by written acceptance of the nomination signed by the nominee
- **December 19, 2002** Date of Election, ballots mailed to eligible voters, i.e. Registered Patrol representatives and Region Directors
- **January 2, 2003** Postmark deadline for ballots
- **January 29, 2003** Results announced (sooner if all eligible ballots returned)

DIVISION DIRECTOR ELECTION

The Far West Division "Director" position is due for election in 2003

I therefore announce that nominations are now open for the position of Far West Division Director. Nominations or announcements of candidacy must be sent, in writing, to the Division Election Chairperson, Janice Waits, no later than DECEMBER 16, 2002. A nomination or announcement must be accompanied by a one-page resume of the candidate's membership in NSP which demonstrates the candidate's eligibility for office, and may be accompanied by a one-page statement of the candidate's platform. A nomination also must be accompanied by written acceptance of the nomination signed by the nominee.

PLEASE FORWARD ALL NOMINATIONS AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO:

Janice Waits, Election Chairperson
1202 Rembrandt Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

REGION DIRECTOR ELECTIONS:

Also be advised that Eastern Sierra and Northern California regions are due for Region Director elections, in spring 2003. Nominations are now open and will be accepted to later than March 3, 2003. Consult a region officer of your region's by-laws, officer's handbooks, and ski patrol manual for qualifications. Nominations are to be submitted to the Division Election Chairperson, Janice Waits.