



# The Patroller Peek

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

Spring 2002 Edition

## 2002 Summer Conference and OEC 4th Edition Rollout Mark Beginning of 2002 Season

*Ray Bryan - Division Director*

The Far West Division's 2002 Summer Conference will be held August 2, 3 and 4 at the Hacienda Hotel in Old Town, San Diego, California. Besides this being a great location, we are planning a fabulous conference. Building on the success and positive feedback from last year, we will again present a format using a combination of old stand-bys, past successes, and new ideas for conference content.



Our guest speakers for this year will include our National Chairman, Bill Sachs who will be discussing the proposed changes in NSP governance and outcomes from the June NSP annual meeting. With the release of the 4th edition of Outdoor Emergency Care, we will also have our new Education Director, Leif Borgeson

(filling this position after Judy Over's retirement) on hand to help with the rollout of this exciting new product created in partnership with medical publisher Jones and Bartlett.

For those arriving on Friday, the welcome reception will provide an opportunity to kick off the conference in a social setting while renewing old friendships and meeting new people. The Far West Division Board of Directors will be meeting to conduct the division's annual business earlier in the day. The board meets in open session and others are welcome to attend.

Beginning with the special presentations that start our Saturday morning, through the traditional program breakout sessions after lunch, and into our afternoon panel discussion, I hope you agree that we have assembled another outstanding group of people and topics.

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## San Diego Attractions Offer Conference Participants Plenty

*Debbie Speer - Conference Coordinator*

The Far West Division Meeting is just around the corner. This year we will be holding it in Beautiful Old Town San Diego, at the Hacienda Hotel. The Hacienda Hotel in Old Town is where you will truly experience classic California hospitality. Relax in the spacious comfort of their beautiful accommodations as you enjoy the tranquil atmosphere of this colorful hillside retreat. It's all right here in the heart of San Diego... where California began - and Old Town is the perfect spot to begin enjoying the local charm and excitement of America's Finest City. The hotel's magnificent hillside setting lends to the feeling of a secluded resort with panoramic views of the ocean, bay and city lights.

The romance and excitement of San Diego is just outside your door at Old Town's Hacienda Hotel, where you're surrounded by the history of California's first community and the magic of the famed Southern Cal-

fornia coast.

The Hacienda is centrally located and freeway close. Just minutes away are the best of San Diego:

- Fashion Valley and Mission Valley Shopping Malls, 5 minutes
- Sea World, San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park and Museums, 5 minutes
- Mission Bay Aquatic Park and local Beaches, 5 minutes
- Riverwalk Golf Club, 5 minutes
- Lindbergh Field Airport & Amtrak Station, 10 minutes
- Horton Plaza, Seaport Village & Gaslamp Quarter, 10 minutes
- Cabrillo Monument & Mission de Acala, 10 minutes
- San Diego Qualcomm Stadium, 10 minutes
- San Diego Downtown Convention Center, 10 minutes
- Del Mar Racetrack & Fairgrounds, 20 minutes

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## News Briefs

### NEW MEMBER CLASSIFICATION

The NSP has created a new Safety/Host member classification to support the broader implementation of mountain hosts, safety patrols, and related functions at all ski areas. Patrols may advance members from candidate to the Safety/Host classification upon completing a minimum of Outdoor First Care and other locally established requirements for this classification. See [http://www.nsp.org/nsp2002/whats\\_new\\_template.asp?mode=mountain\\_host](http://www.nsp.org/nsp2002/whats_new_template.asp?mode=mountain_host) for more information. This is also an excellent way for prospective and exiting patrollers to be involved at the resort.

### OES/SAR MOU

The Far West Division has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of California Office of Emergency Services. This agreement provides a means for interested members to become registered Disaster Service Workers for the purpose of participating in winter search and rescue operations through primary or secondary membership with authorized patrols. Inquire for more details through [skirescue@earthlink.net](mailto:skirescue@earthlink.net) (South) or [telemarkg@earthlink.net](mailto:telemarkg@earthlink.net) (North).

### NEW NATIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

John Kretchmann has been elected to the position of National Board Representative for the Far West Division. In this position, John will continue to serve as an Assistant Division Director.

### NEW ASSISTANT DIVISION DIRECTOR

Steve Francisco has been appointed as an interim Assistant Division Director. The Far West Division Board of Directors will officially fill this position by an election to be conducted at their board meeting in August. Steve is also on the National Refresher Committee and was previously the OEC Administrator for Southern California Region.

### REGISTRATION PROCESS

The Far West Division is currently working through the details of a more direct registering process between patrols and the NSP. We hope to begin using this new process this fall. Our success will result in broader adaptation throughout the NSP, and lay the groundwork for continuing improvements in the member registration process.

### FAR WEST DIVISION WEB SITE

The Far West Division web site, [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org) is up and running. The site offers the public an overview of the NSP organization in California and Arizona, and its members, with resources such as a calendar of Division events, Division contact list, Division news, newsletter archive and links to National, Region and local patrol and instructor web sites.

### NOT GETTING YOUR NSP NEWSLETTERS OR CATALOGS?

Typically when a newsletter is mailed we will get some returned because of an address change. No longer do you have to wait until the next registration period to update this information. Just go online to [www.farwest.org/sitemap.htm](http://www.farwest.org/sitemap.htm) and click on NSP Member Services to update your membership information directly.

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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

Mike Laurance - 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

Debbie Speer - Meetings

David Coffin - Publications

David Coffin - Web Site

Peggy Jamison - Registration

Janice Waits - Secretary

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 North

Doug Hill - OEC South

## FAR WEST DIVISION NOTES

## A Look At The 2001/2002 Season

Ray Bryan - Division Director

From an outside perspective, this year in the Far West Division may be described as business as usual. But internally we have been busy sowing the seeds of change.

Recent improvements in the division structure through the elimination of elected Section Chiefs, consolidation of Regions, and dissolving some patrols has created a much more efficient environment for the delivery of NSP services in today's industry. We have a few more steps to complete, but I am pleased with the progress that has been made. These can be difficult changes burdened by historic and emotional baggage.

We have been making gradual progress at getting the membership in the Far West Division to better match our patroller population. Our membership has long included almost every volunteer within the division, but paid patrollers in our division have been reluctant to embrace the NSP as their own association. Last year's summer conference focused on this issue, including presentations by Bob Black, Professional Division Director, and an industry panel discussion providing valuable insight to the situation. The strategy for this season included a closer relationship between the Far West Division and the Association of Professional Patrollers (formerly the FWPSPA), greater involvement with the Professional Division of the NSP, more paid NSP members in the Far West Division, and a greater understanding of the issues with patrolling amongst us all. We currently have several ski patrol departments looking at the Professional Division and other forms of membership with the NSP.

We have also been working to establish closer ties with other regional associations in the Far West. This past fall, I was invited to participate at the California Ski Industry Association annual meeting. Throughout this year they have had a continuing interest in our creation of the Safety/Host membership classification. I hope to see the Far West Division put this membership classification to good use next season. We also established a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Office of Emergency Services providing a means for patrollers to function as specialized Disaster Service Workers.

The Far West Division has continued its history of support for NSP educational programs through the allocation of funds for the purchase of new materials to fill the instructor ranks. In 2002 we have already purchased the new Avalanche Instructor Manual for all our Avalanche Instructors, and have allocated \$20,000 for the rollout purchase of the 4th edition Outdoor Emergency Care materials this summer.

With the conclusion of another season on the snow, the division is again focusing its attention towards our summer conference. Our guest speakers for this year will include our National Chairman, Bill Sachs, who will be discussing the changes in NSP governance and outcomes from the June NSP annual meeting. Also, with the release of the 4th edition of Outdoor Emergency Care, we will have our new Education Director, Leif Borgeson (filling this position after Judy Over's retirement) on hand to help with the rollout of this exciting new product. ✚

*Summer Conference - Continued from Page 1*

Region meetings will wrap-up our Saturday sessions. These provide each region an opportunity to get together with their attendees to meet, caucus, rally, or conduct whatever business needs to be done. This will be a good opportunity to meet the other people in your region, and make plans for the coming season.

Concluding our day will be the annual Awards Banquet where we will recognize just a few of the many outstanding members of the National Ski Patrol. Awards to be presented will include the division outstanding awards (with national outstanding awards as appropriate), appointments, service awards, and awards of merit. ✚



## INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

## New Tools for the Instructor Development Program

*Jennifer Bryan - Division Training Supervisor*

The new texts for Instructor Development (I.D.) are now available from the National Warehouse. If you're already an instructor for I.D. (formally Phase I), be sure and order yourself a copy of the new instructor and student texts. I believe you'll find the new editions user friendly and very informational. You will also see a structural change for candidate instructors in that they no longer take a Phase II course, rather they enter a Mentoring Program focused in the area in which they wish to instruct. The Mentoring Program also provides more accessible opportunities for patrollers to become instructors.

The I.D. program's self-study or distance education format is under development. This will provide instructor candidates the opportunity to learn a majority, if not all of the instructor development material from a self-paced learning environment. Many people agree that the traditional classroom can be the ideal place to learn, but it isn't always the most convenient in today's world. Distance education allows people to be more flexible in their learning pursuits and still acquire a quality education. ✚

### Ideas to Aid Teaching

The following are a few ideas to enhance your teaching style. One of the hardest things about teaching is truly knowing the material you're imparting to others. What happens when you don't know the answer to a student question? Don't guess! Be honest and tell the student you will look up the answer and respond by the next class. Any instructor will tell you, there is absolutely no way you will ever have all the answers. Your students will respect your honesty.

When you ask a question in class are you expecting an immediate/quick answer? Does the response answer the specific information you requested? If not, look at your questioning techniques. Many times instructors don't realize how important questions are and the importance they play in the learning process. One simple questioning technique an instructor can implement is "wait-time". When an instructor asks a question, pause and wait for a thoughtful answer. The instructor may even want to say to the class, "Take a minute, and think about how you would..." The wait-time gives all learners time to put their thoughts together and pull from prior information to form a well-rounded answer. The instructor may have to physically time her/himself at first to become accustomed to the process,

but the reward is quickly seen in the learner. Learners are less pressured and therefore more accurate in the answers given. ✚

## TOBOGGAN

## Toboggan Mentoring Program

*Gerry Calonico - Division Toboggan Supervisor*

In the past, in order to become a Toboggan Instructor, you had to complete a phase II class for toboggan handling. Now to make our programs more effective, and efficient, we have implemented a Mentoring Program, outlined as follows.

- This process is flexible, IT's can mentor or select toboggan instructors to mentor.
- The mentoring program will not be a registered course!

The record keeping assigned by the mentor of the evaluation by an IT, will be kept at the local level, by the Region or Division. The National office will receive a course completion record from the IT (with no course number) with the instructor appointment box checked, and the type of instructor written in. This would be the first communication received by the National office, regarding an Instructor trainee, after their Instructor Development Course completion record is submitted.

An example of this might be. To have your instructor candidates along with their mentors, participate in candidate training programs.

### The Mentor Program

#### Process (How)

- Complete Instructor Development Course
- Mentor and IT assigned
- Mentor/Mentee met
- Observing Experienced Instructors
- Observing Instructor Trainee
  - Pre-observation conference
  - Observation
  - Post-observation
  - IT Observation
  - Certification

#### Who is a Mentor

- Competent in subject matter
- Good interpersonal skills
- NSP Instructor or IT
- Cannot be the same IT that signs off on the form

#### The Initial Meeting

- Set Agreements
- Define type of feedback
- Establish agreements for respecting confidences
- Define roles
- Anticipate the likely challenges
- Discuss Content
- Explain process
- Design Calendar
- Explain evaluation criteria

#### Additional Meetings

- Scheduled as needed to cover content or practice

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## AVALANCHE DEPOSITION ZONE

### Avalanche Curriculum Revised

*Mike Laney - Far West Division Avalanche Supervisor*

A few years ago, the American Avalanche Association (AAA) established itself as the standards-setting organization for avalanche education in the U.S.

Though providing little more than an outline of topics, the AAA standards at least gave a consistent framework for curriculum development. Last Fall, the NSP National Avalanche Committee (NAC) met in Park City, Utah, to align the NSP avalanche curriculum with these standards and to reestablish the NSP as an educational leader in the avalanche community. The outcome was a set of education guidelines that have no equal in the avalanche community, carrying the endorsements of the AAA, the USDA Forest Service Avalanche Research Center and the National Ski Areas Association. A revised NSP Avalanche Instructor's Manual was published in January.

### Curriculum Features

NSP avalanche courses are designed to enhance the capabilities of NSP member patrollers. They presume a certain level of experience and knowledge of winter travel in the mountains and they are oriented toward the safety and competence of patrollers entering avalanche terrain to locate and rescue others. NSP Level I and II avalanche courses are not designed for outreach and awareness education for the general public; the Mountain Awareness and Avalanche curriculum has been created to serve that purpose. (Any MTR or Avalanche Instructor may present the curriculum to interested members of the public.)

Avalanche incidents continue to become more frequent and widespread, increasing the likelihood that patrollers will be asked to respond -- often to unfamiliar, uncontrolled terrain. Our courses now give as much emphasis to accurate assessment of avalanche risk, decision making and safe route selection as they do to beacon searches, probing and rescue scenario management.

Investigations show that in virtually every avalanche incident, the victim(s) ignored or downplayed multiple warning signs prior to getting caught. The avalanche education community recognizes that it needs to pay greater attention to human factors involved with making decisions in the face of conflicting priorities. Our courses have expanded this topic significantly; despite the urgency of a rescue scenario, rescuer safety must remain top priority.

For both course levels, at least half of the course time

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## ELECTION 2002

### Far West Division National Board Representative Returns

*Janice Waites - Division Secretary*

Contrary to rumors, an election was held for the voting 'seat' of National Board Representative/Assistant Division Director for the Far West Division. It was a hotly contested election, with three candidates in the running: Bob Ashcraft (incumbent voting Board Representative); Stephen Francisco; John Kretschmann, (appointed Assistant Division Director). No one candidate received a simple majority of the ballots cast, so a run-off election was necessary.

The successful candidate was John Kretschmann.

The initial election had a lower percentage return than last year. Here are a few statistics:

- 56 ballots mailed - ONLY 37 returned = 66% return overall (2 received after due date-not counted)
- 51 Patrol Representative ballots mailed (i.e., patrol directors), 32 returned = 63% return rate
- 5 Region Director ballots mailed, 5 returned = 100% return rate.

What this return rate means is that the elected patrol level representatives are still not speaking up. (Last years return rate was 67%)

The run-off election returns were better:

- 57 ballots mailed - 43 returned = 75% return overall
- 52 Patrol Representative ballots mailed 38 returned = 73% return rate
- 5 Region Director ballots mailed, 5 returned = 100% return rate.

### REGION DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS:

In accordance with the Far West Division Bylaws, elections were held for the position of Region Director for the Arizona, Mother Lode, and Southern California Regions. Please welcome the new Director for the Mother Lode Region, Ken Bergman, and the new Southern California Region Director, Larry Acord. Stephen Simi, returns as the Arizona Region Director.

*Janice Waites*

*FWD Board Secretary*

*Election Coordinator*



## Giving Thanks

*Bob Ashcraft - Asst Division Director*

After some 36 years as a ski patroller I often think of those individuals that help me along in our great organization called the National Ski Patrol. Have you ever thought of saying thanks to the many people who helped you to get to the point you are now; be it patroller, officer, administrator, or whatever. I often think of the man who was my candidate mentor who now is in his 80's. He was a great teacher. A person who was patient, encouraging, positive, understanding, and always ready to point out your good points, and never critical of mistakes.

Shortly after becoming a Patroller the Regional Director asked me to publish the Regional newsletter; which later led to me doing that same job for the Division. The Region Director was an extremely enthusiastic individual with great creative abilities and leadership talent. During that early time of my patrolling I was anxious to move on to Senior level. Thus began my introduction to Avalanche and Mountaineering classes. During my time preparing in avalanche training I was fortunate to know and be taught by Bill Hotchkiss (who those in the Tahoe area will especially remember) who was a great avalanche instructor. At that time I was also in a class with Monty Atwater who is considered one of the outstanding instructors in the world of Avalanche. During my Mountaineering class I became acquainted with a fellow student who was a former instructor in the Air Force survival school. I thought I knew a lot of the skills of the out-of-doors until I met this individual. I was, and am, a babe in the woods compared to my friend Paul Wild who I later appointed as my Region Mountaineering Advisor and who is one of the authors of the original Mountaineering manual that we use today.

Not long after that I moved into the position of Region Director and then Division Director and always with a lot of help and guidance from many who preceded me. When I was Division Director I was fortunate to have two assistants, Bob Hoffman and Sam Houston; both bright and visionary individuals. As a team we accomplished a lot for the Far West Division, particularly with area owners and managers. During my tenure in the NSP it has been my good fortune to have spent some eleven years on the National Board of Directors that gave me the opportunity to serve with eight National Chairmen. I am especially thankful at this time that we

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*Conference Attractions - Continued from page 1*

- Tijuana, Mexico, 30 minutes
- Wild Animal Park, 45 minutes

Kick back and enjoy the scenery as the Amtrak delivers you to a free awaiting shuttle, quietly idling and ready to take you to The Hacienda. Or, if the train is too slow, hop a plane to San Diego where a shuttle will be on standby ready to whisk you to The Hacienda. For those who prefer to drive, the Hacienda offers free underground parking for hotel guests.

Once there, plunge into the celebrated California lifestyle with a refreshing dip in their heated outdoor swimming pool, or just bask in the warm San Diego sun. You can stay in shape using the fitness room, and then melt your cares away in their soothing therapy pool.

Old Town is a Mecca for dining spots that will please even the most discerning palate.

Riverwalk Golf Club, and its challenging 27 holes, is within 2 miles of the hotel, as are health and tennis facilities, sport-fishing charters, white sandy beaches and sparkling blue bays. The San Diego Trolley Station is just 3 blocks away from the hotel, with links to the downtown Convention Center, the Gaslamp Quarter, Horton Plaza, Tijuana, Mexico, Fashion Valley, Mission Valley Shopping Center and Qualcomm Stadium.

Come, Join us at the Hacienda Hotel - Old Town San Diego.



*Hacienda Hotel - Old Town San Diego. (Noted with star) 4041 Harney Street, San Diego, Ca Reservations: 800-528-1234 Information: 800-888-1991*

# NATIONAL SKI PATROL

## Far West Division - Summer Meeting

### August 2 – 4, 2002



HACIENDA HOTEL – OLD TOWN, SAN DIEGO, CA Located at the corner of Harney and Juan Streets, across from Heritage Park in the heart of Old Town where Interstates 5 and 8 meet.

- **3 Blocks From:** Trolley Station Connecting to Downtown, Tijuana and Qualcomm Stadium
- **Less than 10 minutes away:** Sea World, beaches and bays, downtown business district, the airport, Balboa Park, its museums, and world-famous Zoo and San Diego Harbor.
- **Within 15 minutes:** San Diego Qualcomm Stadium (football, baseball), Sports Arena (soccer and concerts).
- **20 minutes away:** Del Mar Racetrack & Fairgrounds
- **Within 30 minutes:** Tijuana, Mexico; Wild Animal Park.

Hacienda Hotel – Old Town  
 4041 Harney Street, San Diego, CA 92110  
 web site: [www.haciendahotel-oldtown.com](http://www.haciendahotel-oldtown.com)

Room reservations are to be made directly with the hotel at: **619/298-4707**

NSP Rate: \$120 single \$130 double



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**\*\*REGISTRATION DEADLINE – July 1, 2002** Make checks payable to Far West Division NSP & mail with form below to: Debbie C. Speer, 4506 Merrill Street, Torrance, CA 90503 e-mail: [debs@linkline.com](mailto:debs@linkline.com)

Conference Registration Fee: \$30.00                      Number Registering: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night Awards Dinner: \$29.00                      Number of Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$29.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Price includes dinner, tax & gratuities – No host bar not included)

Late Registration Fee: \$10.00 (if mailed after July 1<sup>st</sup>)                      Number: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Attendees:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Patrol & Position(s):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

OEC

## Outdoor Emergency Care Into 2003

What's Ahead in the OEC World?

*Sam Bradley and Douglas Hill, FWD OEC Supervisors*

We are approaching the fourteenth anniversary of the flagship program of the National Ski Patrol, and anxiously awaiting the release of the 4th Edition of Outdoor Emergency Care. What can we expect from this new release and what is approaching on the horizon in the OEC world for the coming season?

Outdoor Emergency Care 4th Edition will be a much different looking resource than our first three editions. The look is patterned after the just-released 8th edition of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeon's "Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured" basic EMT textbook, but the content has been provided by NSP. Chapters in the 4th edition will include many imported directly from OEC 3rd edition, some modified for our use from the EMT textbook, and several new chapters. New topics included are "Interfacing with EMS and Medical Personnel", "The Well-being of the Rescuer", "Behavioral Emergencies", and "Outdoor Adaptive Snowsports." The new edition will also come with additional resources, including an OEC tool kit, an on-line student review manual, and a website dedicated specifically to OEC 4, as well as the Instructor's Manual and Student Workbook as in former editions. Pricing for new materials will be higher than past editions, but competitively priced with other emergency care textbooks and materials. For more information on the new book, look under "What's New" at <http://www.nsp.org>.

What else is new on the OEC horizon? Far West Division OEC staff is currently working with Eastern Division OEC Supervisors to produce a new OEC program scheduled to be piloted this coming season, the "OEC Enhancement Seminar."

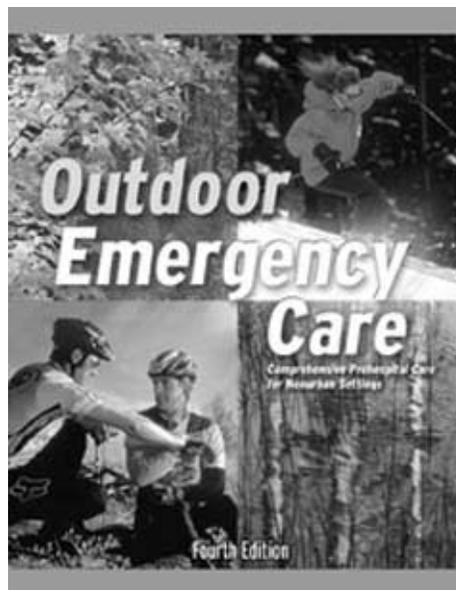
Patterned after the existing Ski Enhancement and Toboggan Enhancement Seminars, the new program will provide a continuing education tool for instructors and patrollers throughout the year to polish skills and to challenge themselves in a non-threatening, non-eval-

uated environment. While still in the design stage, the seminar will be one day in length and may be considered as a senior program elective if approved by the NSP executive committee.

Outdoor First Care, a one-day NSP basic first aid program directed at non-patrol ski area personnel, may see an increase in popularity as one of the prerequisites to the new NSP Safety/Host program. The new NSP volunteer category, which has been in development for the past year, is to be voted on at the upcoming NSP Summer Executive Committee meeting. If approved, OEC Instructors may be asked to offer Outdoor First Care training to these potential NSP volunteer Safety Hosts. The training would be approximately 8 hours and would help this new category of NSP volunteer stabilize an injured guest until patrol personnel arrive on scene. The Outdoor First Care course was developed several years ago by NSP for non-patrolling area personnel such as lift operators, ski instructors and restaurant personnel.

The upcoming Outdoor Emergency Care Refresher for the fall will be based on the new OEC 4th edition textbook as well as including OEC 3rd edition references. Patrollers will see a revised Cycle A refresher in the summer OEC Refresher edition of Ski Patrol Magazine due to the new topics from OEC 4th edition that needed to be incorporated in to the annual refreshers. Terminology in the instructor study guide was simplified to "Annual Topics", "In-depth Topics", and "Cycle-specific Topics."

Coming this summer to the San Diego area will be the Far West Division Summer Meeting, and Outdoor Emergency Care will be a focus topic for the weekend meeting. The meeting will be held in Old Town San Diego at the Hacienda Hotel, near many major family attractions. There will be a presentation on OEC 4th edition, with the new books available for purchase, as well as an OEC breakout session on Saturday, and a division-wide OEC Instructor Trainer Meeting on Friday afternoon prior to the welcome party and reception Friday evening. We hope to see you in San Diego for some great summer fun and some vital OEC information and presentations. **+**



## A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

By Bob Ashcraft

During a time when I was Region Director in Southern California, the National Ski Patrol joined hands with the *Boy Scouts* Explorer program for 15 year olds. It was designed for both boys and girls, through Boy Scouts and the National Ski Patrol, who were interested in becoming ski patrollers. Having been involved with the Boy Scout program for most of my life I was very excited about the concept. Wanting to get the idea off on an excellent start and in good hands, I asked Bernie Atkinson, one of our local patrollers at the time, to take on the Advisorship for the program. (Bernie was the recipient of the Outstanding Patrol Representative in the Nation while at Squaw Valley.) We put out the announcement in several Southern California Boy Scout Councils announcing the program, and set a time and date for our first meeting.

On the evening of our first meeting, I arrived early. There were a number of young people there, many with their parents. I proceeded around the room getting acquainted with all who had come. Finally, I came upon an elderly gentleman who informed me that he had brought his granddaughter. He asked me if I was going to talk to the group about Minnie Dole (NSP's founder), and how and when the National Ski Patrol got started.

For those of you who are not familiar with the beginnings of our organization, it was started by C. Minot Dole, known as "Minnie". In 1936, while skiing on a Toll Road on Mt. Mansfield, he broke his leg. Dole was taken down the hill on a short piece of tin roof that his friends found. Two months later he heard that one of his best friends was killed after he broke three ribs and punctured a lung, when he ran into a tree. Two years

later Dole founded the National Ski Patrol.

My curiosity peaked, I asked the gentleman if he had been a Ski Patroller at sometime and how he had known of Minnie Dole. He introduced himself as Robert Cheesewright. He shared with me that he was one of the friends that got Minnie Dole off the mountain when he was injured. I have always considered it a very rare and special experience to have had that chance meeting happen to me. ✚



Frank Shoemaker (Tahoe-Donner) at Lake Anncey, France April 2001 while attending the FIPS (Federaton Internationale des Petrouilles de Ski) at Les Arcs. Frank is the Far West Division Historian and Eastern Sierra Awards Administrator

## ALUMNI REPORT

### A Bit Of History

Jack S. Moscovitz - Alumni Advisor

A few days ago I was introduced to a wonderful new book; *Pray for Snow - The History of Skiing in Southern California*, by Ingrid P. Wicken (VasaPress@aol.com) In it she provides the history of every ski area we know...and then some. In addition she provides the history of our Nordic and Alpine ski patrols.

It really made me think about how far we have come as an sport/industry and the important part each patroller has played....and continues to play, even after taking off the first-aid belt. We can be advocates for proper and safe procedures on the slope. Or we can Assist with the training of new patrollers, so long as we maintain instructor status. I have, in the past, mentioned the value of being a Host on the hill where we have spent so many hours and which we know so well. And how about taking a little time to write a PR piece, or contacting a few business or friends to see what kind of donations you can raise for the patrol. The options available to you are only limited by your time and energy.

And finally, don't forget that you are the memory and the history of ski patrol. And who knows? One day you might be included in Wicken's next book. Continue your support by being an active alumni. ✚

## NORDIC PROGRAM Nordic Year End Review

*Mike St. Clair, - Nordis Supervisor* - This has been a good year for the Nordic Program. One of my biggest goals is to keep and improve our relationship between the north and the south. As in all programs, consistency is difficult when the members are spread out over a large geographical area. Steve Barr in the north and Lynne Frick-Lee in the south have helped to make this goal possible. Steve set up the Nordic Senior Evaluation at Lake Alpine and arranged the lodging. Lynne organized the instructors and candidates down south and then drove eight hours, arriving at 4:00 am just in time to get set up for the evaluation. Due to the effort put forth by all the instructors and trainers, we now have five new Nordic Seniors. Thank You. What was learned is that we will continue to have a division wide evaluation, but that it needs to be a little more centrally located. Our consistency comes from the instructors working together from all over our division; with this some new friends were made. Another goal is to continue to improve our relationship with our Alpine areas. The Nordics are continuing their partnership with their local alpine areas, this allows the Senior Candidates great snow training when the backcountry is dry and the alpine ski areas are cross-training more patrollers. The Candidates learn about the operation of the Alpine areas and how to safely run toboggans alpine style. The ski areas are getting more patrollers in the form of dual registration with some of our members. Being a Nordic Patroller is more than just cross-country skiing. The quality of our training is being recognized and sought after by State and Federal agencies outside the ski industry. Keep up the good work

*Avalanche - Continued from page 10*

must be spent in the field, on actual avalanche terrain, to measure slope angles and aspects, study snow pack features, conduct stability tests, make hazard assessments, learn and practice safe route selection and practice search and rescue techniques. This is where the discussion topics of the classroom become real, interconnected and meaningful.

### **Higher Standards, New Challenges**

Curriculum content has become more sophisticated. This challenges us to upgrade content delivery methods, replace obsolete instructional support materials and provide more instructor development opportunities. The NAC and FWD are working hard to meet these challenges. The division has provided funding to give all active avalanche instructors a copy of the new Avalanche Instructor's Manual. All members of the NAC have been tasked with developing updated instructional

support materials. I intend to present a preliminary set of comprehensive instructor development and support tools at the Far West Division meeting in San Diego this summer, and have it ready for dissemination at the division's annual Tri-Advisory conference in Yosemite next November. All members with an interest in avalanche education should plan to attend these events.

The need to conduct field sessions in actual avalanche terrain may be a challenge for the southern regions of the division, where adequate terrain and snow pack to conduct avalanche field sessions are not always avail-



*Photo by Douglas Hill*

able. Does this mean that our members may not receive Level I or Level II avalanche training in their region? If so, does this give those members fewer opportunities to fulfill senior elective requirements? A partial solution lies in the newly developed Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue (AFR) course. This is a level I course in all respects, except for terrain analysis, route selection and stability assessment. Beacon search, probing and participation in an immediate search/rescue scenario is still required, taking the better part of two days to complete. Certification in AFR qualifies as a senior patroller elective, and as a prerequisite for participation in an NSP Level II avalanche course. This alternative is presently authorized for Arizona Region only.

### **Join Us**

Now is a good time to consider avalanche education as one of your growth objectives for next season. If you have already taken a Level I course, how long ago was it? Would a refresher be a good thing to fit into your plans? If you have not yet taken Level I avalanche, why not do so next year? How about raising your knowledge and skills to Level II? Are you interested in becoming an instructor? We need new people in our ranks. Contact your region avalanche administrator and let your interests be known.

**Giving Thanks** - Continued from page 6

have an outstanding National Chairman in Bill Sachs. As we have been going through a new governance and restructuring for our organization he has been an outstanding leader and guide for us. When we occasionally get off track, he had a keen sense of getting us back together.

A special thanks goes to the OEC people. They are an extremely dedicated group of individuals. Every time I go to a refresher I learn something new. The OEC program has come a long way from the days when we were associated with the American Red Cross. Thanks go to all other program Advisors, support groups, and others that help our organization move ahead. And last, but not least, thanks to my good friend Cliff Chewing, former FWD Division Director, for his insight and advice, Cliff is level-headed, has a keen sense of right and wrong, and is not afraid to stand for what is right. He does not make decisions based on politics or by sitting on the fence to see which way the wind is blowing; instead, he studies the facts and bases his decision on what is best for NSP. I have learned a lot from working with him. ✚

**Mentoring** - Continued from page 4

teach

- Mentor may hook candidate up with other experts

**Observation of Lesson**

- Mentor should help schedule
- Most powerful, if Mentor/Mentee observe same lesson
- Provide framework for viewing lesson
- Debrief the lesson observation

**Resources**

- New Instructor Development Manual
- Instructor Development section of NSP Instructor Web Site
- Program Texts
- Policies and Procedures

**The Components****Connection**

- Trust
- Respect
- Empathy

**Assessing**

- Generic Needs Assessment
- Individual
- Functional needs
- Emotional needs
- Self Assessment

**Guiding**

- Resource Broker
- Facilitate problem solving

**Coaching**

- Coaching as an Extension of Guiding
- Coaching specific skills

**Mentoring Program Content****Knowledge Based Content**

- Instructional Materials
- Administration/Record Keeping
- Instructor Approval/Rectification
- Quality Management
- Safety and Risk Management
- Lesson Planning

**Practice Skills**

- Observing NSP Instructors
- Lesson Planning
- Human Relation Skills (during instructions)
- Lesson Delivery

**Mentoring is not Evaluation****Mentoring/Mentor-**

- Reflects on Performance
- Measures Progress
- Encourages Experimentation
- Nurtures Learning

**Goals**

- Streamline and create consistency in all disciplines
- Make it easier for qualified patrollers to become instructors
- Optimize local resources (instructors and instructor trainers)
- Provide a high level of quality assurance
- Make better instructors

**Benefits**

- Less time spent on administration and process  
More time available for instruction on specific issues
- Ability to keep formal classes to a one day event, when necessary
- Ability to tailor instruction to an instructor candidate's specific needs
- Immediate access to information when the instructor candidate needs it
- Accountability
- Optimization of scarce IT resources

**Sign Off**

- IT signs Instructor Application
- Form is sent to National Office
- Mentor determines if candidate is ready for final evaluation
- Mentor contacts IT, and arranges lesson evaluation
- Mentor prepares candidate
- IT watches candidate teach a meaningful lesson in an authentic NSP class

**Better People Produce a Better Product!**

- Time proven concept
- Widely used
- Flexible

Keep in mind, what National and your Division are trying to do is to eliminate hoops, so lets all work to keep it simple! ✚



# The Patroller Peek

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