



# The Patroller Peek

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

Spring 2003 Edition



## THE VALUE OF YOUR NSP CREDENTIALS

Ray Bryan - Division Director

I have long viewed the single biggest benefit to NSP membership as the value of the NSP credentials. Not member benefits like the magazine or the catalog, but my credentials as a ski patrol-

ler. Actually, the comradery and teamwork are important for me too. Value is built into these credentials from a number of aspects: Quality of the programs. Annual investment of dollars and time in maintenance and modification to keep the programs current. Recognition and respect in the industry. Size, strength, longevity and history of the NSP as an association. Pride and commitment of our membership.

So, one of the most important tasks for the association is to make sure your NSP credentials continue to have value in our changing industry. At a strategic planning session held this April, the division's Board of Directors identified broader acceptance and stature for the OEC credential as one of the most important things we can do for our members during the next five years. I

believe that this must begin with acceptance and stature in the minds of our own members, with those patrollers who are currently not members, and with other key people within the industry. I also believe this focus needs to be broader than OEC. It must include the new toboggan education product currently under development, and all future program releases.

The first people we need for broader acceptance are those paid patrollers who are not currently using NSP credentials for their jobs. This is why we have been promoting strategies to get the paid patrollers within this division to become NSP members with the intent of having these patrollers view the NSP as their own association. Marketing the use of NSP programs and credentials as good business within the industry has become an important element to this plan. This year alone we have already had a number of patrol departments affiliate their entire patrol staff with the NSP through the Far West Division, and a number of others are in the process of having their patrollers affiliate through the NSP Professional Division. They want their patrollers to have the NSP credentials because it makes good business sense. *Continued on page 4*

## 2003 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Ray Bryan - Division Director

The Far West Division's 2003 Summer Conference will be held August 1, 2 and 3 at the Sierra Summit Inn, home of the Sierra Summit ski area in the central Sierra. The people at Sierra Summit and the High Sierra patrol have a wide variety of recreation and activities planned in conjunction with this year's conference. The conference itself will again strive to provide a little something for everyone. From general to specific, this year's content will include guest speakers, educational programs, break-out meetings, and regional sessions on a variety of ski patrol topics.

Social time with your fellow ski patrollers is always a key element to this conference. Friday's welcome reception will kick-off the conference with an opportunity to meet old and new friends. Saturday night will be the annual Awards Dinner where we will be recognizing just a few of the many outstanding members of the NSP.

Included in Friday's schedule is the Far West Division Board of Directors Meeting to conduct the division's annual business. The board meets in open session and others are welcome to attend.

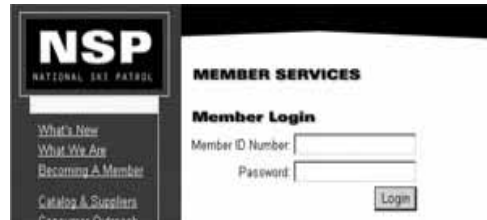
Registration materials can be found in this issue, and at the division web site [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org). Conference schedule, program abstracts, and other details will also be posted to the web as they become available.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

- **Wanted** - Are you interested in working on a new Patroller Peak team? The Division folks are searching for volunteers to be the editor staff of the Peak. If this is something you would like to help with please contact Ray Bryan at [ray@synergytec.com](mailto:ray@synergytec.com)
- **Assistant Division Director** Ron Evenson was elected to replace the vacancy created when John Kretschmann was selected for the new National Board of Directors. Ron will be joining Ray Bryan as Division Director and Steve Francisco as Assistant Division Director in administration of the NSP within the Far West.
- **Jerry Muszynski** will be taking over from Gerry Calonico in the position of Toboggan Supervisor. Gwynne Pugh will be taking over from Mike St. Clair in the position of Nordic Supervisor. Both of these changes take effect immediately, although the prior Supervisors will continue to work with the new staff members to provide a smooth transition and support for as long as necessary. I have arranged with the national office for both the prior and new Supervisors to continue to have access to the program supervisor information via the member services on the NSP web site.
- **A few position changes** are in the works for next season with transition of responsibilities to begin soon. Look for announcement of these new Program Supervisor and staff members in the next "News Briefs".

One way to be considered for Division and Region positions is using the application process available at [www.farwest.org/library/fwdpositions.pdf](http://www.farwest.org/library/fwdpositions.pdf) or [www.farwest.org/library/ApplicationforPositions.doc](http://www.farwest.org/library/ApplicationforPositions.doc). The application process has been initiated to better identify members interested in aspiring to non-elected region and division positions. This process will also provide greater visibility of the talent within the division, and allow for more effective succession planning. Submitting an application does not ensure your consideration for a position. Each Region Director selects regional positions. The Division Director selects division positions.

- Did you know that you can update your NSP member information, order from the catalogue and download all sorts of NSP related documents on the internet? Visit [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org)
- Mike St. Clair will continue to be the coordinator for this year's Tri-Advisory conference in Yosemite.
- Joanne Barnes will be handing off her position as MTR Supervisor to Robert Parkhurst sometime in the next three to six months. Joanne will continue to hold the position of FWD MTR Supervisor until she is ready to complete the hand-off. As above, Robert will begin working with Joanne immediately to transition responsibilities. Both Robert and Joanne have Supervisor access to the program information via member services on the NSP web site.
- The Southern California Region has a listing of all National Appointments and Leadership Commendation Awards. View them at <http://>



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Division Administration & Staff	
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Gwynne Pugh - Nordic	
Jerry Muszynski - Toboggan	
Sam Bradley - OEC	
Doug Hill - OEC	

# Putting It Together and Bringing It Home: A Successful 2003 Patrol Games.

By Garrett Dunwoody member AMNSP

Alpine Meadows National Ski Patrol (AMNSP) hosted the 2003 Eastern Sierra Region National Patrol Games. Seeking to set new standards AMNSP focuses on a diverse, eager and well organized patrol to host a successful 2003 games. Over the past few seasons AMNSP has been talking about hosting the games but the opportunity or time never seemed to be right until the present season. The AMNSP has been taking top honors at The Games for the past five or so seasons and the current administrative board as well as younger patrollers felt it was time to show other mountains what makes Alpine Meadows a special place to ski and work, by hosting the 2003 Games. What makes

the 2003 Games so unique was the level of intensity and devotion many patrollers brought to the organizational as well as competitive aspects of The Games.

The day of the games started out as a blue and sunny day and registration went as smooth as planned and most patrollers from the visiting mountains were ready for a brief mountain orientation and ski to the race site. In all, the visiting patrollers totaled 60, which was a composition of 15 teams composed of 4 patrollers. Most resorts in the Tahoe region were repre-



Continued on page 9

## AWARDS NOTES

Dave Ritchie, Awards Coordinator

Nominations for the Far West Division Outstanding Awards have been judged and those receiving top ranking have been sent on to the national office for consideration at the national level. Come to the summer meeting at Sierra Summit to celebrate with the division winners. Maybe we will have some national winners again this year.

I would like to remind you that nominations for all awards must be submitted on forms with a revision date of 8/02. Please read and follow all instructions and qualifications, remembering that nominations will be reviewed by people who do not know the nominees. Gathering adequate data can be time consuming and frustrating, but if a section asks for a list of courses and hours and the writer puts down "seven years" as the answer, the nomination will be returned as incomplete. Thanks to all those who have taken the time to acknowledge deserving patrollers by submitting award nominations.

I would also like to thank Dan Orr II, the Arizona Region awards coordinator; Frank Shoemaker, the Eastern Sierra Region awards coordinator; Debbie Whitcher, the Mother Lode Region awards coordinator; Norene Sullivan, the Northern California Region awards coordinator; and Jack Moscowitz, the Southern California Region awards coordinator for their many hours spent reviewing and judging nominations that patrollers have submitted. The program could not be successful without their help.

## Far West Loses One Of It's Finest

Lee Canyon Ski Patrol at Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort lost a fellow patroller, instructor and good friend Tuesday, April 15, 2003 when he and his son were struck while riding their bikes on a N. Las Vegas neighborhood roadway. Chris Kanai Holt, 44 died and his eight year old son Chance was injured in the hit and run accident.

Chris had been a patroller, but one short year and was remembered by over 30 LCSP members at his memorial service. His patrol vest, snowboard, sun glasses and helmet were just beside the pulpit at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church as patrollers, family and friends met to remember the fine young man cut down prematurely in his happy and giving life for others.

Chris's magnetic smile and personality will be greatly missed by all. Chris is survived by his wife, Susan and two sons, Chance 8 and Cheyne 9 months old.

George Pales, LCSP Representative

**Value - Continued from 1**

This trend will result in the single biggest change to ski patrolling in the West of the past 20 years, with benefits to every member. All patrollers should want to belong to the NSP because of what it is and what it offers. This trend needs to be a positive experience for new and old members alike.

This marketing of the NSP within the industry in turn puts increased emphasis on the value of NSP programs and credentials. These cannot be hollow claims. Our delivery network must stringently adhere to the quality assurance, course content, and documentation requirements of our programs. At the division level, initiatives have been started to make sure our programs can walk the walk on par with how we are now talking the talk. We are also taking a critical look at our delivery model with an eye on structure and methods that may be better for our division.

**Submissions to the Peek**

The Far West Division Patroller Peek invites you to submit general interest articles and pictures to be published on these pages. Articles are chosen at the discretion of the editor. Articles must be submitted by email and sent to *patroller@socalnsp.org*.

We can only accept articles in the following format: Plain text in either the body of an email or as an attachment; *Microsoft Word, Pagemaker, or Illustrator*. The original digital photos must also be sent along with the article We cannot accept page spreads sent as bitmaps, tiffs or as *Adobe Acrobat (.pdf)* files. Pictures may be sent as .jpeg, .jpg and .tif. You may send us photographic prints. The Patroller Peek can only return submissions if they are received with a stamped and self addressed envelope.



**For the 2003 Far West Division Summer Meeting**  
**NEW!** **ZIPPERED WIND SHIRT**



Designed to wear for patrolling, this 21st-Century Wind Shirt works great by itself or worn under your vest.

- Wind and water resistant**
- Quick drying and durable**
- SPF 35+**
- Breathable 4-ply nylon**
- Red or black, XS, S, M, L, XL**

*Pre-Order before July 1 to reserve your shirt.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Size & Color: Indicate (R)ed or (B)lack and quantity for each size (they run about 1/2-size large).  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ XS S M L XL  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Number of shirts @ \$55.00 per shirt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: High Sierra National Ski Patrol.  
 Mail this form with your check to: Sandy Kowallis, 86 Burl Ave., Clovis, CA 93611.



# Far West Division Summer Meeting

## August 1-3, 2003

Join us for a weekend of patrol camaraderie and family fun at the rustic Sierra Summit Inn, a scenic retreat nestled between two beautiful high mountain in Central Sierra. This is the home of Sierra Summit Mountain Resort and the High Sierra Ski Patrol.

- Hiking
  - Sailing
  - Waterskiing
  - Swimming
  - Fishing
  - Exploring
  - Games
  - Windsurfing
  - Volleyball
  - Casino\*
  - Mountain Biking
  - Camping
  - Music
- \*One hour away



Take Highway 168 from Auberry, about 1/2 hour East of Fresno, into the Sierra past Shaver Lake, known locally for its fishing, boating and waterskiing. About 25 minutes past the community of Shaver Lake, you'll see sparkling Huntington Lake as you approach Sierra Summit. Huntington Lake, rated as the number-one fresh water sailing lake in North America, features a play-friendly beach and great fishing.

For room reservations call the Sierra Summit Inn at (559) 893-3316

### Accommodations and Room Rates:

Suite with Bath \$100.00	Rates are based on double occupancy.
Room with Bath 80.00	Each additional person \$15.00.
Room without Bath 60.00	6-person rooms available.
RV Park with Showers 20.00	

Reserve by - July 1, 2003

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Conference Registration Fee:	\$35.00	Number registering:	@ \$35.00 = _____
Saturday Night Awards Dinner <i>(includes dinner, tax &amp; gratuities)</i>	\$20.00	Number of Dinners:	@ \$20.00 = _____
Late Registration Fee <i>(if mailed after July 1st)</i>	\$10.00	Number of late fees:	@ \$10.00 = _____
			Total Enclosed _____

Make checks available to: High Sierra National Ski Patrol and mail this form to: Rod Hawkins - 4513 Merridock Ct. - Santa Maria, CA 93455 - e-mail rodhawk123@msn.com

Names of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Patrol & Positions: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Deadline - July 1st, 2003

## Nordic Programs

# Changing of the Guard

Mike St. Clair

With the writing of this article, I will be stepping down as the Far West Division Nordic Program Administrator. I am happily turning the reins over to Gwynne Pugh. Gwynne began his career as a patroller with SoCal Nordic Mt. Pinos in 1993. He went on to become a mountain travel and rescue instructor, a Nordic toboggan instructor, and a senior Nordic. He is also currently an active member of Nordic SAR. With whatever spare time he has left, he works as not only an architect, but also a structural engineer.

I have enjoyed my time as the program administrator and made some new friends in the division. I hope during my tenure, I have continued the Nordics traditions and brought new excitement into the program. I



know other agencies like the federal government and the State of California Office of Emergency Services recognize the Nordics abilities and what we have to offer. I am very proud of the participation and hard work put forth by each and every Nordic patroller to make our program great.

My Nordic program advisors put together a great senior evaluation

at Sierra Summit this past March. It gave us a chance to bring instructors and senior candidates from the north and south together for our once-a-year final Senior Evaluation. We made some new friends and had fun with some old ones. I would like to thank Mike Nolan for hosting our evaluation, Larry Acord for making it possible to

hold the event there, and all the instructors who traveled half way across the state to make this event possible. And, Ma Nature for providing the best spring corn I have skied in a long time. And let us not forget the Nordic senior candidates, who put in their time and effort, asking of us our best, so they could learn. We have one new Nordic Senior and *Continued on page 15*

## News Briefs - Continued from page 2

[www.socalnsp.org/awards/awards.htm](http://www.socalnsp.org/awards/awards.htm)

- **Instructor Activity Log Online** - One of the new tools available to NSP instructors is an online activity log. This can be found under Education Tools in the left hand panel of your member screen when you log-in for Member Services at [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org). In addition to allow you to store, print and e-mail your instructor activity, your Program Supervisor can view your activity in read-only mode.
- **Senior Module Records** - If you are conducting Senior Core Components (Toboggan, Scene Management, and Ski modules), course completion records are now being logged into the member's profile in the national database. Although these modules do not need to be registered as courses with the office, a Course Completion Record does need to be submitted for the participants to receive credit and to have the database updated.
- **Summer Conference** - Planning continues for this year's Far West Division Summer Conference to be held on August 1, 2 & 3, 2003 at Sierra Summit. Registration information will be available after May 1st at the division web site, [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org), distributed to patrol representatives, and in the spring "Patroller Peek". Thanks go to Sandy Kowallis for coordinating this year's event. You can contact Sandy directly at [sky@usinternet.com](mailto:sky@usinternet.com).
- **Insurance** - Efforts to give a correct understanding of insurance as it relates to ski patrolling saturated NSP communications a couple year's ago. The discussion of insurance should continue to be one of the annual talking points between NSP patrol representatives and area management. Despite these efforts, members continue to have bad information.
- Please recall that the typical ski area insurance policy includes liability coverage for ski patrol operations by both paid and volunteer patrollers, while the NSP insurance covers NSP education, training, and credentialing. The symbiosis of this coverage is beneficial to both the *Continued on page 15*

## ELECTIONS 2002-2003

*Janice Waits, FWD Secretary, Elections coordinator.*

It has been a busy election year, with the following results.

### Special Election, FWD Assistant Division Director

A special election was held to fill the vacant FWD Assistant Division Director position created when John Kretschmann, was elected to the National Board. The two candidates for the Assistant Division Director position were Ron Evenson and Chuck Herbert. A total of 60 ballots were mailed out, but only 39 ballots (65%) were received by the postmark due date of January 2, 2003.

Ron Evenson was elected, to the position of Assistant Division Director by a majority of the ballots returned. Ron joined NSPS in 1982 and received his national appointment #7830 in 1994. His past service as included serving over the years as Assistant Patrol Director, Patrol Director, Ski & Toboggan IT, OEC IT and Mother Lode Region Secretary.

### Division Director Election

At the request of the Division, the National Office conducted the 'last' Division Director election. The only candidate submitted by the nomination due date was Ray Bryan, so only Ray Bryan's name appeared on the ballot the National office sent out. There were write in candidates submitted on the returned ballots, but Ray Bryan received the majority of votes cast and will serve another two year term as Division Director.

### Region Director Elections for Eastern Sierra and Northern Regions

On April 7, 2003 ballots were mailed to all patrol representatives of registered patrols for the 2003 season. The Northern Region Position had only one candidate, James (Bill Gibson), where as the Eastern Sierra Region had two candidates, Chuck Herbert and Tim O'brien.

Northern Region had a 100% ballots return rate for their single candidate. Eastern Sierra had a 72% ballot return rate, with Tim O'brien receiving the majority of ballots cast.

All ballots postmarked no later than April 21, were counted with the following election results for the position of Region Director.

- Eastern Sierra Region: Tim O'brien, returns for a second two year term.
- Northern Region: James (Bill) W. Gibson

Bill Gibson, joined NSPS in 1973, and received his national appointment #7338 in 1990. Bill has served as treasure, assistant patrol directors and has completed phase two training for OEC and Toboggan.

### Changes in Election Process

The Far West Division Board has been reviewing and revising the Division Bylaws, to reflect the changes at the National level. If the second reading of the Far West Division Bylaws changes are approved at the August 2003 meeting, the election process for the Far West Division will change so that "all registered" patrollers, not just the elected patrol representatives will have a vote for the position of Division Director or Assistant Division Directors, and all registered patrollers within a region will have a vote for their Region Director. This change will give the 'line' patroller a greater voice in the process of representing them. Nominees for offices will be sought and reviewed by an elections committee, so the 'best' candidate can be found for that office.

### Powder Fall Update

#### Fun Fun Fun

That is what was going on this past April 16 thru 20 at Powder Fall. I do not know how many of you have ever attended but I can say that this was my first and will not be the last. If there is only one trip you can make for skiing other than patrolling this should be put on the top of the list.

The four days each morning of PSI instructor with the Demo team is worth the price alone. Then in the afternoons go for it again, or spend time with instructors in Toboggan skills, maybe an avalanche class and tour of the Snowbird Avalanche control room, bomb cache and the gun decks, it all is there for you. Evenings were filled with banquets and great entertainment and it was great to meet Patrollers from all over the Country and discuss different ways of doing things we all do.

The 2004 Powder Fall will be held at Snowbird once again and it really is worth attending. My only disappointment was that for being so close it was not very well attended by the western Divisions. Maybe we can change that next year.

Look for you there

*Steve Francisco*

Assistant Division Director

Outdoor Emergency Care

# New OEC Program to Go Before Board for Approval

*Sam Bradley and Doug Hill, FWD OEC Supervisors*

The new Outdoor Emergency Care Enhancement Seminar, successfully piloted this season in the Far West Division and across the nation, will go before the NSP National Executive Committee next month at their summer board meeting looking for approval as an official NSP program. Far West and Eastern Division OEC staff worked together to create the new program patterned after the existing Ski Enhancement and Toboggan Enhancement Seminars. The program will provide OEC Instructors and patrollers a continuing education tool designed to

The OECES program consists of a series of injury-directed modules, each taking approximately ½ day, and includes brief lectures, skill demonstrations, realistic practice

chase LCD digital projectors and OEC training CDs for use by the five regions of the division. A total of nine Sharp LCD projectors with hard travel cases will be distributed



Mt. Lemmon refresher - Courtesy of Doug Hill

scenarios, and group discussions. Six modules have been developed to date: Lower Extremity Injuries, Upper Extremity Injuries, Hip and Pelvic Injuries, Injuries to the Head, Face, Neck and Back, Injuries to the Chest, Abdomen and Genitalia, and Treatment of the Unresponsive or Altered Guest. Two additional modules are being developed at this time: Treatment of the Injured Pediatric Guest, and Treatment of Special and Adaptive Injured Guests. All material in the OECES program is based on the 4th Edition of Outdoor Emergency Care.

to the five regions, as well as the new OEC 4th Edition Instructor Toolkit CDs and the new OEC 4th Edition Testbank CDs. Doug Hill and Sam Bradley, FWD OEC Supervisors, and Stephen Simi, Arizona Region Director, initiated the proposal. The proposal is to be funded out of the division community college funds, and the equipment will be available for checkout to FWD Instructors of all disciplines through their region. The checkout system for each region will be designed by the Region Directors or as delegated by them.

The Sharp LCD projectors will allow instructors to use the many Powerpoint Presentations available through the NSP Instructor's website or those created by themselves or their patrols. It will also allow projection from an external digital source such as a VCR, DVD player, digital camera, or even the World Wide Web. The projectors should arrive this month prior to the start of summer and fall OEC courses.

*Continued on page 14*



*Doug Hill meets with Dan Donegan, NSP patrol rep for Mt. Lemmon, Arizona (near Tucson).*

enhance and polish OEC skills in a relaxed non-threatening, non-evaluated environment. If approved as a program, a request will be made to consider the program for further approval as a senior program elective as are the Ski Enhancement and Toboggan Enhancement Seminars.

## FWD Instructors to Receive New Training Equipment

The Far West Division Board approved a proposal at the mid-winter meeting in February to pur-



**Games - Continued from page 3**  
 presented at The Games. The Games were composed of 4 events 1) World Cup GS 2) Unloaded Sled GS 3) Run a Wreck 4) and Obstacle Course. The events were organized to test all skills required to be a member of the NSP of course with a little fun thrown in with regards to the Obstacle Course. The first two events were held before lunch. These events went smoothly with only a minor timing problem, which was sorted out by the Alpine Meadows Race Department who timed and set up all the courses. After lunch and before the afternoon events visiting patrollers were allowed to hook up with Alpine Patrollers for a couple of runs around the mountain for another brief orientation of the terrain. The sunny blue sky went away and the second half of the events were carried out in overcast skies with flat light but spirits stayed high from all patrols. The Games finished a little later than planned but this did not affect the morale at the after party where the AMNSP moved away from the traditional plaque and distributed some nice trophies, one which can be handed over each year to the overall winner.

Overall, The Games went as planned. What was great about hosting The Games was that it allowed

participated in the 2003 games, without your participation the games would not be possible. In addition the



all members of the AMSNP to take an active part in making The Games happen as well as letting other patrollers see what makes Alpine Meadows such a special place to ski and work. In total including racers the AMNSP had 30+ current and retired patrollers working together to make everything run smoothly. AMNSP wants to thank all the visiting patrols and patrollers who par-

AMNSP wants to thank Alpine Management for allowing us to host the games as well as the race department for keeping things running smoothly. Furthermore, the AMNSP encourages everyone to view the results and photos of the event on our website [www.AMNSP.org](http://www.AMNSP.org). Don't forget to check out our HOW TO JOIN link.

**Patrol Games Race Results**

*Compiled by Chuch Herbert*

**Giant Slalom**

1st Place	Alpine Meadows 1	2:55.59
2nd Place	Mt. Rose 2	3:00.03
3rd Place	Sierra at Tahoe 1	3:04.27

**Unloaded Sled**

1st Place	Alpine Meadows 1	1:46.32
2nd Place	Squaw Valley	1:47.09
3rd Place	Sierra at Tahoe 1	1:48.23

**Run-a-wreck**

1st Place	Mt. Rose 1	2:05.27
2nd Place	Alpine Meadows 1	2:08.77
3rd Place	Sierra at Tahoe 2	2:14.64

**Relay**

1st Place	Alpine Meadows 1	3:05.38
2nd Place	Mt. Rose 2	3:08.95
3rd Place	Mt. Rose 1	3:26.75

**Overall**

1st Place	Alpine Meadows 1	9:56.06
2nd Place	Mt. Rose 1	10:39.22
3rd Place	Mt. Rose 2	11:07.80

Mountain Travel and Rescue

## TRANSITION

*Joanne Barnes, FWD MTR Supervisor*

Participation in the Mountain Travel and Rescue program was low this year partly due to the uncertainty of the interim guidelines. Publication of the revised MTR Instructor's Manual was delayed as we waited our turn in editing.

By the time you read this and start planning for next ski season, the Instructor's Manual should finally

be ready and, thanks to the division support with use of the Community College Fund, in the hands of most MTR instructors.

As a patroller, take the initiative. Talk to your friends about joining you to participate in a MTR course. Look at the calendar. (Easter is late again next year - April 11, 2004.) Decide which course you want to take. Remember, you can combine courses - some can participate in MTR Fundamentals while others

can continue into MTR1 and/or MTR2. These courses can also be combined with the equivalent Avalanche courses.

Then, contact your MTR regional administrator and request an instructor. If you are having problems, get in touch with me and we'll make it happen.

See you at Sierra Summit August 1-3 and/or at the Tri-Advisory in Yosemite November 7-9.

-joannebarnes@att.net

## Women's Proficiency Clinic Success Story!

*Trudy Nye, TI in charge*

On Saturday, Feb. 22, 2003, the 6th annual Women's Proficiency Clinic was held at Heavenly CA. This year 13 patrollers attended from three ski areas in the Tahoe basin. Last year a whopping 25 patrollers attended! This clinic includes two half-day NSP certified clinics: toboggan enhancement in the morning and ski enhancement in the afternoon.

After a traditional group picture at the top, sled training was held on East Bowl for about two hours with the groups making two full passes on "The Face." Patrollers were split up by area and ability level, including a couple of auxiliaries and a candidate. With several Heavenly TI's along, the groups worked on their handling and communication techniques in a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere. Practice and Fun was the focus!

After a lunch break, we then joined up with two female Class III ski instructors from Heavenly's ski school for a 3-hour skiing enhancement lesson. Two groups were formed according to interests, and



off we went on a tour of Heavenly's runs and off-piste skiing in both Nevada and California sides. Our ski instructors were awesome and gave fantastic tips for improving technique. By the end of the day we all had some improvements to practice for the remainder of the season.

Every year the Women's Proficiency Clinic is held at Heavenly at the

end of February. Even though it is only one day, most participants leave with a sense of satisfaction of improved techniques, some new-found friends, and a smile on their face! If you are interested in more information, email Trudy Nye at [nye@sonoma.edu](mailto:nye@sonoma.edu) and watch for next year's clinic information forwarded by your patrol leader.

The Deposition Zone  
*Everything In The  
 Far West World of  
 Avalanche*

Mike Laney - Far West Division Avalanche Supervisor

The season is in about over, and so is avalanche training. Articles like this must be submitted too far in advance for me to even try to keep you up-to-date with the details of avalanche incidents. Suffice it to say that the number and severity of avalanche incidents show no signs of letting up. So, if you're into that sort of thing, browse [www.avalanche.org](http://www.avalanche.org), with its many links to the science and news of avalanches.

Since my last article, we have had a change in the National Avalanche Program Directorship. Shep Snow retired and John Barth was selected to take over. Originally a Southern California patroller, John has semi-retired to Palisade, Colorado. He works at Berthoud Pass as a powder guide for the snowcat operation there (Some retirement, huh?). I had an opportunity to meet and confer with him at our own Tri-Advisory conference in Yosemite last November, where he gave a keynote address. I found him to be well-informed, thoughtful, and firmly committed to high quality avalanche education for our members. Welcome aboard, John.

John's presence at the Tri-Advisory was no fluke. No other division puts on anything like it and, consequently, it gets considerable attention from our national program directors. Every year, a different FWD program supervisor



hosts the event. One program may get slightly larger emphasis than the others each year, but there is always something for everybody. This year the avalanche program hosted the event, and besides John Barth, it also featured Gary Murphy, American Avalanche Association Sierra Region Representative, and Evan Salke, avalanche beacon guru from Alpine Meadows. There were breakout sessions Saturday afternoon, giving instructors in each discipline a chance to confer with their respective supervisors on topics of interest to them. This was capped off with dinner and a slide show on kayaking on Lake Baikal in Siberia, the world's largest freshwater lake, presented by Scott Hoffman, Mountain High Pro Patrol Director. On Sunday morning, Jennifer Bryan gave a superb indoctrination for instructor trainers of all disciplines, while others were out honing their climbing, orienteering, and beacon search skills.

All this in the heart of Yosemite Valley with superb clear weather. No wonder we have a growing number of repeat participants every year. But the main benefit is improved educational services for our members, provided by enthusiastic, well-informed instructors. If you are an NSP instructor of any discipline, or are considering becoming one, the Tri-Advisory conference is an event that you should not miss.

And you, gentle readers, are also part of this program. In my last article, I advocated two things: (1)

take an avalanche course this year, and (2) consider volunteering to serve as an avalanche instructor. You have responded marvelously this season. Six Level I avalanche courses and two Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue (AFR) courses were conducted this year, with no problems filling them. Some regions are already in the process of rounding up facilities and instructors for holding Level II courses next season. Every region has new instructor trainees. If you are among them, welcome! If you

- Arizona Region*  
 Tammy Fountain  
 skimed@lvcm.com
- Eastern Sierra Region*  
 Mike Kelly  
 mjkellyattorney@aol.com
- Mother Lode Region*  
 Ted Hullar  
 tednsp@hullar.com
- Northern CA Region*  
 Koll Buer (NCRD)  
 buerk@water.ca.gov
- Southern CA Region*  
 Stanley Arai  
 sarai@kaiserep.com

want to locate a course to attend, or to become an instructor, your region avalanche program administrator can help you.

Don't delay until next season. Much course planning is conducted throughout the summer and early fall and your input influences much of this planning.

## Multiple Modalities

*Jennifer Bryan, Instructional Development Supervisor*

When you teach a class, how many ways can you count that you deliver your lesson? People learn through four main inputs: verbal, visual, auditory and kinesthetic. But when you walk into the typical adult learning environment you will observe only one method being used, auditory (lecture format). Less than 30% of our students truly learn via the auditory method.

How can you broaden your lesson delivery? It's really not that hard, but it will take some effort at first. For your verbal learners provide more time to respond to questions, let them watch demonstrations and digest the information before putting them on the "spot". For the visual learners who receive most of their information via looking, watching, and reading, try to provide videos, demonstrations, pictures and verbal directions. Finally for those kinesthetic learners realize that they learn a great deal by physical touch. Provide opportunities for practicing a task and have those people help during demonstrations. The more they're doing, the more they're learning.

You never want to provide learning through just one modality. Your classroom will experience greater reten-

tion (and enjoyment) when an instructor provides a lesson using multiple modalities

## Improving Learning

*Did you know?*

Water

- Allows the body and brain to communicate
- Gives the brain an instant boost
- Strengthens the immune system
- Aids Digestion
- Gets rid of toxins in the body
- Increases oxygen absorption in the blood (which improves brain functioning)
- Balances cellular polarity
- Counters the negative effects of caffeine, sugar, alcohol, environmental toxins, and stress

Better brain and body functioning means better learning. Water also:

- Increases alertness, coordination
- Improves concentration and ability to focus
- Improves academic performance

*Creating Emotionally Safe Schools, Bluestein, Jane Ph.D., 2002*

*Jennifer Bryan, Instructional Development Supervisor*



*Lady patrollers of the Far West Division took part in the 6th Annual Womens Proficiency Clinic (Jan 22nd) held at Heavenly*

## How To Become A “Toboggan Instructor”

*Jerry Muszynski -*

*Division Toboggan Supervisor*

During the past several years, there has been a transition regarding the progression of patrollers, into becoming Toboggan Instructor's. Many of our members, who have not been close to these changes, have found themselves confused regarding this process, of moving up the ranks. The Far West Division, as a whole, is not alone in this aspect.

As the Far West Division and Regions under go the normal turnover and changes in personnel, we should remind ourselves of our overall objective, of producing competent basic Tobogganeers, to our member Ski Areas and to the public, in general. In keeping with this goal, two years ago a new “Mentoring Program” was introduced, as National Ski Patrol's (NSP) process in Training New Instructors. Several other new programs and educational tools, have also been developing, during this period, the Instructor Development Program and the Instructor Web, are just two examples.

In keeping with our Basic Goal of producing competent basic Tobogganeers, we must produce well-trained and qualified toboggan instructors. In the past, the prospective Instructors would take a “Phase I” class and upon completion a “Phase II” class for toboggan handling. This system served us well and has trained the bulk of the current Instructors within the National Ski Patrol today. However, as the National Ski Patrol has evolved, a more effective and efficient training program, had to be implemented to aid in our goal of training instructors, hence the Mentoring Program.

The Mentoring Program has been detailed in a publication available on the Instructor Web section of

the National Ski Patrol Web site, “Guide to Mentoring New Instructors”. This publication is a must read, for all Patrol Representatives, Instructor Trainer's (IT's), Instructors and prospective Instructors. Website: [www.nsp.org/instructor](http://www.nsp.org/instructor)

A recap of the process we should take to train Toboggan Instructors basically follows:

- Patrol Representative(s) Identify the Patrol Training needs - on going
- Patrol Representative(s) Identify and recruit viable candidate instructors - on going



- Instructor Trainers (IT's) are appointed annually by the Division Supervisor
- Current Toboggan Instructors are assigned to work with Regional Instructor Trainers (IT's), based on need assessments, appx. Ratio of 10 Instructors to 1 IT
- Prospective Instructors complete the Instructor Development Course
- Prospective Toboggan Instructor's are assigned to a “Mentor-

ing Toboggan Instructor”

- Prospective Toboggan Instructor completes the “Mentoring Program” with the assistance of their assigned Mentoring Instructor
- Instructor Trainer tracks progress of mentoring instructors
- Mentoring Instructor schedules with IT for teaching lesson evaluation
- IT signs off the Instructor Application
- Completed form is sent to the National Office (Remember the process is NOT over until the paperwork is completed)

The process outlined is designed to streamline and create consistency.

Make it easier for qualified patrollers to become Toboggan Instructors. Optimize local resources (instructors and instructor trainers IT's), provide a high level of quality assurance and lastly make better instructors.

Thank you, patrollers, toboggan instructor candidates, toboggan instructors and instructor trainers in making this a smooth path to better toboggan instructor's.

**OEC - Continued from page 8**  
**Upcoming Refreshers to be based on OEC 4th Edition**

If you have not yet purchased the 4th Edition of Outdoor Emergency Care, you may want to place an order soon with the National Office through the catalog. The upcoming fall Cycle B refresher will be based entirely on OEC 4th Edition. No references to any earlier edition will be included in the refresher materials, which will be in the summer edition of *Ski Patrol Magazine* to be mailed in about one month. The 4th Edition of OEC, which has a catalog price of \$49.50 plus shipping, is over 900 pages and has many new chapters, photographs and illustrations. It also has it's own interactive web site: [www.OECzone.com](http://www.OECzone.com). OEC 4th Edition Refresher material will also be available on-line at Jones and Bartlett's web site, which can be accessed through the NSP web site at [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org).

**Far West Division Summer Meeting to be Held in High Sierras**

Coming this summer to the High Sierras above Fresno will be the Far

West Division Summer Meeting the first weekend of August, and Outdoor Emergency Care will again be a focus topic for the weekend meeting. The meeting will be held at

is close to picturesque Huntington Lake with many lake, water and beach activities for the entire family. There will be an OEC breakout session on Saturday, and a divi-



The OECzone includes some tightly focused web links to hundreds of emergency care subjects. Visit the OECzone at <http://www.oeczone.com>

Sierra Summit Mountain Resort in Central California, which is part of the Mother Lode Region. The resort

will host a division-wide OEC Instructor Trainer Meeting on Friday afternoon prior to the welcome party and reception Friday evening. We hope to see you at Sierra Summit this summer for some great summer fun and some vital OEC information and presentations.



Patroller/racers line up in front of a stunning winter backdrop as they ready for competition at the Patroller Games..

**NSP Lending Library**  
NSP maintains a lending library of videos and other education materials for the benefit of the membership. You'll find a wealth of information for your area, divisional or personal training programs. To borrow a video, check out the NSP Lending Library Guidelines and Request Form. Then, send the completed form to the NSP Member Information and Services Team.

**News Briefs - Continued from page 6**

member and ski area. Try not to confuse your relationship with each entity as they relate to you as a patroller. In contrast, medical and workers compensation insurance provided through the ski areas differ based your paid or volunteer status, or if you are patrolling for a federal agency.

- Program Requirements - Many of us have put increased emphasis on the value of NSP programs and credentials when marketing the NSP to our industry partners. These cannot be hollow claims, and requires that we more stringently adhere to the quality assurance, course content, and documentation requirements of our program delivery system. Initiatives

are currently being started to make sure our programs are walking the walk on par with our ability to talk the talk.

- More Members - We are beginning to gain momentum for the adoption of NSP membership by an increasing number of paid patrollers in the Far West. This is being achieved by various means at different ski areas, and many of you share the credit. This trend will result in the single biggest change to ski patrolling in the West of the past 20 years, with benefits to every member. All patrollers should want to belong to the NSP because of what it is and what it offers. This trend needs to be a positive experience for new and old members alike.

**Nordic - Continued from page 6**

three who are halfway there. We have also increased our instructor pool by 25%.

I will still be hosting the Tri-Advisory this fall and have a great program in store for you. My idea for our seminar is to focus on backcountry. We are working on getting Garmin to debut their new combination Radio/GPS. This unit can plug into a laptop and automatically track multiple Radio/GPS units on their mapping software. We can track an entire class or a Nordic team. We have a tentative schedule of speakers. Dallas Rains, our Los Angeles Channel 7 weatherman, has said he would love to come to Yosemite. John Long, author, big wall climber, and world class adventurer said he would come if he is in the country. Doctor Ben Shiffon has promised he would show, barring any last minute emergency surgeries. We are planning on some fun outdoor games, weather permitting. So come and join us. Remember, every time the Nordics cook, there is plenty to go around and the food is wonderful. Also, an important reminder, the Tri-Advisory is the second week-end of November this year, so be prepared for rain or snow.

Hope to see you in the backcountry! -  
Mike St. Clair

**SEMINAR FOR PATROLLERS**

EUROPE IN 2004 - 6 OPTIONS AVAILABLE

ITALIAN DOLOMITES	FEB 13 -22	\$ 1870
CANAZEI & GSTAAD	FEB 13 - 28	\$ 3135
GSTAAD, SWITZERLAND	FEB 20-28	\$ 1990
STAAD & MERIBEL	FEB20/MAR 7	\$ 3275
MERIBEL, FRANCE	FEB 27-MAR 7	\$ 2035
CANAZEI-GSTAAD-MERIBEL	FEB 13/ MAR 7	\$ 4495

The latest of 14 very successful seminars is being offered as a service to patrollers in the far west and their friends. Learn about patrol techniques in the Alps. Choose any option. Ski 6 days at each location.



CANAZEI in the heart of the Italian Dolomites, is notable for the Dolomiti Superskipass which is valid on 450 lifts and lets you ski the Sella Ronda circuit from town to town in an area 30 miles by 50 miles. One day will be spent in San Martino di Castrozza and another day in Cortina d'Ampezzo,

GSTAAD The regional lift ticket includes all the 70 lifts in Gstaad and surrounding resorts. The highest point is at 9840 ft with a vertical drop of 6560 ft. The several villages of typical alpine character enjoy the best of German French and Swiss tradition and hospitality

MERIBEL is in a very high, snow safe part of the Alps. 200 connecting lifts to the surrounding peaks and passes allow us to ski down into the neighboring villages of Courchevel, Les Menuires and Val Thorens. The local "pisteurs" are among the best patrollers in Europe and some of the most fun loving.

For information, or to reserve space, contact: Chuck Herbert 76 Longwood Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901 Tel: (415) 456-9214 E-mail: bcherbert@aol.com

*Not sponsored by NSP*

Far West Division Summer Conference  
Patroller Games  
Election Results

In This Issue:



# The Patroller Peek

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

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