



The Patroller Peek

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

Spring 2004 Edition

DIVISION ROLE BROUGHT INTO FOCUS

Ray Bryan - Division Director

The Division Directors from across the NSP had their first meeting in two years this past March in Lakewood, Colorado. The last time the Division Directors were together was when they voted themselves off the National Board of Directors in favor of a board that was independently selected using a needs based process. For a couple meetings prior, the creation of this new board structure had dominated the agenda.



The agenda for this meeting dealt largely with topics aimed at refocusing the role of the Divisions. In our current structure, the National

Board of Directors deals with the strategic interests of the NSP. The people who serve as National Program Directors and on national level committees develop and maintain the education, training and credentialing programs provided through the NSP. Delivery is the next piece of the process. Thus, a need of the NSP is for a reliable means to get our deliverables to the membership. The question put to the Division Directors at this meeting was in essence, "are the Divisions going to be this delivery mechanism, or will the National Board need to create other entities that will take over this responsibility?"

The potential problem with how

Divisions traditionally function can be viewed in various elements like selection process, role, accountability, and reporting relationship. Currently, each Division uses an election process that may or may not select a Director suited to the delivery management role of this position. The process tends to be political, and makes the Director accountable to those made the selection, maybe including campaign promises needing to be made good. Sometimes this is to the detriment of the association and serves as the foundation for an entity that may not be reliable for getting NSP deliverables to the membership.

Working as a committee, the Division Role - Continued on page 2

Outdoor Emergency Care

New OEC Program Approved as Senior Elective

Doug Hill, FWD OEC Program Supervisor

The Outdoor Emergency Care Enhancement Seminar, developed and piloted here in the Far West Division, has now been approved as a senior program elective. Two modules of the seminar approximately one-half day each are required to qualify as completing one elective. The OECES offers patrollers continuing education in OEC skills through a series of injury and illness directed modules. Contact your patrol OEC advisor or region OEC administrator to find out more about OEC Enhancement Seminars in your area.

OEC Refresher Preview

OEC Refresher time will be com-

ing up in late summer and fall, so you can get a jump on preparing for your patrol refresher by reviewing during the summer as you sit by the pool or at the beach. Some of the cycle C topics to focus on for the fall are the Respiratory System, the Digestive System, surface anatomy, fracture management, lower extremity injuries, mass casualty incidents and chest injuries. Also, topics covered annually will be offered, such as patient assessment, shock, cold injury management, and neurological injury management. You can review these and other topics being reviewed, such as poisoning and emergency childbirth, in your OEC 4th edition textbook or at OECzone.com. No reference will be made or topics covered will be from past editions of the OEC textbook, so be sure to

have the latest Outdoor Emergency Care textbook to prepare for your refreshers.

Far West Division Summer Meeting

Speaking of summer, put July 30, 31 and August 1 on your calendars to attend the Far West Division Summer Meeting to be held in Reno. Seminars and breakout sessions in OEC and many other topics aimed at all patrollers will offered in a great setting, so plan to bring the family and attend this summer.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or ideas regarding the OEC programs in the Far West Division, please contact your Region OEC Administrator or myself at any time. You can reach me at my e-mail address at dch@cadwest.com.

Division Role - Continued from page 1

sion Directors developed a set of changes for approval by the National Board at its next meeting in May. Intended to make the Divisions more accountable to the NSP, these changes include:

- *The National Chair shall review and approve the slate of candidates for Division Director prior to the selection.*
- *The Division Director will report directly to the chair of the NSP Board of Directors.*
- *Divisions will be the structure responsible for ensuring availability, quality and content of approved NSP programs. Divisions and their subunits are expressly prohibited from offering programs or instructional courses that have not been approved by the NSP Board.*
- *If a Division Director's performance does not represent the best interests of the NSP, the NSP Executive Committee, at the recommendation of the National Chair, may remove the Director from office.*

Two items the NSP is planning for implementation in 2005-2006 were also reviewed at this meeting; skill levels and direct registration. Each of these had previously been proposed within the old National

Board, so it is interesting to see them rejuvenated at this time. The use of skill levels is initially intended to coincide with our current use of Basic, Senior and Certified classifications. The concept here is that Senior and Certified will become achievement terms associated with having met a skill level and certain other requirements, with the member keeping this recognition forever. The skill level will require maintenance and will be subject to change during the member's carrier. The concept behind direct registration will be for patrolling members to renew based on three separate activities being correlated at the national level; payment of dues, completion of an annual OEC refresher, and meeting local area requirements (including acceptance by the ski area as a paid or volunteer member of their patrol department).

Direct registration, skill levels, and the refocused Division role will all be discussed in more detail at the Far West Division Summer Conference. Mark Dorsey, Assistant Executive Director of the NSP will be our guest at the conference, helping with the discussion of these topics and reporting on other subjects from the national office.

NEWS BRIEFS**SUMMER CONFERENCE 2004**

Planning continues for this year's Far West Division Summer Conference to be held on July 29, 30 and August 1, 2004 at the Siena Hotel on the river in downtown Reno. Registration information will be available after April 15th at the division web site, www.farwest.org, distributed directly to your patrol representative, and in the spring "Patroller Peek". Thanks go to John Doolittle and his helpers for coordinating this year's event. You can contact John at j_ndoolitt@onemain.com.

TITLE 22

The OEC program has been submitted for acceptance in California Emergency Medical Services Authority as exceeding the public safety requirements of Title 22. This will increase the recognition of the OEC credential for all members, and allow members who need to comply with Title 22 to use OEC for this purpose, eliminating the need to maintain multiple certifications.

The outstanding set of OEC materials including the 4th edition text, student workbook, instructor guide, curriculum,

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Division Administration & Staff**Division Director**

Ray Bryan

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Ron Evenson

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Tim OBrien - Eastern Sierra Region

Ken Bergmann - Mother Lode Region

Bill Gibson - No. California Region

Jerry Muszynski - So. California Region

Rich Bailey - Pro Patrollers

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Dr. Eric Lamberts - Medical

John Doolittle - Meetings

David Coffin - Publications

David Coffin - Web Site

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Howard Jordan - Instructor Development

Robert Parkhurst - Mountaineering

Gwynne Pugh - Nordic

Jerry Muszynski - Toboggan

Doug Hill - OEC

Jim Otto - Certified

The Deposition Zone

Avalanche Rescue and Patrolling.

Mike Laney - FWD Avalanche Program Supervisor

As I write this article, I'm looking at the circumstances surrounding the 18 U.S. avalanche fatalities that have occurred so far. They include 5 snowmobilers, 2 climbers, 3 snowshoers, 5 backcountry skiers/boarders, 2 people at home, and 1 USFS employee buried by snow sliding off a roof. Only one of these occurred in the FWD. Does this diminish the need for NSP patrollers here to receive avalanche education?

If an incident occurs out of bounds near a resort, who is likely to be called to help with the rescue? And if called, what conditions will rescuers likely face? Unfamiliar terrain. High hazard. High stress. Who will lead? Under these circumstances, not only does one hope for someone there with MTR training and experience, but also a good eye for assessing avalanche hazard. Not only do rescuers have to deal with avalanche risk getting to the site, they may also need to deal with it getting back out. Backcountry and nordic patrollers may face even greater likelihood of having to participate in rescues outside of their usual patrol routes. If anything, the current trend of avalanche incidents indicates the potential need for more of us to prepare to participate in, and even lead, a search for a buried avalanche victim.

But isn't organized rescue usually just an exercise in body recovery? By the time patrollers are



called to an incident in the backcountry, isn't it already too late? This season three snowboarders were caught and buried. One died, but two were rescued alive after 24+ hours of burial. You just don't know, so always be prepared to go at a moment's notice.

NSP MTR and Avalanche courses can help with that preparation. NSP avalanche courses incorporate American Avalanche Association (AAA) curriculum standards for each level. The AAA curriculum is designed to help people travel safely in the backcountry; the rescue portion is pretty much confined to personal survival and companion rescue. NSP courses do the same, then extend this training into the realm of organized rescue, because that is where our patrollers are most likely to play a role.

Survival and Rescue Beacons.

Avalanche rescue beacons are undisputedly the best device for quickly locating buried avalanche victims, but this should not necessarily inspire too much confidence. Consider the following.

On January 1, 2004, near Donner Summit, CA, two experienced back-

Avalanche - Continued on page 8



Senior ski and toboggan advisor Keith Tatsukawa skis June at Ski Enhancements clinic. (Steve Francisco)

The U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame Elects Seven New Members

By Frank Shoemaker

The U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame announces the election of seven new members, including three U.S. ski team medal winners of 1990's AJ Kitt, Diann Roffe, and Tommy Moe.

Kit was a leading racer of the U.S. Ski Team in the 1990's who won a bronze medal in the 1993 world Championships at Morioka, Japan.

Roffe tied for an Olympic silver in the giant slalom at the 1992 Albertville Games, and then won the gold in the super giant slalom at the 1994 Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway.

Tommy Moe won both a gold in the downhill at the 1994 at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics and the silver in the super giant slalom, becoming the only American male to win two medals in the same Olympics.

The most well known of those elected aside from competitors was Alex Cushing, founder of Squaw Valley ski resort, the man who brought the 1960 Olympics to the United States by successfully proposing Squaw Valley as a site.

One of the two women elected was Jerry Nunn, the first woman Forest Service Snow Ranger, who also played a role in the success of the Avalauncher, a gas powered anti-avalanche gun. (editorial note: Nunn also held National Ski Patrol National Appointment #121.)

The Hall of Fame also elected Clare Bousquet posthumously, the man who founded the most popular ski area in the East during the 1930's.

The only elected ski notable not born in the U.S. was Ernst Constant, a Swiss from Zurich also elected posthumously who invented the T-bar ski lift. It played an important role in the growth of American skiing in the 1940's when he moved his headquarters to Denver to become an American citizen.

SNEAK PEAK AT SKI GEAR TRENDS FOR 2004-2005

By Cirina Catania

Temperatures are rising, snow pack is melting, birds are nesting and spring is definitely in the air. As this great season comes to a close, let's look towards the future and take a peak at what the snow sports manufacturers have in store for us in 2004-2005. Thanks to the SIA, we've had a chance to check out the latest and greatest.

Taking it from the top, helmet use is on the rise and new helmet shapes continue to surprise. Manufacturers have made safety the biggest priority resulting in more helmets using combined constructions for safety and durability. For instance, Scott worked with the Bio-Mex team of Swiss doctors and professional athletes to create a new helmet that meets both European and North American safety standards.

Boeri is launching a hybrid helmet that adds durable hard-shell components to a lightweight "in-mold" cap, to buttress the helmet's impact-management capabilities. Speaking of in-mold helmets, manufacturers are expanding this technology for winter 04-05, which boasts a superior strength-to-weight ratio. Helmet/goggle integration is a major theme this year with new helmets (like K2's Black Hawk One) featuring built-in goggles. There are even goggles and helmets that can be custom-fit to specific head sizes and face shapes.

- Boeri has created the "Tactic," the world's first hybrid wintersport helmet featuring hard-shell polycarbonate 'halo' surrounding an in-mold cap, high-tech vents and removable one-piece ear and neck liner.

Giro bring a modified WWII look to the slopes with a high-impact ABS shell, full-wrap edge gasket and polyfleece liner

- K2's "Black Hawk" helmet has now become "Black Hawk One" a fully integrated helmet and goggle combination.
- Look for Scott's "Bio-Hex" and "Shadow" helmets for rigorous safety standards on the one hand and skateboarding influenced styling on the other.

TECHNOLOGY MAKES SKIING EASIER THAN EVER

It's all so much easier now. Choose a ski adapted to the snow conditions and let its special shape and flex pattern do most of the work. There are plenty of options for skiers who can choose from twin-tips, quick/wide sport carvers skis, women's skis and superfat models. Whether you are working in deep snow, wet snow or groomed snow, there is a ski perfectly matched to the conditions. Overall alpine trends for 2004-2005 include:

- Wide yet quick and easy-turning sport carving skis proliferate
- Superfat skis debut
- Twin-tips are gaining a big market share
- Women-specific skis abound
- More race-room skis for speed aficionados
- Quick-fit option in boots gains ground
- Integrated ski-binding systems more sophisticated

Here are some products to watch for when shopping for next year's equipment. The new B-3 boot from Alpina flexes at the ball of the foot instead of the ankle in a consistently strong and comfortable position that still provides plenty of elasticity to absorb terrain variations and control the ski.

Atomic's new "Metron" ski has a wide, floaty 84mm waist and a deep carving side cut. The internal structure with titanium alloy Power Channel tubes for strength, interrupted underfoot by Power Extenders, shock absorbers, smooth the flow of energy and provide a silky

smooth ride.

Neox bindings sport an on-board electronic reporting system (miniature LCD) that warns you if the binding isn't fully closed or if hold-in pressure isn't correct.

Blizzard has developed a new line of skis targeted specifically towards women ("Spirit" series). Check out their X9 in the expert category. They are also offering a new Energy Trak integrated binding system developed in partnership with Marker.



June Mountain Parkosaurus contestant sports next season's twin-tip Rossi Scratch BC's

Photo by Eric Diem

Dalbello boots include the new high-performance Zx models featuring a stiff, precise cuff featuring a three-piece Cabrio design, with separate shell, cuff and external tongue which allows the shell to open wide for easy entry and exit. (Sounds great after a long day in our boots.)

Dolomite introduces two boots with innovative systems. Take a look at the "Rage" series that uses an active pivoting spoiler together with a twin tongue liner that allows them to move together, consistently following the calf to improve precision. The APS is also adjustable to height.

Dynastar is releasing their "Legend" group, wide skis for off-piste (natural snow) as well as the "Cross" group of front-side carving skis. Their "Exclusive" series for women features steeper ramp angles, forward binding mountain

Trends - Continued from page 6



Far West Division Summer Meeting July 30th - August 1st, 2004

Join us in the fun-filled city of Reno, NV, at the Siena Hotel Spa and Casino July 30th through August 1st for the Far West Division Summer meeting. The Siena is all things Italian, Tuscan elegance, and style...a pace that's romantic one moment and electrifying the next (web page: www.sienareno.com if you want to read about where we're staying). The Hotel banks the Truckee River and has a magnificent casino and a world-class spa. Enjoy dining on the riverbank or the unforgettable wine cellar with a worldwide selection of rare and fine wines. Reno is synonymous with casinos and shows frequented by famous entertainers. For those who are interested in other pursuits, historic Virginia City where Silver was discovered is less than an hour's drive, as is Lake Tahoe, the year-round resort area which hosted the 1960 Winter Olympics. Boating on the lake, hiking, horseback riding, biking, Shakespeare Festival, and Music Festival are a few of Tahoe's draws.



The Division meeting will give attendees a chance to hear the latest on toboggan techniques, awards, avalanche, mountaineering, and instructor development, to list a few areas. We will hear from Mark Dorsey, Assistant Executive Director of NSPS, who will address what's new from National. You can attend a mini-vendor fair with the latest in patrol equipment. Friday night we will have a Welcome Reception at a unique location within the Hotel. Saturday night's Awards Banquet will be at the famous Reno Automobile Museum; dinner surrounded by vintage and unique automobiles. This weekend will be one long remembered. Come and enjoy Reno with your fellow patrollers.

Accommodations:

Thursday Night, July 29th-\$69 Friday Night, July 30th-\$89 Saturday Night July 31st-\$89
Call the Siena at 1-877-743-6233, tell them you are with National Ski Patrol, and reserve a room

-----Detach and mail to address below-----

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Far West Division Summer Meeting - July 30th - August 1st, 2004

Make checks payable to **Far West Division NSP** and mail this form and check to: *John Doolittle*
Names of Attendees _____ Home Patrol _____ Position(s) _____ *P.O. Box 171*
_____ _____ _____ *Bodega Bay, CA 94923*

Address: _____
City/State/Zip _____ / _____ / _____
Email _____ Tel # _____

Registration Deadline is July 1, 2004

Conference Registration Fee:

(This does not include the Banquet) _____ @ \$30 = _____

Saturday Night Awards Banquet:

Includes Auto Museum entrance fee, dinner, tax, & gratuities
_____ @ \$40 = _____

Late Registration Fee:

If paid after July 1st _____ @ \$10 = _____

Total \$ _____

Trends - Continued from page 4

pints and women-specific blends of flex and sidecut to help women more easily access the front of the ski where a turn starts. The new "Fusion Pro SX" and "GS" from Elan are full-bore race skis that are still versatile enough for expert skiers to use all over the mountain. Check out their smooth ride over rough snow.

Fisher continues with its "Soma" boot line from last season, improves on its "RX" ski series and introduces a new group of seven "Vision" skis for woman. Head's new "XRC" ski is a very versatile ski, quick and agile but with a smooth ride in all conditions (due to the fairly narrow profile, and flex energy for aggressive edging). Their "Variable Last Concept" boot has an easily customizable shell in five different models.

The only ski built completely of lightweight carbon fiber comes from Goode, which makes them ideal for randonee skiing – climbing and mountaineering (they are 60% the weight of a conventional ski). Carbon fiber poles from Goode are approximately 15% lighter than comparable aluminum poles. On the K2 front is the new "Apache" group. All featuring a new wide and stubby tip shape with a sidecut seven centimeters closer to the tip. They float in powder, initiate turns sooner and run smoother on hardpack. The popular "T-Nine" series for women has been re-engineered – softer in the tip and tail and heavier, stronger

underfoot. Lange's "Freeride" series has a lower cuff than their race models and a shock-absorbing heel for smooth landings. You'll want to take a look at the heat-moldable custom air inner boot offering a fast custom-fit.

For those of us who have troublesome knees, a young company, Line, is offering the "Reactor" binding, designed to reduce knee sprains.

Nordica bites into the marketplace with their new "Dobermann" group of high-performance boots. The "Dobermann Pro" is 3mm bigger inside for a warmer, more comfortable fit, but the shell is 1.5mm thinner, allowing it to wrap more easily around the foot and open wider for easier entry and exit. Match it up with the "Pro RC" skis and new "XBS" bindings from Marker and you'll be ready to jump into action.

One of my personal favorites, Rossignol, is bringing out three new "Zenith" skis, all-mountain carvers meant for powering clean turn on front-side groomed snow. A 68mm waist provides a compromise between slalom-ski quickness and cruising-ski stability. Their "Active 300" series features 70mm waists and integrated binding systems.

The new "Equip 10 SC" racing ski from Salomon uses a multi-radius sidecut shape to carve short slalom turns as well as longer, stable GS turns and their "Street Racer" line is a front-side carver.

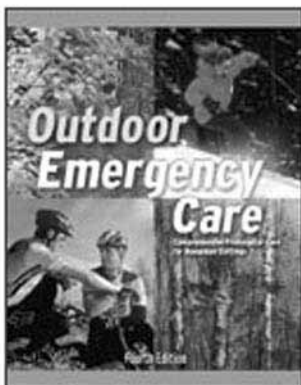
Try on Tecnica boots new "Diablo" offering a 3 Density construction, hard plastic in the heel, toe and toe box for good energy transmission to the ski; a lightweight medium hardness plastic, ribbed for strength around the foot; and a soft material over the top of the instep for easy entry an exit and precise comfortable fit. (The "Hotform" custom-molding system is offered on the top-of-the-line "Diablo" series.)

Volant is relying on its patented steel construction for easy rides in difficult, wet and cut-up snow and for stability on groomed snow. Their new "74" group uses a wide 74mm waist which will certainly float in powder bowls and our beloved trees.

Another personal favorite, Volkl's new flagship ski, aimed at the best skiers on the hill, is the "Superspeed" with a 70mm waist for cruising stability in all snow conditions and a full-bore GS racing ski construction. They have certainly stretched the envelope with the "Sanouk," an ultra-wide swallow-tailed superfat ski designed for deep powder snow. One of the pioneers of integrated binding systems, Volkl has upgraded its "Motion" system with a new "Motion AT" platform, fixed at the heel and with a toe that "floats" along low-friction rails.

Stay-tuned for the next issue of the "Peak" where we'll take a look at all that is new in Telemark/Alpine Touring and Nordic Gear.

EDUCATION



OEC 4th Edition Pricing Schedule and Policies

Check Out!!! www.OECZONE.com

Your interactive guide through

Outdoor Emergency Care, Fourth Edition.

The Outdoor Emergency Care manual is now in its 4th Edition. Purchase it at www.nsp.org.

Visit www.oeczone.com. The companion site to *Outdoor Emergency Care: Comprehensive Prehospital Care for Nonurban Settings, Fourth Edition*.

The OECzone has great interactive outdoor emergency care lessons, references materials and reviews.

7th Annual Women's Proficiency Clinic Another Great Year!

By Trudy Nye

On Feb. 29, 2004, 15 women converged on Heavenly for the seventh year in a row for two ½ day proficiency clinics. Beautiful weather was ordered for the day, and we took the traditional picture at the top of The Face. Areas represented were: Heavenly, Soda Springs, Homewood, Diamond Peak, Mt. Rose, and Sunrise Park, AZ.

The first half day was spent running sleds on the Nevada side on Little Dipper, a long advanced run full of bumps. After a demonstration of techniques to use, everyone worked hard at negotiating the tight bumps and learned and practiced those techniques. The ladies from Soda Springs and Homewood really had their work cut out for them since their areas don't have bumps so big they can swallow sleds!

After a break for lunch, we met three of Heavenly's top ski instructors and split up into three groups according to needs. For three hours, all groups did some bump skiing and some did tree/off-piste runs. Two of the groups were able to do one or two runs in Mott Canyon's triple black diamond chutes. A great lesson for everyone!

By the end of the day, everyone not only was able to improve sled and ski techniques, but we were able to make some new friends around the Tahoe basin and bring back to our respective patrols some great stories. Good job ladies! We hope that you can return for next year! Look at the Far West and Easter Sierra calendars for next year's event—always on the last weekend of February.

Tri-Advisory 2003 – A Success

By Cathlene Calkins

Tri-Advisory stands for many things: Most importantly, it represents recognition that meeting in Yosemite Valley in early November is a great way to kick off the coming season. Taking advantage of such an excuse to visit Yosemite under the cover of a full moon last November, nearly 100 members and guests attended this educational event. For those of you who have never had the opportunity to attend Tri-Advisory, it is an educational forum beneficial in bringing the North and South together, in one room, to share in three disciplines: Mountaineering, Nordic and Avalanche.

After brief opening remarks by Ray Bryan, the program delved into an agenda which promised to be as interesting as it was informative. Dr. Ben Schifrin, a seasoned expedition, base-camp Doctor, discussed backcountry considerations when dealing with water borne pathogens, wound care and management, heat syndromes and hypothermia.

Jeff Bradford from the US Forest Service delivered the NOAA weather forecast for the 2003-2004 season and beyond. Next up, a discussion on the use of night vision for patrol duties and activities. Bruce Parker from CMC Rescue spoke on new developments in rescue equipment and rescue ropes, and provided sample gear for hands-on. Finally, Bob Cowen talked about UTM's, while Scott Mefford's discussion on high altitude in a U2 finished up the day's lectures. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to break-out sessions for each discipline.

Aside from the full-moon, entertainment this past November included a fantastic slide show and discussion by Kurt Wedberg with Sierra Mountaineering International on his recent expedition to Aconcagua, Argentina. Expedition team members Matt Dorman and Mark and Patty Giebel were on hand to answer questions and share their experiences.

For information concerning the 2004 Tri-Advisory, the fall issue of the Patroller Peak will feature information and registration details.



left to right: Lynn Golden, Stacy Kozmenoski, Jennifer Greer and Suzanne Eger of the new NSP June Host Program

SOME SNOW SPORTS FACTS

by Cirina Catania

Times they are a changin' – Let's take a look at what's happening to with our favorite sport. Patrollers, know thine guest! Following is everything you always wanted to know but were too busy to ask...

Total Number of Snow Sports Participants

Year	Alpine	Snowboarding	Cross Country	Snowshoeing
2002	7,402,000	5,589,000	2,202,000	N/A
2001	7,660,000	5,343,000	2,337,000	N/A
2000	7,392,000	4,347,000	2,338,000	1,014,000

Source: National Sporting Goods Association, 2002 Sports Participation Study

These figures represent participants who are 7+ years old and went at least one time during the calendar year 2002. For questions on participation, please contact NSGA at (847) 296-NSGA.

Gender of Skiers and Snowboarders - 2002 calendar year

Gender	Alpine	Snowboard	Cross Country	Snowshoe*
Male	60.7%	77.0%	53.5%	59.2%*
Female	39.3%	23.0%	46.5%	40.8%*

Source: National Sporting Goods Association, 2002 Sports Participation Study

* Snowshoe figures are from the year 2000.

Age of Skiers and Snowboarders - 2002 calendar year

Age	Alpine	Snowboard	Cross Country	Snowshoe*
7-11	12.1%	17.3%	12.7%	9.4% *
12-17	17.2%	29.7%	8.4%	7.6% *
18-24	14.5%	20.6%	5.6%	5.5% *
25-34	16.8%	17.8%	10.9%	23.8% *
35-44	23.2%	7.9%	14.6%	20.4% *
45-54	10.0%	5.0%	32.6%	17.4% *
55-64	3.5%	0.4%	10.6%	12.6% *
65-74	1.5%	---	4.6%	3.4% *
75+	1.2%	1.3%	---	0.0%

Source: National Sporting Goods Association, 2002 Sports Participation Study

* Snowshoe figures are from the year 2000.

Total Number of U.S. Skier-Visits (In Millions)

Season	Northeast	Southeast	Midwest	Rockies	Pacific	Total
2002-03	14.2	5.8	8.3	18.7	10.6	57.6
2001-02	12.2	5.0	7.0	18.1	12.1	54.4
2000-01	13.9	5.5	7.6	19.1	11.1	57.2

Source: National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Kottke National End of Season Survey, 2002-03.

Products Purchased by Consumers at Snow Sports

Specialty and Chain Stores (in dollars)

Season	Apparel	Equipment	Accessories	Total
2002-03	\$666,350,414	\$810,290,406	\$724,480,477	\$2,201,121,297
	30%	37%	33%	100%
2001-02	\$662,873,351	\$787,437,233	\$662,664,394	\$2,112,974,979
	31%	37%	32%	100%
2000-01	\$691,452,301	\$815,846,444	\$693,167,634	\$2,200,466,379
	31%	37%	32%	100%

Source: SIA Retail Audit - August 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003

All equipment through the fourth quarter of 2003 (alpine, snowboard, Nordic and telemark) in chain stores was up 2.6 percent, tracking at \$89.6 million compared to \$87.3 million in 2002. Alpine equipment (including skis, boots, bindings, poles and systems) was up 5.1 percent to \$40.9 million compared to \$39.0 million last year. Units gained 5.2 percent. Snowboard equipment (including snowboards, boots and bindings) was down 4.1 percent to \$43.1 million. Sales for snowboard equipment in 2002 tracked at \$44.9 million. Nordic equipment (including skis, boots, bindings and poles), a bright spot, was up 55.8 percent to \$4.5 million. Telemark equipment (including skis, boots and bindings) tracked at \$1.0 million. Apparel was down 2.4 percent to \$111.1 million compared to \$113.9 million last season while accessories gained 9.9 percent to \$89.2 million as compared to 2002, which was \$81.2 million. So now you know. Happy skiing.

Avalanche - Continued from page 3

country skiers were out along the Pacific Crest Trail in the worst storm of the season (90-120 mph winds, heavy snowfall, low clouds and nearly zero visibility). Both were carrying beacons. The two may have drifted onto the lee slope of a ridge by accident or to escape the wind, but suddenly they became aware of a very large cornice immediately above them. They began to backtrack to get away from it, but it released, triggering an avalanche that caught both. One was buried about waist deep, the other was carried out of sight. The partially buried survivor dug himself out and attempted to locate his companion, but was unable to get a signal from his companion's beacon. Exhausted, with darkness approaching, and sensing that his own survival was at risk, he retreated to a nearby hut. He was unable to leave for two days. Meanwhile, the storm dumped an additional 2-3 feet of snow onto the avalanche site

On his way out to summon help, he encountered another party, equipped with a cell phone, which he used to alert authorities and initiate what turned out to be an extensive operation involving over-snow vehicles, aircraft, dogs, and about 120 personnel from several agencies, including NSP backcountry patrollers. A signal was never detected from the buried victim's beacon. Whether it malfunctioned before, or as a result of, the slide is not known. Whatever the cause, it was of no value to the victim, and even if it did function properly, it would not have helped his companion to locate him immediately after the slide. As things turned out, the victim's companion was using a borrowed beacon and was unfamiliar with its operation. When he attempted to locate his companion, he switched his beacon from TRANSMIT to OFF, instead of to RECEIVE. The victim's body was found buried against a tree under

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SNOWSPORTS SHOW ROCKED THE HOUSE

By Cirina Catania

Go-go girls, loud music, beer and streaming video – it must have been the SIA.04 SnowSports Show. Day One at the SIA.04 Show ended with a bang as over 3,000 attendees gathered at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center for the party of the century – the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Attendees were greeted by music from their favorite decade: 50-60's; 70s; 80s; and 90s-current, along with compilation videos of winter sports indicative of the decade all while being entertained by dancers donning the various apparel fashions from each decade. SIA Chairman Dick Leffler addressed the crowd with welcoming remarks while industry veteran Jackson Hogen emceed the event throughout the evening.

The most happening place at the 2004 SIA SnowSports show on the second night was The Beach. The Session's sponsored OVER

IT party played host to a sold out crowd of over 2,000 attendees. Fans were entertained by opening act, The Missing 23rd, followed by the headliners, Social Distortion. The party kicked off at 8:00 pm and lasted way into the night as the concert floor transformed into a mosh pit. Aspen / Snowmass presented a live broadcast of the ESPN X Games in the Mandalay Bay Convention Center lobby on a fourteen foot giant screen television. Viewers watched the men's superpipe finals after a huge day of business on the Show floor. A little unplanned X Games action was also taking place inside the show floor after hours as a couple of attendees decided to conduct the first-ever "Scooter Games," racing motorized handicap scooters up and down the aisles.

Meanwhile, back on the show floor, a somewhat tamer albeit happening party was taking place in Nordic Village. Nordic buyers and

exhibitors attended the all-too-popular Salmon and Aquavit party sponsored by Swix and Alpina. Right next door, Rental World was playing host to a party of similar magnitude for rental buyers and exhibitors.

Day Three activities saw business continuing to rip on the show floor as exhibitors and retailers were knee deep in appointments, catalogs and preview guides. It concluded with various exhibitor parties as well as an SIA, Mountain Sports Media and TransWorld Snowboarding sponsored reception for the first annual Snow Industry Summit taking place April 1-4 at Copper Mountain.

Lest you think SIA is all about parties, please check out the accompanying articles on the latest trends in equipment and apparel. 2004 is guaranteed to be an exciting year for all of us!

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4-5 feet of snow and ice, four days after the incident.

What are the lessons? A beacon can save your life, IF it is working properly. Beacons need to be range-checked daily when in use. Your beacon can save your life, IF you have companions who also have beacons and know how to use them. If you are caught in an avalanche, the beacon itself may become a casualty, making you a casualty. If you are caught in an avalanche, and have a working beacon, you may still be a casualty. The beacon that works best for you is the one you own and practice with regularly.

The only reliable way to survive avalanches is to avoid them. For us outdoor types, this means knowing as much about them as possible, and keeping avalanche potential at a conscious level at all times while in the back country. Let your patrol representative know that you are interested in taking an avalanche course or refresher next season.



Terry Jessie hauls a toboggan in a familiar environment. Patrolling often means working out in dark cold inclement weather like this day at June mountain. Note reflective patches and stripes on the patrol jacket. (Steve Francisco)

Dramatic Crevasse Rescue at Donner Ski Ranch, CA

Motherload Region, Far West Division

The day following an immense early January snowfall that accumulated over four feet of fresh snow, a young snowboarder, Kyle, ventured beyond clearly marked "Closed" signs and fell head-first into a deep crevasse. NSP had previously examined the area, discovered the crevasse, which was covered by freshly fallen snow, and closed the area. The following narrative describes how the snowboarder became trapped in the crevasse, and the ensuing rescue.

While on the chairlift, I observed two young snowboarders close to the edge of a cornice. The snowboarders had already ventured beyond the clearly marked closed signs, and appeared to be preparing to drop off the cornice. From the chairlift, I yelled 3 times to the snowboarders to retreat, and go back up to the other side of the bamboo picket. They clearly heard me. One snowboarder, Kyle, appeared to be ignoring my command, and was inching closer to the cornice edge.

After delivering the third command to get back above the picket I unloaded the chairlift and immediately went over to the place where the snowboarders appeared to be preparing to drop off the cornice. Only 1 snowboarder was there! I asked the remaining snowboarder if his friend had gone over the cornice, and he responded affirmatively. I asked him if he had appeared down-slope, below the cornice. The young man informed me that he did not know. I did not wish to get closer to the edge of the cornice for fear of breaking the cornice off, so skied to a vantage point where I could examine below the cornice. There was not a single track on the slope below the cornice.

At this point I was convinced that

the snowboarders had gone over the cornice, and was also convinced that he had not come out. The snowboarder was somehow trapped in the cornice, or an unseen drift. My first reaction was to alert our radio standby patroller, and inform the Patrol that we were likely involved in a rescue.

Following the first call for NSP support, I skied around the dangerous area to where I was below the cornice. Yes, I was in a dangerous position, I was directly below where I considered the snowboarder had gone over, in a potential small avalanche area. The snow was untracked, not a single track

approach the victim from the top for fear of triggering a collapse or breakaway of the cornice. I had no choice but to scale the almost vertical snow wall below the overhang. Removing skis, I commenced to climb the wall beneath the cornice to reach the victim. Using a powder shovel, I chiseled steps in the wall while ascending and simultaneously reduced the vertical and overhanging snow load with the shovel as I went up. I reasoned that breaking up the cornice would reduce the danger in case of a breakaway.

Approximately ten minutes had elapsed since his entrapment. While ascending the wall, word



Patrollers enjoy some rest between training in an MTR Clinic

to indicate that he had made it successfully over the cornice, and down the slope.

This confirmed my worst fears. The snowboarder was definitely trapped or missing, and could be in a oxygen deprivation situation. I radioed the NSP standby again and confirmed the need for search and rescue, and requested full avalanche rescue support and equipment.

At this point, I was below this hanging cornice. I did not wish to

came from the remaining snowboarder that his friend was alive and trapped. The snowboarder and his friend had walkie-talkies! This was an enormous relief, the victim was alive and breathing. By this time I had ascended the wall below the cornice, and was chiseling away at the cornice, from below, with a shovel. About this time a senior patroller arrived on scene and climbed my path up the wall. The cornice had been chiseled away sufficiently such that I was

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able to boost my fellow patrolman up the final 8 feet to the lip of the crevasse.

The patroller then got the first glimpse of our victim. Kyle was wedged up-side down and 8 to 10 feet below the lip. His snowboard was jammed tight and the left-side of his body was plugged in the loose snow at the bottom of the crevasse. He was able to move one arm, could not move his head, hips, legs or torso.

At this time, other patrollers arrived. We established belay, donned avalanche beepers and cleared a safe area. Paul, my patroller associate, descended into the crevasse. Kyle, the snowboarder, was upside-down and wedged tight in a 12-to-14 inch crevasse. Paul had great difficulty moving within the crevasse, and removing the snowboard and leash from the victim. After getting equipment removed, Paul dug with his hands as much snow from around the victim as possible. Due to the confined space, Paul could only remove snow from around his legs. Kyle was plugged tight into the snow at the bottom of the crevasse. During this, both patrollers and victim were on-belay in case the cornice broke away.

By now the victim had been wedged in the crevasse about 20 minutes; he had no hat and was getting cold. Both patrollers continued hand digging, tugging, pulling, scooping and jerking. This effort finally extracted the snowboarder from his "plugged" and "wedged" position at the bottom of the crevasse. Kyle was soon lifted out of the crevasse.

The gravity of this predicament was significant. Kyle was deep in a crevasse and could not move. He easily could have been crushed or buried by movement of the cornice. Kyle would have been very difficult to find, had I personally not seen him proceed toward the cor-

nice edge. Kyle was in a position such that he could have become hypothermic over the course of an hour.

By alert and swift action the Donner Ranch Ski Patrol was able to avoid tragedy. Submitted by Mack Bishop, 208 Willow Creek Dr., Folsom, Ca. 95630, (916) 208-2623.

Join the National Ski Patrol Campaign

For the second year, the Motherload Region printed and distributed posters designed to recruit future National Ski Patrol members. The 300 full-color posters and 5,000 flyers are designed to be posted in ski shops, fitness centers and other places where the outdoor crowd gathers. For more information, or if you would like sample posters/flyers for posting in your part of N. California, call MLR marketing committee chair Tim Viall, (209) 952-2750, or email: tviall@msn.com.

"Ski with the National Ski Patrol"

The Motherload Region offered a region-wide "Ski with the National Ski Patrol" day, Saturday, February 28, 2004. The event involved all 10 regional patrols and was focused on offering a fun ski experience to the general public and to share information with the public and news media about the NSP and ski patrolling. A second benefit; the day served as a recruitment tool for new patrollers. Several of our ski patrols reported great success, with Sugar Bowl turning out 20 participants and a like amount for Prospector Patrol at Dodge Ridge, CA.

The "Ski with the National Ski Patrol Day" utilized this type of an agenda, customized to each ski area:

8:00 AM, Start at the (Ski Patrol First Aid Room/Patrol Location), gather information from partici-

8:15 AM, Up Chair and ski with a National Patroller, assist with mountain opening and morning patrol duties. During morning, participants ski with veteran National Ski Patrollers, discuss hill protocols, first-aid techniques and "discover hidden secrets" of the ski area

11:25 AM Break for lunch and discussion of National Ski Patrol, its history, its mission and its expectations of new candidates

12:45 PM, Meet at base of Chair and ride to top for demonstration and discussion of rescue toboggan

Afternoon: Skiing and skills demonstration including skills required for ski patrolling and rescue toboggan handling. Fun exercises that all can participate in (and, those skills tested of future candidate patrollers, too)

Optional: Meet at Top of Chair for mountain sweep duties with National Ski Patrollers

8th Annual Telemark Fest at Bear Valley!

The weekend of February 6-8, many patrollers of the free-heeled persuasion played hooky, and headed up to Bear Valley for the 8th Annual Telemark Festival. Once again, Aaron and Kimmi Johnson of Mountain Adventure Seminars assembled an impressive array of super telly talent and recreation industry sponsors, to orchestrate an amazingly fun and stimulating event. The foot of fresh powder Friday night didn't hurt, either.

A mouthwatering lineup of over 60 clinics were offered throughout Saturday including such morsels as "Double Black Diamonds" with Lake Tahoe College Professor Geoff Clarke; "Bump Skiing 101" with Estonian Urmas Franosch; "The Pole Plant" with Unparalleled Production's Mark Sanders; and "First Time on Telemark Skis" with Auburn Ski Club Nordic Director Sally Jones.

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Ski & Toboggan IT

Don't Touch That Dial Yet| Just One More Thing To Do

Jerry Muszynski - Far West Ski & Toboggan Supervisor

Well it has been a great ski season for us here in the Far West this year. For those of you who are S & T Instructors and Instructor Trainers (IT's) the season duties are not done until the paper work is in. I have listed below a checklist of some of your tasks you should complete.

Instructors:

- o Log on to www.nsp.org
- o Update your "Member Profile"
- o Double Check & Update your personal information
- o Review All Registered Classes
- o Close all registered classes (<10 days)
- o (remember NO One else can close your class for you)
- o File your course records (remember your responsible for these records)
- o Complete your "On-Line" Instructors Activity Log
- o Send your Instructor Activity Log to your assigned IT
- o Plan for Mtn's Needs Assessment and send to IT
- o Review your Teaching Schedule for next year
- o Review the Instructors Web for new ideas/post training tips
- o Register to the FW Summer Meeting "Reno 04"

Instructor Trainers:

- o Log on to www.nsp.org
- o Update your "Member Profile"
- o Double Check and Update your personal information
- o Review All Registered Classes
- o Close all Registered Classes (<10 days)
- o File your course records
- o Complete your "On-Line" Instructors Activity Log
- o Review Activity Log of All Assigned Instructor
- o Review your Instructor Observation Log Notes
- o Write a review of each Instructor Observed
- o Send your recommendation for Instructor Renewals to FW Supervisor
- o Review Needs Assessments from Instructors / Patrol Reps
- o Review Schedule for next year
- o Register to the FW Summer Meeting "Reno 04"

Have a good summer!!!

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supporting materials, web resources, instructor development program, QA system, and refresher process will make for an easy approval. Thanks go to Ron Evenson, Assistant Division Director, for taking the lead on this effort.

DIVISION AND REGION ELECTIONS

Ron Evenson has been re-elected to another term as Assistant Division Director. Elections for the Region Director in the Arizona, Mother Lode, and Southern California Regions will be taking place during April.

Janice Waits, Elections Committee Chairperson, and her committee members have done a great job developing the new election process providing each member with the opportunity to vote in these elections electronically or by mail.

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Howard Jordan has taken over from Jennifer Bryan as the new Instructor Development Supervisor. Jennifer has moved to the National Refresher Committee where she has been busy writing articles, scenarios, questions, and developing presentation aids for this year's refresher topics.

IT / INSTRUCTOR LISTS

Lists for this year's Instructor Trainer (IT) appointments and their associated instructor assignments are available on the division web site. Go to <http://www.farwest.org/sitemap.htm> and select the PDF file for the list you would like to view. All members can use this list to find people within their patrol's to provide training and courses. Instructors and IT's should check the list to insure they know who they should be working with when scheduling courses, getting QA, instructor evaluations, and clinics for instructor renewal. Recommendations for reassignments should be sent to the Division Program Supervisors as the supervisors can update these lists at any time. Reappointment of IT's occurs annually for a one year term in November, while a portion of our instructors are renewed each year on a three year basis.

AWARDS SURVEY

A survey on the National Appointment and Leadership Commendation Award is on the NSP web site under "What's New." Go to https://www.nsp.org/nsp2002/member_services_template.asp?go=surv1 to provide your input.

DIVISION DIRECTORS MEETING

The Division Directors held a meeting in March to refine the role of the divisions for delivery of NSP education, training and credentialing programs. Associated changes will be taking place regarding selection processes, reporting relationships, and accountability. Other concepts under development include improvements in the member registration process, and a differentiation between recognition for skill related achievements and maintained skill levels. More information on these

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topics is being prepared, and will be presented throughout the year as they develop.

GROWTH OF PAID MEMBERS

The division has been making excellent progress having those paid patrollers previously not members of the NSP join the association. More ski areas in the west are viewing affiliation with the NSP and use of our education, training and credentialing programs as a good business move. During the past two seasons, a number of patrol departments have registered their paid staff geographically through the Far West Division. Squaw Valley recently finished registration and OEC training for its 63 paid patrollers as a new patrol in the NSP Professional Division. A number of other patrols are planning to follow with Far West Division geographic or NSP Professional Division registration

Submissions to the Peek

The Far West Division Patroller Peek invites you to submit general interest articles 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 are always welcomed and encouraged especially those taken of patrolling activities. 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.

FAR WEST DIVISION 2004 ELECTIONS

Janice Waits - Election Chair

I want to thank the 2004 Election Committee: Arron Walter, John Higgins, Lance Vaughan and Tim O'Brien for all of the time and a special thank you to our election web master, Christophe Marcant. Without Christophe, the electronic portion would have been a great deal more difficult.

Pursuant to the Far West Division Bylaws, (Article V, 5.3 and 5.12) as approved at the August 2003 Board meeting: Effective for the 2004 elections, the positions of Division Director, Assistant Division Director, or Region Directors are now to be elected by all registered patrollers in good standing.

This was the first opportunity for the general membership to be directly involved in the election process for Assistant Division Director using either a paper mail in ballot or by voting through the Division web site. There were two candidates, Ron Evenson and Chuck Herbert.

2,128 information letters/ballots

mailed out with the following return rate.

Web cast votes:	231
(10.86% - includes blank web votes)	
Mail in votes:	186
(8.74% - includes 4 write in's)	
Faxed in vote:	1
Invalid/not entered	15
(7.0% - not submitted to web site for entry no codes)	
Total returned	433
(20.35%)	

Ron Evenson was the successful candidate with a 57.97% ballot return rate. Ron will serve a two year term as Assistant Division Director, beginning May 1, 2004 through April 30, 2006.

By the time you receive this Patroller Peek issue, the results for the Region Director positions of Arizona, Mother Lode and Southern California will have been decided. Check the Division web site for election results after May 5. Those elections, and all future elections, will be conducted by e-mail, with limited paper ballots being mailed out. Please keep your address and e-mail information up to date on the National Web site.



Building an igloo in the Mountain Travel and Rescue Clinic

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Besides expert instruction, festival participants enjoyed generous use of demo equipment from the likes of Karhu, Rossignol, and Black Diamond; the chance to participate in the Giant Telly Turn, to compete in the All-Terrain Ski Race; to beat the clock in the Beacon Olympics; to feast at the evening banquet, and dance to the band "Akimbo".

The NSP was well-represented: for example, Ted Hullar, Avalanche Advisor for the MLR was among the instructors. The coveted Double Crown was taken by patrollers from Eastern Sierra Region's Tahoe Backcountry Ski Patrol. Patroller Paul Keating took a first in the Beacon Olympics, while NSPer Greg Speicher won the All-Terrain Ski Race. Next year, it could be the Mother Lode.

The below are "featured updates on two MLR ski patrols...

Patrolling An American Original: Soda Springs National Ski Patrol

Place yourself on a summit of 7,352 ft, then turn your gaze northeast upon 9,103 ft Castle peak with her distinctive exposed bed-rock flanks, known as "the ramparts". Then move your eye to the right and follow the dark double ribbon of US Interstate 80 heading east over Donner Pass to Truckee and Reno. Looking to the southeast over Lake Van Norden, the peaks of Sugarbowl, CrowsNest, Disney, and Lincoln beckon, then yield to the likes of Anderson and Tinkers Knob as the Sierra spine leads you to Squaw Valley and Lake Tahoe beyond. Continue your gaze clockwise, and Snow Mountain is seen in the distance, while in the foreground, smoke snakes up from the lodge snuggled on the far shore of Ice Lakes. Due east can be spied the distinctive black knife edge of Devil's Peak. View the tower-cluttered Signal Peak, as your delighted eye wanders back full circle to Andesite, Basin, once

again Castle Peak.

On such an inspiring site sits the bumpshack of Soda Springs National Ski Patrol. Soda Spring, a small compact ski area, seemingly forgotten in the shadows of more glamorous resorts, though far from forgotten in the memories of grandparents, parents, and expert skiers who have long since graduated from its tame slopes. Soda Springs is one of America's original ski resorts, established in 1931. Attracting early day adventurers outfitted in laced leather boots with wooden skis, Soda Springs was a popular destination accessed primarily by train. In recent days chair lifts have replaced tows, travel by automobile on multi-lane I-80 has replaced the California Zephyr, and the train station has been converted to boutiques, restaurants, and a hotel.

We like to do candidate training at the bumpshack. The peace and the serenity are conducive to education. You might find OEC Instructor and Senior Patroller Sandy Mill or Assistant Patrol Director Kevin Rautenstrauch guiding a candidate through a medical emergency scenario. Perhaps you'd see Fred Nason's kid Ryan, encased in a quiksplint, playing the patient, and protecting his ticklish parts. The bumpshack is the center for toboggan training, as well. Chief toboggan instructor Mike West, is always happy to oblige. A national appointment and former patrol director, Mike began his career at the rope tow served Signal Hill, now abandoned, behind the Sierra Club's Claire Tappan Lodge.

The serenity of the bumpshack lies in stark contrast to the darker activities happening below. The word "chaos" comes to mind. With two T-bar served tubing runs, the most extensive tubing facility in the Tahoe Donner area, the Soda Springs First Aid Room is assured a steady stream of medical incidents. The First Aid Room was nicely en-

hanced this season by Patrollers Bruce and Karyl Marlow with the installation of new radio and medical supplies cabinetry. A new resort management team of Sam Harris and Bill Collins, with their wide experience and competence, are making a noticeable impact in operational improvements, and have shown themselves to be very supportive of the national patrol.

The dimensions of Soda Springs Winter Resort encompass a skiable area of 200 acres, a modest vertical drop of 652 feet, a base of 6,700 feet, annual snowfall of 400 inches, lifts include one double chair, one triple chair, and two t-bars for tubing. Soda Spring possesses an extensive ski school and a rental shop. The resort was featured in November 2001 Ski Magazine article entitled "Little Gem".

During last winter season of 2002-2003, the six months between November 12, 2002 and April 12, 2003, 15 members of SSNSP volunteered their time to assist in the operation of Soda Springs Winter Resort. On average 4.35 patrollers staffed each of 52 calendar days, and on one day as many as 12 worked. Each of 15 patrollers, though required to put in a minimum of 12 days, averaged 15. Two patrollers served as many as 22 days each. Several Soda Spring's Patrollers completed training last season; four completed Avalanche I, and four attended Ski Enhancements seminars. As a patrol, Soda Springs NSP hosted an Avalanche I course, and plans during this season to host a Senior OEC Evaluation. For the 2003-2004 season, Patrol Director Gordon Mills was honored with the NSP Distinguished Service Award and the patrol itself was selected for the region's Outstanding Small Ski Patrol award.

The patrol is a small, though diverse group. We include pilots, nurses, therapists, health profes-

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sionals, computer professionals, teachers, small business owners, firefighters, freeheelers, mogul-mashers, EMT's, two candidates, three patroller couples, several kids, and one sweep dog. The family is expanding, however, as patroller Jill Otani is expecting! Submitted by Tom Sleckman

Dodge Ridge's Prospector Patrol growing!

Greetings from Prospector Ski Patrol at Dodge Ridge Ski Area! We enjoyed the best season opening of the new millennium. Cold Alaskan storms dumped tons of deep powder on Dodge Ridge Ski Area, just in time for the Christmas holiday. What a great way to ring in the New Year.

Our 2003/2004 candidate class started their ski and toboggan under the watchful eye of Mr. Mike Loy. They are doing great! They have many more practice days until their evaluation day in mid March. For this season we added a new candidate training advisor. Mrs. Karin Murray is the acting candidate advisor (guidance counselor) and she helps each candidate keep track of senior and first aid room days.

Our patrol is the largest in the Mother Lode Region with over 100 registered patrollers. In keeping with our long tradition of ongoing patroller development, there are over 21 candidates in this year's Senior program. For the past two years, Steve Christensen was the candidate ski and toboggan advisor and has now changed roles and is currently the senior advisor. Our patrol will be hosting a Senior ski and toboggan clinic this year. Everyone that has questions or interest about the Senior program, please contact Steve Christensen.

I was going through the old Prospector Ski Patrol files that were handed down to me from Lance

Vaughan. It was interesting to read through the many years' of files, documents and learn about our patrol history. I came across a Modesto Ski Patrol roster which caught my eye. Our patrol was originally the Modesto Ski Patrol and we became the Prospector Ski Patrol years ago because Dodge Ridge was slated to change their name to Prospector Ski Area. That never happened and we retained the Prospector Ski Patrol name.

On the Modesto Ski Patrol roster were the names of Mr. Jere Woodhead, Mrs. Mary Ross, Mr. Bill Pohl, Mr. Vernon Hern and Mr. LeRoy Giovannoni.

This group of patrollers is on the mountain most every weekend, active, involved and have the same level of commitment as a first year newbie. The interesting thing about the roster is that it listed the year each of these patrollers started their patrol career. This group of patrollers has a total of 187 years of on hill experience! This is a testament to our patrol and the wealth of information and experience available from our members is unsurpassed. This is the reason this is why we are one of the finest patrols in the National Ski Patrol system.

NSP Members Services

Visit member services on line at www.nsp.org for a variety of services available to you. Among those services available are:

- Current Newsletters
- Update Personal Information
- Catalogue Sales
- Online Order information
- Refresher Guides
- Member Forums
- Education Information
- Course Calendars

Join us up at Dodge Ridge, with over 800 skiable acres, eight chair lifts and some of the greatest Sierra scenery and spectacular sunshine. We'll join you on our relatively new Chair 8 that accesses pretty Boulder Creek Canyon, and maybe enjoy a tall one at the end of sweep! Submitted by Dave Boyd, NSP patrol leader.


Hope you can use some or all of this!

Tim Viall

Email: tviall@msn.com



Practicing ropework at MTR clinic.



MEMBER SERVICES

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Far West Division Summer Conference
July 31st - August 1st
Reno, Nevada

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The Patroller Peek

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