



The Patroller Peek

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

Spring 2005 Edition

Far West Progress and Change

Ray Bryan - Division Director

This time for our next Director to take a turn at running the Far West Division. I have spent the last four years as your Division Director, and the eight prior years as Assistant Division Director, and have been a part of the National Board of Directors for 9 of those years. This time has provided a tremendous opportunity for me to contribute to the continued success of this association. And now I am pleased to hand the operation of the Division over to Steve Francisco. Steve has been serving as Assistant Division Director for the past four years and was elected this spring to become Division Director. His post begins June 1; please join me in welcoming Steve to his new role.

Although very positive changes have been taking place within the Division during the

past few years, the fundamentals impacting the everyday patroller remain the same. We must keep the value of an NSP membership relevant in the industry because NSP training enables members put on their equipment - snowboard, alpine or telemark - and patrol, and in return receive pay or gratitude from the snowsports area.

And this highlights a couple of things that have changed in recent years. Snowboarding. Patrols no longer have mostly skiers and a few snowboarders - rather this ratio is changing. I too have been swept up in this change. This season I spent half of each patrol day on my skis and the other on my snowboard. Paid Patrollers are another change. The number of patrol departments in the West wanting their paid staff to have NSP credentials is on the rise.

Some of our recent accomplishments



within the Division include:

- Significant Increase in the number of Paid Patrollers as Members. The proportion of paid to volunteer members has become much more representative of the true mix within the Division. Individuals and entire

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Stepping Up To The Plate

By Steven Francisco - FWD Director Elect

I would like the opportunity to say thank you to Ray Bryan for all his hard work and dedication he has extended the past four years as the Far West Division Director. He is leaving a very large footprint to follow and a very highly respected position to fill. I wish to say thanks Ray for your patience in mentoring me and I will do my best to make you proud.

So I am requesting you, the members of the Division for your support in the coming year as your new Far West Division Director. Some of you know me personally, others by reputation and some not at all. For those who I cannot speak with directly, I would like the opportunity to share my thoughts, beliefs and hopes for the Division as your Division Director.

LOCAL HILLS AND THE ROLE OF MANAGEMENT

Let's talk for a moment about our LOCAL concerns. I have been a member of NSP for 30 years and have held positions of responsibility on the patrol for most of



those years. Yes, I remember the fun times and the days when we, as patrollers, basically ran the hill. We had a lot of responsibilities and we took them on with great pride. Some patrollers may feel those days have long since disappeared.

Respectfully, I disagree. We still have great responsibilities and we still take a great deal of pride in the work we do.

Nowadays, we must work and patrol for Management as well. We have a responsibility to Management to be well trained and to carry out their policies at their hills. Our instructors have a huge responsibility to teach NSP programs and certify all NSP patrollers to the highest NSP standards. We still train and certify, but Management ultimately bears liability for "running" the patrol. This coordination between two cultures is a bigger responsibility than what some of us used to see as our role. Each hill's managing authority may want something slightly different at their hill, and this is an area in which I am very strong. I've been a patroller for a long time, but I have also been an Area Manager.

I can and have helped to make sure that

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NSP officers are fulfilling our responsibility to make sure that all programs are delivered, when and where Management as well as the local patrollers want them. We also need to make sure that the instructors, overseen by local IT's are doing their part. It is my desire and intent to make sure all of this occurs in an easy and efficient manner. No one likes to jump through hoops. We are here to work as a team and building strong teams is my forte.

ABILITY TO WORK ON A REGIONAL/DIVISION LEVEL

Ray Bryan has done a great job as Division Director generally, and specifically in pushing for local delivery. Having been Ray's Assistant Division Director for three years, I would like to think I have had a hand in helping deliver these programs. It is my goal to continue on the path that Ray has set forth, and personally, I would like to make him and all of you proud of the time invested in mentoring me.

This past December, with Ray, I attended the Division Director meeting in Denver. I had the opportunity to meet with the other DD's and with the National Program Supervisors. I was able to exchange views and ideas with many of them. I was also able to hear from the Program Supervisors on the future of their programs and what they expect from the DD's. I also spent one-on-one time with Bill Sachs on the DD's role and what he is expecting. Apparently, I am on the same page with all of them.

I have spent a lot of time learning and educating myself on the position, duties, and responsibilities of the Division Director. I do not take the responsibility lightly. I will represent you, our members at large, and our Division to the best of my ability. I hope to make you all proud of our Division.

COMMITMENT TO NSP

It is my belief that the NSP is the number one resource available for ski areas and land managers to meet their training needs. We have the best programs and the best instructors in the programs that we deliver. I feel very strongly that we need to let those managers see this powerful delivery at the closest level possible, at their hill, with their instructors.

We must also continue to educate, indoctrinate and deliver a well-trained patroller to each and every hill. To do this we need dedicated leaders and instructors. We also need to follow the NSP Policies and Procedures and Quality Management Programs as set forth by the National Board. Straying from or bending those policies puts our instructors and leaders at risk. I do not want to see any of our members in that situation. My goals have been, and will always be to look out for the member. That is the person paying their dues, choosing to learn our programs and wanting to be properly prepared to patrol at their chosen area. I have worked tirelessly for many years to protect and improve the NSP standards and to outreach to others in the skiing community who have not yet embraced the NSP philosophy.

The past year I have spent a lot of time and energy with NSP partners and potential NSP partners helping them understand our role. This has gone a long way in building the current relationship with one of our partners. I have also spent time dealing with Management at another hill, educating them on the role and the benefits of the NSP. This will, I believe, result in another mountain joining the NSP family shortly.

ENTHUSIASM AND TIRELESSNESS

My passion for this great organization might sometimes seem overly enthusiastic to some. But I will never stop putting the National Ski Patrol on my first page. Many of you

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Division Administration & Staff**Division Director**

Ray Bryan

Asst. Division Directors

Steve Francisco

Ron Evenson

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Stephen Simi - Arizona Region

Tim O'Brien - Eastern Sierra Region

Ken Bergmann - Mother Lode Region

Bill Gibson - No. California Region

Jerry Muszynski - So. California Region

Rich Bailey - Professional Patrollers

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Dave Ritchie - Awards

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Howard Jordan - Instructor Development

Robert Parkhurst - Mountaineering

Gwynne Pugh - Nordic

Lance Vaughan - Toboggan

Keith Tatsukawa - OEC

David Rhodes - Certified Committee

FAR WEST DIVISION ELECTION RESULTS

Farwest Division recently held elections for Division director and assistant director. Congratulations to new Board members: Steve Francisco - Division Director and Stephen Simi Assistant Division Director.

The ballot returned information as follows. A total of 44 e-mail ballot notifications were sent to eligible voting members in good standing of the Far West Division, based on the October 2004 FWD Bylaws revision to electorate.

How the Voting Went

E-mail addresses were provided by the National Office, with additional e-mail clarifications and corrections made based on region rosters. Questioned or non-receipt e-mails were responded to within 48 hours with correct voting information.

Web cast votes: 27
(61% return rate)

Mail in votes: 0
Invalid-Not Entered: 1
Total returned: 28.

Steve Francisco was the successful candidate for Division Director with the following results:

Steve Francisco : 14 (51.8%)
Tim O'Brien: 13 (48.2%)
Write-in: 0
Total Cast: 27 (100%)

Stephen Simi was the successful candidate for Assistant Division Director with the following results:

Stephen Simi: 15 (55.5 %)
Steve Newman 12 (44.5 %)
Write-in: 0
Total Cast: 27 (100 %)

Congratulations to both Steve Francisco and Stephen Simi!



2005 WOMEN'S PROFICIENCY CLINIC ONCE AGAIN A SUCCESS!

Trudy Nye, Heavenly Resort

On February 27, the 8th Annual Women's Proficiency Clinic was held at Heavenly Resort. Twenty-three women from the Eastern Sierra and Mother Lode Regions participated in half-day sled and half-day ski seminars. (Two other ladies showed up but were turned away after we discovered they were two Heavenly Patrollers in disguise!) The clinic took the women for two runs down East Bowl, a difficult black diamond with lots of moguls. Several of the participants had never run a sled on a slope of this caliber, but performed well. The group had fun and learned techniques for safely running a sled in such terrain.



IT's for the clinic were myself and Leilani Connolly-Anderson. The group broke for lunch and then three PSIA Level III instructors for 3-hours of instruction. One group worked on carving turns, another on bumps and off-piste trees, and the third took a tour through Mott Canyon and some extremely challenging terrain. The weather was great and the group had the chance to not only improve their sled handling and skiing skills, but were able to get to know each other better.

The Women's Proficiency Clinic is held every year on the weekend in February. Contact Trudy Nye at nye@crpusd.sonomal.edu if you have questions.

Boreal Patrol Acts Quickly To Save Life!

Matt Menard, Asst. Ski Patrol Director

Outstanding work was done by Boreal Ski Patrol members at Boreal Ski Area, just off Donner Pass, on Sunday November 21, 2004. I am fortunate to have witnessed what I feel was the most professional level of patrolling I have ever been associated with. Please allow me to recognize the patrollers that were a part of this incredible day and the events that took place.

The day started off with an overwhelming amount of work to be done on the mountain. All patrollers (AJ Chmura, Bill Davies, Charlene and Eric

McLaughlin, Ondrej Vesley, Hans-Peter Baier, Judy Decker, and Doug Angove) divided up and went to work; roping off snow guns in high winds and freezing cold temperatures. They were at it for hours and never once complained. Our leader for the day, Ondrej Vesley (512) handled his responsibilities with true professionalism. After we got a handle on the hill, it wasn't

long before the big call came down.

At approximately 1:30 pm the call came in to Patrol Standby for a person having seizures at the bottom of Gunnar's. AJ Chmura was the first patroller on scene and led our team through one of the most amazing calls I have ever been involved in: an 18 year old male, full arrest, CPR initiated. AJ, Bill Davies, Chad Onthank, Hans-Peter Baier, Charlene McLaughlin, Rachel Gaynor (TFH RN), and myself, attended to this incident. AJ and Chad initiated CPR and soon thereafter the AED was applied. The patient was in ventricular fibrillation and we delivered one shock with the AED which converted the patient back to a perfusing heart rhythm with pulses. The patient was handed over to DSHD, intubated, and flown to Washoe Medical Center by Care Flight.

There are many details that I have left out due to my lack of time in writing this email. The point I want to express is the

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FWD Toboggan Program

2005 Season Comes to Successful Close

*Lance Vaughan, Far West Division
Transportation Supervisor*

Another patrolling year draws to a close and most of us will carry fond memories of this season. I even heard from many Toboggan instructors who wished for a few weekends of less new snow so they could clinic with toboggans in firmer conditions instead of another weekend competing with powder conditions on the hill. I had a chance to visit several patrols and Regions this season to observe Toboggan training in action. I am pleased to see the dedication, enthusiasm and interest projected by the local Toboggan instructor teams. We have a talented pool of instructors with a passion for sharing their knowledge.

Across the Division, FWD Toboggan Instructors held many seminars this season, the most popular - Ski Enhancement and Toboggan Enhancement Seminars. Let your local toboggan instructors know of your interest and training needs so we can supply a course in your area.

Our instructors offered creative formats to help you learn, including: weekend clinics, three day clinics of Ski Enhancement Seminars and Toboggan Enhancement Seminars, and Women's Clinics.

We are here to educate and help you better serve the skiing/snowboarding public and your resort. Please help us, help you.

I attended PowderFall this spring at Snowbird, a terrific chance to ski a great mountain with excellent PSIA instruction. Seminars were offered focusing on Toboggan handling skills, and I had a chance to observe skills and techniques for Toboggan operation. I am pleased to see the FWD program is in step with skills and techniques in use at several of the Big Western Resorts such as Vail, Park City, Snowbird, and Jackson Hole. The new ski technology available to us today permits

easier and more stable access to a broader range of conditions and terrain than the "old" (more than four years old) equipment some of us are still skiing on. Start saving for a new pair of skis, you will be very surprised how the newer technology free skis and how they ski in the handles. PowderFall is worth the effort to attend, besides great skiing/snowboarding terrain, we were treated to a day of powder in late April.

The FWD website has Toboggan Instructors and Instructor Trainers listed for each area in the Division. Please consult this listing, contact the instructors at your area and request the seminars your patrol needs. Don't wait until the fall to make your requests, many regional calendars are established in the summer or early fall, and weekends and resources are often allocated by opening day. We will do our best to get the seminars needed or requested at a location near you, as resources allow. The FWD Toboggan team will update the resource list pairings over the summer and post the information in late July on the FWD website.

Current Toboggan instructors please visit the NSP website and ensure your address and email are updated with your current contact information. The FWD Board supplied each Toboggan instructor with a copy of the new Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET) manual (formerly called The Toboggan Manual). This teaching tool contains great examples of Alpine, Nordic and Snowboard drills and techniques to improve patroller skills. Please utilize this teaching resource and tools in your seminars next season.

The best way to improve skills is getting a sled behind you, getting out and training with a Toboggan instructor. Make sure you get out next season, run a sled, and refresh your skills with several runs; one never knows when we will get the radio call to drive a sled to an accident scene, perhaps in unfavorable conditions.

Interested in joining the OET instructor

team? Not sure whom to contact to start your training process?

1. Start at the FWD website, or your region website.
2. Check the training calendar for Instructor Development courses and enroll.
3. Locate the Toboggan instructor list for your patrol.
4. Contact a Toboggan instructor on your patrol, your patrol Toboggan Instructor Trainer, your Patrol Representative, your Region Toboggan advisor, or myself.

We will help you start the mentoring program, by pairing you with a skilled instructor to start learning how to teach Toboggan skills and Clinics.

Each of us learned our Toboggan skills from Toboggan instructors as we started our patrolling careers. Please consider the Toboggan program as a way to share knowledge and skills with new patrollers, increase your activity in your patrol and add new skills to yourself.

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.



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departments are becoming members because of the value provided by NSP education, training and credentials in the industry. As this happens, more paid patrollers are getting involved in instructional and administrative positions. Everyone is a beneficiary in this trend.

- **Increased Interaction with the Industry** We are now much more active with our industry partners, including stronger relationships with the California Ski Area Association (CSIA), the Association of Professional Patrollers (APP), and individual resort management. A recent survey of key management contacts has provided valuable feedback about NSP program offerings.

- **Focus on Delivery.** An increasing focus has been placed on the crucial elements of each layer of our delivery network - from the supervision of personnel at the Division level to the delivery of content by local instructors. We have demonstrated a repeated financial commitment to getting the latest educational materials produced and into the hands of every instructor as soon as they become available. We have improved the quality of our programs to ensure they are 'waling the talk' in terms of proper curriculum and adherence to delivery guidelines.

- **Member Perceptions and the Value of NSP Deliverable.** We have put continued emphasis on educating our members about what NSP is today and what it provides the member, and the value of their NSP credentials in the marketplace. Progress is evident in the improvement of how our members portray NSP to management and peers. We are even making progress in differentiating between the proper use of locally held funds and expenses to be borne by the snowsports area as a for-profit operation with obligations to the needs of its customers.

- **Communications.** This is a goal waiting to be met. From my perspective, communications is the Achilles heal of this association. We must find better means of communicating in order for our true potential as an Association to be achieved.

Thanks for the opportunity to have served as your Division Director.

Ray Bryan

NSP Summer Conference Las Vegas, Nevada August 5-7, 2005

This year's conference will be held at the Westin Causaurina Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. A boutique style hotel, it is 1/2 block from the 'Strip' and new Monorail stations. It is a pet-friendly hotel with Westin's signature "heavenly bed" for you and your pet. A small casino and restaurant are offered on-site, and world-class dining is only a few blocks away.



Las Vegas is an easy flight destination for our membership and we are hoping for a large turnout. Members not associated with patrol management, this is an excellent chance to attend and observe excellent guest speakers - Bill Sachs, our National Chairman, Bill Spialek, Director of Education Programs, and others will be in attendance this year. Look for other informative programs to be announced in the coming weeks. Vendors will be on-site for equipment ideas and purchases.

Additional program details will be release on the Division website - www.farwest.org. Registration forms will be posted; you may print the form and mail with a check to the address provided. Hotel reservations are on your own and the pricing for the hotel is \$109.00/night. This will be a terrific experience this summer and we hope all members will take the opportunity to attend. Program coordinators are Lin and Theresa Werkheiser and Daniel Orr. For questions and comments, please contact Lin at linwe@cox.net, or call (602) 906-1525.

WESTIN CASAURINA CASINO HOTEL

The Westin is a 4 star property only a block from the Las Vegas "Strip" and a new Monorail stop. The hotel features Westins popular "Heavenly Bed" in a boutique style setting with a Health Club/Spa and a rooftop pool.

Close to the airport and the amenities of Las Vegas, it offers a great opportunity to learn about the operation of our Division under the new leadership of Division Director Steve Francisco and Asst. DD Stephen Simi while enjoying all that Las Vegas has to offer in travel convenience and fun.

Room cost is \$109/night plus applicable taxes. Reservations can be made now by calling 702-836-9775. Let them know that you are with National Ski Patrol in order to get the proper rate. You can see more of the hotel at www.westin.com/lasvegas

Banquet cost will be \$45/pp with a cash bar and is sure to be a meal you will not forget. Conference attendance cost will be \$30 as in past years. We will continue the vendor area started last year, hopefully with more selections for you to see. Please let Lin know if you have a request for a particular kind of vendor.

Look for a registration form on the web site shortly.

OEC - Far West Division Patrollers

By Kieth Tatsukawa

What a record-breaking season for snowfall! Along with great snow this season, we, as a Division, have had a great OEC season. Between five regions, close to 40 OEC refreshers were completed, 46 OEC courses or challenges were taught, and many Senior Scene Management finals were performed.

Richard Kunz and George Pales have instituted a technique for the standing backboard using only two patrollers rather than the normal three. In situations where there are only two patrollers available, or the patroller stabilizing the head from behind the backboard is short, this a terrific alternative. Richard Kunz and Stephen Simi would like to hear feedback on this maneuver. It is an accepted manner for the



standing backboard used by EMT's in the Arizona First Responder community.

Mike Gunning, upcoming Southern California ROA and John Prosser have developed a monthly region OEC Newsletter via e-mail and online. This newsletter keeps OEC Instructors up to date on all OEC courses, challenges and Senior activities, as well as updates and upcoming programs for the futures. A total of 16 OEC courses/challenges were run in the Southern California Region. Outstanding Job to Everyone!

Barbara Hickman, ROA for the Motherlode Region reports a really exciting OEC season. Kicked off by a large cast of 30 OEC candidates and a total of close to

100 patrollers and support staff to run an OEC final in the Piedmont area. Many attended this extravaganza and it was a choreographed, well-practiced ballet. The timing and stations flowed flawlessly. An OEC Instructor's update was offered at the end of the long day and was still very well attended by Instructors and potential instructors alike.

Bill Person, first year ROA for Eastern Sierra Region had quite a season as well. With 10 OEC courses/challenges completed this season, he is now looking for a CO-IOR for the San Jose course. Please contact Bill at bill@billperson.org for more information.

Northern California, under the leadership of Frank Saylor, reported 2 OEC refreshers and 1 OEC course this past season. Like the others, Frank has been working very hard on bringing all hills in his Region up-to-date with Quality Assurance issues.

A discussion with OEC RA's in the Far West Division this season revealed some comments worth repeating.

Could there be a 2-week advance course registration requirement for OEC courses?

Can it be required for the Far West Division to have their IT's listed before an OEC course is registered?

Quality Assurance issues were raised and therefore it is necessary for an IT to attend every OEC Challenge Course, especially when attendees include a patroller with at least one-year in lapsed refresher cycles.

ROA's need to have access to the OEC database.

As my first year as the Far West Division OEC Supervisor, I have accomplished some of my goals for trying to make the OEC Division a smaller world for us all. I have made some gains towards improving communications with all of the OEC ROA's. I hope to improve communication and accountability during the 05-06 season. I plan on visiting the various regions, scheduling conference calls, forwarding

newsletters, in hopes of keeping everyone information. I hope to better serve all of the Far West Division OEC Technicians.



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have witnessed how I can fight to alleviate member frustrations and help them get their programs off and running on their hills. If I can't do it myself, I'm the first one to get on the phone and make those calls to notify the people who can! Yes, I'm a bulldog. Yes, that may annoy some, but most of you would say that if you were going to be stranded on a desert island, you'd want me along.

So will there be changes? Yes, certainly. Do these changes come from Division or National? Yes, from both. National gives us Policies, Procedures and Guidelines to follow. The Division makes certain that we are following those Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.

I know there is a strong Division Board and we have a great group of Region Directors. I look forward to working with them all. I will keep all RD's, Supervisors, and Patrol Rep's current with the latest information in our Division. I will also ask of you to contact me on a regular basis with your questions and concerns. Patrol Reps must know what is happening, and I intend to make that a priority.

Communication is #1. I am continuously working hard to become a better communicator, a wiser leader and a team member who is able to carefully analyze the best course of action in every situation.

I want you to be proud of your leadership and the Far West Division. We are strong and we must be respected.

*Thank you for your time and your support,
- Stephen Francisco*

The Deposition Zone

2004-2005 Avalanche Statistics

Mike Laney - FWD Avalanche Supervisor

As of this writing, 28 avalanche incidents have been reported in the U.S. by www.avalanche.org. Two of them in Far West Division territory, and all have taken place in out-of-bounds localities.



Winter resorts are growing in popularity as departure points for backcountry travel. Roads which may not provide access to resorts, may be access points to snow parks and other points of departure for snowmobilers. Who will most likely be contacted for first response to an avalanche incident? Yep, it will be the nearest ski patrol. And as a results of increased Search and Rescue (SAR) involvement, more members of my patrol are switching to telemark or randonee equipment in order to better access the backcountry.

But ability to travel into the backcountry does not necessarily prepare patrollers for avalanche search and rescue. Avalanches do not discriminate between recreationalists and rescuers. The survival rate for getting caught in an avalanche is dismal. Consider the numbers for this season alone: 42 caught, 25 buried, 29 killed. Three of the survivors were severely injured. The numbers translate roughly to this: If caught, I stand a 31% chance of surviving; if buried I stand a 2% chance of surviving. I don't need to be buried to be killed. Bottom line: I don't want to be caught.

That, gentle reader, needs to be the focus of our avalanche training. We all need to be ready to respond to nearby avalanche incidents in hopes of a live rescue. We must also be prepared to get there safely. Our courses address both of those considerations, and in an outstanding fashion.

2004-05 Avalanche Training

In response to a growing interest in out-of-bounds recreation and fatalities, we have seen a corresponding rise in interest for avalanche training. This season, we conducted one Avalanche Awareness course, twelve level 1 courses and two Level 2 courses. I was able to attend several of these courses and received student evaluation feedback from most of the others.

The quality of these courses was impressive. Evaluation comments were very positive; the most common suggestions for improvement were along the lines of "we need more route finding, beacon practice, etc." Participants tended to want more of certain things, but not less of anything. In short, we are doing very well and we have identified ways to get better.

It is also interesting to note that we are enrolling greater numbers of non-NSP members. The word is getting out that we deliver a top-quality product



at a tremendous value compared with commercial providers.

Besides meeting or exceeding industry-wide education standards, we also have more widespread availability and a price that cannot be beat.

NSP Avalanche Instructors

The quality of our courses is due to the quality of our instructors. Avalanche instructor certification is rigorous; it takes

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several seasons to accomplish. This is true for all NSP instructorships, but the technical aspects of teaching in the field, on actual avalanche terrain adds another dimension to the importance of doing everything right. Every skill is a potential lifesaving skill, not only for the victim, but for the rescuer as well. Certification of instructorship is not taken lightly -- it represents uncountable hours of dedicated study, experience and hard work.

I would therefore like to take some column space to publicly acknowledge and thank our small team for doing a big job so well. They are:

Arizona Region

- Tammy Fountain
- Bill Hudson
- Mike Koehlmoos (Region Administrator)
- Glenn Minuth
- Henry Truebe

Eastern Sierra Region

- Phil Chernin
- Eric Chesmar
- Kelly Donnelly
- Mike Kelly
- Bob Morrey

- Bob Morrow
- Don Shockey

Mother Lode Region

- Rich Bailey
- Tom Duffy
- Ted Hullar (Region Administrator)
- Mike Laney
- Tom Moore
- Charles Shafer
- Steve Shields

Southern California Region

- Larry Coady
- Eric Diem
- Gary Larson
- Cash Murphey
- Steve Newman
- Jeff Pierce (Region Administrator)
- Steve Reneker
- Aaron Walters
- Ken Wolff

Help us to better serve you. If you want to take an avalanche course next season, tell your NSP patrol representative. Doing this now allows your patrol representative to influence course availability for the following season, since Region master schedules are usually prepared in the summer. Next,

check your region's newsletter, web site or the NSP web site for course offerings. This way you get course information early and can work your patrolling schedule around your training schedule, not vice-versa.

Attend the Annual Tri-Advisory



Conference. If you are an Avalanche, MTR or Nordic instructor (or thinking of becoming one), this is a "must attend" event. It will be held at Yosemite Bug resort outside of Yosemite National Park on November 5-6, 2005. It features top quality speakers, breakout sessions, hands-on clinics and entertainment. It qualifies as continuing education for NSP instructor recertification. Lodging and meals are available on site at reasonable prices with camping nearby. Mark your calendars now. More details to follow in the Fall edition of the Peek.

Finally, farewell

By the time you read this article, Eric Diem will be the new FWD Avalanche Program Supervisor. Eric is a most capable and dedicated member of our team and I'm confident that he will support and develop the program in an outstanding manner.

For me, holding this position has been a fascinating, challenging and rewarding experience; an opportunity to grow personally and professionally. In some ways I'll miss it, but I also look forward to being able to contribute to the NSP Avalanche Program in other ways. Have a wonderful summer and a great 2005-06 season.

CERTIFIED PROGRAM

The Association of Professional Patrollers (APP) administers the Certified Program in Southern California. You will need to become a member of the APP along with your NSP membership to participate in this program. The certified patroller is the highest trained patroller at any ski area in the United States. The APP holds clinics several times per year. There is a series of four to eight mid-winter clinics held at various resorts in the western states. Each of these clinics is attended by 12-36 patrollers and lasts for one or two days. Each spring there is a large clinic attended by 150 to 250 patrollers that lasts for four days. To become a certified patroller you must pass the grading in all of the following areas.

Risk Management, Hill Safety, Rope Rescue, Sleds, Skiing, Avalanche, Transceivers, Explosives, Medical

To find out more about the requirements to pass each area of expertise go to www.propatrollers.org and click the link for APP Certification Program or contact your patrol representative or your region Certified Program administrator.



SENIOR OEC - NOT A BETTER BANDAID

By Stephen Simi

Multiple patients, multiple injuries was the order of the day slope-side in Arizona this season. Seven patients and five instructors converged to conduct a training event to assist other patrol members in their quest to become more qualified scene management leaders. At Sunrise Ski Park, located in Arizona's White Mountains, a hill full of injured guests awaited as



the senior candidates progress from the top of the hill to the bottom. Participants were paired in teams of two and met the injured as they exited the lift. They were forced to step over two patients knocked unconscious by the chair.

Quick calls were in order because the next chair was loaded with customers and fast approaching. The scene was unsafe and getting more confused with each turn of the



bull-wheel. As the lift operator screamed guests were approaching, an axis drag was required to protect all responders and patients involved, once the lift was halted. These were unresponsive patients

with spinal injury suspected and only two patrollers on hand. These are the elements which make up the Senior Scene Management exam.

Twenty minutes are allowed per scene with 5 minutes for brief from evaluators.



Once completed the candidates were off with toboggan in tow for another scenario. Scenarios ranged from over-the-side snowmobile accidents and high-speed collisions to falls from the lift.

Scenes are complete with moulage, thanks to Southern Arizona Rescue Assoc. (SARA). SARA uses OEC as their baseline medical credentialing. Injuries such as open abrasions and fractures and mock bleeders were made to look real.

The day began with a warm-up round where head-to-toe patient assessments were conducted in the Patrol Room. This



environment was useful in assessing each candidates OEC skill level. A second warm-up, more complex was completed and included a spinal injury exercise where full c-spine precautions were taken. The warm-ups serve to reduce pre-test jitters and allow for on-the-hill exercises to be focused on observing the candidates lead-

ership and scene management skills.

It is a test situation designed to tax decision-making, problem management, and leadership skills of patrollers when faced with complex scenes. It is not a better band-aid, just better management of the



band-aid's application.

For those wishing to conduct a Senior Scene Management test on their hill, it is likened to a full-blown OEC refresher - requiring all the resources and coordination. For additional information, it is outlined in The Ski Patroller's Manual section titled Senior OEC located on pages 144-148, with accompanying Senior OEC exercises in Appendix G.

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.

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*. Original digital photos may 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 welcome and encouraged, especially those taken of patrolling activities. Pictures may be sent as .jpeg, .jpg and .tif. You may also send us photographic prints. The Patroller Peek can only return submissions if they are received with a stamped and self addressed envelope



Plywood Leroy & Jere Patrol Dodge Ridge Slopes!

By Tim Viall

The Leroy and Jere twins are back monitoring the congested areas of Dodge Ridge ski area. "Plywood Leroy and Jere" are lifesize cut-outs of veteran patrollers Leroy Giavononi and Jere Woodhead. The plywood replicas were designed a few years back to catch the attention of the skiing public while suggesting they slow down in high-traffic areas where some of the busiest runs at Dodge Ridge converge.

About a year ago, the original plywood LeRoy was kidnapped. A ransom was issued - two cases of Budweiser to Bear Valley Ski Patrol. Shortly after the note was sent, Dodge Ridge patrollers demanded proof LeRoy had not been used as firewood before entering into negotiations to get him safely back home. Proof was sent and a brave Dodge Ridge patroller went to Bear Valley with ransom in hand, only to learn LeRoy had been taken to Sugar Bowl. Against his will, we all assumed, because LeRoy had always been a faithful member of the Dodge Ridge Ski Patrol.

Bear Valley Patrol has been seeking witnesses to an alleged life-sized dummy placement onto a chairlift. Bear Valley Patrollers mistook the figure for a frozen guest. Pranksters filled Bear Valley trail map dispensers with Dodge Ridge maps. "And we want to know just how DODGE RIDGE got spray painted into the snow

and why there are Dodge Ridge bumper stickers all over the place," questioned one Bear Valley Patroller. As with the much-publicized Hearst kidnapping case, LeRoy's kidnappers reported LeRoy liked it better with Bear Valley and would like to join their patrol. The last communication from a Sugar Bowl patroller who only identify himself as "Frank," claimed LeRoy had taken a road



trip to Lake Tahoe and wouldn't be coming home for along while. Meanwhile, LeRoy's long-time companion, Plywood Jere went missing.

After several failed rescue attempts, the two twins were replicated and back on Dodge Ridge slopes for the 04-05 season. Properly guarded and locked up at night to prevent future kidnappings. The twins enjoyed this season's powder thoroughly!

2005 DIVISION SUMMER CONFERENCE

Las Vegas Nevada

Details on Page 5

Boreal - Continued on page 3

outstanding job that ALL of the NSP did on that brutal Sunday, even those that were not directly involved with the call. AJ should be recognized for his INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCE on this call as well as his tremendously hard work in completing the Accident Investigation that took him until after 5pm to complete. Additionally, I want to thank Charlene, Eric, Ondrej, and everyone else who really stepped up when it was time for sweep and pulling all those rope lines back in the freezing cold at the end of the day.

Our management, Hank, and myself are extremely proud of the high level of professionalism that was displayed on Sunday. It was an honor for me to work

with such an outstanding team of patrollers and you should all be proud of yourselves and the job that you did. This incident has drawn much attention to us. I have been answering many phone calls. Everyone wants to know what happened, and everyone wants to see our data card printout. In regards to our patient: well, we saved his life. He was admitted to Washoe in Critical condition and immediately placed on life-support systems. I just received an update from the hospital that he has improved to serious but stable condition and they hope to take him off the ventilator and extubate him some time today. His family is with him now and he even opened his eyes today. The hospital staff wanted me to let all of you know what a great job you

all did. They are convinced that it was the quick and professional response from our ski patrol that saved our patient's life. They have never seen anything like this and even the cardiologists are dumbfounded. He is getting the best possible treatment and keep your fingers crossed for him.

On Sunday November 21, 2004, the Boreal National Ski Patrol and the Boreal Professional Ski Patrol made a difference and saved the life of a young man. Congratulations to all of you for a job VERY WELL DONE. Respectfully submitted, Matt Menard, Asst. Ski Patrol Director (reprinted from the MLR's Patroller Connection newsletter).

MTR Spring Update

Robert Parkhurst, FWD Mountain Travel and Rescue Supervisor

We had an impressive season. There were over 130 students enrolled in six Mountain Travel and Rescue (MTR) classes throughout the Division. This past season we have seen a several classes in new locations: This means the likelihood of a class being offered at your resort is highly likely.

We are looking to continue to expand our offerings in the upcoming season. In particular we are looking for patrollers who have taken MTR1 and Avalanche and are interested in taking MTR 2.



We are looking to continue to expand our offerings in the upcoming season. In particular we are looking for patrollers who have taken MTR1 and Avalanche and are interested in taking MTR 2.

This class will expand your backcountry knowledge and enable you to be a strategic asset to Search and Rescue teams. With more

of our resorts "softening" their boundaries, we are seeing an increase of individuals becoming lost. NSP participation is critical to educating and finding these individuals.

In addition, we are looking to expand offerings of the MTR Fundamentals class. If the primary barrier in enrolling in MTR1 is sleeping outside, this class is the answer for you. It will introduce you to basic search theory, map and compass skills, and wilderness survival. These skills are critical if you have ever found yourself lost in your outdoor pursuits.

As the snow melts, I would encourage all of you to take some time this summer to explore the fabulous wilderness that we have such incredible access to in California. While there, think about what would happen if you became lost. What would you do? Where would you find shelter? How would you make it easier for people to find you? These are the core issues we address in the MTR program and they can be applied during any season.

We look forward to seeing you in our classes or out there in the wilderness.

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL AND RESCUE FUNDAMENTALS

This course provides students with the knowledge and skills to travel in reasonable comfort and safety in an outdoor environment and to assist in search and rescue. It is primarily taught in the classroom with outdoor application so students can demonstrate proficiency in an outdoor setting.

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL & RESCUE 1

Also known by its abbreviated name MTR1, This course provides students with the knowledge and skills to travel and work in reasonable safety and comfort in the outdoor environment and to be an asset to a search and/or rescue team, including possible overnight operations. Field practice includes practice in navigation, travel, survival, basic search and/or rescue exercises, and an overnight campout.

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL & RESCUE 2

Known as MTR2, This course provides students with the knowledge and skills to complete more difficult field operations and to assist in the coordination of search and/or rescue operations that may extend over several days. Field practice includes advanced navigation skills, extended patient care, and advanced search and rescue situations.

PREREQUISITES: Mountain and Avalanche Awareness is not a recognized prerequisite. Mountain Travel and Rescue Fundamentals, Mountain Travel and Rescue 1, or a basic search and rescue course from an approved agency may substitute, as determined by the division MTR supervisor. Level I Avalanche, Avalanche Fundamentals and Rescue courses, or any equivalent avalanche course from an approved agency, as determined by the MTR division supervisor.

2005-2006 Season

It's that time of year again! Be sure to review your Region's website for information on training programs offered this coming season. Or contact your Region's Program Administrator for a listing of dates and deadlines for registration. By taking a moment now, you can alleviate schedule conflicts and set your calendar to include days out for fun educational experiences.

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE TO THE SENIOR PROGRAM

DEFINITION OF A SENIOR:

A senior patroller is a patroller who has successfully completed the NSP senior program of training and evaluation designed to expand and improve his/her knowledge and skills of patrolling.

Senior Patroller Requirements:

Senior Ski/Board, Senior Toboggan, Senior Emergency Management, Basic Avalanche, Basic Mountaineering, Instructor Development & Instructor Mentoring in a discipline

Interested? Contact your regions Senior program Administrator:





**NSP Summer Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
August 5-7, 2005

Elections 2005**

In This Issue:



The Patroller Peek

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