



Far West Division News and Views

News and Views of the Far West Division, NSP; www.farwest.org, September, 2017

Volume Nine, Issue Two



From the Far West Division Director, Lance Vaughan

Welcome to the fall of 2017, summer like a good book was much too short and for most of us our thoughts now turn to OEC and Instructor refresh activity. This issue of News and Views contains updates from most of the Far West Programs. The Clinic & training schedule is rapidly being populated by each skill discipline providing learning opportunities for nearly every weekend. This time of year is exciting, like the day before your 16th birthday.

To ease the fall activities please take a moment and visit your NSP.org profile and check for updated email, phone, address, correct education records and that you can access the Pro Forms page. Don't forget the Pro Forms page, some vendors require an extra step to access, if you need gear the extra wait could be tough. Ensuring your record is up to

date helps keep you current with news of the NSP. If you notice something to correct, note the facts and item then send it onward to your patrol rep or Regional Skills Advisor.

As we each take our personal inventory of available ski time, personal energy and knee status, recall

the Alumni program. Tim Viall is setting up Alumni Ski and Greet dates at several ski areas, for the past several years patrollers get together to ski and socialize. I'd like to remind all that Alumni can be more than a social relationship with the NSP. For just \$30/year dues Alumni membership provides access to the Pro form pages, and if you refresh OEC each year patrollers can ski back into active NSP status. Some NSP instructors keep teaching from Alumni status, a path I think is vital in helping transfer knowledge to our next leaders. Do read the article on Alumni by Tim Viall and talk with your patrol Rep if this is your year to ease back on NSP service.

In August the Division Awards dinner was held in Davis, CA, and our Division patrollers were honored with National Outstanding Awards in seven categories and National runner up in three categories. The evening was a wonderful surprise and also contained Meritorious Service, Distinguished

Service and Merit Star Awards. Ken Bergmann, Division Awards Supervisor, picked a great evening to step down as Awards Supervisor and now has a wonderful story line for the future, as "back in his day the Division

Please see Director, continued p.8



A lively crowd of FWD patrollers, family and alumni gathered in Davis for the August FWD Awards Dinner. Read all about our awardees starting on page 4 of this issue!

Mark your calendars:

**Tri-Advisory event, Nov. 3-5, Yosemite National Park
Far West Winter Meeting, March 3, 4, Tahoe Basin resort, TBD.**

Sea Otter Bicycling Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, April 20-23, 2017

Far West Awards Dinner, August, 2017, Davis, date TBA

Continually check out the FWD (and, your own Region's) web site for updated calendar of events & training opportunities!

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Addresses up-to-date?

Is your mailing address and e-address current with the National office? Remember, the FWD gets its mailing lists and email lists directly from the National office in Denver. If you change your US mail or email address, to to your Member Profile to change, and, notify your own patrol.

Don't miss out on exciting future issues of FWD 'News and Views' and other NSP publications!

FWD News and Views

News of the Far West Division, NSP

Division Director, Lance Vaughan

Asst. Dir., Nancy Stormswold

Asst. Dir., Richard Wilson

Arizona Dir., Andrew Youngblood

Eastern Sierra Dir., Katie Dumont

Mother Lode Dir., Tony Atkins

Northern Cal., Sam Lanier

Professional Rep, Rich Bailey

Southern California, Diana St. Clair

Secretary, Janice Waits

Treasurer, Keith Dickens

Legal Advisor, Geoff Hutcheson

Registrar, Peggy Jamison

Alumni Advisor, Tim Viall

Awards Advisor, Bill Gibson

Avalanche Supervisor, Keith Church

Certified Advisor, Lance Vaughan

Community College Advisor, Steve

Thorsted

Conferences Advisor, Sonja Kively

Instructor Devel. Super., Doug Hill

Mountain Travel, Rescue Supervisor,

Karl Chulski

Nordic Supervisor, Jeff Gurrola

Communications/Newsletter, Tim Viall

Communications/Web, Rye

Livingston

Outdoor Emergency Care Supervisor,

Kevin Qualseth

Outdoor Emergency Transportation

Supervisor, Daryl Whitcher

Recruitment/NorCal, John McGuigan

Recruitment/SoCal, Open

SAR Liaison, NorCal, Roger Yang

SAR Liaison, SoCal, Mike St. Clair

Woman's Program, Trudy Nye

The FWD News and Views is published three times yearly, in September, December and February. Deadline is the end of the month prior to publication. Features, photos; send to Tim Viall, fwd-newsletter@farwest.org, or mail to 5854 Turtle Valley Drive, Stockton, CA 95207.

Election Notification for Far West Division

TO: Far West Division Board and to our patrollers and alumni

FROM: Janice Waits, Far West Division, Election Chairperson

SUBJECT: 2017-2018 FAR WEST DIVISION ELECTION NOTICE

ELECTION NOTIFICATION —

Nominations are now open for Assistant Division Director

Two-year term June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2020.

For position of Assistant Division Director, presently held by Nancy Stormswold, this would be her second two year term. Asst. Div. Directors may serve no more than 3 consecutive 2 year terms.

Please note the following dates.

December 4, 2017—Nominations DUE for Assistant Division Director Position. A nomination or announcement must be accompanied by a one-page resume of the candidate's membership in NSP that demonstrates the candidate's eligibility for office, and may be accompanied by a one-page statement of the candidate's platform. A nomination also must be accompanied by written acceptance of the nomination signed by the nominee

January 1, 2018—Assistant Div. Director candidates list finalized by Elections Committee.

January 29, 2018—List of candidates for Assistant Div. Director, their resumes and platforms to be posted to the FWD web site.

February 5, 2018—Date of Election, ballots will be distributed to electorate.

March 5, 2018— Date all ballots to be received/postmarked by for Assistant Div. Director positions.

March 26, 2018—Results announced (sooner if all eligible ballots are returned)

PLEASE FORWARD ALL NOMINATIONS AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO:

jrwai40@gmail.com;

Janice Waits, Election Chairperson

1202 Rembrandt Drive

Sunnyvale, CA 94087



Mentees/Assistant FWD leaders sought

Seeking FWD mentees/ assistant leaders for several positions:

a) **FWD 'News and Views' Assistant Editor:** The FWD newsletter is published three times yearly, in September, December and February. Deadline is the end of the month prior to publication. Seeking an assistant for newsletter editing and layout, will train! Contact Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com, 209.969.3875.

b) **FWD Alumni Assistant Advisor:** Work to help build, retain and involve FWD Alumni members at the patrol, region and division level. Fresh ideas sought in outreach, marketing, organized activities and the like. Contact Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com, 209.969.3875.

Announcing Tri-Advisory 2017; join us in Yosemite!

!Dates: Friday, November 3rd, 2017, check-in
Depart Sunday, November 5th, 2017
Place: A Yosemite Valley Camp site
Registration: **\$ 20.00** (yes, \$20.00!)
Entrance fee: **Free** with a pass emailed at registration
Tent camping: **Free**

Continuing the Tri-Advisory tradition of Tri-Advisory for its

39th year since 1978 Tri-Advisory will be November 4th and 5th this year at the venue that has become overwhelming popular by its participants. It's location in Yosemite Valley at a secluded camp site reserved just for those attending Tri-Advisory.

Sponsored by the Nordic, Avalanche, and MTR (Mountain Travel & Rescue) programs Tri-Advisory refreshes by hands-on clinics in the outdoors. Clinics and skills in ropes, GPS-maps & compass avalanche beacon and other topics are presented. With so many patrollers of like mind from round the Far West Division gathering a wealth of knowledge is shared amongst all.

Tri-Advisory will also be a registered NSP ICE course for the Avalanche and MTR instructors.

Scheduled to present this is a new avalanche presentation thus far. More will be scheduled soon!



compass navigation work, as well as other topics for the back-country enthusiast. After a big pot-luck style dinner arranged by Larry & Millisa Cody of Mt Pinos Nordic Area everyone tent camping will be treated to a very quiet night away from the general camp grounds.

The Pot-Luck dinner that Larry & Millisa Cody arrange has certainly become a must not miss event!

Bring your family and friends.

What a great getaway! Spectacular views and short hikes await everyone. This is all in addition to the Tri-Advisory agenda--not to mention Saturday evening's dinner and entertainment

Make your plans now! Get the registration form from www.farwest.org with more details and up-dated information! Complete the form and mail to the address on the form with your registration check.

Tent camping is the only camping allowed at the group camp site by the Park Service, and space is limited.

Reservation for Tri-Advisory can be found at:

<http://www.farwest.org/styled/MemberPrograms/Conferences/Conferences.html>

RV camping reservations can be made with the Park Service:

www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm or call (877) 444-6777

Hotel lodging reservations can be made with the new authorized concessionaire, Aramark:

www.yosemitepark.com or call 888.413.8869

We are looking forward to a great weekend ... we'll see you there!

Karl P. Chulski

MTR Supervisor – Far West Division
fwd-mtr@farwest.org

Keith Church

Avalanche Supervisor – Far West Division
fwd-avalanche@farwest.org

Jeffery Gurrola

Nordic Supervisor – Far West Division
fwd-nordic@farwest.org

Celebrating 39 Years; 1978 – 2017

What started out 39 years ago by a handful of like-minded patrollers wanting to tap into each other's collective knowledge, the Tri-Advisory has grown to become a "not-to-miss", key educational conference within the Far West Division of National Ski Patrol.

Yeah-but I am an Alpine patroller ...if you're a patroller interested in the backcountry, wanting to gain new skills but you're unsure where to begin, the Tri-Advisory is a great place to start! First, you'll meet and get to know the key instructors from your region who will mentor you locally ... OK! Next, you'll hear from people who have "been-there, done-that", sharing their experiences and opinions, giving you insight and information on needed knowledge, training, and skills.

Oh-yeah ... You need to be here!

This site proved to be an exceptional venue for the hands-on clinics of avalanche beacon usage, GPS and map &

Far West Division celebrates patrollers and patrols

A good crowd gathered at Davis in August to toast the Far West Division award winners, both individuals and patrols. This year, the FWD did exceedingly well at the national level. Read on as new FWD Director Lance Vaughan presented considerable hardware to our stellar awardees.

Certificates of Appreciation

- **Jason Allen** - NorCal Region Director 2010-2017
- **Josh Masur**, - Division Legal Adviser 2015-2017
- **Lance Vaughan**, Certified Adviser 2013-2017
- **Tony Atkins** – Conference coordinator 2009-2017
- **Ken Bergmann**, Awards Adviser 2009-2017

Meritorious Service Award –

- **Keith Dickens**
- **Kevin Qualseth**

Division Director's Award, Ken Bergmann – Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol

Distinguished Service Award, Bill Gibson – Mt. Shasta Ski Patrol

Outstanding Administrative Patroller – Yellow Merit Star – FWD Winner, Ri Chan – Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol

Outstanding Young Adult Patroller – Silver Merit Star – National Runner-Up, Agustin Noriega – Big Bear Ski Patrol

Outstanding Paid Patroller – Silver Merit Star

– National Runner-up, James Sindt – Homewood Ski Patrol -

Outstanding Patroller: Gold Merit Star – National Winner, Kristin Holmbeck – Big Bear Ski Patrol

Outstanding Instructor – Non OEC – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, Rene Perez - Big Bear Ski Patrol

Outstanding Nordic Patroller – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, Cassuis Murphey – Mt. Pinos Nordic Patrol

Outstanding Alpine Patroller – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, David Moore – Big Bear Ski Patrol

Outstanding OEC Instructor – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, Nancy Stromswold – Homewood and Kirkwood Patrol

Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, Keith Neergaard - Heavenly Ski Patrol

Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol – Unit Citation – FWD Winner, Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol

Outstanding Small Alpine Ski Patrol – Silver Unit Citation - National Runner-up, Mt. Baldy Ski Patrol

Outstanding Nordic Patrol – Gold Unit Citation – National Winner, Mt. Pinos Nordic Patrol, Yellow Merit Star, Patrol Rep Tod Fitch



FWD award winners gather in Davis in August. Special thanks to Doug Hill for photos!

Please see Awards, continued next page...

at the FWD Awards Dinner in Davis in August!

Outstanding Administrative Patroller – Ri Chan – Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol – Yellow Merit Star

The Outstanding Administrative Patroller award honors an individual who works behind the scenes providing support to our members, training programs, and NSP governance. Ri Chan has done just that since 1998.

A former member of the Southern California Region, Ri moved up north and joined her current patrol in 2000. Her profession then took her back to Southern California, but she maintained her membership with her new Tahoe area patrol by commuting the 350 miles up north. She did this for 14 years. Ri has since moved back to Northern California and now that she is no longer burdened with an excessive commute, she supports the patrol by providing a twice monthly BBQ as well as a pre ski goodies.



A friendly, supporting and welcoming presence in her patrol, she has been a strong supporter of women's events at her home hill, helping organize and participating in the Women's Ski and Toboggan Events. She has served in multiple roles as a board member and treasurer of her patrol. A professional accountant, she has donated her expertise by serving the last five seasons as her region's treasurer.

Outstanding Young Adult Patroller – Silver Merit Star – National Runner-Up, Agustin Noriega – Big Bear Ski Patrol

At the age of 16, Agustin enrolled in the OEC course with his father. He completed OEC in 2014, OET and Instructor Development in 2016. He was the top in his class. In the next two years he assisted with teaching the OEC class while waiting for his 18th birthday and enrolled in a EMT class. At 18 he headed up the hill to start his OET training. When all was said and done, Agustin earned his cross and was selected by his peers as the candidate of the year.

He is attending the local college to focus on a career as a firefighter/paramedic. He is working towards his

associate's degree in Fire Technology with the goal of transferring to Cal State Los Angeles where he will work towards a bachelor's degree. He is currently a volunteer firefighter with Yermo Calico Fire District. He finishes his EMT course next week and will start with the fire academy Aug 24. Ultimately he'd like to work with the Newport Beach Fire Department. Off the hill Agustin works with 12-13 year olds as a gymnastics coach. In that capacity he has worked with disabled athletes including one with autism and another with Downs Syndrome.

Outstanding Paid Patroller – Silver Merit Star – National Runner-up, Jim Sindt – Homewood Ski Patrol

Jim Sindt joined the NSP in 1998, but his patrolling career started in 1979 at Mt Snow Resort in Vermont where he served as the Patrol Director until 2001. That year Jim moved to Park City Utah where he served as the risk manager for 13 years. For the past three years he served as the Ski Patrol Director and Risk Manager for Homewood Ski Resort. Jim is well respected within the ski industry and has been a presenter at the National Ski Area Association Education Seminar as well as the Lift Association Conference.

As the Patrol Director, Jim works with a staff of 14 paid patrollers and a superb 40 member volunteer patrol. One of the first changes he made when he took over as the patrol director at Homewood was to change the verbiage and culture of the volunteer vs. the paid staff. He said, "We are all Professional Patrollers. Some are paid, and some are volunteers, but we are all Professional Patrollers." Jim highly respects and relies on the expertise and experience of the volunteer patrollers often calling upon them to assist with training new paid staff.

A strong supporter of the NSP, Jim became an OEC technician in 1998, an instructor in 2000 and continues to be an active OEC instructor to this day. He often states: "Our Patrol is a Family." A testament to that statement is that he was asked by a patroller and fiancé to officiate their wedding. Jim is a proud member of the NSP, his Patrol, and he exemplifies the definition of a "leader among Leaders."

Outstanding Patroller: Gold Merit Star National Winner, Kristin Holmbeck – Big Bear Ski Patrol

Please see Awards, continued page 20...

Mountain Travel & Rescue readies for season!

WOW – what a season last year was, lots and lots of snow for making great turns in the backcountry and for making snow caves.

As the OEC refresher are beginning to be on everyone's mind the MTR program is also getting ready and making plans for an excellent season.

To get prepared, the MTR course presents how to confront the winter environment and be prepared. Clothing, nutrition, weather, shelter are just a few of the topics presented to prepare for the winter environment in the event of an emergency, SAR, or just for the enjoyment of the winter backcountry. The public is expecting us to be skilled in the mountain winter environment in all aspects of it, on the slopes of the resort and being able and knowledgeable of the winter survival skills.

Courses will be scheduled very shortly so you can plan your winter patrol schedule around the dates. Contact the IOR's below to put your name on the list!

Courses offered are:

- MTR Fundamentals one day of classroom with one day of field activities

?no overnight to this course

- MTR 1 one day of classroom with one day and overnight of field activities

- MTR 2 two days of classroom with two days and two overnights of field activities.

?This course is available to those who have already taken MTR1 and Avalanche course.

These courses are opened to all patrollers, Alpine or Nordic. This course is designed to expand your knowledge and experience of the mountain winter to a higher level and gain confidence in how to survive in comfort and how to be an effective member of an SAR (Search And Rescue) team if



called upon by your Hill management.

These courses and skills are designed for the patroller that has not taken this type of activity and are designed to increase your confidence in the winter environment.

To check if courses are planned or scheduled contact:

So Calif Region:

Natalie Muraciov,
scblackdiamond@yahoo.com

Mother Lode Region: Keith Gale
keith_gale@hotmail.com

Eastern Sierra Chris Haagen
cmhaagen@gmail.com

Arizona Region Guy Roll
guy.roll@gmail.com

Nor Calif Region: Contact Mother Lode or Eastern Sierra



Karl P. Chulski, FWD-MTR Supervisor, Far West Division Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor, fwd-mtr@farwest.org



Who makes up these scenarios?

Hair-raising incident at Heavenly Resort tests NSP members' creativity, triage skills!

Perhaps you recall the MCI (mass casualty incident) triage exercise that was outlined in last years (2016) OEC refresher? It involved a bus accident in the icy parking lot with a pregnant mother and a small child among the many victims. If you are like me, you ask yourself, "Who dreams up this stuff?"

Eerily enough, just a few weeks after the OEC refresher season, there was a frighteningly similar incident at the Heavenly Ski Resort.

It was after the patrol day in late November. The weather was overcast, and had been sleeting. The temperature was just below freezing. The off-duty patrollers were in the locker room, changing out of their boots into street shoes, when an SUV careened down a nearby ski slope, barely missing a lift tower and then crashing through a chain link fence to land upside down in the parking lot. National Ski Patroller, Pat Yochum was the first patroller on the scene.

"This was scarily similar to the triage exercise that I participated in at our OEC Refresher three weeks ago," recounted Yochum during a debrief a few days after the accident. "As I ran across the parking lot, I had no idea how many patients there might be."

In the vehicle, there was a two-year-old child strapped into a child seat and suspended upside down. Also, in the third seat of the SUV was a pregnant mother and an elderly lady. They self-extricated through broken windows. The front seats of the vehicle had no occupants. Subsequent investigation revealed that the driver and front seat passenger had jumped from the car while it was sliding down the ski slope and before the impact with the fence.

Oh, did we mention that none of the occupants of the vehicle spoke English? Of the seven passengers of the vehicle, two were placed on backboards and transported via ambulance to Barton Memorial Hospital in South Lake

Tahoe. Three occupants were treated at the scene for hypothermia. All patient treatment was complete before the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department paramedics arrived.

They were dispatched from Station #1, located less than a mile from the accident scene.

As you prepare for or complete the 2017 Cycle A OEC refresher, and if you come across a scenario that seems just a bit outlandish – just remember – it could happen.

National Ski Patrollers Pat Yochum, Keith Neergaard, Chris Kleintjes, Emmett Peck and Rick Rogers were awarded Yellow Merit Stars and patrollers Colton Terry, Barry McMaster and Eric Birkholm were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for "Outstanding display of patrolling skills – SUV on World Cup Run, Heavenly Ski Resort".

Submitted by **John Shield**, National Appointment #8920



Division Director, continued from page 1

placed a member in the top 2 in the NSP in 10 of 12 categories". Thank you Ken for your focused service and great stewardship of the Awards program. For more on the Awards presented see the article from the new Awards Supervisor Bill Gibson, as well as suggestions on how to nominate deserving members or patrols for the 2017-18 awards.

The annual Tri-Advisory Fall gathering in Yosemite is set for November 3-5; the Mountaineering & Nordic communities created a full weekend of seminars, skill demonstrations and of course the Dutch oven cook off. The event has visits scheduled with the National Program Directors for Nordic and Mountain Travel & Rescue. Both will visit and present changes to the Nordic and MTR offerings as well as share best practices from around the country. More details and contact data in the article by Karl Chulski in this newsletter.

Ladies, Trudy is back from her travels for at least a week and has several Ladies Clinic events scheduled across our patrol territory. Trudy brings in great instructors from various big mountains and the events are in demand, they sell out quickly and the feedback always includes comments for another event soon. Look for the scheduled dates and grab a spot quickly, if the nearest clinic is hours away let your Patrol Rep or Region Director know and we will work to address. Look for a full update from Trudy in the upcoming December issue.

Our own Sam Lanier of Mt. Shasta Ski Patrol is running

for the National Board of Directors. Sam is a great guy with a tremendous amount of energy and a positive open minded thinker, if you cast just one vote, a vote for Sam is well placed. Please vote in the election, do take a minute and read the position statements of the candidates, if you have questions please ask and we will try to get you facts to support the faces.

Sept 9th in Davis CA the Mother Lode and Eastern Sierra Regions held a joint Instructor Continuing Education Seminar. As part of the NSP continuing education programs all instructors are required to attend and refresh instructor teaching skills and discipline skills once each three years. Over 120 instructors attended and re-certified in OEC, OET, Avalanche and the Instructor Development global teaching skills. This is a National required standard and all instructors are required to complete before their instructor status is renewed each three years. I am aware of an ICE event in Southern CA, do make plans to attend. Our Division is leading the rest of the NSP in providing a time friendly venue to complete the on-going training requirements, don't wait, December 31st is here before you know it.

Looking forward to another great ski year, perhaps adding a few days between storms would help us all enjoy the skiing and hill maintenance more. In the end, snow is snow and means skiing, so let's get ready to be safe,

have fun, and enhance the safety of the skiing public.

Thank you for your time and energy.

**Lance Vaughan, Far West Division Director,
National Ski Patrol**



FWD Award winners gather in Davis in August; see all the details, starting on p. 4. And, ready for this season's award nomination process by seeing suggestions, tips on p. 14.

Eastern Sierra Region hosts summer potluck party!



NSP Summer Party Potluck was held in August at the home of Katie and Gil DuMont. The food was great and attendance was awesome, event brought 80 people from FWD, ESR, MLR, and Sierra Host Program. This is our 9th year of organizing this event; looking forward to our 10th year!

- **Katie DuMont, Director, Eastern Sierra Region.**



Certified Training offers you new learning opps!

Training and testing for Certified Classification is conducted in tandem with the Association of Professional Patrollers in the Far West Division. Testing and training with this program is unique and offers both organizations a great way to share information and operational procedures.

Those earning the Certified Classification add knowledge and skills to their patrols and typically become a mentor for their teams. Thinking about adding training to your patroller skills, jump in and get started, you'll be glad you did.

Certified Training & Testing Clinics will soon be set for the Winter 2017 season.

Annual Spring Clinic dates & location are TBA. Traditional Dates are last week of April, so watch our Divisoinal calendar and the December newsletter!

Regional Contacts for Certified:

- ESR - Keith Tatsukawa - Northstar
- SCAL- David Moore - Big Bear
- MLR - Lance Vaughan - Dodge Ridge
- Arizona - Andrew Youngblood - Arizona Snowbowl
- Northern CA - Bill Gibson - Mt Shasta

Ready to extend your learning? Approach a Certified patroller at your resort or one of the regional advisers above, ask for help, visit the APP website, purchase & download the excellent study guide at www.propatrollers.org and you are on your way.

Lance Vaughan
FWD Certified Supervisor
fwd-certified@farwest.org



Check your NSP profile, ready for refreshers!

The first thing I wish to relay to all is “Have you checked your online NSP Profile lately?” Like most patrollers, you have been taking courses, and or teaching courses, attending clinics, enhancement courses, refreshers, Hybrid refreshers, instructor recertification courses, and who knows what else. Have you been getting credit for this??? Did you get credit for the last OEC refresher cycle C? Did your Senior status get recorded properly? Do you know how to access your educational profile?? Go to www.nsp.org sign in then click on the Hi (your name) button on the top of the page, review the content to ensure that this information is correct.

This is very important that you get credit for what you have earned. There are many reasons that your profile might not be totally correct, it is much easier to correct mistakes early on than to wait years to have this looked into.

CHECK YOUR PROFILE

Thank you to all of our Instructor of Records for your record keeping and documentation, for closing courses on time and keeping our Instructors involved with the education of our candidates.

OEC Classes are now being registered, Instructor of Records are organizing classes. Instructors, do you need teaching time? Contact an IOR to discuss the possibility of being included in the course as one of the OEC Instructors It is very important to keep your teaching skills up to date. If you need help with finding an IOR please contact me and I can direct you in the right direction.

Refreshers. We all need to attend a refresher. Our OEC refreshers cover one third of the OEC content every year, this year we are on cycle A. After three years we have covered the entire content of the OEC program. Miss a refresher and you can get behind fast. Need to attend a refresher out of your area? Check with your patrol director and the IOR who is hosting the refresher to see if it is indeed open to all patrollers. Correct paperwork needs to be brought and sent in to get credit for you attending an out of area refresher. Just because you attended a refresher you still need to follow up to assure that the credit has been documented on your profile.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR REFRESHER

1) Enroll online, the IOR of your patrol will provide you with the course number and instructions on how to complete your enrollment. If you are attending an out of area refresher contact that IOR for the enrollment information and what style refresher they will be doing.

2) Review your material for the Cycle A Refresher

3) IF using the online refresher course sign to www.nsp.org then select “Member Resources” then “Online Learning” follow the directions, when completed print your certificate and take it with you to your refresher event

4) Bring your current OEC, CPR and NSP member cards with

you. Also you will need your fully stocked first aid vest, or pack, and any other materials that the IOR has requested. Think about the weather, dress appropriately, be prepared for weather changes.

5) Practice your skills before the refresher event. There is a skills checklist in the back of the refresher workbook for you to review as to what will be required of you and what will be covered in the refresher Cycle A this year. You will see what you will be performing as an individual patroller and as a patroller in a group.

OEC Instructors, it is your responsibility to make sure that you have your credentials in order. Do you need to attend an Instructor continuing education event to keep your instructorship current? Have you been observed by an IT during your teaching and has it been documented? This is your responsibility to make sure that this gets done. These things need to be done once during your three year recertification period, check your profile for your courses that you have taken if you are not sure.

Requirements for recertification are that you must be actively teaching, have been observed by an IT, and taken an ICE course sometime during your three year recertification period.

Any questions? Below is a list of our OEC Administrators for the regions within the Far West Division. Please feel free to contact your region administrator or me if you have a question.

Eastern Sierra Region- Karl Barber

Mother Lode Region-Sue Dennison

Arizona Region-Andrew Youngblood

Northern Cal Region-Bill Gibson

Southern Cal Region-Steve Sue



Thank you all, Kevin
Qualseth, FWD OEC
Supervisor, [fwd-
oec@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-
oec@farwest.org); H (559)781-
7208; C (559)359-6056



Karl Barber, Eastern Sierra Region OEC Administrator

Karl Barber is currently a retired Computer Scientist from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He has served as a Ranger and Long Range Surveillance Scout with the US Army, and a COLT Team Chief with the California National Guard. After leaving the Army Guard, Karl joined the National Ski Patrol in 2010.

He is currently serving as the Eastern Sierra Region's OEC Administrator and supports the Region and Division as an Instructor Trainer. Karl currently Booboo.



patrols at Homewood Mountain Resort where he serves as a Senior Alpine Patroller, an OEC Instructor, an ID Instructor, and a OET Instructor. In his spare time,

Karl loves racing sail boats on Lake Tahoe, sport touring on his motorcycle and serves as a Search and Rescue Team Member for the Nevada County Sheriff. He is married to Homewood's Patrol Representative, Loretta O'Brien. The two live in the Tahoe Basin and share their lives with their two cats Pinky and

FWD Community College Program

The Community College Program has been helping the patrols of the Far West Division for many years. For each of those years there are as many versions as to how the program works, so, let's explain how the program works for your patrol.

The money for the program comes from a grant to the Community Colleges of California for training first responders. The more first responders trained the more money the grant will supply to the colleges. Here is where it gets interesting, some colleges are not interested in the grant or the training of first responders, they have too many students.

Other colleges need those classes, not enough students, to maintain their funding from the state. To help this situation a group of colleges in the state with low enrollment created "The Academy". "The Academy" enrolls classes, such as OEC, and offers them to a member college. If the college says they will take the class, the students class take the class at a location of our choice.

The Academy obtains permission from the college in the area the class will be taught for the other college, the one we are enrolling with, to teach in their attendance area. Remember, some colleges don't want the extra classes.

Currently, there are two classes offered by the Academy for the Far West Division: OEC and Refresher. The OEC class has been approved by the California Community Colleges as a three-unit class with 125 hours of instruction. The IOR for the class takes role for the class and turns in those hours to the Community College Coordinator.

Every patroller has an annual Refresher that includes OEC skills, CPR skills, Resort mandated skills to review

and finally Ski/Toboggan recertification. The Community College Program has a class for that called "Refresher". The Refresher class is 28 hours of Instruction and ½ unit of college credit. Each patroller enrolls with the academy, a process that now takes about 10 to 15 minutes, and then they do their normal refreshing of annual skills. The IOR for the Refresher class turns in the hours to the Community College Coordinator.

Once the Community College Coordinator has the hours for each class taught in the Far West they turn the hours into "The Academy". A few months later the Far West Division gets a check from The Academy for each class. The funding is calculated by the number of students and the hours of instruction given. The Far West Division sends the patrol or region its share of the funds after the Division meeting in August..

The CCP, Community College Program, is available only for patrollers and patrols in California, a condition of the grant. The funding earned can only be used for educational purposes, another condition of the grant. Did your patrol get their share of the grant?

If your patrol could use some extra income you might consider utilizing the CCP for your Patrol. If interested, contact the CCP coordinator, Steven Thorsted at stevethorsted@gmail.com.

Submitted by FWD Community College Coordinator Steve Thorsted, contact Steve at stevethorsted@gmail.com.



A Bifurcation in the Road

The American Avalanche Association (AAA) has approved new curriculum guidelines for US avalanche education that splits programs into recreational and professional tracks.

While the new guidelines do not appear on the public side of their website yet, AAA is implementing the changes this season. NSP has been approved as a recreational track provider.

In order to “synch up” with the new guidelines, NSP's National Avalanche Committee met in April to begin rewriting our Avalanche Instructor's Manual (AIM), last updated in 2014. The initial draft is nearly done, but the new curriculum will not be put into use until next season. For the 2017/18 season we will use the 2014 AIM. The 2018 AIM will remain modularized, allowing students to take classroom, field and rescue portions of the course separately and will include an organized rescue module that is NSP-specific.

Below is an illustration of the new split-track education paradigm:



California Avalanche Workshop: October 14th

Per Lake Tahoe Community College: “The California Avalanche Workshop is a pre-season gathering of snow travelers to share knowledge, learn, laugh, and network. This seminar is modeled after the International Snow Science Workshop and other regional one-day snow and avalanche workshops throughout the west. The workshop will feature diverse speakers from different sectors of the winter sports industry.”

Cost: \$20 (\$25 on the day of the event)

Register: www.ltccconnect.com or (530) 541-4660 ext. 717

Questions: Reichel@ltcc.edu

The California Avalanche Workshop is a “regional avalanche workshop” (RAW) and qualifies as the *academic component* of avalanche instructor continuing education.

Tri-Advisory (Yosemite): November 3 through November 5

Attending all avalanche-related sessions during the Tri-Advisory weekend qualifies as an Avalanche Instructor Continuing Education Clinic.

Mammoth Mountain AVY ICE* Clinic: December 9-10

Looking for an opportunity to share avalanche program teaching materials, hone field skills, catch up on current administrative issues and do a bit of early skiing too? Mammoth is the place to be! SoCal region has been offering this annual clinic to avalanche instructors and instructors-in-training for a decade now. Load

[See Avalanche, continued on page 18](#)

Far West Division awards nominations...prepare early!

With days still in the 100's can you believe that winter is just around the corner? Well it is and it is just around the corner. Just last month members of the Far West Division were honored for the excellent job they did last season by being recognized as the outstanding award winner in the division and some of them even as outstanding award winner in the nation. So the 2017-18 ski season will soon be in full swing and we will all be out on the mountain performing the duties we all have come to love.....patrolling.

You may not realize it but behind each of these winners is a small group of dedicated individuals that took the time to sit down and write up a nomination. In my view just being nominated for one of these National Outstanding awards is an honor in itself because someone thought enough of you to take several hours out of their day, do some research and type up your nomination. As the ski season begins, the award season begins and it is time to start thinking about who you should nominate for an award. And you don't have to be a patroller in a leadership role to do this, anyone can submit a fellow patroller for any of the outstanding awards.

The NSP has two categories of awards, the National Outstanding Awards and all other awards like Merit Stars, Angle Pins, Service Pins and National Appointments. These awards can be written up and submitted to your local awards advisor at any time. The National Outstanding awards include Outstanding Alpine Patroller, Outstanding Auxiliary, Outstanding Instructor and Outstanding Patrol. These awards are on a timeline and must be submitted to your region awards advisor in February. (Check with your region awards advisor or your regional calendar for the specific date.)

To nominate any individual for any award you can start by choosing the correct award for the individual. You can see the criteria for each award by downloading chapter 12 of the NSP Policies and Procedures. If that seems like too daunting a task just ask your region awards advisor or you can ask me directly at (downhillbill01@gmail.com). We will be happy to give you advice and guidance on the best way to honor your nominee.

Once you have selected the award, download the form from the NSP website, Or again, you can ask me or your regional awards advisor. We can send you the forms. Review the form and start gathering the required information. For Merit Stars you will need to get the facts, timeline and specific actions of the nominee. For National Outstanding awards you will need to do some research. Useful information for a National Outstanding nominee includes information on the nominee's outside activities that support the NSP, relationships with other ski related organizations, use of NSP skills outside of the industry, the nominee's contributions to patrolling, a detailed history of the nominees patrolling career, including NSP offices held, classes taught, hours on and off the hill, and awards received. One of the items you will need is the nominees NSP history. This NSP history is available to your patrol representative online. I also have access to individual NSP history. If you need a copy, please ask us and we will get it to you.

Allow time for the award to work its way through the system. These awards are reviewed by your Patrol Representative, Region Awards Advisor, Region Awards Board, Region Director, Division Awards Advisor, Division Director, and even the National Awards Advisor. All this takes time so allow at least 60 days for the award submission to be reviewed and approved.

Your Region and Division awards boards are here to help honor our own. Do not hesitate to ask for our help. We know there are many deserving patrollers that work tirelessly with little or no compensation other than a few great turns here and there. Take a little time to write them up and honor them for their many contributions. Again, if you need help, your regional and division awards advisors are here to provide you with the assistance you need; if you need help, ask!

Bill Gibson
Far West Awards Advisor, NSP
downhillbill01@gmail.com



Make headlines...We want to hear from you!

Your Far West News and Views newsletter is actively seeking news and photos of the patrols and patrollers of the Far West Division.

FWD News and Views is published three times yearly, in September, December and February. Deadline is the 25th of the month prior to publication; NEXT deadline is August 25 for our September, 2017 issue!

Features, photos welcomed, please submit items with the

“Five W’s: Who, What, When, Where and How, and, if sending photos, please include an identifying “cut line” noting the photo’s content. If you are mailing photos and want them back, please enclose self-addressed envelope.

Send submissions to FWD Communications Advisor Tim Viall, suggested is electronically submission to: fwd-newsletter@farwest.org. Or by U. S. mail to 5854 Turtle Valley Drive, Stockton, CA 95207.

50 Far West ski patrollers, family provide first-aid, course marshal service at US's largest cycling event!

Huge Sea Otter Bike Classic centered on Laguna Seca Raceway, CA, April 20-23, 2017

For the 12th year, 50 Far West Division ski patrollers, family and friends provided first-aid service, non-emergency transport and course marshaling at the Sea Otter Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, CA, the USA's largest outdoor biking event.

This four-day bicycling extravaganza attracts 10,000 participants ranging from world-class pro riders to serious amateurs and recreational cyclists. Over the four days, riders take part in circuit racing, cross-country events, wild downhill and dual slalom racing and citizens road and cross-country rides. Each year, NSP members provide first-aid care to over 200 riders, from incidents of road rash and exhaustion to more serious trauma-induced injuries.

Over 50,000 spectators crowd the huge venue, which spreads out from Laguna Seca Raceway into the scenic back country of the Ft. Ord National Monument and, for the road races, along roads through Monterey County. 600 trade show vendors make for the largest market in the country for cycling equipment and accessories.

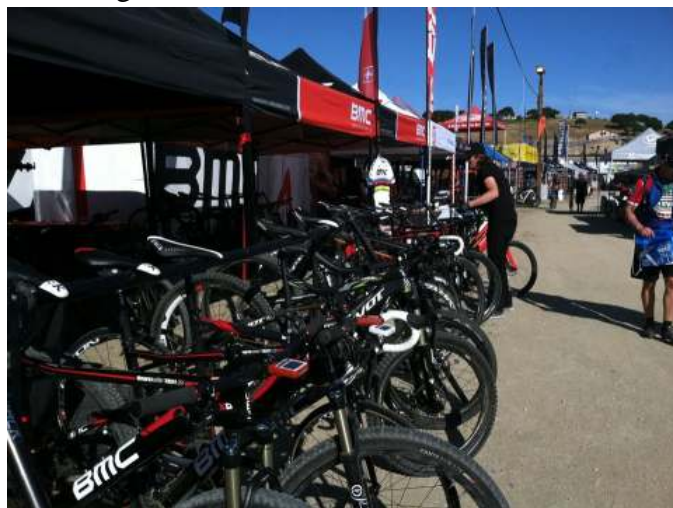
The Dodge Ridge Patrol led in volunteer numbers, with 27 members and friends/family (providing marshaling

services), joined by patrollers from Bear Valley, Mt. Shasta, Sugar Bowl and Heavenly Valley ski patrols. Each year our NSP contingent pairs with members of the Friends of Fort Ord and members of a back-country first-aid unit, as well as Monterey County Fire and Emergency Services.

NSP members and friends camped at "Ski Patrol Central" within the event, enjoyed Friday and Saturday barbecues, found time to ride their bikes, attended the huge trade show and made new NSP friends! For their volunteer service, the Sea Otter Foundation donated almost \$4,700 to patrols of the NSP volunteers.

Patrollers, family and friends are offered free camping right in the Laguna Seca paddock at Ski Patrol Central as well as and free admission. Motorhomes, camping trailers and tents make for cozy accommodations and Friday and Saturday barbecues add camaraderie and fun to the experience!

The Far West Division invites members of additional patrols to join us for the next huge event! **Mark your calendars, April 19-22, 2018; to volunteer or for more info, call or email Tim Viall, Coordinator for NSP Volunteers for the Sea Otter Classic, at tviall@msn.com, or 209.969.3875.** For more insight into the event itself, go to seaotterclassic.com.



Clockwise from top left, the FWD first aid crew for the backcountry courses prepare to depart for assignments, hundreds of vendors display bikes and everything for the cycling sport at huge trade fair; NSP and BETA team members (Bicycle Equestrian Trail Assistance volunteers, in orange vests/shirts) and tents, motorhomes made for cozy evenings at "Ski Patrol Central". Join the NSP team in April for NSP service and fun!



Expansion of FWD website offers "Community Service Opportunities"

Got a big outdoors event that could use NSP help? Looking for an off-season way to utilize your OEC skills?

Check out your Far West Division web site for new options/opportunities! Recently added: "**Community Service Opportunities**" offer a place to list upcoming events that showcase NSP first-aid and leadership talents - such as major events that utilize NSP first-aiders (like the Sea Otter Classic). This option offers patrollers a place to post events and recruit NSP members to take part. To see the start of this new resource for you, the patroller, go to: <http://www.farwest.org/MemberPrograms/CSO/CSO.html>.

List your events and opportunities! If you are working to organize NSP first-aiders for Tough Mudder events, annual Cerebral Palsy bike-a-thons, community fund-raising events, big outdoor events like the Sea Otter Classic and more, list them! And, don't forget to work to enlist your alumni to assist!

And, make a habit of scanning the FWD website for continuing updates on such events and programs - as well as new developments in your Far West Division!

Send your event and activity postings, with the "who, what, where, when and how" to **FWD Webmaster Rye Livingston**, webworker@farwest.org. Also send your events to **Tim Viall**, **FWD Newsletter Editor**, tviall@msn.com and we will profile them in FWD 'News and Views'.



Pictured, left to right, Dori Bietz and Mike Fanelli worked the Tough Mudder event at Northstar during summer; NSP members and an NSP Subaru worked the Headwaters 50 K Trail Run, and over 40 patrollers and family members worked at, and enjoyed off time, at the Sea Otter Bike Classic in April. Please post notices for such events on the FWD website, and, scan the site for volunteer opportunities!

FWD Events Calendar:

Tri-Advisory event, Nov. 3-5, Yosemite National Park
Far West Winter Meeting, March 3, 4, Tahoe Basin resort, TBD.

April 20-23, 2017, Sea Otter Bicycling Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey

Far West Awards Dinner, August, 2018, Davis, TBA

Post your key events in 'News and Views', send to editor Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com.

See the FWD Web site for updated calendar and training opportunities: www.farwest.org!

Winter 'To Dos' for more NSP fun...! Easy as the "A, B, Cs"!

A: Skis:

Get those skis tuned (take them to a ski shop for an edge and base job).



B:

Breakfast of

Champions? Plan to eat well and improve your diet with good nutrition. And, get plenty of hydration - you'll be a better athlete because of good food/drink choices! And, stay hydrated on the slopes!

C.

Keep fit:

Give some time to getting fit; drop a few pounds, walk,

play golf, jog or get into the gym! Rewards come "on slope"! Winter returns to the Sierra soon; be ready!



Active Alumni program is good for alumni and the patrol!

Are you, as a patroller, considering going “inactive”, or, moving to “alumni status”?

Consider the impacts: if you go “inactive”, you still have to pay \$55 dues to National and \$19 to the Division, and you lose all your benefits as a patroller. Alumni status is often the best choice; annual dues are only \$30, you can retain your certifications and instructor status, and it’s easy to return to active status if you like.

And, alumni can remain involved with their local patrol (for my Dodge Ridge Patrol I remain active as alumni advisor, and continue on as the FWD Newsletter Editor and Alumni Advisor). After 34 years, NSP-service is in my blood.

I am hoping to assist as best I can in the coming ski year in promoting, rewarding and energizing your patrol's alumni program, and our Division's Alumni program. And, if you have reached the point in your NSP service where you are considering becoming an NSP alumni, rather than an active patroller, continue on as an alumni patroller. I pose a couple questions for you and your patrol:

For Individual patrollers: If you are an individual patroller considering alumni status, check out the NSP Alumni brochure on the web site, and consider Alumni status. It gives you ongoing NSP registration, access to NSP catalogue and sweet deals, invitations to yearly Alumni events (like the March 16 Alumni Day), info from the NSP and your individual patrol and the “halo status” of continuing your NSP affiliation! And, talk with your individual patrol's leadership; there is always a place for an alum who seeks to stay active in unique ways to match your talents!

For more info, the NSP Alumni brochure and draft Patrol

Alumni Advisor position description, go to: www.farwest.org, click on Member Programs, then on Alumni.

For individual patrols, several suggestions:

a) Appoint someone from your patrol as your alumni advisor (you will find a simple draft Patrol Alumni Advisor Job Description on the Far West Division web site)).

b) Send me that Advisor's contact information.

c) If you already have an active alumni program, and “ideas/events that worked like crazy”, please share them with me (I am also the FWD Newsletter Editor, and will profile those “best practices in future newsletter issues, as well as share them with all MLR Alumni Advisors).

d) Ask your area and patrol to host a patrol and/or Regional Alumni Ski Day, typically in the spring; you’ll see details on next page!

e) See the NSP's Alumni brochure on the Far West web site – I would suggest you post several copies in your patrol room, and share the electronic copy with members of your patrol – so that, when they move, retire or just-plain drop out – they realize there is a valuable choice to be made and to remain an NSP Alumni.

Questions or suggestions welcomed!

Tim Viall, FWD Alumni Advisor,
fwd-alumni@farwest.org;
For additional info, go to:
www.farwest.org, click on Member Services, then, Alumni!



Renew alumni dues on-line!

Alumni members; renew your NSP Dues on-line. I have had this question come up several times recently – “can I renew my Alumni Membership on-line”?

Here's how to do it; as an Alumni member you merely:

a) Logs into the NSP web site, with member number and your Password, then,

b) At top, upper right where it will say "Hi, (member name)" - merely click on that icon, and it takes you to your My Profile page, then, at bottom left of the Profile, click on the "Renew Now" button, and it allows you to pay with a choice of credit cards, Pay Pal and the like.

It works; I just did that, myself.

Submitted by Tim Viall, FWD Alumni Advisor

Best Alumni practices sought!

The Eastern Sierra Region does an annual Alumni Reunion, a number of patrols in the Far West Division work hard to involve their alumni in patrol affairs and patrol activities/celebrations (see next page!), and several FWD alumni are regulars at such annual off-hill activities like the Sea Otter Bike Classic each year.

Of course, the questions remain: how do we retain patrollers as alumni members of the NSP (rather than just “dropping out”), how do we involve them in patrol and/or regional activities; can we use their skills to mentor newer patrollers? I am sure you have more questions or thoughts.

Please share your best programs and success stories with Tim Viall, FWD Alumni Advisor (and FWD Newsletter Editor), tviall@msn.com. We will compile the “best ideas, top programs and events that worked like crazy”, and tap the National office for their advice, as well.

Watch for an article in future issues of ‘News and Views’.

Seeking hosts for Alumni Celebration Days in 2017-18 season!

Seeking patrols and resorts to host regional “Alumni Celebration Days”. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Eastern Sierra Region graciously hosted visiting alumni at Sugar Bowl, Heavenly and Sierra at Tahoe resorts. We’re asking other regions to host such events, usually late in the ski season. Typically the resort comps a half-dozen or more passes for visiting alumni, the local patrol hosts a tour of the mountain, alums share a lunch hour and catch up on old times. If your resort would host, contact your region alumni advisor!

At right, Eastern Sierra and MLR alumni who gathered to ski, share old patrol tales, catch up and remain involved in the NSP at Heavenly Valley Resort in March, 2016. Thanks to Heavenly for hosting the gathering!



Dodge Ridge Patrol continues “Alumni Fun Days” on 4th Fridays!

For 2017-18, the Dodge Ridge NSP continues a monthly “Fourth Friday Alumni Fun Day” series of events. In January, February and March, 2017, over 20 alumni and several family members and friends joined on the mountain for coffee, sharing of tall tales and skiing and celebrated the resort’s 65th anniversary.

In recent years, a growing percentage of Dodge Ridge Patrol alumni remain active in patrol events and fund-raisers.



Dodge Ridge alumni and alums from other FWD Patrols also make up a good portion of the volunteer force at the huge Sea Otter Classic in April each year, helping earn \$4,600 for their service - income for their patrols.

This year, Dodge Ridge hopes to draw more alumni and their family members to the “fourth Friday Alumni” events, and to engage more alumni in both fun activities and service to their old patrol and to the NSP.

Communications enhanced in FWD, regions; both the Far West Division and Facebook page offer new looks, new

Did you know that both the FWD web site and the FWD Facebook page have been enhanced and expanded to share information with patrollers and alumni?

As an example, if you need insight on Awards, go to the web page and click Awards in the Member Programs area. The FWD web site offers a new look, new organization and offers new options like Community Service Opportunities. To see the start of this new resource for you, the patroller, go to: <http://www.farwest.org/MemberPrograms/CSO/CSO.html>.

The FWD Facebook page continues to grow in interest



(almost 700 FWD members) and utilization as more patrollers and patrols use it as a place to communicate their successes, fun activities and to recruit patrollers and alumni into off-hill and on-hill activities. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/448272738574183/> and Join the page! It's there for you and your patrol!

On the Facebook site, you can post up news to reach our FWD members, upcoming events and special projects, or just good skiing insight worthy of sharing. So, check it out, and use it!

If you are sharing news of your patrol or region, also remember to send it along for inclusion in the FWD 'News and Views' newsletter.

Avalanche, cont'd from page 12

you best classroom presentations to a thumb drive, pack your pit kit, wax your skis and head to Mammoth this December. Contact SoCal Region Avalanche Advisor, Jeff Pierce, at pierce_group@msn.com for details. Partial reimbursement for travel expenses for out-of-area instructors is available. Contact keith_church@hotmail.com to inquire.

*All NSP instructors must (among other things) attend an

Instructor Continuing Education (ICE) clinic registered with NSP at least once every three years in order to maintain their instructor certification. Your division supervisor cannot renew your teaching credential with NSP without that ICE clinic attendance on your record. Avalanche ICE clinics must include academic, field, administrative, and instructor development components.

Keith Church, FWD AVY Program
Supervisor;
fwd-avalanche@farwest.org



Ski Patrols of the Far West Division:

Here are the stellar patrols of the FWD:

Arizona Snowbowl
Alpine Meadows
Alta Sierra
Badger Pass
Big Bear
Bear Valley Ski Patrol
Boreal Ridge
Buckhorn Ski Club
China Peak
Coppervale
Diamond Peak
Dodge Ridge
Donner Ski Ranch
Heavenly
Homewood
June Mountain
Kirkwood
Lake Alpine Nordic
Lee Canyon
Lassen Volcanic
Mammoth Basin Nordic
Mount Lemmon
Mountain High
Mt. Baldy
Mt. Pinos Nordic

Mt. Shasta
Mt. Waterman
Northstar
Pinecrest Nordic
Reno Ski Patrol
Sierra Ski Patrol
Snow Valley



Soda Springs
Squaw Valley
Sugar Bowl
Sunrise
Tahoe Backcountry
Tahoe Donner
Tahoe Donner Nordic Center
Have you skied them all?

It's Showtime! And You're the Host of the Show!

What Is Your Teaching Style?

Is it too far-fetched to compare NSP instructors teaching a class or course to an actor in a movie or play or a show host on a TV program? I think not, because when you look at it closely, many of our objectives are similar. We both want to capture the attention of an audience, provide some information, a message, an emotion, a story, or even a skill, and we would like it to be informative and entertaining to that audience.

I am fortunate in my role as an Instructor Development Program Supervisor in NSP to be able to travel and observe many NSP instructors hosting a show of education. I see many different teaching styles as I visit and observe classes, similar to the many different styles actors and actresses exhibit in show business. Some instructors are very animated, moving around the classroom or the slopes and engaging the students in the learning with open-ended questions and group discussions. Some instructors are very dynamic, using analogies, scenarios and demonstrations to hold their student's attention. Some instructors mix up their techniques during the class or course and use a variety of teaching methods.

Does this mean you have to be dynamic or animated to be a good instructor? Not at all! One of my favorite instructors that I have observed is within my own patrol, and he is not animated, flashy or dynamic, but rather very casual and soft-spoken. You may not even notice this patroller unless he is teaching and you are in his class, and then you can't help but notice him. How is he so effective as an instructor with such an unobtrusive method of teaching?

I watched him teaching a Senior Outdoor Emergency Transportation (OET) Clinic one day to a group of senior candidates. Most were doing very well, but one was having problems carving turns on steep slopes with challenging snow conditions; rather he was sliding through his turns and was very frustrated. This instructor took him aside at the top of the mountain, and as I eavesdropped from the corner of the deck, he proceeded to calmly explain to him the "physiology" of a ski turn, what happens with weighting and un-weighting, where your weight should be at a given time, and how and when that influences the ski to carve...etc. I thought to myself at the time that it must be great to understand the art of what you are teaching so well and be able to explain it to your student in such detail. They both skied off and were back in less than an hour, both with confident smiles of accomplishment.

So what made this instructor so effective that day with

his students? He used the teaching style that he prefers to teach a successful OET training session by going to the basics that we all must exhibit to be successful instructors. First of all, he really knew and understood what he was teaching. Next, he "read" and understood his student's needs and focused on their learning. He exhibited good people skills, listening and communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal, and put some fun in his class as well. He kept a positive attitude throughout the class and he strived to be a model of what he was teaching.

What teaching style is going to work best for you? I think you should use the teaching style that you are most comfortable with, whether it be animated, dynamic, assertive, casual, even using humor when appropriate to make it fun, while maintaining the integrity of the subjects we teach. As long as your style addresses all of the basics from our Instructor Development Program, then you can be a successful instructor at anything you choose to teach in or out of ski patrol. Remember that the programs we teach are about people and not just the content in our books. Respect your students and their time, and strive to continually improve your teaching.

As an NSP instructor, you have a unique opportunity to affect people's lives, enhance their self esteem, provide additional self-worth, and train them to serve the community with skills few attain that may save lives. And I think you may reward your own life as well.

If you are not currently an NSP Instructor and have thought about teaching in one or more of the NSP disciplines, take the challenge and begin your NSP teaching career by enrolling in an Instructor Development Course in your region. You can change patrollers' lives, and I think you may change your life as well.

For more information on the Instructor Development Program, or if you would like an Instructor Development Course offered to your patrol, contact the Instructor Development Program Administrator in your region, or me, the Instructor Development Program Supervisor for your division. If you have questions or comments regarding this article, or ideas for future articles related to the Instructor Development Program, you may contact me at fwd-id@farwest.org.

Doug Hill, FWD Instructor Development Advisor, fwd-id@farwest.org.



Awards, continued from page 5

Kristin is a relative newcomer to the NSP having joined in 2011. She earned her cross in 2012 and has been a significant contributor to her patrol since then. She was named the outstanding member of her candidate class and the next season she was selected as the outstanding rookie patroller at Snow Summit.

The next year the paid staff named her the outstanding patroller.

Kristin became a room lead in 2014. In the Patrol Room she is described as

having a “friendly demeanor that lends itself to working with injured guests, and fellow staff. Her attention to detail and astute nature insure that all tasks are done efficiently and effectively.”



Above the patrol level Kristin serves as the region's webpage and calendar designer where she is using her professional skill in the tech industry to bring the region website up to date and implement Google Calendar for region events. Kristin strives to keep the region modern in their technology and efficient in their work.

Off the hill, Kristin has taken on the role of a Big Sister for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and recently returned to school to work on a master's degree in mathematics.

Outstanding Instructor – Non OEC – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, Rene Perez - Big Bear Ski Patrol

With eight years of NSP service Rene Perez is relatively new to the NSP. He earned his Senior in 2013 and as of this year he is one module away from completing his APP Certification. He now serves his patrol as the Senior Advisor. His specialty is as a snowboard instructor and as such, has been an invaluable addition to his patrol and region.

Noticing a lack of Snowboard OET instructors, Rene made it his personal mission to recruit and train additional snowboard OET instructors within his region. He created and maintains an NSP Snowboard page on Facebook including posts about upcoming training events, and a Q&A section. He has worked with his region to develop

and promote a consistent OET training syllabus for snowboarders. Rene also created a toboggan pocket guide for OET instructors specific to snowboard training. Since becoming an OET instructor he has helped over 160 patrollers across five resorts, both in OET instruction and regional snowboard enhancement seminars.

Off the snowboard Rene is an active member of his son's school PTA and as a Assistant Scout leader he has lead projects in splint building and Mountain Travel and Rescue. An avid Mountain Biker, he is active in the summer Mountain Bike Patrol. He serves as an assistant coach for a mountain bike team that serves eleven schools within the local school district and does trail maintenance for Mountain Bike trails.

Rene exemplifies the titles of “teacher” and “volunteer.” His tireless commitment of time and experience to improved our patrollers and the youth of our community are the hallmark of this nominee.

Outstanding Nordic Patroller – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, Cassius Murphey – Mt. Pinos Nordic Patrol

Cassius “Cash” Murphey joined the NSP in 1977. An OEC instructor for over 31 years Cash is described as the “backstage director” of his Region. When someone needs answers they go to him, when they need equipment for OEC events they go to him. For the past 31 years he has been involved in the planning, deliverance, and evaluation of OEC classes in the SoCal Region, offered a yearly make up refresher and participated in a yearly OEC instructor refresher.



As a Nordic Patroller Cash is described as the Nordic Ambassador. He teaches Senior Nordic, Avalanche I and II. Mountain Travel and Rescue and is often the instructor of record for these classes. Cash has served as a Patrol Representative, Section Chief, awards advisor and started two Nordic Patrols. He is an example of how to take the NSP knowledge and “Pass it on” to other patrollers and

Please see Awards, continued page 21.

Awards, continued from page 20

the public. Cash serves as an assistant Scout Master and was a member of the U.S. Navy Special Operations (Navy Seal) where he became a really good swimmer – no, like he's really good.

In 1989 Cash was honored with National Appointment number 7142. In addition to that he has three Yellow Merit Stars and a Green Merit Star for hazardous rescue. In 2013 he was appropriately honored with the NSP's Distinguished Service Award for his 39 years of dedication and leadership in the NSP. The next year he received a Yellow Merit Star when he was named the Far West Division's Outstanding OEC Instructor.

Outstanding Alpine Patroller – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, David Moore – Big Bear Ski Patrol

David Moore rejoined the NSP in 2014 after a 12 year hiatus. His enthusiasm for the NSP in his first year back made it feel like he was trying to make up for the 12 years he missed. In the three years since he has rejoined the NSP he has:

- Became an OEC and OET instructor,
- Participated in Regional OEC events,
- Instructed candidate classes.
- He has been named by his local patrol and Region as the “Patroller of the Year”,
- Averaged 32 days per season
- Completed all 9 certified modules in one season.

As an instructor David has participated in 5 OEC classes, 4 OET classes, 6 CPR classes and an astounding 24 Certified clinics. He now serves on the board of directors of the APP and is a certified judge.

In the professional world David is a Risk Manager in the film industry where he leveraged his NSP skills to build his business. He was successful in having OEC recognized as a first responder certification for entertainment medical personnel. He also used his expertise to assist another patrol with their risk management policies.

David's commitment at the local, and regional levels, completing the Certified program in one year, shaping new patrollers through his teaching, and his generosity of time and self, truly embody the word outstanding. This patroller has gone full circle from his start as a lifeguard, to the ski patrol, redirected into risk management and then back to ski patrol.

Outstanding OEC Instructor – Gold Merit Star –
FWD News and Views, September, 2017

National Winner, Nancy Stromswold – Homewood and Kirkwood Patrol

Our OEC instructors are the backbone of the NSP organization. There is no doubt they put in a copious amount of work preparing and presenting refreshers, senior training, OEC Enhancement Seminars, Instructor Recertification's and the NSP's full OEC class. Nancy Stromswold has been honored as the outstanding patroller on her local mountain three times. She received the NSP Distinguished Service Award in 2010 and was honored with National Appointment #7686 in 1993.

So what makes her a great OEC instructor? Nancy is a retired professional educator thus she has superb teaching skills and the time to donate them to the NSP. Using those skills Nancy has contributed to the NSP education programs as an OEC instructor, OEC IT as well as a Toboggan instructor. In the last four years she has taught 15 OEC related classes and served as an Instructor Trainer in another 16 classes.

As an OEC IT Nancy has mentored numerous new OEC instructors and encourages them to participate in regional OEC events. She helped lead the division by combining resources to help roll out the Senior OEC Trainer/Evaluator and became one of the first Senior Trainer/Evaluator's hosting and organizing many of the events in her region

In addition to her work as an NSP instructor Nancy has served as the Division's Community College Advisor and most recently as the Eastern Sierra Region Director. In addition to all that, she recently stepped up to be the admin Patrol Representative for the Kirkwood Patrol in the hope it can grow into a major patrol.

Nancy makes herself available to every patroller and gives freely of her time and effort. Her integrity and diplomacy is impeccable. Her dedication is admirable.

Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative – Gold Merit Star – National Winner, Keith Neergaard - Heavenly Valley Ski Patrol

The Patrol representative has to be a great diplomat, a mentor, a teacher, an inspiration: in short - a leader. Keith Neergaard fulfills this role completely as he leads by example. In addition to serving as a patrol rep he also serves as an OEC instructor and an OEC Instructor Trainer. Keith has patrolled over 55 days each season for the past

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three years. He leads the candidate training program at his resort and serves as a Senior OEC Evaluator.

Keith has worked hand-in-glove with the paid staff management to unify the paid and non-paid members of the patrol into a single organization. The professionalism, respect and cohesiveness demonstrated by all patrollers has never been higher. One of the keys to this success is improvement in communication. He formally meets with patrol management each week to get updated on changes in snowpack, closures, corporate guidelines and incidents. He then disseminates the results of those meetings to non-paid patrollers via email.

For many years Keith's home resort did not support participation in region and division NSP activities. Under his leadership the resort now fully supports the NSP program. The resort has hosted Senior OEC events, Toboggan Clinics and region meetings.

Keith was presented with his National Appointment just a few months ago and in 2013, after saving a life, he was honored with a Purple Merit Star.

This quote from the final paragraph of Keith's nomination sums up the qualities of his leadership:

“Everyday, the nominee has a quiet smile. He never says a negative word. He never gets upset. He always compliments and recognizes effort. He has a quiet chuckle. He always asks for your ideas and input – and LISTENS. He has earned the respect of all: paid staff, non-paid staff and upper management.”

Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol – Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol - Unit Citation – FWD Winner

Founded in 1961, Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol can trace its roots back to 1939 when the resort first opened with the first chair lift in California. With 96 members the patrol has a strong training program and is proud of its high standards with first year candidates reaching a Senior level upon completion of their training. Beyond the basic level, patrollers are encouraged to continue their training and enhance their skills. With more than 130 documented avalanche paths, the resort throws an average of 260 pounds of explosives on an average snow day. Members are required to take Avi I in their first two years as patrollers and are given ample opportunities for beacon training, enhanced sled training, PSIA Level III ski instruction and

avalanche rescue training.

In addition to the high level of training, the other strength of this patrol is its superb relationship between the volunteer and paid staff. On the hill the patrol is seamless with no distinction between paid or volunteer staff member. Many of the paid staff, including patrol management, are members of the NSP. A large percentage of the paid staff started through the volunteer program with many members working as both paid and volunteer members.



Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol has a history of outstanding accomplishments including Gold and Silver Merit Star winners. The candidate-training program has been modeled in Ski Patrol Magazine and the Senior program is alive and active with an average of four new seniors each season. While it is safe to say that all patrols are outstanding, this patrol's training, camaraderie, dedication and pride in each other is truly exceptional.

Congratulations to Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol. The 2017 FWD Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol.

Outstanding Small Alpine Ski Patrol – Silver Unit Citation - National Runner-up, Mt. Baldy Ski Patrol

With just 36 members the Mt. Baldy Ski Patrol makes a huge contribution to the NSP. They epitomize the spirit and mission of the NSP, volunteering hundreds of hours on and off the hill. Their mountain terrain mandates a skill set beyond any other patrol in the region. The steep slopes, narrow chutes and harsh weather require their patrollers to possess top-notch ski, mountaineering and avalanche skills. Because of the terrain, the patrol often hosts Senior toboggan training and well as ski

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enhancement seminars. The mountain has hosted seven level I and three level II avalanche courses in the last four years.

Mt. Baldy is not a corporate environment nor is it a rich mountain. The patrol staff not only volunteers a tremendous amount of time, but they must also provide their own medical supplies, radios and other life saving equipment. The mountain offers skiing, but has expanded with additional services such as a tube park, zip lines and



sight seeing to the upper lodge. The patrollers have risen to the challenge associated with the additional services and often patrol even when there is not enough snow for skiing.

Currently six patrollers are working toward being fully certified. One just completed the program. 1/3 of all patrollers are Senior. The patrol has two MD's an RN, and several PHD's among their ranks. Members work throughout the community in construction, film industry, healthcare, engineering, computer science, and the public sector.

Mt. Baldy Ski Patrol can best be summed up by the words of a visiting senior Instructor/evaluator, "Your guys are on top of their skiing and sled work – they are the top patrollers in the region."

Outstanding Nordic Patrol – Gold Unit Citation – National Winner

Mt. Pinos Nordic Patrol – Yellow Merit Star for Patrol Rep Tod Fitch

Mt. Pinos Nordic Patrol boasts a roster of significant leaders in the NSP. The Region Director, Section Chief, former awards advisor all belong to this patrol. Though

the patrol comprises only 2.5% of the region's membership they provide 18% of the instructor hours for the region's annual refresher. The patrol hosted over half of their Region's Senior OEC clinics and provided 20% of the evaluators and advocates.

A tight knit group, Mt. Pinos Nordic has the honor of providing Avalanche and MTR training to the U.S. Marine Corps where the marines gladly trade their MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) for the patroller's NBR's (Nuts, Berrys, and Raisins). The patrol also collaborates with PSIA, Cal Trans, CHP, BLM, and USFS. Members work with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Each year members work with the California Department of Emergency Services to teach MTR 1 as part of the winter search management course. The patrol boasts Instructors and/or IT's in every NSP discipline and prides itself on being prepared. In addition to radios and first aid gear, the patrol is able to provide its members with up-to-date digital avalanche beacons, as well as personal GPS systems. They are the only EMS in an 18 mile radius and on average the have four full scale search and rescues each year stretching across their 20,000+ acres of terrain. This year marks the 41th year of the patrol. A truly outstanding patrol and a uniquely enthusiastic group; congratulations to the Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol. The 2017 FWD Outstanding Nordic Ski Patrol.

Editor's Note: Please see p. 14 for FWD Awards Advisor Bill Gibson's suggestions for nominating fellow patrollers and/or patrols for this season's award potential.

And, special thanks to **Doug Hill** for the photos!



TRANSPORTATION NATION

Wow - that was the year that was

What a season we had last year! Whether you were digging tower holes to find the top of the pad or shoveling off the restaurant deck – again and again – the winter of 2016 was filled with hard work, great sliding, and plenty of memories – not to mention sore backs, stiff shoulders, and lots of sweat. What a great year it was!

While the snow soldiers were hard at work keeping the resort open and our guests happy and safe, there was eventually a return to some semblance of ski patrol normalcy late season as we all dug out from under the copious amounts of snow, the sun came out, and our focus returned to ski patrol skills development.

Most Regions in the Far West Division hosted one or more successful Senior events from late March through mid April to cap off the incredible winter season.

What you did not see, however, in spite of the early season resort openings and near record snowfall -- was a corresponding high level of course registrations here in the Far West Division Transportation program. Normally we would have expected our season ending review to recap about 130-140 OET courses across the Division. However, the season-end report to the FWD Board of Directors listed a mere 112 course registrations here in the wild west, representing a 20% drop in the capture, via registration, of NSP training events.

For the 2017-18 sliding season our goal is a return to a more normal training evolution. This effort can be maximized with proper planning at the patrol level. You, as an instructor in Outdoor Emergency Transportation, can help! Many Continuing Education courses in our Regions have already been

registered and held – with more on the way – and the season start is only 60 days out. Let's capture those training events which are held at the Patrol level.

Let's start with a plan to get those Toboggan Refresher sessions scheduled, get a plan together for those excellent mid-season Enhancement Seminars that your patrollers love, and coordinate that Patroller 101 course registration with your Patrol Representative.

Finally, let's see how much demand exists in each Region for Senior Events – and perhaps schedule an early season training event and one or more mid-to-late season evaluations. Let's get all these courses

registered on NSP.org, and don't forget to include your assisting instructors roster so your instructors get the teaching credit they need for recertification.

With your help, we can capture those ski patrol OET training events held each week at your resort. Course

registration, enrollment, and closure will give credit to our students, bring benefit to our instructors, engage our Instructor Trainers, and add value to the resorts that we serve.

It's a Win-Win situation!



Daryl Whitcher
OET Supervisor, Far West Division
fwd-oet@farwest.org



Homewood partners with Red Lodge and Silverton Mtn. Resorts

HOMEWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT, RED LODGE MOUNTAIN AND SILVERTON MOUNTAIN PARTNER TO OFFER RECIPROCAL SEASON PASSHOLDER BENEFITS DURING 2017-18 SEASON Complimentary Ski Days and Other Discounts Offered to Full Season Passholders

HOMEWOOD, Calif. - July 24, 2017 - For the first time, Homewood Mountain Resort in Lake Tahoe, California and its sister resort, Red Lodge Mountain in Montana, have partnered with Silverton Mountain in Colorado to offer reciprocal season passholder benefits during the 2017-18 winter season.

“This partnership offers additional value to all three resorts' full season passholders, and represents a new opportunity for skiers and riders to explore adventurous terrain at three of the best independently operated ski areas in California, Colorado and Montana,” said Kevin Mitchell, general manager of Homewood Mountain Resort. “For Silverton Mountain passholders who are passionate about exploring backcountry terrain, Homewood Snowcat Adventures will give them an opportunity to experience the Tahoe backcountry, including some of the most incredible tree skiing in the region.”

Homewood Mountain Resort and Red Lodge Mountain will provide 2017-18 full season passholders from Silverton Mountain with three days of complimentary, single-day lift tickets valid during the 2017-18 season with limited blackout dates*. In return, Silverton Mountain will offer advanced and expert skiers and snowboarders with full season passes from Homewood and Red Lodge with one day of complimentary skiing or riding during its designated unguided season**.

Additional 2017-18 full season passholder benefits include:

— \$100 discount on Homewood Snowcat Adventure tours for Silverton Mountain passholders (valid for “open tours,” not full buyouts)

— 30 percent discount on guided skiing on Sundays in December and January for Homewood and Red Lodge season passholders who are advanced skiers and riders at Silverton Mountain (subject to availability and advance reservations)

— 30 percent discount on snow safety equipment rental (shovel, probe, avalanche transceiver, backpack) for Homewood and Red Lodge season passholders on all designated unguided ski days valid with this pass offer at Silverton Mountain

Snow safety equipment is required for all skiers and snowboarders at Silverton Mountain, and is not included. Season passholders must present their valid 2017-18 full season pass from their respective resort and an additional form of photo ID at the ticket office of the resort they are visiting to make use of these pass benefits. Tickets are non-transferable and must be used during the 2017-18 winter season. Weekday season passes and all other discount programs or passes are excluded from this offer.

For more information or to purchase a full season pass at Homewood Mountain Resort, visit www.skihomewood.com. Information on Red Lodge Mountain full season passes is available at www.redlodgemountain.com, and Silverton Mountain season passes at www.silvertonmountain.com.

* Lift ticket blackout dates at Homewood Mountain Resort during the 2017-18 winter season include Dec. 23, 2017-Jan. 7, 2018, Jan. 13-14, 2018 and Feb. 17-25, 2018. Lift ticket blackout dates at Red Lodge Mountain during the 2017-18 season include Dec. 23-31, 2017.

** Unguided ski season dates at Silverton Mountain include March 30-31, 2018 and April 1 & 6-8, 2018.

About Homewood Mountain Resort

Located on the West Shore of Lake Tahoe, Homewood Mountain Resort has offered families a boutique winter experience and exceptional guest service since 1961. Spectacular views of Lake Tahoe from every trail, snowcat accessed terrain and some of the best tree skiing in the area make Homewood a gem of California skiing. Summer operations include hiking and mountain biking, special events and more. The resort's partnership with the Homewood High & Dry Marina has made it a true year-round destination offering recreational opportunities that span from Ellis Peak to the shore of Lake Tahoe. Learn more at www.skihomewood.com.

About Red Lodge Resort

Red Lodge Mountain is Montana skiing, pure & simple. Nestled within the Beartooth Mountains and just outside of Yellowstone National Park, Red Lodge Mountain embodies the spirit of Montana – scenic, uncrowded, relaxed, and exceptionally welcoming. With 2,400 vertical feet and 1,635 skiable acres, we offer big mountain fun, without the big crowds or big prices.

About Silverton Mountain

Silverton Mountain is a unique mountanheli operation. At other times of year Silverton Mountain allows unguided skiing similar to a normal ski resort. Avalanche gear is required to ride the lift at all times. Silverton Mountain is located in Silverton, Colorado and opened for business on January 19, 2002.

Media Contacts:

Lisa Nigon, Homewood Mountain Resort, 530.584.6859 or lnigon@westshorecafe.com

Jeff Carroll, Red Lodge Mountain, 406.446.2610 x104 or jcarroll@redlodgemountain.com

Jen Brill, Silverton Mountain, 970.769.7393 or jen@silvertonmountain.com



Editor: Tim Viall
 5854 Turtle Valley Drive
 Stockton, CA 95207
 Email: tviall@msn.com

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E-mail Contact:

fwd-dd@farwest.org
fwd-add1@farwest.org
fwd-add2@farwest.org
fwd-az@farwest.org
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