



# Far West Division News and Views

News and Views of the Far West Division, NSP; [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org) December, 2017 Volume Nine, Issue Three



## From the Far West Division Director, Lance Vaughan

Early December and right on schedule the mornings at my house are cold, covering items in frost and the nights are clear. Clear nights are great for watching stars but tough to forecast opening day of most ski areas. After the bountiful snowfall of last year I hope we end up with at least an average year to help us all realize just how good the snow pack was last season.

Most of the OEC refreshers and On the Hill trainings are complete; a huge Thank You to Kevin Qualseth and team of OEC instructors. Great work herding all these patrollers smoothly, efficiently and entertainingly in a single direction.

After five years as the Far West Division OEC Supervisor Kevin Qualseth has announced he is stepping onward to new leadership roles and has spent the past year mentoring his replacement. Sue Dennison of Sugar Bowl patrol is ready to engage and will start as Division OEC Supervisor on January 1, 2018. Please welcome Sue in this role. Thank you Kevin for your service and OEC dedication for the past years. Hip Hip Hooray!

Early November had a snow storm forecast in Yosemite for the annual

Tri-Advisory event, being the Sierra the forecast changed on Friday and the weekend offered wonderful weather. The NSP Nordic, Mountaineering and Avalanche teams led discussions on weather forecasting, back country travel and avalanche updates. This year we hosted Myron Allen, NSP Nordic National Program Director, and Rick Shandler, MTR National Program Director, both offering updates on programs for the next year.

Keith Church and the Avalanche team have already started both Avy 1 and Avy 2 courses. We are very lucky in the FWD, we have great terrain, conditions, access, and instructors willing to share their knowledge on Avalanche Science. You will learn something that just might keep a trip from being a nightmare. Get in a Level 1 or Level 2 course and have a great day.

Toboggan Supervisor Daryl Witcher offers an article on sled driving focused on the finer points of not overdriving a sled. Some great points and ideas to consider, do get into the handles and give your sled skills some exercise. I NEVER forget to ALWAYS run a few sleds at the start of each season. See what Daryl has to say about that motto. I hear of a Toboggan Instructor calibration at Big Bear Mtn on Jan 13, contact Daryl for more info.

Patroller advancement -- Senior classification: besides Senior Ski &

Please see Director, continued p.8

## Mark your calendars: MTR & Women's events inside...

**Far West Winter Meeting, March 4, 2018, Heavenly Resort**

**Alumni Celebration Day, March 16, 2018, at Northstar Resort**

**Sea Otter Bicycling Classic, at Laguna Seca Raceway, April 19-22, 2018**

**Far West Awards Dinner, August, 2018, details TBA.**

**Tri-Advisory event, Yosemite National Park, November, 2018, details TBA**

**Check out the FWD (and your own Region's and Patrol's) web site for updated calendar of events!**



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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 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, George Tinoco

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](mailto:fwd-newsletter@farwest.org), or mail to 5854 Turtle Valley Drive, Stockton, CA 95207.

# Election Notification for Far West Division

## 2017-2018 FAR WEST DIVISION

### REGION DIRECTOR ELECTION NOTIFICATION

#### REGION DIRECTOR ELECTIONS:

Also be advised that **Arizona, Mother Lode, and Southern California** regions are due for Region Director elections, in spring 2018. Positions are for 2 years — June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2020.

Region directors may serve no more than 3 consecutive 2 year terms.

**Arizona**– Andrew Youngblood – 2016-18 Region Director

**Mother Lode**– Tony Atkins – 2014-16 & 2016-18 Region Director

**Southern California** – Diana St. Clair – 2014-16 & 2016-18 Region Director

Nominations are now open and will be accepted to later than **February 5, 2018**.

Consult a region officer or your region's by-laws, officer's handbooks, and ski patrol manual for qualifications. Nominations are to be submitted to the Division Election Chairperson, Janice Waits.

#### REGION ELECTION TIME LINE:

**February 5, 2018**—Pronouncements of Candidacy and letters of acceptance of candidacy due to Elections Chair/committee

**April 2, 2018** — Ballots sent out along with candidates platform and statement

**May 7, 2018**— Date all ballots to be received/postmarked — results announced

#### PLEASE FORWARD ALL NOMINATIONS AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO:

Email nominations and/or announcements to: [jrwai40@gmail.com](mailto:jrwai40@gmail.com);  
Janice Waits, Election Chairperson, 1202 Rembrandt Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087



## Pinecrest Nordic offers events!

I would like to announce two Pinecrest Nordic Ski Patrol training events::

1. **Avalanche:** February 3-4 at Pinecrest, CA Feb 25th at Donner Summit. Website/Registration: <http://www.pinecrestnordic.org/av1>
2. **Mountain Travel and Rescue:** March 10-12 (subject to change). Pinecrest, CA  
Website/Registration: <http://www.pinecrestnordic.org/mtr>  
If you have any questions, please contact me. Sincerely, **Keith Gale**,  
**Pinecrest Nordic PR.**



# 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-Advisory celebrates in Yosemite

Held in Yosemite Valley the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Tri-Advisory was enjoyed by all attending. Everyone starting arriving on Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> with the activities on Saturday ending with a banquet pot-luck style dinner and a camp-out in a secluded camp site in the Yosemite Valley away from all other camp sites and lodging.

Quite a surprise for the weather! Even though the attendees are all prepared for any weather that the mountains may present a storm predicted by the National Weather Service stalled further to the north thus everyone enjoyed a nice Saturday and a fantastic Sunday!

Very special guests attended this year, Myron Allen the National MTR Director, and Rick the National Nordic Director. Each gave the program updates and changes and looked for input from everyone for the needs of each program. Rick and Myron described the FWD membership as very knowledgeable, dedicated, and enthusiastic and very involved with the changes to the programs.

As the Park Service is gracious to allow us to use their special camp site there is always a volunteer project undertaken. This year we assisted with a project of re-generating the Manure Pile clearing site to rid it of the non-native and invasive plants and re-seed with native plants.



Tri-Advisory was a registered Instructor Continuing Education (ICE) course for MTR, Avalanche, and Nordic for all to fulfill the instructor's requirement for continuing education every three years to renew their instructorship.

Glenn Minuth (Mt Lemon) presented a lecture on Weather and historical season climate. The new ShiftPOD insulated base tent was set-up and used by Larry Cody & Melissa Yee (Mt Pinos). Lucky them!

The dinner was again organized by Larry Cody and Melissa (Mt Pinos) and was again certainly memorable! Plenty of home-make food cooked at the camp site and brought by everyone was certainly a feast and is now a must attend event.

Tri Advisory is sponsored by the MTR (Mountain Travel & Rescue), Avalanche, and Nordic programs and is opened to all members that wish to gain and enhance their knowledge of the winter backcountry. Lodging is either camping at the site where Tri Advisory events are held, or at the RV camp site, or the lodges.

Hope to see you next year in Yosemite!

Submitted by:

**Karl Chulski**, MTR Supervisor - FWD, [fwd-mtr@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-mtr@farwest.org);

**Keith Church**, Avalanche Supervisor - FWD, [fwd-avalanche@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-avalanche@farwest.org);

**Jeff Gurrola**, Nordic Supervisor - FWD, [fwd-nordic@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-nordic@farwest.org).

# TRANSPORTATION NATION

All the Sled news that's fit to print – and occasionally worth reading.

In last season's mid winter issue I wrote an article for News & Views *The Evolution of Toboggan Driving*. That article was followed, in the N&V issue, with *The Evolution of Tail Roping*. Several folks have to me on both articles, many indicating that that the articles were thought provoking, worthwhile, and a topic of discussion among the OET in their local patrol room – heady praise, indeed!

Daryl Whitcher is FWD  
OET Supervisor,  
fwd-oet@farwest.org



A few also mentioned that it would be most effective to merge both concepts into one article – a single reference document to spur discussion during instructor training. So, Lets take a look at ...

## The Evolution of Toboggan Driving

Like all good Toboggan Trainers, my instructors instilled upon me the necessity to get the patient down the hill in the safest manner possible. Of course, being ski patrollers, they also wanted to prepare us candidates for the worst case scenario, and so we trained on the steepest slopes often under the most marginal snow conditions, and clearly many instructors seemed determined to “grind” the newbies into exhaustion. Fatigue is currently seen as detrimental to improved skiing performance, and it most certainly leads to heavy wear and tear on our rescue toboggans. The inescapable conclusion is that NSP Toboggan Instructors have a long history of emphasizing the need for control - often at the expense of sled operators, and also at the expense of our equipment. In short, for a long time we have taught our students how to 'over drive' the toboggan.

There are some notable characteristics to indicate when a patroller is 'over driving' the rescue toboggan. When observing a patient evacuation, you may note the evacuation route is straight down the hill with the driver in a wedge or side slip; while this is very appropriate in steep or difficult conditions, it is not often needed or appropriate on more moderate slopes. The constant braking action required can prove to be very taxing on the sled driver and thus driver fatigue may actually compromise patient safety. Turns, when required, often feature an abrupt transition followed by an extended fall line component before the traverse segment begins – the prototypical “box” shaped turn. The shape of the 'box turn' is unique to sled driving and is not a turn shape that occurs in any natural movement pattern seen among skiers or boarders on the mountain. As such, it is a move requiring the operators to expend significant amounts of energy and should only be used as appropriate for the terrain or traffic conditions.

Contrast the box turn with the natural, flowing motion of the advanced skier or boarder moving down the mountain in the typical “S” shaped turn pattern. While in a balanced, athletic stance, the advanced slider is constantly making minute adjustments while moving at speed – characteristics which directly relate to driving a rescue toboggan. The board/ski edge, or control surface, is constantly being pressured in different locations - from the tip at turn initiation, to the tail at termination. The entire length of the control surface is being utilized for each turn sequence, resulting in a smooth change of direction and a generally greater speed while maintaining optimum control. The advanced toboggan driver uses the same concept, pressuring the entire toboggan sequentially as appropriate, with “up” pressure on the handles providing effective directional control to the fins at the stern of the sled, and “down” pressure providing influence upon the chain brake under the bow of the sled to effect speed control. A synopsis of performance indicators for operators at each level includes the following -

### Basic Performance

static, front of handles  
symmetric, at front of handles  
fingers wrapped, palm down  
tight grip, down pressure  
fall line, box turns  
hard pressure – downforce  
not pressured  
slow to moderate

DRIVER POSITION  
HAND POSITION  
FINGERS  
GRIP PRESSURE  
ROUTE  
CHAIN BRAKE  
FINS (CONTROL SURFACE)  
SPEED

### Advanced Performance

middle of handles, & active  
split, forward & aft  
palm to midline, fingers loose  
light grip, neutral pressure  
fall line, “S” turns  
neutral to light pressure  
light pressure  
moderate to fast

Please see Sled Commander, continued page 22

# Northern California Candidate Recruiting At Snowbomb

We had another good year recruiting approximately 60 prospective NSP candidates at the Snowbomb Ski and Snowboard Festivals in Santa Clara (Oct. 28-29), San Francisco (Nov. 4-5), and Sacramento (Nov. 11-12). Snowbomb has been nice enough to offer us free booth space at these shows to help our recruiting efforts.

This is our main recruiting activity. In addition to actively recruiting potential patrollers but it also puts ski patrolling in the public eye. We often have public thank us for help they or family members have received from ski patrol. In addition retired patrollers come up to say hi and their experiences with us.

Our goal is to have every patrol represented both with patrollers and area specific recruiting materials. Please join us next fall.

Thanks to the following patrollers for helping staff our recruiting booths...

Ron Evenson (Donner Ski Ranch), Per Larson (Tahoe Donner Alpine), Quintin Louie (Squaw Valley), Doc Jim Margolis (Homewood), Chris Niggel (Tahoe Backcountry), Matt Ridge (Sugar Bowl), Evan W. Todd (Donner Ski Ranch) and Jeff Wax (Sugar Bowl).

Here are some details which may be of use to others working on recruiting efforts...

The photo below is from the Sacramento show. We have a new booth backdrop with a generic "Ski Patrol Recruiting"

message. If patrols in other areas are interested in purchasing this same backdrop (two 4' x 6' vinyl banners), contact John McGuigan, Squaw Valley Ski Patrol and FWD NorCal Recruiting Advisor <[j.t.mcguigan@gmail.com](mailto:j.t.mcguigan@gmail.com)>. He can provide the link to VistaPrint where copies can be purchased for \$170 for both banners. This particular photo is (c) Greg Lawler ([GregLawlerPhoto@gmail.com](mailto:GregLawlerPhoto@gmail.com)). Greg is a long time patroller at Squaw Valley, who commutes from Washington DC.

Doc Jim Margolis <[jamadapa@att.net](mailto:jamadapa@att.net)> has the artwork for the OEC Poster you see on the table top, if others want their own copy for recruiting.

If you are interested in developing your own banner, contact Andre Gonsalves and NSP HQ <[agonsalves@nsp.org](mailto:agonsalves@nsp.org)>. He developed the VistaPrint ready artwork from a high quality digital photo.



The prospective NSP candidate in the photo wearing the red plaid shirt, if filling out his contact information on an inexpensive Kindle Fire Tablet which is running iCapture software. This allows us to capture very accurate contact

information, vs. trying to decipher handwriting. If you want more detail on how to set this up for your own Resort or Region recruiting activities, please contact John McGuigan.

Submitted by **John McGuigan**, FWD NorCal Advisor, **Jim Margolis** ESR Advisor, **Matt Ridge** MLR Advisor

## Assistant FWD leaders sought!

Seeking FWD mentees/assistant staff 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 newsletter editor/layout guru, will train! Info, Tim Viall, [tviall@msn.com](mailto: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, division level. Fresh ideas sought in outreach, marketing, organized activities and the like. Contact Tim Viall, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com), 209.969.3875.

# Mountain Travel & Rescue readies for storms!

Winter storms are approaching! As the winter storms are beginning to head further south and build-up a snow pack we at the MTR program are looking forward to sufficient snow conditions in the back country to enjoy.

At Tri-Advisory held in Yosemite Valley the National MTR Program Director, Myron Allen, attended and gave the latest up-dates to the MTR curriculum and looked for everyone to give input to the needs and looked for input to the direction the MTR program should take. At the end of the weekend Myron described the FWD MTR group as very knowledgeable, dedicated, and enthusiastic.

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.

Here are the courses that have been scheduled. If you would like to learn more about the MTR program and join in a course contact myself (numbers below) or the instructor listed for the course of interest.

## Northern California Region:

None scheduled at this time. Make plans to attend one of the other courses.

## Mother Lode Region:

MTR 1 Classroom, 3 hour telecom - to be scheduled  
Field session, March 17-18, Pinecrest  
For more information contact Keith Gale  
[keith\\_gale@hotmail.com](mailto:keith_gale@hotmail.com)  
Course number: F067180003

MTR 1 Classroom to be scheduled  
Field session, to be scheduled at Bear Valley area  
For more information contact Steve Shields at [granite.face@gmail.com](mailto:granite.face@gmail.com)  
Course number: (yet to be issued)

## Eastern Sierra Region:

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MTR 1 Classroom, Dec 2-3, Davis, CA  
Field session, Feb 10-11, Truckee, CA,  
Field & Overnight, Mar. 10-11, Truckee, CA  
For more information contact Chris Haagen at [cmhaagen@gmail.com](mailto:cmhaagen@gmail.com)  
Course number:F005170005

## Southern California Region:

MTR 1 Classroom has already been held.  
If you have had your classroom but not the field session contact Natalie.  
Field session, Feb 3-4, Location TBD  
For more info contact Natalie Muraciov at [scblackdiamond@yahoo.com](mailto:scblackdiamond@yahoo.com)  
Course number:F030170001

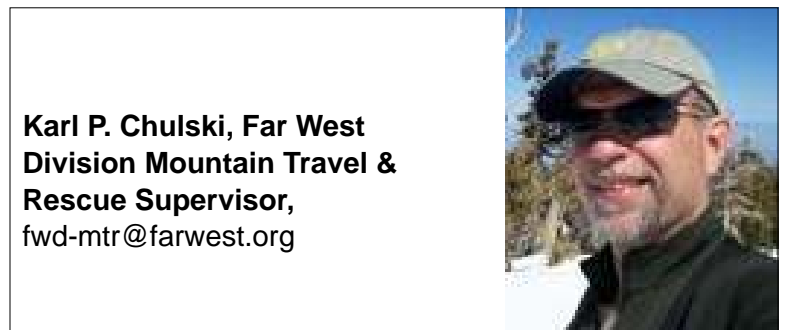
## Arizona Region:

MTR 1 Classroom, TBD, Phoenix area  
Field session, Feb 4-5, Ski Sunrise  
For more info contact Guy Roll at [guy.roll@gmail.com](mailto:guy.roll@gmail.com)  
Course number: (yet to be issued)

These courses are designed for the patroller and will increase the skills and knowledge of winter mountain survival and travel.

These courses are opened to all patrollers, Alpine, Nordic and Auxiliary. 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 relative 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.



**Karl P. Chulski, Far West  
Division Mountain Travel &  
Rescue Supervisor,**  
[fwd-mtr@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-mtr@farwest.org)

# FWD Women's Program offers short report

Ski resorts are opening up already and I hope you are getting prepared for another fantastic winter! I have a few changes in my region advisers and would like to introduce to you the following women who have stepped up to help spread the good news about Far West Women's Program. Our group is mighty and I want to encourage all of you to expand your horizons within NSP and get involved either as an instructor, a board member, take an additional clinic in the other disciplines, help with the candidates, organize a regional women's clinic, or anything to help move women up higher on the organizational ladder.

Here are the new appointments: \_\_\_\_\_

New National Women's Program Supervisor: **Tanya Bruce Thomas**--from the Southern Division (replacing outgoing Linda Barthel)

New NorCal region women's program adviser: **Alyssa Winkelman**-- has moved up into many areas of teaching and supervision within NSP. We're happy to have you on board, Alyssa!!! Thank you!

New SoCal region women's program adviser: **Linda Roth**--new to the women's program but has lots of support in her region. Thank you, Linda, for stepping up and jumping in with both boots!

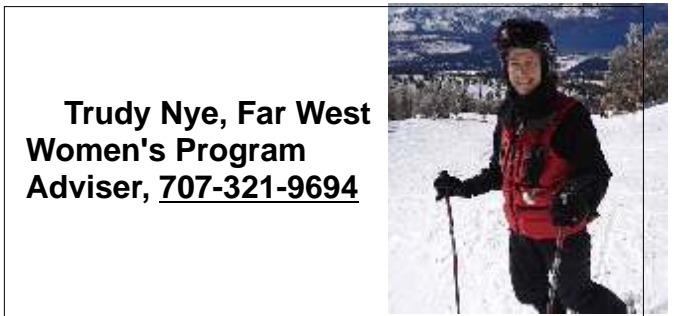
Returning women's program advisers are:

Eastern Sierra--**Tammie Hodeman**

MotherLode--**Dore Bietz**

Needing one more adviser from Arizona region. If you are interested, contact me at [trudyenye@gmail.com](mailto:trudyenye@gmail.com)

Happy Holidays to you all. I wish you many feet of snow and great skiing/riding!



## FWD patrollers and OEC instructors, a big thanks!

THANK YOU to all of our OEC Instructors for keeping your Instructor Continuing education active by taking part in your regional ICE clinics. Also thank you for taking part in one of many successful OEC courses and Refreshers. As an instructor we look forward to the course, look forward to teaching a portion of it, meeting new candidates, watching the progression, then after many weeks of class, preparing, and refreshing we are finally done, with lots of stress taken off the candidates. Now it is time to put the skills to the snow.

Another great year of OEC training because of our dedicated OEC Instructors and those who are involved in the training.

Fall is here, areas are getting ready to open, I am sure that we all have inspected our ski gear by now but what about our fanny packs, or first aid gear. Do not put this off until the first day of patrolling. The tape gets not so good and the bandages get old and no good, torn up 4x4's have you ever noticed those black dots on your old cravats? MOLD!! Do you think that it is just confined to just the cravats? Check it out now before you need to use it and you find that your supplies are not up to par. Put your gear back in the spot where you know where it is to be and avoid that panic moment when you need it now, and did not put it away properly.

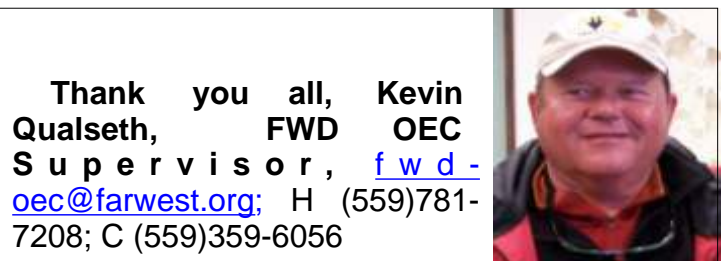
It has been Five years that I have been your Far West Division OEC Supervisor. We are now passing along the FWD OEC Supervisor position to **Sue Dennison**. Sue has been the

MLR OEC Administrator for the past few years; we have been working together for the past year getting ready for the change of position. As of Jan 1 Sue Dennison will be the FWD OEC Supervisor. I will be there for her to bounce things off of but she will be the go to person from then on for FWD OEC.

Thank you Very much for giving me the opportunity to meet so many great people during my time as Supervisor. I am looking forward to seeing you all sometime this year either at training event or on one of our hills, making turns.

Be Safe, and remember **“YOU ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS YOU TRAIN”**

Kevin Qualseth, FWD OEC Supervisor



## Division Director, continued from page 1

Toboggan and OEC skills the other non-elective for Senior classification is Avalanche. Check the requirements and electives, each patroller can select their remaining electives from the offered NSP courses.

Certified classification training and evaluations continue occur throughout the year at various clinics, see dates in newsletter. This year caps a multi-year effort to complete a NSP system wide listing of skills for each topic of knowledge in a NSP study guide posted on the FWD website. In the FWD we enjoy a great partnership with the APP for testing and training, check out the dates and locations listed. You will learn new skills.

After the last FWD newsletter I received an interesting letter from Alumni Chuck Morse with a rich accounting of a life spent in the ski industry. If I read and recall the years correctly, Chuck was directing the Far West Ski Association Racing when I was a young ski racer, small world. Great to hear of our past and the work done to help us all get to today.

The recent Election for the National Board of Directors is concluded. The elected Directors are Chris Pringle Eastern, Wendy Aarnio Eastern, Rick Knight Eastern, Morgan Armstrong Southern and Ken Kramer Rocky Mtns. The new Board members start the first week of January,

2018; do check in for updates on the happenings of your Board. One Far West Patroller currently sits on the Board, Josh Masur of Alpine Ski Patrol. Please contact Josh with questions.

The shortest day of the year approaches (Winter Solstice) and opening day for most of us is just one good storm away.

Let it snow, let's get skiing. **Lance Vaughan**, Far West Division Director.



## Certified program offers fun learning opportunities!

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.

### The Certified Clinic dates & locations:

1. **June Mountain** - Jan 19, 20,21, 2018 - **CONFIRMED**
  2. **Sierra at Tahoe** - Feb 6,7,8 - **CONFIRMED**
  3. **Steven's Pass, Wash** - Feb 14-16 - **CONFIRMED**
  4. **Arizona Snowbowl** - Feb 20,21,22 - **CONFIRMED**
  5. **Red River, New Mexico** - Early March - Dates to be confirmed
  6. Blasting Seminar - **Mammoth** - March - Dates to be confirmed
  7. Spring Clinic **Mt Rose** - April 23-27,2018 **CONFIRMED**
- 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](http://www.propatrollers.org) and you are on your way.

The NSP Certified Supervisor Committee has completed an **updated NSP Certified Program Study Guide** outlining material covered in each of the modules.

This file is posted on the Far West Division Website take a look at this document as a reference tool. This is the first published document aligning all the Divisions of the NSP with a core set of skills and material for Certified classification. In the Far West Division our working relationship with the APP remains strong and we continue to utilize many of the APP Clinics for our practical skills evaluations. Take a look and use as a reference with the APP study guide.

**Lance Vaughan**  
**FWD Certified Supervisor**  
[fwd-certified@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-certified@farwest.org)





# Headline news from Bear Valley Ski Resort!

After many years of limited or no capital improvements Bear Valley's current owners, Skyline Investments, is stepping up to the plate with a new hi-speed detachable six pack chair lift. While there have been numerous cosmetic improvements in the resort over the past couple of years this is the first multi-million dollar improvement that backs up their belief that Bear Valley has significant potential to be a quality year around destination resort.

This past summer, the resort rolled out the Sierra Nevada's first "Glamping" product (AKA Glorious Camping). While similar to Yosemite's platform tents, these high end accommodations come loaded with a queen sized bed, a sitting area, a stove for heat, solar power for electricity and an amazing view of Moke Canyon from each "glamp's" deck. Plans for Summer 2018 call for this glamping environment to be expanded and moved to the top of Bear Valley Mountain and be serviced by the new high speed 6 pack lift. This glamping concept was a home run success!

Bear Valley Ski Patrol held their NSP OEC Refresher October 14 & 15. In addition to Cycle A training the team of Pros and National Volunteers also practiced lift and self evacuation and had our annual awards banquet. Great fun! Submitted by **Andy Rich** of Bear Valley Patrol:

**Photos at right from Bear Valley: Top, the new Glamping Tents were a popular addition to the mountain this past summer and fall; center, the luxury accommodations offered a wonderful view of the Mokelumne River Canyon; bottom, the new 6-pack chair being installed at Bear Valley Resort this summer, adding additional skier capacity to the mountain. When you visit, stop by and say hello to members of the Bear Valley NSP!**



## Dodge Ridge National Ski Patrol refresher soaks up sunshine!



The Dodge Ridge NSP had sunny days for its refresher in October, and now awaits another winter storm for the mountain to open!



## Far West Division makes awards to top patrollers

If you missed our last issue of 'News and Views', go to the FWD website, [farwest.org](http://farwest.org), then to Programs, then Newsletters and click on the September, 2017 issue for full Division award profiles! Here are a few photos of some of our awardees to whet your appetite!



## FWD Community College Program

In the last article we explained how the funding for the Community College program is managed. The main ingredient is the paperwork for enrolling each patroller. This year the Chancellor for the California's Community Colleges changed the enrollment process. The new process is a radical departure from the enrollment practices of the past.

When the new enrollment procedures were explained to me in July I knew that the normal enrollment we count on each year was going to be affected. True enough; four of the 14 participating patrols withdrew from the program with only one new patrol to be added. My own patrol dropped from 80% participation to 50%. This was not looking good.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> I visited The Academy and met with their staff and administrators. The visit was to have taken place in July; however, many of the principle people I wanted to meet were on vacation then. As it turned out the October meeting date was fortunate. At the meeting I explained how we are a volunteer group of people who did not need to participate in the program like the regular students they have. Our patrollers have careers in place and are at a place in their life that they do not want to share their personal information. I further mentioned that the three new forms asked for repetitive information including Social Security Numbers. Then, I told them that we had already had four patrols withdraw and none of the OEC classes enrolled. By my estimate the program would drop its participation by 50% or more this year. They said that they were concerned and would look into the issues I presented. I left the meeting feeling the

program was doomed.

Fast forward to October 23<sup>rd</sup>. I get an email stating that new enrollment procedures have been created for the Far West Community College Program. The three different forms totaling four pages of information had been cut to two pages, plus, the Community College Identification Number and Social Security Numbers are now optional. Additionally, once a patroller is enrolled in the new system, they will only need to do a one-page reenrollment form the next year. Everything I asked for in the meeting was granted. I was elated, the program has taken a hit this year, but next year we should see additional participation.

The new forms were sent out to all the participating patrols and hopefully we will see more enrollments during the end of this season as there are still some OTH Refreshers being completed.

Next year, if your patrol is not participating they are losing a valuable source of additional funding. Reconsider participating. If your patrol is in Nevada or Arizona the program can be created in your state too. For further information contact Steve Thorsted at [stevethorsted@gmail.com](mailto:stevethorsted@gmail.com).

Submitted by FWD Community College Coordinator Steve Thorsted, contact Steve at [stevethorsted@gmail.com](mailto:stevethorsted@gmail.com).





# Far West Division awards nominations...prepare early!

The season is just about ready to begin so let's start thinking about submitting some awards.

Last season many of the members of the Far West Division were recognized with awards ranging from local, patrol/area awards all the way to receiving National Outstanding Awards. How is it that they received this recognition? It all starts with you. Yes **YOU!!!**

## Would you like to be a part of the Awards Team?

There are several steps that finally lead to one for the members being presented with an award. The first and often the most difficult step is writing up the award. Most awards require two items to be submitted and considered for presentation.

The first step is the awards application. For an award to be considered an application is submitted with all the members patrol history. To most members this seems like a difficult task but it really isn't. Your Patrol Rep or Regional Awards Advisor can send you a copy of the members NSP profile. All you have to do is ask for one. With a profile, you can fill in the information and you are half way there.

The second part is a letter of recommendation. A letter of recommendation must accompany all most every award. This gives you a chance to tell the awards committee why the member deserves the award. The letter is usually only one page long and should briefly support why you are submitting the award plus this gives you a chance to state the facts supporting the submission. Please try to type this as a word document with your spell check on and don't embellish or make things up. They should receive the award for what they actually did not for something that you made up.

Once you have the award application and letter done, the next step is the easy one. It requires signatures but the only one you need to worry about is your Patrol Representatives. Just turn these over to your PR and they will take it from there. And all you have left to do is show up at a

patrol, region or division awards banquet to see the member you submitted receive an award they so richly deserve.

If you would like to be a part of the Awards Team, you can find all the guidelines in the current NSP Policy and Procedures (under the Governance tab), Chapter 12. This year's awards forms are also on the NSP web site:

How to Download Awards forms:

- Log on to [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org)
- Click on "Member Resources"
- On the right side click on "Forms and Documents"
- Click on "Awards"
- Look for Award Forms, click on the form you need and down load it

If you want to be a part of the Awards Team, follow the above steps. If you run into any problems, contact your PR, your region Awards Advisor or feel free to reach out to me.

Remember awards start with **YOU**.

**Become a part of the Awards Team Today!!**

**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 January 25 for our February, 2018 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](mailto:fwd-newsletter@farwest.org). Or by U. S. mail to 5854 Turtle Valley Drive, Stockton, CA 95207.

If you are sending photos and want them returned, please send a self-addressed envelope.

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

Calendar the Sea Otter Bike Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway, CA, April 19-22, 2018

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 attracted 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 250 riders, from incidents of road rash, exhaustion and 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 2017 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 over \$4,600 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](mailto:tviall@msn.com), or 209.969.3875.** For more insight into the event itself, go to [seaotterclassic.com](http://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](mailto:webworker@farwest.org). Also send your events to **Tim Viall**, **FWD Newsletter Editor**, [tviall@msn.com](mailto: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:

**Avalanche:** February 3-4 at Pinecrest, CA Feb 25th at Donner Summit; website/registration: <http://www.pinecrestnordic.org/av1>  
**Mountain Travel and Rescue:** March 10-12 (subject to change).  
**Pinecrest, CA; website/registration:** <http://www.pinecrestnordic.org/mtr1>  
**Mid-winter FWD Board Meeting, Heavenly Resort, March 4**  
**Sea Otter Bicycling Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, April 20-23, 2017. Info, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com).**

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

**Post your key events in 'News and Views', send to editor Tim Viall, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com).**

**See the FWD Web site for updated calendar & training.**

# 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”? Retiring from patrolling; **DON'T DROP OUT!**

Consider the impacts if you go “inactive”, you still pay \$55 dues to National and \$19 to the Division, and lose all your benefits as a patroller. Alumni status is 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 remain involved with their local patrol (for my Dodge Ridge Patrol I remain active with alumni, and continue on as the FWD Newsletter Editor and Alumni Advisor). After 35 years, NSP-service is in my blood.

I am hoping to assist as best I can in the coming 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:

Suggestions 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 the NSP catalogue, invitations to yearly Alumni events (like the March, 2018 Alumni Celebration Day), info from the NSP & your individual patrol and the “halo status” of continuing 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!

## 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; and it's easy and relatively painless. Renew your NSP Alumni status today!

For more info, the NSP Alumni brochure and draft Patrol Alumni Advisor position description, go to: [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org), click on Member Programs, then on Alumni.

Suggestions for individual patrols:

- 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 page 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](mailto:fwd-alumni@farwest.org);  
For additional info, go to:  
[www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org), click on Member  
Services, then, Alumni!



## 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](mailto: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.

See page 17 for “best practices” from Heavenly Patrol!

## 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. **Scheduled for March 16, 2018, our next Alumni Celebration Day at Northstar, details to come!** 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 and the local patrol hosts a tour of the mountain.

**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; we thank Sierra at Tahoe for hosting the 2017 event! Northstar is the location for a March 16, 2018 event, details to follow!**



## Dodge Ridge Patrol takes in Miller movie, celebrates alumni!

On December 2, members of the Dodge Ridge Alumni joined with members of the active patrol to take in the Warren Miller movie in Modesto, (photo at left).

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. Stop by Dodge Ridge and join us!

## Communications enhanced in FWD, regions;

*Get the most from Far West Division and Facebook pages, offering new looks & info*

Both the FWD web site and the FWD Facebook page have been enhanced and expanded to share information with patrollers and alumni. Check them out!

As an example, if you need insight on Awards, go to the web page, [farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org), 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 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.



# Suggestions for using Alumni talent, from the ESR

These are suggestions from Eastern Sierra Region Alumni Advisor Bob Hoffman and reflect practices at Heavenly Resort. Some of these are specific to Heavenly, and offer a wealth of alumni-involvement ideas. Thanks to Bob for sharing a very active alumni program!

**ALUMNI ROSTER:** Bob suggests building your patrol's alumni by add number of years patrolling at Heavenly, spouses name, current instructor, original patrol when started, highest administrative position.

## **PARTICIPATION ON THE HILL** (suggestions for alumni involvement):

- Hill Ambassador, carry maps and answer question.
- Be hill host for visitors, patrol and VIPs
- First Aid assistance at accidents if requested by attending patroller, acts as good Samaritans.
- Assist yellow jackets in crowd control.
- Use as guard for closed runs or monitor level for limited runs (Roundabout)
- Wear radios; (not visible) owned or if NSP radios are available and respond to Stations on 10-8 with one or 10-7 and 10-21 to standby.

Take empty toboggans to accidents if directed by station official or DP. As well as O2 or Trauma Pack if needed and directed.

- Give AM school bus talks.
- Have calendar for hill signup on web, also number of hours (min 8 hours – eligibility for banked pass.)
- Help with planning of banquet, refreshers, or special events.
- Help pack sleds
- Help with fall set-up and Spring tear down.
- Volunteer as patients for sled training and testing.

## **REFRESHERS:**

- Attend as possible, instruct (if OEC Instructor), help instructors, be patients, helpers, and add to scenario as directed by instructors. Do same for testing and training.

## **EMERGENCIES:**

- First aid assistance if requested by patroller
- Direct traffic at accident sites
- Help in avalanche situations as requested by patrol
- Help in triage situations as requested by patrol
- Help in First Aid room as necessary and requested by a

patroller.

- Pack sleds if necessary.

## **VISITORS:**

- Be host for visiting patrol or alumni visitors
- Act as visitors or VIP host on the hill
- Host or help with Alumni Days at selected ski areas

## **CALENDAR:**

- Have a separate sign-on calendar for alumni, separate from patrollers

- Sign in advance for days to be available to help (see that DP has knowledge of alumni on the hill)

## **BANKED TICKETS:**

- Get banked tickets for each day (min 8 hours) signed up and spent on the hill including refresher day
- Used banked tickets for visiting patrol, alumni and family needs.

## **DRESS:**

- Be neat and presentably dressed
- Carry radios but not visible to public
- Use parka or vests without cross (they can be removed by cleaners or alterations)
- Or use black vests or parkas
- The dress should be clear that you are not an operating patroller but you have skills and can assist in a limited capacity to assist skiers.
- Ski Patrol Alumni name tags or pins in gold color are appropriate with name of ski area and clearly lettered ALUMNI.

## **SEASON PASS:**

Same EPIC pass as patrollers/dependents, under Alumni rules dictated by Board and management.

In Alumni passes, keep benefits as patrollers, equipment and food discounts.



The Heavenly Patrol and mountain management are very supportive of alumni, and Heavenly hosted the Division's Alumni Celebration Day in 2016 (pictured are participating alumni on a fine March day).



Submitted by **Bob Hoffman**,  
Eastern Sierra Region Alumni  
Advisor and Heavenly alumni;  
hoffskipc@aol.com

## Involved Alumni; making their ski areas a better place



Pictured alumni, left to right, Ruth Dargitz is a veteran of the Dodge Ridge Patrol and serves as the patrol's alumni adviser; Larry Bolander is a fixture for the NSP at the Sea Otter Classic, serves as campground host and is a veteran of the Heavenly Patrol; Virgil Plautz, alumni of Sugar Bowl Patrol, is also a stalwart at the Sea Otter Classic and continues in recreational ski racing; Bob Hoffman is the ESR Alumni Advisor and has helped build the alumni program at both his Heavenly Patrol and in the ESR. Consider tapping alumni talent for the good of your patrol and resort!

## Ski Patrols of the Far West Division:

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 at Tahoe Ski  
Patrol  
Snow Valley  
Soda Springs  
Squaw Valley  
Sugar Bowl  
Sunrise  
Tahoe  
Backcountry

Tahoe Donner  
Tahoe Donner Nordic Center

*Have you skied them all? Plan to make a few visits to other resorts this ski season; NSP training opportunities make it easy!*

# Preserving The Legacy

As I sit down to write this article, I have just returned from a memorial service for one of our patrollers here in Southern California who passed away quite unexpectedly and abruptly at age 45. Her name was Lisa and her life ended way too soon; no one was ready to say goodbye to her. Lisa had patrolled for 26 years, was a past patrol representative, an assistant region director (and was soon to be region director), and an Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor for NSP. She was awarded a Gold Merit Star for the Outstanding Patrol Representative in the Nation, and she helped guide her patrol to the Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol for Southern California. Outside of patrol, her dedication to helping people and giving of herself continued as a Disaster Management Assistance Team EMT, a Disaster Management and Bio-Terrorism Specialist for two Southern California counties, a Disaster Preparedness Instructor for the American Red Cross, and an EMT with a large organization which provided medical coverage for large concerts and sporting events in Southern California. I would like to dedicate this article to her memory.

So what does this have to do with Instructor Development? As I reflect on our loss of not only an outstanding patroller and wonderfully giving person, I also think about the many patrollers and instructors that have left us through retirement, physical issues, family or work issues, or just moving on or moving away, as well as the tragic manner in which we lost Lisa. I myself may be considered one of our more "veteran" patrollers as I begin my 34th year on patrol in Southern California.

While it is hard for me to think of a way to ease the loss of Lisa and these patrollers and instructors, there may be a way to ease the impact of the loss of knowledge and experience that these patrollers take with them when they leave or retire.

One of these ways is the NSP Instructor Mentoring program, the second step after the initial Instructor Development Course on the road to becoming an NSP Instructor. If leadership can identify a particularly effective instructor that brings enormous value and knowledge to the discipline in which they teach, that instructor should be encouraged to become an instructor mentor to the new instructors coming on board. The mentoring program is an ideal way for this knowledge to be preserved and passed on to future instructors.

Another idea is to encourage these instructors, while they are still actively teaching in their discipline, to document some of their favorite teaching ideas, challenges, and tips they have encountered in their classes. This could be in the form of an article for the region or division newsletter, or just a teaching handout to be used in the discipline's classes.

Keep in mind that as responsible instructors, we should always be searching for, recruiting, and training our replacements even if we are not ready to retire from teaching ourselves.

The NSP Alumni Program also offers us the ability to retain valuable instructors to teach in many of our programs when the instructor is no longer willing or able to commit to a full patrol schedule for whatever reason. All of our disciplines, with the exception of the Outdoor Emergency Transportation Program, allow alumni instructors to continue teaching as long as they keep their certifications in their discipline current. The OET Program has additional requirements that usually do not allow alumni to continue to teach on-the-snow skiing, snowboarding and toboggan handling. Consult your Region OET Program Administrator or your Division OET Program Supervisor for more information.

This season, a number of our valuable instructors have decided to join the alumni patroller program for various reasons. Our patrol and mountain management has offered them some incentives and benefits to continue to offer their teaching services to the programs at our resort on a limited basis. This is an ideal way to keep these past patrollers actively skiing and riding while taking advantage of their knowledge and teaching skills to enhance your patroller education. Perhaps your patrol leadership can explore that possibility for your education programs as well. Anything we can do to minimize the educational impact of losing valuable instructors in our programs will benefit the patrol in the long run.

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:

**Doug Hill, FWD Instructor Development Advisor,**  
[fwd-id@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-id@farwest.org).



## In Memoriam: Michael Joseph (Fitz) Fitzpatrick Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol, Norden California

Michael Joseph Fitzpatrick (Fitz), 51 years old, of Nevada City, California passed away suddenly on January 12, 2017 in a car accident. A 20+ year patroller, Fitz was the heartbeat of our patrol. He greeted us every patrol morning with “Hey Guy!” There wasn't a morning meeting without a quick witted comment from Fitz. There will be a huge void in our patrol community and Sugar Bowl Ski Resort. He was a phenomenal, dedicated patroller and earned his Senior and National Appointment Number 10,486. It didn't matter how hard it was snowing or what the task was at hand, Fitz was always “Excellent”, “Best Day Ever!”, as he would say.



Fitz was born in 1965 in San Francisco California, and graduated from Selma Union High School in 1983. He received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, and graduated from West Point in 1987 with a commission as a Second Lieutenant and a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Following commissioning, Michael was stationed in Germany as a Field Artillery officer, and served in Iraq during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He led his troops in Iraq during the Liberation of Kuwait, and earned the Bronze Star for his actions during Desert Storm. Following the war, Mike was stationed at Fort Lewis Washington as a staff officer, and separated from the Army in 1993 as a Captain. Every Veterans Day, we would send him a message thanking him for

his service. His response was always the same, “It was my honor.”

Following separation from the Army, Michael spent over 10 years in the semiconductor industry in the San Francisco Silicon Valley prior to moving to Nevada City in 2002, where he spent many years as a salesman in several industries.

Michael's life was his family and his community. He adored his children, and spent every minute he could with them. He served in the Nevada City Little League for many years, and was a past President. He had a big impact not only on his children, but on numerous children in

the community.

Fitz loved skiing and the outdoors, and was a past Patrol Director, OEC Instructor and served on the board for many years. He patrolled from 1995 until his death. He was loved by all, both in the local community, and in his Army community. He loved the Corps, the Army and Patrol, and stayed in contact with many of his fellow cadets and retired patrollers. He is survived by his wife, Jill Fitzpatrick, daughter Emily Fitzpatrick (15) and son Benjamin Fitzpatrick (12).

Fitz will be sorely missed by his patrol brothers and sisters. “Hey, Guy, my sweep ski assignment is forever clear; Fitz out”. We miss you brother. Submitted by **Chuck Kull**, Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol.



# Dodge Ridge prepares for great ski/board season

With winter storms beginning to blanket the central Sierra, Dodge Ridge and Bear Valley are closer than other options in the Lake Tahoe area, as well as family-friendly, less expensive and don't require summiting a mountain pass to reach the ski areas. From my north Stockton home, Dodge Ridge is just 98 miles, Bear Valley, 106 miles – each only about two hours distant! Here are updates:

**Dodge Ridge, family-owned and family-loved since 1950:** Dodge Ridge awaits another storm before announcing opening day. What's remarkable about this resort is that throughout its 68 year history the resort remains family-owned and loved by generations of families since its opening in 1950.

If you've followed the ski industry lately, you know this is becoming a rarity in the ski industry. Most resorts are now corporate-owned; with Dodge Ridge this family-owned and family-loved aspect makes the resort something special and translates to activities and programs focused upon families:

- It translates to the resort's relationship with their guests and the way staff is trained
- Most people who work here grew up skiing and riding here; their families come here and their children come here.
- If you ski at Dodge Ridge frequently it's common to see someone you know.
- Families can unwind at the Family Lodge, with ski/board rentals and the Creekside Lodge all residing in a compact, walkable and family-friendly base area.
- Opening day of each season is something akin to a family reunion, with old friends catching up with each other before they hit the mountain.

Dodge Ridge is widely known as the place where everyone learned to ski. That reflects upon the caliber of the resort's lesson programs, honed and perfected over the years. New skiers and boarders as young as 2 years old, up to any age, get their start here.

Dodge Ridge takes lessons beyond the single interaction. A main goal is to help people develop a life-long love of the sport - whether skiing at Dodge Ridge or anywhere else in the world – the resort aims to create that

foundation for life on the slopes. This only adds to the multi-generational element of families here at Dodge Ridge as the resort constantly focuses upon the family-owned + family-loved history of the mountain.

The resort focuses upon development of a lifelong love of the sport through daily lesson programs, progression through all lesson levels along with the care devoted to instructor training.

Dodge Ridge lesson programs include:

- Kids Club 7 Pack + Youth Season Pass (ages 4 – 12)
- Progression Pass (Levels 1 – 3 / Ages 13+)
- Summit Pass (Levels 4 – 6 / Ages 13+)
- Intro To Snow: One on one private lessons for kids as young as 2 years old

While Dodge Ridge has wonderful terrain for learning and works to teach the masses to ski and ride, the resort also offers incredible tree skiing and advanced terrain, with about 40% rated for advanced skiers.

What you see when you arrive at our base area is only a small sliver of the mountain. The skiable 862 acres extends far off to the east, to our backside and Chair 8 terrain with remarkable variety and stunning Sierra views into Boulder Canyon. With 1,600 vertical feet serviced by 8

chairlifts, a T-bar, rope tow and two magic carpet lifts, Dodge Ridge has something to offer for beginners all the way to adrenaline-fueled skiers and riders.

Dodge Ridge offers the closest ski area to all Bay Area and Central Valley locations. On a normal day, you can drive from the Bay Area in less than 3 hours, offering easy to access and no mountain passes to traverse. A majority of the route along all-weather Hwy. 108 is below the snowline, which makes it one of the easiest ski commutes available.

For more information, [dodgeridge.com](http://dodgeridge.com) or phone (209)965-3474. Bring the family and join us at Dodge Ridge this year! While you are there, stop by and say hello to members of the Dodge Ridge National Ski Patrol, one of the finest in the nation!

**(an excerpt from a Stockton Record newspaper article that ran Nov. 23, by Tim Viall)**



**From top: Dodge Ridge owners Sally and Frank Helm, in front of the Family Lodge, are usually on the mountain to greet guests; family of five surveys the Boulder Creek Canyon area off Chair 8.**

## Sled Commander, continued from page 4

aggressive

CONTROL

passive

As Outdoor Emergency Transportation instructors our goal is to provide proficient sled drivers to our ski patrol and outstanding rescue services to the skiing public. With emphasis on the efficient utilization of the control surfaces provided by the toboggan, we give our patrollers the tools to understand how the sled works, and how to effectively maneuver it while maintaining complete control. The modern rescue toboggan is engineered to be driven efficiently, and effective training will help our patrollers get the most out of their rescue equipment.

### The Evolution of Tail Roping

At every clinic that I teach, I ask the patrollers in the group for some sled driving and tail roping “absolutes”. The reasons for this are twofold - First, it gives a revealing insight into the training protocols at that particular resort and, well, the responses are often very entertaining. After all, sled drivers have a well-earned reputation as being the skiing equivalent of Neanderthals.

Invariably one of the responses - or, more likely, several of the responses – which relate to tail roping, or Tailing, is “the Tailer shall NEVER vary twelve... ) from the fall “the Tailer shall nose of the sled”, or the past there have been mostly DON'TS) than you will find in must recognize that the unidirectional analysis environment simply enough information to all surface conditions litany of NEVER DO DO THIS's - I tell the absolutes remain in all that later.



more than 15 degrees (or ten, or line directly uphill of the sled”, or ALWAYS be directly uphill from the some variant of those statements. In more DO'S and DON'TS (well, associated with toboggan training most blasting handbooks. We all instructional mindset which leads to for problem solving in today's does not give our sled drivers ensure that they can be successful in and terrain. So, after listening to a THAT's and a couple of ALWAYS students that only TWO clear the Sled Head Kingdom - more on

Another important indicator to the effectiveness of OET training is the distinction between the amount of tension required for successful tailing. In the Far West Division, our terrain requires a 'lead hand' on the tail rope in front of the body and a 'belay hand' behind the body for anchoring. Training protocols in the past have specified the amount of 'belly', or sag, which can be allowed in the tail rope between the tailer and the sled. Some resorts prefer no sag, while others allow a minimal amount of belly, while some ski patrols attempt to approximate the measured amount of sag that is allowable; most sled trainers indicate that a tail rope dragging on the ground is a clear failure. Today's evaluation standards require a more practical solution than an attempt at physical measurement.

Understanding that the Tailer's primary responsibility is functional control over the rear of the sled when the Driver is at risk, the Tailer is tasked with maintaining a functional tension on the rope. Two concepts apply for evaluating success in this endeavor: a clear understanding of when the Driver is at risk, and understanding what the term “functional tension” means. The Driver is always at risk during transition (change of direction) maneuvers – regardless of slope or surface conditions – and MAY BE at risk at all times on steep slopes (30% plus), or even on moderate to flat slopes while operating on very hard snow (icy) conditions or under very poor (sloppy) surface conditions. Traffic conditions may also require that the Tailer operate with functional tension even when the Driver is running straight to the base facility on a very flat slope.

Functional tension may be defined as only that amount of sag in the rope that can be reduced – with effective tension employed - IMMEDIATELY by the Tailer when required. Generally, this means that the tail rope can be brought to tension (zero sag) with only a roll of the ankle – whether from a wedge or a side slip. Any belly or sag in the tail rope that requires more motion than that to bring tension does not permit immediate functional braking. Here are a few other comparisons to illustrate the evolution of tail

**Please see Sled Commander, continued page 23**

# Sled Commander, continued from p. 22

roping:

## Basic Performance

fall line predominant  
box turns

fall line, above sled  
at all times

palm up  
grip rope, fingers wrapped  
hands heavy, down  
tight – no sag  
medium to hard  
slow to moderate  
aggressive

ROUTE  
TURN SHAPE  
TAILER POSITION  
Steeps (30%+)  
Moderate (20-30%)  
Flat (0-20%)  
LEAD HAND POSITION  
FINGERS  
BELAY GRIP  
ROPE TENSION  
SLED BRAKING  
SPEED  
CONTROL

## Advanced Performance

fall line if necessary, avoid obstacles  
“S” turns

Fall line above sled  
“S” turns, follow sled  
assist with pull on flat terrain  
thumb up  
fingers out, guide rope  
palm down, thumb forward  
functional when driver at risk  
neutral to light  
moderate to fast  
passive

The evolution of OET training presents an advanced training protocol which will result in more increased operational efficiency and longevity for our toboggan operators, while at the same time increasing the operational life span of our rescue toboggans. Today's rescue toboggans are designed exceptionally well and can be operated with much more speed and less muscle than ever before, and our resorts are opening new lifts to service more terrain than ever before - and it is now imperative that we provide our patrollers with the tools to work smarter and not harder during the already stressful evacuation process so that our guests will enjoy a safe, controlled ride down the mountain!

Oh, yes - the Two Absolutes chiseled in stone at the entrance to the Sled Head Kingdom?

1. NEVER say never
2. Never say ALWAYS

**That's what the flag says....**



# Reflections from FWD Refreshers



*A random selection of refresher photos pulled off Regional and Divisional Facebook pages. Take the time to scan Facebook for news of your patrol!*







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