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Greetings from the Avalanche Camp! _____

by Allan Rabbitt, Avalanche Advisor



As the year comes to an end, I think the Avalanche Program had a successful year. There were several Level 1 classes and one Avalanche Awareness class taught this year. I am in the process of recruiting and training new instructors, and hope to have instructors in patrols that do not presently have Avy instructors in house. I would like to thank all the instructors who taught classes around the division. The amount of work that goes into a class goes largely unnoticed, but is a direct reflection of your instructor's dedication to their discipline (Avalanche, SS&T, OEC etc.). Give them an Atta Boy next time you see them.

Looking forward to the coming year, the Avalanche Program schedule has a few things on it already. This year I am going to try and have an Avalanche Instructors Workshop at the Division Meeting in September. This would be an opportunity for those instructors who have not been active in the past years to become current again. It will also be an opportunity for current instructors to exchange teaching ideas and

techniques with other instructors. The current instructors have received copies of the new Instructors Manual which was recently re-written by National Avy Supervisor, Mike Laney. It is my hope that Mike can also attend this workshop and give us first hand knowledge about the new manual.

The Northern Division will again offer a Level 2 Avalanche class this year. This class will start in the Fall with the Home Study portion and will culminate at Bridger Bowl Ski Area for a 3 day field session. If you have taken a Level 1 Avalanche class, I would encourage you sign-up, have some fun, and further your knowledge about avalanches.

If your patrol would like to have a Level 1 Avalanche class taught at your Ski Area, please contact me. You do not have to have extreme terrain at your area to warrant a class. The Division has great instructors available, and they would be happy to come and teach. Most will work for hydration.

Hope everyone has a wonderful summer and I'll see you at the Division Meeting.

— Allan



• **INTRODUCING** •

**The NEW website
for the Northern Division!!!**

www.nspnorth.org

CHECK IT OUT!

Division Info *Photo Gallery* *Calendar* *Polaris*

OEC Class. Snowbowl

by Lisa Hill

When I signed up for Snowbowl's OEC class, it was as a Lost Trail candidate looking to complete the course before the 08/09 season. Although I'd practiced first aid previously in B.C., and currently work as an ICU nurse at Community Medical Center in Missoula, I did not want to challenge the exam; the OEC environment and protocols were different from any previous training and experience I'd had. Reluctantly, I resigned myself to driving between Hamilton and Missoula 2 evenings a week (40 miles each way), on top of working 3 12-hour shifts per week there.

Having missed the first 3 classes while visiting family in

B.C., I arrived at the YMCA on September 24 unsure of what to expect. I hunched down onto one of the toddler-sized chairs in the Y's childcare room and looked around at my classmates and instructors. My first realization: at 39, I was by far the oldest

candidate in the room - I was probably also older than most of my instructors (gulp!). I made notes of faces and names, hoping to make up for lost time and learn who everyone was. My fellow candidates quickly became my teammates and my friends.

Oftentimes, I would skulk into class late after getting off work at 7:30pm. OEC Class Coordinator Marty Merwin kindly cut me slack, never complaining as I hurriedly stuffed down a sandwich and asked around to catch up on what I'd missed.

Monday, September 29th brought my first exposure to instructor and Bitterroot Patrol member Mike Gue. Over the next several weeks, he and Snowbowl patroller Kerry Metlen took great pleasure in slathering moulage on each other and mimicking patients with severe bleeds and catastrophic head injuries. Of course, the clients at the Y weren't in on the ruse and believed that Mike and Kerry were actually dying in front of them. "Move along, nothing to see here!"

November 15 was an all-day assessment/scenario practice at Marshall Mountain. In one scenario, Snowbowl patrol member Katrina Weckenbrock played the part of a battered wife cowering in the women's bathroom. Her "husband" was hiding in the stall, and surprised us by jumping out, brandishing a cane. Problem was, the fellow playing her abusive husband just didn't frighten me. Thus, I blew that

station, having not ensured scene safety by retreating from the bathroom ASAP.

While we were awaiting Marty's lunch of brats and burgers, Mike Gue decided to create a scenario of his own by crawling under the deck and entwining himself in the posts and beams. I offered to take C-spine, slithering through the rocks and mud from the rear while trying to maintain Mike's head in a neutral alignment. As in the past, Mike wailed and thrashed the entire time, never going out of character until the scenario was over.

As our practical exam neared, Marty organized several practice sessions, including one in his basement. While several of us were joking about patients speaking in anatomical terms ("I think I've fractured the distal head of my humerus"), junior candidate Alex Ammons uttered the memorable line, "My meninges hurts." The phrase became an inside joke, particularly during stressful down times at the practical final.

All told, 14 of the original 16 candidates in our class passed both their written and practical exams, including 4 juniors. I could not be prouder of our class, our instructors, and all those who supported us. Frequently, a class this size tends to fracture into smaller groups

along the lines of age, personality or common interests - not so with our team. We are a cohesive unit, and continue to be so during our ski and toboggan training.



The patrollers who helped

lecture, demonstrate, set up and clean up - and allowed us to strap them into various splints - treated us as valued teammates, rather than raw recruits. I appreciate Snowbowl Patrol Director Eric Weckenbrock's encouraging candidates to step up and become involved, rather than treating us as rookies who have little to offer. As such, I plan to take the instructor development course and hope to help with future OEC classes.

Lisa Hill, RN BSN
Lost Trail and Snowbowl
Ski Patrol candidate

from The Director

by **Bill Cathey**

Wow! Where did the season go? It was just yesterday that we were all trying to get our refreshers taken care of and now we are looking at July.

I hope everyone had a great season this year with powder days and few accidents. The season went way too fast for me. I did not travel to see the patrols like I wanted to. Most of that was due to the real job getting in the way. Then balance that in with some national duties and, just like that, the season was over. This is a problem I intend to work on for next year.

Your Northern Division Board and Advisors worked extremely hard this year to bring all of you exciting clinics and courses. I hope you were able to take advantage of some of those clinics. All of the advisors did a great deal of traveling to bring you the clinics and classes. We are trying to bring events closer to all of the patrollers rather than have patrollers travel a great distance for a short weekend.

I asked Karl Uhlig at the beginning of the season if he would start the process of building a Northern Division web site. In the past, this has not been an easy task. We are overdue for a web site. He accepted the challenge and found Cheryl Thompson and between the two of them we have the beginning of a great web site. They are still in the process of adding material in all areas but the idea is to have all signups for clinics and classes along with Division information on the site. The address is www.nspnorth.org please visit this web site. We will be updating the site weekly. I thank them for their hard work.

I attended the Patroller Education Conference (PEC) in April at Snowbird this year. This is the updated version of the past Powder Fall event. I was happy to see the Northern Division was very well represented at the PEC. I think I counted about 12 Northern Division Patrollers with some of them in the roll of instructor in various clinics throughout the weekend.

The weather helped out as it dumped about 36" of snow in the first couple of days. It was a very nice way to end the season for me. I have not heard if this event will be held every year or every other year. This is a great event. The food is good and for the \$165 event fee you can not beat the deal since this came with 3 days of lift tickets too. The rooms were \$99 per night per room. However, if you put 2 to 4 people in the room it gets real reasonable.

The Northern Division was not represented in the Patroller Challenge which we need to work on. Basically it is a toboggan handling and OEC Scenario competition. The winners received a bunch of new ski equipment and clothing. I would guess it was worth around \$3000 to each winner.

The Northern Division meeting will be held September 18th at Big Sky this year at Bucks T4 Lodge. Please plan on attending this meeting. We will have the OEC refresher as well as an Instructor Development class. For more details on the IT class, contact Steve Thompson. As always, we will have the Division Awards Banquet on Saturday night. If you are a new Patrol Representative, there is a mandatory new patrol representative clinic on Friday afternoon.

You can find the signup sheet for the Northern Division Meeting in this issue or go to the Division website (www.nspnorth.org) and download it from there.

I hope everyone has a great summer. Have fun and stay safe. It won't be long and the snow will be falling again.

— Bill Cathey
Northern Division Director
406-370-8362

Need Info?

by **Bill Lay, Registration**

Feeling that you aren't receiving all of the information and mailing out there? Then I would suggest that you get on the e-mail bandwagon and register your e-mail with NSP. This is the fastest and most economical way to get the information to you. We also use it at the Division level to do the same thing. It is as secure as we can make it and the list is not "farmed out" to others; only by those Ok'd by NSP.

Don't forget to check out both the NSP and the Northern Division websites. They are www.nsp.org and www.nspnorth.org, respectively.

Please notify your Patrol Director &/or myself of changes in your contact information.

Bill Lay, Northern Division Registration
w.a.lay@bresnan.net
406-799-0739

by *Judy Handstede, Awards Advisor*

Award (definition) something won or deserved

Sponsor (definition) one whom assumes responsibility for another

I would like to thank those who submitted nominations to recognize patrollers for Outstanding, Merit Stars and Service. It is you, the sponsor, who makes an award happen. It is you, the sponsor, who took the time to not just pat your fellow patroller on the back or verbally say, "I am glad you are on my team/patrol to make our ski area a safe place for winter fun. It is you, the sponsor, who took time to research/write the recognition for a nomination. It is you, the sponsor, who is responsible for letting your nominee know just how important he/she is to the success of not only your local patrol, but the image of the National Ski Patrol. National Ski Patrol is us, the members. It is you, the sponsor, who deserves a huge thank you for making time in your busy lives to see that your fellow patrollers are recognized. In ski patrol awards sense, behind every great nomination is an even greater person who is that nominee's sponsor. In September when I assist with award presentations I will be looking at the smiling/surprised faces of fellow patrollers who you chose to honor for the past ski season. I will be thinking of those who are not up front and center, you the sponsor, who is the reason behind the award presented. I know the amount of work the N. Division Review Board has done to assist you (sponsor) and me (Awards Advisor) to make this an important part of the Division Meeting. I continue to stress the importance of each patrol appointing someone in their patrol to take an active

part to track the involvement of each of member (trainings, instruction, awards won) and research different available awards. *This does not mean only the patrol awards person can nominate an award. I note Meyer Avendovch's, National Awards Chair, stance by proof "By giving an award, you increase that patroller's life span with your patrol".

Congratulations to all nominees on your contributions to NSP and to your sponsors.

The Division Awards Board (Bill Bucher, Fred Gutz, Mary Ann Hoff, Bill Mills, Rusty Wells) is not a hired body working independently for its own benefit; it is made up of fellow patrollers whose job is to work for you. The Awards Board is not flawless; nor do we know all the answers....but we are willing to do our best to solve areas of doubt, questions, or concerns. Northern Division is proud to have John Larson and Stan King represent our division on the National Outstanding Judges Committee.

I am looking forward to the Division Meeting (renewing past acquaintances and making new ones) and having lots of photos for the fall Polaris.

Judy's theme "The past was the good young years; the future can be the good old years." and "Old Patrollers never die....they just ski another run."

— Judy Handstede
N. Division Awards Advisor



Eagle Creek Patrollers at Bear Paw Ski Hill.

"Patrolling is a Partnership of working together."



You're Invited!!

I would like to invite everyone to the Northern Division Meeting September 18th, 19th and 20th.

We will have a welcome reception starting Friday Night at 6pm this event is hosted by Pacific steel. They do an outstanding job supporting the Northern Division every year. There will be a event sign in table at this event. However if you cannot make the reception on Friday night we will have a sign in table set up at 7:30 am Saturday Morning.

The Flathead Nordic is the event Host this year. They have done a great job this year supporting the Northern Division with hard work on a Nordic Manual and then they made a very generous Donation to the Northern Division to help fund the Division Meeting. Because of this donation we are able to lower the event registration fee to \$50 this year.

Bucks T4 lodge is located at Big Sky Montana the Lodge will be a great atmosphere to have this event. With the room comes buffet style Breakfast which has great food there is wireless Internet in all the rooms and a very nice swimming pool.

I'm very excited to announce that during the Business meeting Bob Scarlett the National Legal chair will be putting

on a presentation about the legal aspects of Patrolling. If you have questions this will be a great time to get your questions answered.

I new item this year is we will be having a Instructor Development Course this year that will start on Saturday from 8am to 12pm. So if you want to become an instructor this will get you started. There is a pre signup sheet that is in this Polaris. Please contact Steve Thompson in advance so that he can order you all the Materials that are needed for you to take this course.

We will be having the OEC refresher that will start at 1pm on Saturday and continue on Sunday. I know Mike Parnell will put on a Great Refresher as usual.

Please join us Saturday night for the Award Banquet. This is always a great time with lots of prizes given away. Judy Handstede and the awards committee have been working hard all year to bring you a great award presentation.

Thank You
Bill Cathey

DON'T MISS OUT!

Address or E-Mail Change??

Send your updated info to Bill Lay at: [**w.a.lay@bresnan.net**](mailto:w.a.lay@bresnan.net)

Notice to Patrol Directors

*by **Bill Lay**, Registration*

Your patrol's AR, Annual Registration, will be coming out in the mail shortly. If you have not already confirmed the current address of the present PD, please do so. These are sent to you by registered-retained receipt mail per Division Policy.

This is used by National and Northern Division to make sure you get your patrol's information on time. Please look at the form and return it in the stamped envelope the day you receive it. **DON'T WAIT !!!**

— William Lay, Northern Division Registration
w.a.lay@bresnan.net
406-799-0739

2009 Northern Division Meeting

September 18 - 20, 2009

Hosted By Flathead Nordic

Buck's T-4 Lodge

46625 Gallatin Road, Big Sky, MT 59716 • Phone 406-995-4111

Room block is reserved under National Ski Patrol - \$99 per night plus tax

ROOM BLOCK WILL CLOSE AUGUST 20, 2009

Friday, September 18, 2009

- 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. New Patrol Directors Meeting (mandatory)
6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Registration - Social Hour (Hosted by Pacific Steel & Recycling)

Saturday, September 19, 2009

- 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Patrol Directors Meeting (mandatory)
8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Instructor Development Course
Noon to 1 p.m. Catered Lunch
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. OEC Refresher
6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Awards Banquet

Sunday, September 20, 2009

- 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Finish OEC Refresher

To better prepare for this event, each person planning on attending needs to return the registration form by the due date (8/15/-09) to the Northern Division Ski Patrol.

YOUR to do list:

- Send in your registration along with correct payment.
- If registering after August 15th, pay late registration fee of \$60.
- Make your own room reservation before August 20th. See below information for booking/canceling policy.
- Bring your patrol belt/vest to the refresher.
- Order and pay for your t-shirts with your registration

Please plan to come to the 2009 Northern Division meeting. You can see old friends, make new friends and get refreshed in your OEC skills all at the same time. Remember that all OEC Instructors must also go through a complete OEC refresher every year. Just by being an instructor at a refresher does not qualify as your refresher.

For those planning to attend the Instructor Development Course, you MUST contact Steve Thompson (406-210-2741) by August 15th. There will be pre-course materials for you to cover prior to the class on Sept. 19th. Late registrants will not be accepted for this course.

The Northern Division pays half of the registration fee for instructors that work at this Northern Division Refresher. If you have been chosen to help at this refresher, please pay full registration fee up front, then complete and submit an expense voucher at the end of the refresher requesting one-half of your registration fee (\$30), and your mileage and room expense.

Room Info (before taxes) - Room Type - 1 or 2 queen beds
Singles pay - \$99; Doubles - \$99, Triple - \$114; Quad - \$129

Room Booking and Cancellation Policy

At the time of booking individual reservations, a credit card deposit of one nights' lodging is required. Cancellation policy for individual reservations is as follows: Cancel two weeks prior to event to avoid charges to individual's credit card.

**Register
TODAY!!!**

Deadline is

August 15, 2009

**First 25 Patrollers
registered receive a gift!**

Questions:

Bill Cathey,

406-370-8362 or

bill@missoulasaws.com

Registration for 2009 Northern Division Annual Meeting September 18-20, 2009

Registration deadline is August 15, 2009
(each individual NSP member must complete their own form.)

Please Print CLEARLY

NAME: _____

NSP PATROLLER NUMBER: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Attending Instructor Recertification Clinic Yes No (also contact Steve Thompson)
Attending OEC Refresher Yes No

\$50 Registration includes all portions of event (meetings, refresher trainings, Saturday lunch and dinner.)
\$60 LATE REGISTRATION if mailed AFTER August 15th

Patroller Attending Entire Event - \$50	\$	_____
Additional Banquet Guests _____ # x \$25 =	\$	_____
Patroller Attending only Refresher - \$50	\$	_____
Total for Shirts purchased below	\$	_____
TOTAL DUE	\$	_____



back



T-Shirts must be pre-ordered. Adult Sizes - S M L XL XXL (add \$2)

Short-Sleeved T-Shirt @ \$12 each Long-Sleeved T-Shirt @ \$15 each

Crewneck Sweatshirt @ \$25 each Hooded Sweatshirt @ \$30 each

(see website for color and design)

Quantity	Shirt Description	Size	Price Each	Total
SHIRT ORDER TOTAL				

(one check may be submitted for all - payable to Northern Division Ski Patrol)

**Send to: Northern Division Ski Patrol, c/o Bob Short
4409 12th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 452-1195**

Mountain Travel & Rescue WOW!

by **Troy Walker**, MTR Supervisor

2008 - 2009 Season

Flathead Nordic Patrol hosted a level 1 & level 2 MTR course this season with a total of 18 students enrolled in the program. I would like to thank the Flathead Nordic Patrol for the time and effort that they always put into the program and for hosting the MTR program.

We have a total of 16 MTR instructors in the division, 7 of which are Instructor Trainers. We are always looking for people who are interested in becoming MTR instructors; we have many fringe benefits to offer. During our outdoor events we offer free air conditioning, stiff mattresses and hard work. Most importantly we offer the experience of working with other awesome instructors and great students. After completing any course we always walk away with new friends and a new level of camaraderie within our whole group!

I began working with National Ski Patrol office in January of 2009 in an effort to create and implement one of the outdoor education events for the Patroller Education Conference. It was held at Snowbird in April of this year. The event included orienteering in the outdoors with GPS & compasses, hasty shelter construction, emergency toboggans and working with avalanche beacons.

While organizing this MTR event for the PEC I had the privilege of working with many great MTR instructors. We had Greg Fortin, Dan'l Moore and Helen Pilling from the Northern

Division Flathead Nordic Patrol, along with Carl Schiner our Region two advisor for the Northern Division. I also had 10 instructors from the Intermountain division, and 1 instructor from the Pacific Northwest division. It took a total of 15 instructors, including myself to put this event on.



During the PEC we also had our National MTR program director Rick King putting on an outdoor event teaching low angle rescue. He also gave a lecture to patrol leaders about the education, skills and benefits that students gain from the MTR program and how it can be utilized into their patrols.

All together I feel we were able to put the MTR in the spotlight on a national level this year. We were able to educate people as to what we teach and do.

For me it was a big year in the MTR program. I was very happy to contribute and do what I could to assist the different divisions and the national office. I am also happy to be taking a little break and get some rest before starting up another year.

Any member is always welcome to contact me and discuss the MTR program with me.

— Troy Walker
Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor



OEC Supervisor Report - 2008-2009 Ski Season

by **Mike Parnell**, OEC Supervisor

Northern Division OEC Supervisor Report - 2008-2009 Ski Season

- o IT for completion of the Flathead Nordic OEC Candidates class at the end of August 2008.
- o Instructor of Record for the OEC Refresher for the Northern Division at the annual Division meeting
- o assisted in the Instructor Recertification course at Division meeting
- o assigned IT's to all Division Cycle C Refreshers
- o Attended NSP OEC Supervisors Meeting in Denver
- o Reviewing Chapters of New OEC Textbook
- o IT for Snowbowl OEC Candidate Course
- o Instructor of Record for Lost Trail OEC Candidates Course
- o Assigned IT's to all OEC Candidate Courses in N. Division (9 courses)
- o Updated Division OEC Instructor records for 2009
- o Working on Clearing Delinquent Rosters in Division

Needed Time Off the Hill/Mountain

by *Dan Schaefer, HHSP*

I was thinking to myself as I rolled down the highway on my Polaris, "What a winter" We had near record cold, near record snow and enough complaining to last till next year. (By the way my Polaris is my Victory Motorcycle that runs like a dream.) I was not reading the last edition. Any way the thought of warm air on my face with the occasional life ending splat of a bug was calming. Then I thought, "you know it is only few days until the days start to get shorter". That means winter is coming again! I will need to get ready for that Bi Annual OEC course and refresher. How can that happen so fast? We just had our annual meeting a couple weeks ago and we are should be planning for next year already. I am guessing that we should be used to that fact but with a year like last, we would love a little more time to get over it.... No rest for the wicked.

Are we thinking about next year's OEC? If you are not, you should! So you have a plan for next year? Good, I was hoping to have a few more instructors ready for next year's OEC course and prepare them for instructor status. Did I get them ready? Well, no not yet. But I am working on it. What were your weak points in your last year OEC program? Did you correct them? Do you have plans to correct them? I do know what mine were, Time! But I know I could have done a better job. I will hopefully fix that for my next year's OEC programs. I was hoping to put together some additional instructors for our group. What are your needs? Have you had some input

from your patrol on some needs? If not, you should! Look at your OEC evaluation from last year. Some people are just mean; I do not have a balding head!! Seriously you should look at your evaluation and if they have merit, follow through. Then if it doesn't work you can blame someone else.

As a Division, we need more instructor trainers. With that said and since IT's are not grown on trees, will yours and my next year's OEC refresher schedule fit the Northern Divisions ability to get an IT to your refresher? Just some points as your plan your OEC stuff for next year. The sooner you can get the dates to National and to the Division the better. We would hope to hold down travel costs as much as we can and with early schedules and planning. Hopefully we can do some of that and keep the Dues in check.

I would guess that we all have our summer vacations planned and we all have some lakes, fish and beer to attend to. But as you are doing so, put some thoughts into the who, the what and how your OEC plans are for the coming 2009-2010 ski season. Thanks for reading!

See you all in September at the Save the Earth Conference, Or Division Meeting as you call it!

— Dan Schaefer
Huff Hills Ski Patrol and OEC guy!

Year End Awards Report

by *Judy Hanstede, Awards Advisor*

Bill Cathey requested both the positive side, the negative side and suggestions of each advisor's past years experience or what may be referred to as the Good, the Bad and the Ugly and yet to come. Let me start on the positive side.

First- I want to state that I appreciate the assistance I have had the past year from Bill Cathey, various members on the E Board, advisors and the N. Division Review Board this past year. Bill has also been actively putting input into the area of awards by contacting me frequently and has been encouraging. Myer Avendovich at the National level is also encouraging and there is not a week goes by where I learn something new at the National Level. The correspondence amongst the National Awards Committee is very active. Going to the National Awards Meeting in Denver in December was a real eye opener and learning experience.

I think through Myer's presence at last year's Division Meeting, awards articles/information in the Polaris and the many emails I have sent, Northern Division members have better informed than in the past few years. The Division Web site did not become active till close to this spring, but I did get

some information on it. I am looking forward to the Division Web site, using it to present information and also using it for questions addressed back to the review board and myself. Northern Division has 5 very active Review Board Members who all have a National Number and a lot of experience behind them to contribute actively in our Division decisions.

Upside/downside-future proposals

2008-09 Nomination/Submissions for Outstanding Awards. This year we have more categories being represented. Merit Stars- with some changes in submittals all merit stars that were requested were approved. One group of merit stars was changed from national recognition to division recognition.

Poor participation from the eastern division nominations for Outstanding and Merit Star Awards (1 nomination for Outstanding Large Patrol) was received. *I with the E-Boards help need to promote the importance of recognition and note it is worth the time that someone gives recording each patrollers input into the patrol (both locally, division and

Continued

Year End Awards Report

Continued

national wide). Without our local patrollers going that extra mile there would not be a National Ski Patrol Organization. It is up to each of us to actively promote someone on our local patrols to seek a keeper and nomination writer of awards in our local patrol.

Nominations need to be made so that we have a good score on the NSP Matrix for Outstanding criteria. It is really sad when someone gets lower than 50 out of a 100 points. (*phone conference to Meyer by me and a follow up conf. involving Bill C, Meyer and the review board on how to handle the low matrix nominations. Low Matrix scores-should they be submitted to National or just presented

Division Recognition...is there an alternative suggestion????? Would a letter of denial have to be returned to the sponsor and would there be a chance for an appeal?) *Judy will also check with other Divisions on this.

Most of the nominations were received on old forms even though I stressed using the NSP web site and current forms and current policies/procedure criteria. *Continued need to express this to all

Some of this year's nominations were same ones submitted as in previous years and a little work was done to update the forms but very little to update the letter of support. The letters of support need to be much stronger to receive National Winning Recognition. I did ask several of the sponsors to update the nominations.

*If you approach the review board you will see they have had very encouraging suggestions to make our submissions more competitive. I have heard from sponsors that the letter writing and form is given more attention than what the patroller has contributed to NSP. I have had to state that I do not make the rules. I want to present the best we can be at a competitive national level and be encouraging so the sponsor does not lose interest in submitting nominations. I have to be diplomatic. I can suggest their changes at the National Awards Level, but I am one of 9 on the board. The review board has had to make many changes on submissions (additions of years, deletion of years, names, identifying landmarks) most of which I can do if I notify the sponsor and the sponsor has sent me his form/letter in MS word by email. I need to comment that throughout the year, the number of positive comments about the advisory and N. Division Review board have far outnumbered the negative comments. *The Awards Board's duty is to serve our patrollers.

*I have received comments on the same persons/patrols winning a nomination year after year at the division level. At the National level this cannot happen. If you are a winner you must sit out (I believe 4 yrs...but I will check on this). Do we need to discuss this issue????? I have also asked those who have contacted me concerning this to write to Bill Cathey.

National Records, Division Records.....not all agree and this sometimes causes discrepancies. Bill Lay has been excellent at helping but sometimes not even he knows what has happened at the National Level. Bill Cathey has also checked and made some corrections.

National Appointment - There is always going to be differences of opinion and differences of interpretation no matter good a form and criteria are written. Sadly a denial was handled this season. I believe we all learn that if we work through our differences the results are generally a more positive outcome. A National Appointment refusal at the Division level will cause us to review future nominations more carefully. Having never been involved in a refusal and always being able to pull someone through to get a nomination approved this was a disturbing experience. It was hard on all involved. The appointment refusal was sent back to the sponsor and the sponsor had the option of updating the nomination to meet the criteria and forward it to the National Award Advisor. The appeal failed at the National Level. Not all reasoning was for the denial was duplicated. National Awards chair did suggest an alternative nomination be submitted by the sponsor.

A positive side of this denial was that previously I could not get into patroller records and now I am able to enter the documentation at the National Level.

Mark Behan Award....think this is one of the best ideas for an award that has been presented in many years. If you were at the presentation at the Division Meeting in Sept. you will know by the response at the presentation that it was well worth doing. The original deadline set for 2008-09 nominations was set in April to go inside with the Outstanding Awards. Request for a deadline change by the Division Director to June 20 was granted. I have received one nomination from Troy Walker as of April 09.

Development of Military Certificate - new this year and will be handled. Dan Schaffer's daughter is the certificate designer and as of this date the certificate will be presented to 2 patrollers.

25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 completed ski season awards will be handed out at this year's Division Meeting

*I am expecting more non Outstanding requests to be presented after the date of this letter.

Suggestions/Considerations: (Cost for the following would have to be considered)

*Always recognize everyone at the Division Meeting to stand during the awards presentations if they have received a purple merit star....this is what we are about. Consider other merit stars???????

Continued

Year End Awards Report

Continued

Recognize more Outstanding patrollers at Division Level? Example: presently the volunteer patroller, pro patroller and aux. patroller are eligible for Division Outstanding Patrol.

Recognize an outstanding advisor (could also include the patrol rep. category) and/or encourage E Board /others to check on Distinguished, Meritorious and other National Award Recognitions.

Bill Cathey mentioned that each advisor should write a procedure outline for their area so that if they are replaced the new person would not have to start at line 0. I think that each of us as advisors should take on this task. I know how hard it

is to step into the unknown. The rewards of seeing the recipients face when unknowingly being recognized is unreal satisfaction, but there are times when I was searching for answers that situations were tempting to run away from. You may think that the Awards area is a pretty quiet job! It has not been....I get a least 8 emails each day for the Division and almost every day many from National (not all from Meyer, but from other National Awards Board Members). The Awards program is something that I am convinced is very worthwhile.

— Judy Handstede



NSP Instructor Development Course September 19, 2009 8am-noon 2009 Northern Division Meeting Buck's T-4 Lodge, Big Sky, MT

Education is an important part of NSP's mission. Instructor consistency across disciplines is critical. With these points in mind, the Instructor Development course was developed. The course is a pre-requisite course to become an instructor in any NSP discipline eg. Avalanche, MTR, SS&T, OEC.

The course cost is \$50, include with the registration form. Check payable to Steve Thompson, due no later than August 15, 2009. The course fee covers; text book, related handouts, and course completion certificate. **NO LATE REGISTRATION**

Name _____ NSP # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone# _____ Email _____

Mail registration and check to:
Steve Thompson
PO Box 413
Seeley Lake MT 59868

Any questions or concerns:
Call Steve at 406-677-2309
or 406-210-2741

June 2008-June 2009

Introduction

It has been a privilege to serve the National Ski Patrol (NSP), Northern Division Director Bill Cathey, Northern Division Board of Directors, fellow advisors and patrollers during the past several years and in particular this past year as many positive transitions and changes continue to occur and evolve within the NSP organization.

In late 2007/early 2008 the NSP National Legal Committee (NLC) under the guidance of Bob Scarlett, National Legal Advisor, was requested by the NSP National Chairman Terry LaLiberte and NSP Executive Director Tim White, to reinvigorate the NLC and provide a more active role of the NLC within the NSP organization on a variety of issues. In that regard, I am attaching the recent Report by NLC Chair Bob Scarlett here as Attachment A (See Item # 17 of that report concerning revitalizing the NLC). The National Legal Committee is composed of several NSP Patroller-attorneys from across the country who are seasoned, thoughtful and genuinely interested in promoting the mission of the NSP and advising The Chairman, National Board of Directors and individual patrollers on issues relevant to NSP membership.

Activities of Northern Division Legal Advisor

The following activities are provided in summary format in order to keep this report brief. I participated in the following issues and activities during the past year:

1. Assisted in the election process as Election Coordinator for Region Directors. The Northern Division Bylaws will need minor revisions to address this election cycle's small number of interested persons.
2. Attended the National Legal Committee (NLC) meeting in Denver, CO, in mid-September, 2008 where a variety of issues were discussed including:
 - o Including a legal issues/risk management training module or station in future OEC annual refreshers. This is a work in progress by the NLC and there is a first attempt at providing patroller-area management relationship information in this year's 2009 OEC Refresher Study Guide, pages 24-25(included here as Attachment B). This Guide is available on the NSP website under Member Services and then Member News.
 - o Drafting and including a legal module or chapter in the upcoming OEC 5th edition training manual. This will include a variety of issues such as Good Samaritan statutes, risk management suggestions for patrollers, etc.
 - o Discussion of the roles of the NSP compared to and contrasted with ski area management, patrol representatives and individual patrollers in topics such as risk management, area training and equipment use. See

also the Joint Statement of Understanding (JSOU) between NSAA member ski areas and the NSP attached to this report as Attachment C.

- o Discussion of the roles of the NSP national office compared to Divisions of the NSP.
3. Advised Division Director Bill Cathey on various issues at his request including issues concerning use of oxygen away from ski areas and use of snowmobiles on the area by patrollers. These two issues were addressed earlier this year in a Memorandum that is attached to this report as Attachment D.
 4. Advised Snowbowl NSP Patrol concerning use of donated funds to purchase equipment to be used on the mountain and "owned" by the ski area. This is a continuing issue on an annual basis and is comprehensively addressed by NLC Chair Bob Scarlett's attached memorandum entitled Guidelines for The Use of national Ski Patrol Monies by Patrols, attached to this report as Attachment E. Also included with this attachment are two brief memoranda from the NSP website providing suggestions on local patrol fundraising.
 5. Reviewed the current Northern Division Bylaws for future clarifications/revisions. I will present suggested changes to Division Director Bill Cathey during the summer in preparation for the annual ND meeting in September 2009.
 6. I am currently reviewing the so-called "good Samaritan" statutes of the four states within the ND (MT,WY,ND & SD)and will present a brief summary of such to ND Director Bill Cathey later this summer for possible distribution to patrol representatives.
 7. Assisted in various ND Executive Board and advisor conference calls as assigned by ND Director Bill Cathey.
 8. Assisted in document review of selected correspondence as assigned by ND Director Bill Cathey.
 9. Participated in several NLC conference calls concerning various NSP issues at the direction of NLC Chair Bob Scarlett.

Goals for 2009-2010

The following are proposed goals for the ND Legal Advisor for the coming year from June 2009-June 2010:

1. Conclude review/revision of ND Bylaws and present such to ND Director Bill Cathey for further action as assigned.
2. Conclude review and written summary of ND four state Good Samaritan statutes and present summary to ND Director Bill Cathey with follow-up as assigned.
3. Conclude research and provide information concerning auxiliary and "Junior" patrollers under 18 who desire to take OEC and patrol. (February Question from Joann Lacey included here as Attachment F).
4. Attend tentative fall 2009 NLC meeting in Denver, CO.

Continued on pg 14

'08-'09 SS&T Wrap-Up

by *Bruce Amrine, SS&T Advisor*

We held Six TES Clinics

- 1) 16235 - Showdown - 1/10/09 & 1/11/09 - Winter Tip-Off - Amrine
- 2) 16607 - Snowbowl - 1/17/09 - TES - Holtet
- 3) 16847 - Maverick - 2/21/09 & 2/22/09 - Don Paul
- 4) 16874 - Lost Trail - 2/28/09 - Amrine
- 5) 16875 - Huff Hills - 3/07/09 & 3/08/09 - Amrine
- 6) 16876 - Casper Mtn - 3/14/09 & 3/15/09 - Amrine

We had Six PAT Courses registered.

- 1) 16203 - Lost Trail - MarieAndo - 18 candidates
- 2) 16262 - Flathead Nordic - Mark Johnson - 5 Candidates
- 3) 16287 - Great Divide - Michael Marlow - 9 Candidates
- 4) 16592 - Showdown - Robert Labrel - 6 Candidates
- 5) 16606 - Snowbowl - Craig Holtet - 15 Candidates
- 6) 16693 - Casper Mtn - Mike Huber - 3 Candidates

General response from the patrollers involved this year was very positive and rewarding for the people taking the clinics and for the instructors.

I did quite a bit of traveling this year and was received and treated GREAT !!!!!!!

I pulled a report on all the courses and see that some people have not completed their paperwork. I will be addressing this.

Bruce
406-880-7380



'08-'09 Season Summary

by *Steve Thompson,
Instructor Development Supervisor*

In the Instructor Development world, this past ski season could be best summarized by that famous Paul Newman one liner from "Cool Hand Luke" i.e. "What we have here is failure to communicate." The death of my mother and Cheri's father, coupled with my shoulder surgery pretty well eliminated my ski season. That, however, was no where near as frustrating as the genuine lack of communication that was apparent throughout the Division.

Early in the season I contacted every patrol director in the Division inquiring about the need/desire for me to come to their area(s) and put on an ID course. I heard from 4 PDs - John Fradette, Deb Mills, Rich Nordquist and Eric Weckenbrock. In the end only 2 PDs (Rich and Eric) wanted ID courses and they were completed.

NSP has a new Instructor Development Supervisor, Doug Howlett. One of Doug's goals is to review and improve on the mentoring program. The mentoring program is critical to instructor development, however there is a great deal of confusion about the process. There is a tremendous degree of difference in how the mentoring program is enacted.

Towards the end of the season I set out to revise my own ID teaching curriculum and include a more personal discussion of the mentoring program within the Northern Division. With that goal in mind, I contacted every program supervisor in the Division asking for their input on how they implement the mentoring program, who assigns the mentor for the new instructor-to-be, what problems have they encountered with the mentoring program and what have they done to work around those problems. Thank you Troy Walker for being the ONLY RESPONDENT. "What we have here is failure to communicate."

The goals that I have for the ID program in the next season include:

1. Improved communications with all patrols - it's a two way street.
2. Certify at least one ID instructor in most patrols within the Division.
3. Work with the new National ID supervisor to review and improve the ID program throughout NSP.

— Steve Thompson
Instructor Development Supervisor
406-677-2309

ND Legal Advisor Activities

Continued

5. Provide answers concerning patroller liability and responsibility to a longstanding and very insightful email inquiry from Bob Persons. This inquiry was requested to be answered by Bob Scarlett, NLC Chairman and myself and certain of Mr. Person's questions will be addressed in the OEC 5th edition.
6. Solicit comments on potential ND bylaws revisions from ND Board members.
7. Solicit legal/risk management issues from ND Director and other ND officers in advance of the NLC meeting in Denver.
8. Other goals/ assignments/assistance as assigned by ND Director Bill Cathey.

CONCLUSION

Thanks to ND Director Bill Cathey and all those I have interacted with the past year for their patience and confidence in me and for their willingness to present legal/risk management and ND bylaws issues to me. It has truly been a continuing privilege to serve the ND and the NSP in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Brooks
Northern Division Legal Advisor

• INTRODUCING •


**The NEW website
for the Northern Division!!!**

www.nspnorth.org

CHECK IT OUT!

Division Info *Photo Gallery*

Calendar *Polaris*



**Questions or Comments
on the Polaris?**

Contact the Editor
Joann Lacey -
joann@advancedlithoprinting.com
3501 6th Street NE
Great Falls, MT 59404

Your pictures, articles and input
are much appreciated!

Calendar of Events

June 13	Division Eboard Meeting Buck's T-4 Lodge, Big Sky, Montana	B. Cathey
August 15	Registration due for Division Meeting	B. Cathey
September 18-20	Division Meeting Buck's T-4 Lodge, Big Sky, Montana	B. Cathey
September 19	Division OEC Refresher - Buck's T-4	B. Cathey
September 19	Division Instructor Refresher, Buck's T-4	S. Thompson
October 4	OEC Refresher, Eagle Creek (Havre)	Ed Hill
October 18	OEC Refresher, Great Falls	J.Lacey

You only need two tools: WD-40 and duct tape.

If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40; if it moves and shouldn't, use the tape.