



WYOMING • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA • MONTANA



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION NATIONAL SKI PATROL

AUGUST 2011

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How Time Flies!

Bill Cathey, Northern Division Director

As the saying goes - "How time flies." Yes, it is once again time to vote for the next Northern Division Director.

The official notice will come out in February from Brent Brooks, our Northern Division Legal Advisor, with voting to be done in the spring. But why wait? Everyone should take a moment to consider running for the Division Director position.

Being the Division Director is your best opportunity to broaden your understanding of how the National Ski Patrol really works. It also gives you the ability to be the voice of the Northern Division at the National meetings.

The job description for the director's position can be found in the NSP Policy and Procedures Hand book. We already have a great group of advisors and board members in place to help you get your head wrapped around the job so don't let the job description intimidate you from running for the job.

As for me, I have chosen not to run for another term as your Division Director. I feel that it this a good time for a new director. And, I know whoever it is will have a great time in this Division. I have had a great four years. Yes, there have been some frustrations, and, like any job they come and go. But the good times do far out-weigh the bad. Personally, I feel that this board and group of advisors have done an excellent job of keeping the Northern Division pointed in the right direction. And, they have done so for all the right reasons.

I thank everyone on the Executive Board and all of the Advisors. They all make this job much easier and worthwhile. They all have great vision for the Northern Division.

So, don't delay - start thinking about stepping up to the plate now. Go ahead and put your name in the hat for a run at the Director's job. You won't be sorry.

Instructor Development

Steve Thompson, Instructor Development

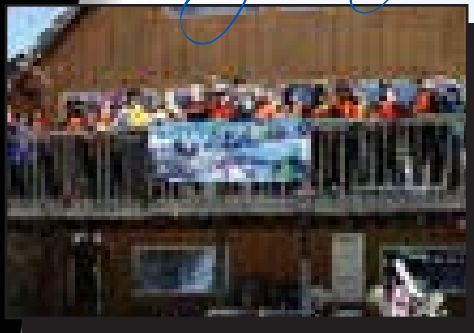
The 2010 - 2011 ski season saw 3 Instructor Development courses taught in the Division - Helena in August, Cody in October and Great Falls in March. Many thanks to the instructors for taking the time to conduct those classes. The next step is assigning mentors and getting these students signed off as instructors. I can't stress enough the importance of bringing new instructors into our program. It is too easy to rely on "the old reliables", however if we continually do that we run the risk of burning them out. I encourage all patrol reps to look through your ranks and see if there are patrollers who could be added to the instructor roles.

At the National level, there is discussion of developing an on-line ID course, writing a new student manual and instructors' manual. All of these changes will take time, so at the present, the Northern Division ID program will continue as in the past.



Hope Lifts Us Up !

Ann Brendel



This all started a little over a year ago when my young friend Hope wanted to come out and ski at Huff Hills. Being visually impaired, she did not know if this was something that was safe to do.

Regardless of Hope's impairment, she had a want that want gave her "vision" to understand what others in need, wanted. She wanted to have "A Day on the Hill for Kids with Special Needs." Those kids could come out to Huff Hills and have a day of fun. Would Huff Hills Ski Area be able to accommodate?

I've known Hope since the day she was born at just a little over one pound. I wanted to help her. Knowing our patrollers and the caliber of their skills, experience and their willingness to give back, I knew that we could help her. With Hope having skied with Eagle Mount in Red Lodge she had many of the basic skills and techniques needed to ski. All we had to do was follow along with her, she knew what to do. After skiing at Huff Hills a couple of times, Hope was getting the hang of it and wanted to give back. Being a member of the Girl Scouts for the past 11 years, she saw an opportunity to provide others the chance to slide down the hill; something that they may not ever get the chance to do and the same time earn her Gold Award through the Girl Scouts.

Thus began our journey, I say our journey because Hope asked if I would be her advisor for this project and I gladly said yes. Hope and I met and determined that February 26th, 2011 would be 'A day on the Hill for Kids with Special needs'. Thinking that the weather would be in the 20's, maybe a little warmer, we thought this was a good choice. Unfortunately the morning of the planned event it was 20 below with sunshine and a light breeze. Ever heard of a light breeze in North Dakota? Me neither.

Hope and I set up her time line, and established what she wanted her goal to be and how we were going to accomplish this. Once she received approval from the Girl Scout Council to proceed with the project, we met with management at Huff Hills and got their blessing. We then asked two of our patrollers to volunteer to help with the project, Scott Eckroth and Kurt Weinberg. These two gentlemen have many years with the patrol and widespread skills in teaching, training and education and they have both had the pleasure of skiing with Hope at Huff Hills. They proved to be excellent choices!



The skiing season came to a close in 2010 and summer was soon upon us. Hope started writing grants and sending letters to local business hoping to raise a little money to help with the cost of buying equipment, providing food for the participants and volunteers and maybe enough to pay for the equipment rentals for the participants. As fall approached our patrol came together for our monthly meeting. Hope was there to present her plan and ask for our help in realizing her vision. She provided us with updates throughout. As I expected, 14 members of our patrol stepped up and volunteered their time and efforts for Hope.

In the days and months leading up to February 26th Hope managed to raise over \$3200.00 which she used to purchase helmets, safety vests and tip ties, (which she has donated back to the group for future use), she also paid for the equipment rentals for the seven participants along with a beanie hat for each volunteer and a long sleeve t-shirt with the logo for each of the participants. To make it even better, a member of our patrol, Dave Trnka a member of the local Knights of Columbus, volunteered the K of C group to provide, prepare, and serve the food for everyone for the day, needless to say we did not go hungry.

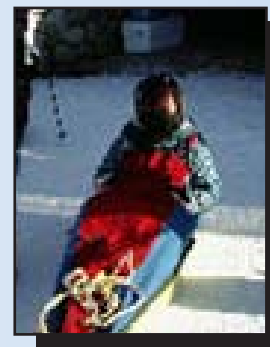
As the day finally approached we had seven participants ranging from 8 to 20 years of age, 25 volunteers that included college students, parents, aunts, uncles and patrollers and smiles so bright that they outshined the bright winter sun we had been blessed with.

When watching Cole, a 17 year old high school wrestler who lost his sight at the age of 5 attack the hill as if it were one of his wrestling opponents to Joel an 8 year old little boy with Down Syndrome being challenged by his instructors to stand up bend your knees brought warmth to that cold day. Not to mention little Tyler, who was born with cerebral palsy, ride in the sit ski and giggle with excitement when you would ask him if he was having fun.

I know that we all took something home with us that day, whether it was an appreciation and gratitude for our own well-being or that of our families, maybe just the satisfaction of helping those less fortunate. Regardless we all now have a truer understanding of those who struggle with situations such as these, bless you.

Hope may be visually impaired, but she is certainly not "vision-impaired or short sighted." She saw a need, and an opportunity to make some ones day just a little bit better.

'A Day on the Hill for Kids with Special Needs' will be a day that this group of volunteers will not soon forget.



Hello From Region 1

I am excited about serving as the Region 1 Director and hope I can justify the trust you place in me to fulfill those duties.

What a ski season 2010-2011 turned out to be. I hope you had as much fun as I did. Snowbowl, where I patrol, got record amounts of snow. During the fourteen years I have lived in Missoula, only the winter of 1996-1997 comes close to the total amount of snow in one season.



As you all know, Missoula was the first to hold a seminar for the roll-out of Outdoor Emergency Care, 5th ed. I thought the seminar went very well and John Fradette did a terrific job of bring the material together and presenting it to the group. I think everyone found the presentation informative and well worth the time investment. As with anything new there were questions and John left plenty of time for questions and answers. Although I don't like to do homework, I thought the questions we were asked to have answered before this program also helped to orient us to how the book is structured. As you can see by the picture (thank you Bill Bucher for the picture) no one was sleeping-testament to a good teacher. Again, great job John!

Marty Merwin, Region 1 Advisor

This now brings me to a question: Why do we not hear more praise for those who do so much for all of us? Are we just taking ourselves for granted? Most of you, will at some time or another have the opportunity to serve as a board member of a volunteer organization. While in that position you will hear lots of questions and concerns, problems, issues etc. but very little praise. Why is it that we find fault so easily and praise so seldom? I

know none of us does this for praise or thank you's, but once in a while it is still good to hear. So on that note, I would like to say thank you to ALL OF YOU for the efforts you put forth in order to become and maintain yourselves as patrollers. You all deserve to pat yourselves, and each other, on the back. For those of you who currently serve on your local patrol's board, and those who serve on the Northern Division's board, Thank You !

Have a great summer and put your first aid pack in your cars. You never know when you might need it.

- Marty

Raffle Tickets

Last year, with the help of the patrols, the Northern Division launched a successful fund raising campaign. The Executive Board and Advisors came up with the idea to have a drawing of \$1000 (two \$500 debit cards.) Each Patrol Representative was issued raffle tickets to sell at \$10 per ticket. The idea was for the Patrol Representative to issue the tickets to members of their patrol, who would then sell tickets to the public.

Last year we were able to raise about \$6000 that went in to the Division Budget to help cover yearly expenses. This is the equivalent of a \$14 per person dues increase that we did not have to asses to the Division Members.

Bill Cathey, Northern Division Director

Again, this year will be having a raffle and I'm asking that every patroller get involved in this raffle by selling tickets. We would rather that the patrollers sell the tickets to the public rather than buy the tickets themselves. If we just sell them to patrollers then we are doing nothing more than assessing a dues increase. Please get involved and sell tickets. The more that we sell, the more that it helps our budget and you in return. The tickets will be available after the September Division Meeting. Please contact your Patrol Representative for your tickets and details after the meeting.

Thank You
Bill Cathey

2011 Northern Division Meeting

September 16 - 18, 2011

Buck's T-4 Lodge

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

Room Block is reserved under NATIONAL SKI PATROL

\$89+ per night plus tax - Room block will close August 20, 2011

Friday, September 16, 2011

Noon to 5 p.m. OEC 5th Edition Instructor Break-Out
6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Registration - Social Hour

Saturday, September 17, 2011

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.. Patrol Directors Meeting (mandatory)
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 18, 2011

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 (8/15/11) to the Northern Division Ski Patrol.

YOUR to do list:

- Send in your registration along with correct payment.
- Make your own room reservation before August 20th.
See below information for booking/canceling policy.
- Order and pay for your t-shirts with your registration
- If registering after August 15th,
pay late registration fee of **\$130.**
- Bring your patrol belt/vest the
refresher.

Please plan to come to the 2011 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.

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 (\$42.50), and your mileage and room expense.

Room Info

Buck's T-4 Lodge

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

Room Type - 1 or 2 queen beds

Room Price (before taxes)- Singles pay - \$89; Doubles - \$89 (same price??)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.

Registration for 2011 Northern Division Annual Meeting September 16-18, 2011

Registration deadline is August 15, 2011
(each individual NSP member must complete their own form.)

Please Print CLEARLY

NAME: _____

NSP PATROLLER NUMBER: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Attending OEC 5th Edition Break-Out (Instructors Only) Yes No

Attending OEC Refresher Yes No

\$85 Registration includes all portions of event (meetings, refresher training, Saturday lunch and dinner.)

\$130 LATE REGISTRATION if mailed AFTER August 15th

Patroller Attending Entire Event - \$85	\$ _____	(one check may be submitted for all - payable to Northern Division Ski Patrol)
Additional Banquet Guests _____ # x \$45 =	\$ _____	
Children for Lunch and Dinner _____ # x \$15 =	\$ _____	
Patroller Attending only Refresher - \$85	\$ _____	
Total for Shirts purchased below	\$ _____	
TOTAL DUE	\$ _____	

SHIRTS

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

Short-Sleeved T-Shirt @ \$20 each Long-Sleeved T-Shirt @ \$21 each

Crewneck Sweatshirt @ \$31each Hooded Sweatshirt @ \$37 each

(see website for color and design)

Quantity	Shirt Description	Size	Price Each	Total
SHIRT ORDER TOTAL				

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

News from your Awards Advisor

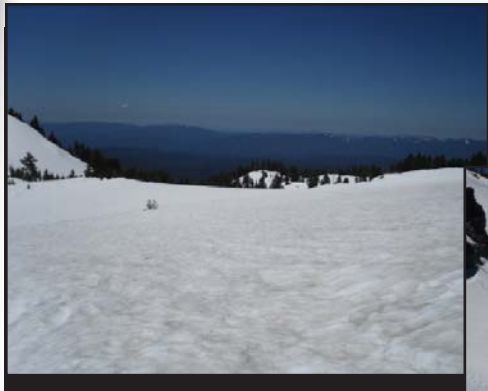
Judy Handstede, Awards Advisor



Patrollers from Eagle Creek skied end of May at Bear Paw for the 1st time in history. Dave Martens, Hill Manager and Patroller said the Annual July 4 Ski Logan Pass "Ray Day 2011" has been postponed until the Pass is Open. It was wonderful to know that so many of N. Division Ski

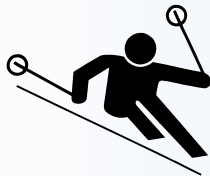
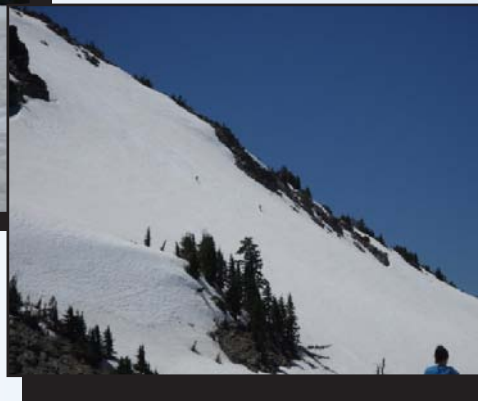
Areas were able to stay open longer because of additional snowfall for the public and patroller's interest in the sport.

The N. Division "Outstandings" for 2010-11 have been selected and sent to National. Most of the other awards submitted are in the Awards System. Who will be on the receiving end of being recognized? Ask and I shall not tell. Register and plan to attend the Division Meeting in Sept. Happiness awaits! Thanks to those who took time to submit nominations, the N. Division Review Board and N. Division National Review Judges. As an OEC instructor, I would like to thank John Fradette for the nice job he did in Missoula presenting the OEC 5th Edition Rollout.



June at Crater Lake, Oregon- Photo 2 (2 skiers)

Crater Lake, Oregon, taken from on top of the rim around the Crater (photo 2- skiers end of July 2011-) 2010-11 snowfall 58', Altitude 9,000ft+



Wanted: Northern Division Awards Mentor Advisor

Requirement: Prepare to replace present Division Awards Advisor 2012-13. Accept the responsibility for presenting accurate awards info., have an unbiased opinion on nominations considered for Outstanding and Service Awards to worthy patrollers in N. Division. Be willing to consider serve as a mentor or know of someone who is willing to serve as a mentor.

For Information: Contact Judy H hermana_4@msn.com or Bill Cathey bill@missoulasaws.com
Or talk to Judy or Bill at the Division Meeting in Sept.

Mentoring

Approval: Patroller who is willing to serve as a mentor will be approved by the N. Division E Board

Where's the Snow, Etc.?

Mike Marlow, SS&T Advisor

Usually you ask "Where's the snow?" this time of the year and you might see a spot of it here or there in the high country, but not this year! A lot of people have been hiking into the backcountry in their shorts and t-shirts and skiing for the day. Now that's what I say is a great way to keep up your ski skills.

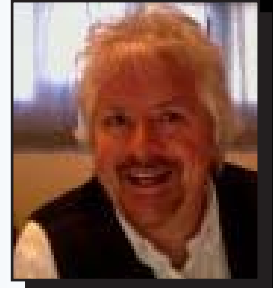
NSP is currently working on an update to the OET (Outdoor Emergency Transportation) manual, so if you have comments or suggestions for the manual, please let me know.

Western Winter Tip Off this year is tentatively set for Moonlight again with dates of January 14th and 15th with an Instructor Re-certification Set for January 13th. Sign up form will be posted on NSPNorth.org in the next couple of months.

We are also setting up an Eastern Winter TipOff at Terry Peak in Deadwood,SD February 25th and 26th with an Instructor Re-certification set for February 24th. Sign up form will be posted on NSPNorth.org in the next couple of months.

In regards to Instructor Recerts, all instructors need to attend one in their respective discipline at least once every three years

to maintain their instructor status (besides teaching a representative portion of the curriculum and turning in instructor logs to me). Let me know if you have questions in regards to this. John Fradette has been doing a good job explaining this if you have been to one of his OEC 5th edition rollouts.



See you on the slopes

Michael Marlow
SS&T Supervisor

P.S. Wish Dan Schaefer a Happy 50th when you see him! Poor old guy!



Nordic Update

Greg Fortin, Northern Division Nordic Advisor

Northern Division Nordic Advisor Update 4/30/11

Mike Kelly from Far West Division of the National Ski Patrol is 3/4 complete on the new edition of the Nordic Instructors Manual and will continue to progress toward updating this program.

National has contacted all Division Nordic Advisors to help facilitate the identification of nordic instructors within the division based on skills and current achievements. All nordic instructor candidates will also have to be approved by the division director.

Update on the Nordic Program

As stated the nordic program is going through a long awaited up date with no changes over the last 14 years in the program. The curriculum has been reviewed and with input from all divisions across the nation we are working toward a modern and updated nordic program reflecting the program needs and the requirements many teams are facing.

National is looking for each division to provide ski enhancement seminars, coordinated with PSIA instructors through ski clinics to help facilitate a strong instructor base for future nordic training and development.

Kevin Johnson the Nordic Advisor to National encouraged me to participate in the Tri Advisory meeting to promote nordic, mtr, and avy skills with the idea that even alpine patrols can benefit from these back country skills which can include alpine touring in the rescue environment. Kevin wanted to be sure all divisions understand that we are not creating a new program just modernizing an existing one.

Nordic Masters is also a work in progress and will continue to be developed. National is striving to develop instructors, and clearly define the qualifications that are associated with this title.

Avalanche Update

Allan Rabbitt, Avalanche Advisor

Greetings,

Since the last Polaris the Northern Division hosted an Avalanche Level II class that was held March. There were 24 students originally enrolled - 6 Nordics and 18 alpine patrollers. All the students completed the Home study portion, about 40+ hours, prior to coming to the field portion of the class. Due to the large class size and the different types of patrollers, I made the decision to split the class into 2 field sessions - one for the Nordic Patrollers and one for the Alpine Patrollers. 21 students completed the class and received their Level II certification.

Nordic Field Session - Essex, Mt. 3 Day Class

This class was geared entirely towards non-lift accessed patrolling and was done in the backcountry. 5 students completed this class.

The class was organized by Greg Fortin, a level I instructor who is working towards his Level II certification. He was mentored by long time avalanche instructor, Mark Johnson. Greg received positive comments about the organization of the class. Class evaluations filled out by the students were all very positive and they felt the class was very informative. Other instructors who were instrumental in the success of this class, all level II instructors, were Ted Steiner, Mark Johnson, and Rusty Wells. Thanks guys - well done!

Alpine Field Session - Big Sky, Mt. 3 Day Class

This class was entirely geared towards lift accessed terrain and ski area situations. 16 students completed this class.

The class was taught by 2 Level II Instructors (Allan Rabbitt and Terry Stevenson) and 6 NSP Level I instructors working on their level II certifications (Bob Short, Steve Thompson, Steve Porcella, Carl Schiner, Dave Ocenosak, and Don Paul). Guest lecturers from the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Forecast Center and the Big Sky Ski Patrol Snow Safety Department were also included in the group of instructors. The Big Sky Ski Patrol were great hosts for this event. My thanks to the instructors for all their help and dedication to the Avalanche Program. Additionally, I would like to thank Bob Short for all his additional help with the class starting back in the fall of 2010.

The upcoming year will hopefully be filled with Level I classes throughout the Division. If you are interested in hosting a class at your ski area, please let me know and I will arrange a class for your patrol. Hope your summer continues to be enjoyable, and I will see you when things are whiter.

Cheers -
Allan

Patroller Comments

I have participated in an avalanche awareness class in conjunction with a wilderness EMT course, and Avalanche I and II, presented by Ski Patrol. It's great to be made aware that to accomplish personal and team safety and emergency rescue I must 1) Always be truly apprehensive of the incredible power of an avalanche, 2) Always have a plan to address safety and rescue, and 3) Always have a backup plan. The power and benefit of coursing through higher levels of instruction is that I can actually fill these mandates with substance, that is, I just might make a difference, in preventing a tragedy, or minimizing the harm caused. That is reason enough for me. Also, it's a very interesting topic, learning is fun, and the people are great.

- Mike Best, GFSP

DON'T MISS OUT!

Address or E-Mail Change?? Send your updated info to
Bill Lay at: w.a.lay@bresnan.net

Calendar of Events

August 15	Registration Deadline Division Meeting Contact - Bill Cathey
September 10	Application for Senior Test Due
September 16, 17, 18	Division Meeting - Big Sky, Montana Contact - Bill Cathey
October 16	OEC Refresher , Great Falls Ski Patrol Contact - Mel Carnahan

*"All mankind is divided into three classes:
those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move."*

Update Your Member Info!

Please take a moment to go to the NSP website, login, and click Member Resources above the scrolling banner on the welcome page to check that your mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address are up-to-date. This is especially important so that you can receive the board election ballots being mailed by Votenet, as well as other information and special offers from NSP.

Polaris

NEWSLETTER

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