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From the Toboggan of your OEC Supervisor
Mike Marlow, OEC Supervisor



Welcome to the start of the 2015 - 2016 ski season. You probably have just done or are doing your OEC refresher, but this should get your juices flowing for the main events - Snow and Toboggan Handling! (unless your John Larson, and he's just thinking about plow repairs, Volvo repairs, etc.)

We have Winter Tip Off coming up in January (registration form is include herein) at Red Lodge Mountain, with a couple of new "radical twists" thrown in. Not only do you get a chance to attend the WTO for FREE (sign up before 12/30/15), but you'll also have an opportunity to win some FABULOUS prizes, awarded to the top teams in the Patroller Obstacle Course.

If you have never been, not only "shame on you" but you are missing out on a lot of great instruction, camaraderie and FUN! Join us this year, it's worth it!

We are also running another Senior Patroller event this year (as long as we have enough participants by 12/01/15). The Senior Clinic is scheduled for February 6th and 7th, 2016 at Maverick Mountain, and the Senior Final Evaluation is scheduled for March 12th and 13th, 2016 at Showdown. A registration form is also include herein.

Even if you are not planning on going thru the Senior Program this year, you should plan to attend and help with scenarios. We help reimburse costs for IP's, helpers, etc.

Speaking of the Senior Program, during Winter Tip Off, we are running another Senior Evaluator Clinic. If you are a current Senior and wish to help, join us at WTO and get signed off as a Senior Evaluator. Contact John Fradette or myself for more information on that.

Nationally speaking, if you haven't noticed, OET classes available for registration have been whittled down from 21 to 8, so there is less confusion about what needs to be registered. Contact me if you are unsure about the classes you are registering. We are working on revising the Intro to Patroller Manual, the Purple Toboggan Manual and the Ski Patrollers' Manual. We have been meeting via conference call or in person once a month for 3 years and have accomplished quite a bit.

If you have any issues registering classes, or looking up any information on the National website, contact myself, John Fradette or Bill Lay, we should be able to help you through it. As a side note, the computer and web issues should be mostly settled by next April. The head of the new NSP IT Committee is pretty sharp, and seems to have a good handle on the issues.

Have a great winter and see at some of the Northern Division Events!

- Michael



Deploy Your Avalanche Airbag in Water or NOT?

by Steve Thompson, Northern Division Avalanche Supervisor

While the hills are still green or brown, it won't be long before folks are adjusting bindings, waxing skis and riding lifts or skinning uphill to enjoy the downhill trip. This is the time of year when we review what worked last season (and what didn't), check our gear, get in better shape and, hopefully, update our knowledge base with clinics, workshops, articles and anything else we can lay our hands on.

This article is the result of an incident that occurred last December in Seeley Lake, MT and a followup activity in Eagle, Colorado. The credit for this information goes to the Pathfinder Newspaper of Seeley Lake, MT.

On the night of 26 Dec. 2014 five men were crossing Seeley Lake on the ice from the south to the north end when they encountered open water. Two of them made it across the open water, a third fell in and lost his snowmobile and the other two were missing.

The men, who were not very familiar with the area, asked someone in town if the ice was good on Seeley Lake. They were told it was. The group headed out across the middle of the lake where they encountered open water.

The man who lost his snowmobile was pulled from the water by his friends and transported to a Missoula hospital where he was treated for hypothermia.

The Incident Commander requested Two Bear Air helicopter at the scene to aid the search for the two still missing. When Two Bear arrived, they immediately found the two missing snowmobilers floating face down in the water. Something orange could be seen in the lake. This orange object was an avalanche airbag that had been inflated by one of the snowmobilers.

After reading about the snowmobile accident on Seeley Lake the previous December, avalanche instructor Mike Duffy of Eagle, Colorado had questions that needed answers. Duffy heard about the accident after it was posted on a SnoWest forum. Being a snowmobile-specific avalanche instructor, Duffy is involved with product testing and development. He had not considered the safety implications should an avalanche airbag be used in water.

All avalanche airbags on the market use ambient air pulled in through a one-way valve, creating a venturi effect. Air from the surrounding area is sucked in

helping to fill the bag. If the bag was inflated in water, it would not inflate properly or it would fill with water.

Because the fatality in Seeley Lake was the first Duffy was aware of wherein a snowmobiler inflated their avalanche airbag when going into water, it was a safety issue that demanded investigation.

Duffy borrowed a friend's pool and tested four different airbags with three different designs. These tests were done this past August. All airbags were inflated before he jumped into the pool.

Duffy asked three questions of each airbag tested:

1. What position does the pack float the user in - face up or face down?
2. How easy is it to swim with the airbag inflated?
3. How easy is it to release the waist belt, leg strap and sternum strap or zipper and remove the pack and will it work as a flotation aid?

Airbag brand name	Face up/ Face Down	Swim ease	Ease of Release Ease of Flotation
ABS Vario	Down	Hard	Hard/ Easy
SnoPulse	Up	Awkward	Easy/ Easy
BCA Float 22	Up	Easy	Easy/Easy
BCA FloatMtn Pro New for 2016	Up	Easy	Easy/Easy

While Duffy agrees that none of the packs he tested were designed as water flotation devices, and they never should be intentionally used for that purpose, he would inflate his before entering the water if he ever found himself in a situation where his sled was sinking in the water. He does not feel the results of his tests would have been much different if he would have performed the tests in cold water and/or in full snowmobile gear.

"After reading about the accident and asking the question should you pull the cord, I would say yes," said Duffy. "Although the manufacturers never intended it for the water and it is not meant to replace a personal flotation aid, I would pull the cord because it helps me float. I can get on top of it and it makes me more visible to rescuers. Just make sure to pull before you sink, get ready to take the pack off and get yourself out."

The videos of Duffy's tests are available on the Avalanche1 Facebook page: (https://www.facebook.com/Avalanche1-133828716323/timeline/?ref=br_tf).

Hello everyone! It is the middle of the O.E.C. refresher season and things are off to a good start. After attending a lot of refreshers over the last few years I am reminded of a question I have been meaning to ask:

“Are You Prepared”

How devastating to you and your family to lose someone because another person failed to act or didn't act as they should have. “Not going to happen to me” you say. What about friends, coworkers, etc.?

OK, but “What if?

It is that “What if” question that leads me to write this article. Now I can't presume to tell you who that person or persons might be. But once you have them in your heart and mind think of them being injured by a drunk driver or other automotive accident. Or maybe they have just fallen off a ladder, skied into a tree, been hit by another skier, etc? Now add the possibility that others may have been hurt too and you are the first person on scene? How secure are you now in your abilities to deal with these situations? It is for reasons like these the National Ski Patrol requires us to take yearly refreshers in those activities that will serve us well whether we are on the ski hill, driving down the road, at work, or in our own homes.

Other important reasons for these refreshers are legal. Legal issues could impact your family and you just as severely as any accident you come upon. Specifically, I am talking about “**GROSS NEGLIGENCE**” and “**FAILURE TO TREAT**”. First, the “Good Samaritan” law for the State of Montana does not protect you from being sued should you be found guilty of either of these. Now, I am not a

lawyer nor am I trying to provide a legal opinion, however, it is my understanding gross negligence exist when one fails to act as any reasonable and prudent person would have acted with similar training and background. If you had an opportunity to learn this during your OEC program or during a refresher and you failed to learn those concepts that could have prevented additional injury, pain, suffering or even death you may be liable under gross negligence. If for some reason you, while wearing your ski patrol cross you failed to assist someone you could be liable for failure to treat. If the person or family suing you is successful you could lose everything that you and your family have worked so hard to achieve.

“HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF”?

It's easy; all you have to do is treat each educational opportunity the same way you would if you were attending that program at a college or university level. Pay attention, ask pertinent questions and practice, practice, practice! One other thing, and this may seem self-evident, but as professionals we are expected to evaluate our own skill and comfort level in dealing with specific illnesses or injuries. If you find, during the course of one of these refreshers, you lack confidence and skills in a particular area it is your professional responsibility to review, and/or seek the help of others, to achieve the confidence and comfort level you seek.

Lastly, *please have fun!* But remember to keep it professional and be respectful to the instructor and others who may not be as comfortable with the subject matter as you are.

Here's to having a great and uneventful season!

- Marty

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

by Steve Thompson, Northern Division Avalanche Supervisor

I would like to personally thank the members of Huff Hills Ski Patrol for their donation of 25 avalanche books to the Northern Division. These books, "Snow Sense", "Avalanche Rescue Fundamentals" and "Avalanche Rescue Quick Guide" are extra books left over from the Level 1 course held at Huff Hills last season.

Many thanks for your generosity.

- Steve Thompson, Northern Division Avalanche Program Supervisor

Division Meeting 2015



The participants from
Left to Right are
Chris Smith Great Divide
Mike Marlow Great Divide
Dan Schaffer Huff Hills
Bob Short Great Falls
Maggie Short Great Falls

Northern Division Awards 2014 - 2015

Certificates of Recognition -

National Anniversary Celebrations:

Active Patrollers:

25 years: Rush Bartlett, Debbie Huber, Jeff Motley,
Heidi Palmer, Chris Thomas
30 years: David Elmquist, Dirk Walden, David White
35 years: Kathleen Jennings-Mills, Rebecca Swindle
40 years: Diane Eusterman
45 years: Norm Ando, Sean Ellis, Steve Roebke
50 years: Carl Schiner, Jim Whitlock

Alumni

30 years: George Brown, Robert Hardesty,
Thomas Hines, Mark Nicholas
35 years: Michael Ray Keim, Dave Mabbott
40 years: James Frisque
50 years: Doris MacCannon

Certificates of Appreciation:

Presented to all Division and Region officers and supervisors, and to all Patrol Representatives.

Northern Division Patriot Star:

Great Falls Ski Patrol: Karen Malisani, Michelle Myhre,
Trevor Peterson, Jon Rankin

Casper Mountain Ski Patrol: Dan Lenihan,
Michael Marnell

NSP Recognition of Meritorious Service:

SNOW BOWL SKI PATROL:

Yellow Merit Star (outstanding service to the NSP): Paul Janzen, Josh Jones, Eric Weckenbrock

HUFF HILLS SKI PATROL:

Yellow Merit Star (outstanding service to the NSP):
Scott Eckroth

Purple Merit Star (action in saving a life): Charles Allen

CASPER MOUNTAIN SKI PATROL:

Purple Merit Star (action in saving a life): Mike Huber

GREAT DIVIDE SKI PATROL:

Blue Merit Star (supporting action in saving a life):
Tom Griggs

Purple Merit Star (action in saving a life): Tyson Brown,
Wayne Delzer, Don Paul, JoAnn Thun

LOST TRAIL SKI PATROL:

Patroller's Cross: Chinook Swindle

OUTSTANDING AWARDS:

Northern Division Certificates of

Honorable Mention:

Outstanding Alpine Patroller:

Mel Carnahan (Great Falls),
Brian Beattie (Huff Hills),
Eric Gomes (Great Divide)

Outstanding OEC Instructor:

Craig Martens (Lost Trail)

Outstanding Instructor: Steve Porcella (Lost Trail),
Herb Hastings (Great Divide)

Outstanding Patrol Representative: Tony Malisani
(Great Falls)

Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol:

Great Falls Ski Patrol,
Casper Mountain Ski Patrol

National Outstanding Award Finalists:

Outstanding Volunteer Alpine Patroller: Vicki Motley
(Lost Trail), Yellow Merit Star

Outstanding OEC Instructor: Bill Lay (Great Falls),
Yellow Merit Star

Outstanding Instructor: Allan Rabbitt (Great Falls),
Yellow Merit Star

Outstanding Patrol Representative: Cheryl Thompson
(Snow Bowl), Yellow Merit Star

Outstanding Patroller: Michelle Myhre (Great Falls),
Yellow Merit Star

Outstanding Young Adult Patroller: Gwen Malisani
(Great Falls), Yellow Merit Star

Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol: Lost Trail Ski Patrol,
National Unit Citation

Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol: North Absaroka Ski
Patrol, National Unit Citation

Northern Division Outstanding Awards:

Outstanding Senior Candidate: Claire Martens (Lost Trail)

Outstanding Volunteer Patroller: Vicki Motley (Lost Trail)

Outstanding Ski Patrol: Lost Trail Ski Patrol

NSP 50 Year Commemorative Sign:

Casper Mountain Ski Patrol

NSP Memorial Award:

Family of Dwight Chambers (Great Divide)

Dwight Chambers Rising Star Award:

Joel Hunt (North Absaroka)

Mark Behan Outstanding Instructor Award:

Karl Uhlig (Snow Bowl)

Special Service Recognition Award—

50 years National Ski Patrol:

Carl Schiner (Big Horn),
Jim Whitlock (Lost Trail)

National Appointment:

Greg Fortin (Flathead Nordic)

NSP Distinguished Service Award:

Bob Short (Great Falls)

Winter-Tip Off - January 8, 9, 10, 2016

— Red Lodge Mountain —



8:30 a.m. both days

Cost: \$189 by 12/30/2015; \$214 after 12/30/2015.

Early Registration BONUS! One Lucky Participant will get their Registration Reimbursed!!

Checks payable to Northern Division Ski Patrol

Send to Jeanette Amrine, 4853 Forest Hill Lane, Missoula, MT 59804

Please register as soon as possible so we can adequately plan instructors and groups.

Questions - Call or email Mike Marlow at 406-443-8386 or mmarlow@infosysmt.com



WINTER TIP-OFF REGISTRATION

FRIDAY 12:30 p.m., Instructor Recertification for OET - MEET AT THE BIERSTUBE

Attendance required for all OET IT's! All mountain tickets are available for Friday, Jan 8th for \$40
Email Mike Marlow at mmarlow@infosysmt.com that you will be taking advantage of the Friday deal.

SATURDAY Boot up* 8:00 a.m., Clinic 9-4 with lunch break

All Day Toboggan Clinic: Get the rust off both you and your toboggan. Toboggan handling skills will be covered.

Also **SATURDAY: PATROLLER OBSTACLE COURSE** - With Prizes for the Top 3 Teams!!

SUNDAY - Boot up* 8:00 a.m., Clinic 9-Noon

PSIA Ski Instruction: Working with PSIA Instructors and Clinicians

* **Boot up** in the BierStube

Please check box if you are interested in participating in the following:

***The earlier you respond, the better we can gauge to have these clinics put on. If there isn't enough response for any of these clinics, they will not be held.

All Women's Clinic. Have fun working on anything and everything with a PSIA Ski Instructor.

Snowboard Clinic. With PSIA Snowboard Clinician.

NAME _____ NSP NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

NORTHERN DIVISION BASE LAYER MOCK TURTLENECKS - \$45

SIZE: SMALL MEDIUM LARGE XL XXL

Make checks payable to *Northern Division*.

Mail completed form along with check to

Jeanette Amrine, 4853 Forest Hill Lane, Missoula, MT 59804

Hotel Accommodations Info - you make your own reservations:

Lodging under NSP at Comfort Inn, 612 North Broadway, Red Lodge, MT 59068

(Room Block closes 12/20/15) **(406) 446-4469**



Join the Senior Ranks!

(and not just because you've been a patroller forever)

The Senior Clinic and Evaluation are scheduled for Spring of 2016.

The Senior Training Clinic

Maverick Mountain Ski Area

February 6th and 7th, 2016

The Senior Final Evaluation

Showdown Ski Area

March 12th and 13th, 2016

The cost to each candidate for the Senior is \$250.

Everything is based on skills and fair evaluation.

Improve your skill level and your confidence by becoming Senior.

Monthly webinars/conference calls required

Contact Michael Marlow at mmarlow@infosysmt.com

if you are interested, want to know more or have questions.

Signup deadline is December 1, 2015

Room accommodation information is forthcoming

SENIOR TEST REGISTRATION

NAME _____ NSP NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL: _____

Make checks payable to *Northern Division*.

Mail completed form along with check to Jeanette Amrine, 4853 Forest Hill Lane, Missoula, MT 59804

MAIL NO LATER THEN NOVEMBER 30th.

From the Director

John Larson, Northern Division Director



Hi all!! fall of 2015 already. Seems like I have been your DD forever. I am willing to stay on but I need to see how you all as patrollers feel about that.

I have a lot of stuff going on and if you think you're not getting what you expect let me or Karl know.

We ran a Senior and Avalanche II class in the division last year and do thank your excellent division advisors - they were both great!

I am not noted to put out a lot of words.

Your DD John

I think the level of involvement at the division level doesn't show just how committed all of you are as a group. If we are going to meet the needs of the areas we work at we all need to work hard to support the areas and NSP.

We had a very well attended meeting but I need to know if the information you are getting is what you need.

Also please return your patrol tax forms to Jeanette. SOON.

Remember board elections coming up; you should have received the pamphlet with candidate statements and method of voting.

Patient Assessment

Erik Sakariassen, Awards Supervisor



If you participated in the OEC refresher at the annual division meeting at Big Sky a few weeks ago, you might have seen me instructing a station on patient assessment, reviewing that alphabet soup of acronyms and mnemonics, scene size-up, vital signs—all those things we do to collect and process information about the state of a patient's health.

In a sense, the NSP awards program is a form of patient assessment. The awards tell us something about the health of our organization and the patrollers who make it succeed. So, how are we doing? Well, if the past year is any indication, here in the Northern Division, we have a pretty strong pulse. Vital signs are good. No need to activate EMS.

The awards banquet this year saw the introduction of some new awards. The Patriot Star was started a few years back by the Eastern Division to recognize those patrollers who have served in the U. S. Armed Forces, honoring that special relationship between the NSP and the Tenth Mountain Division. The NSP 50 Year Association Plaque can be awarded to a ski area by its NSP ski patrol for sharing a long time association

of 50 years or more. And the Northern Division Dwight Chambers Rising Star Award recognizes a patroller 35 years old or younger who exhibits dedication, commitment, and leadership to his or her patrol, region or division.

The success of our awards program requires the efforts of many volunteers. So I'd like to thank those individuals who helped make it all happen this season past. A big thanks to Kurt Weinberg, Dave Ocenosak, Vicki Motley, and Jim Whaley for serving on the Division Awards Review Board, selecting our National Outstanding Award nominees, and to Rusty Wells and Bruce Amrine for their work as National Judges, reviewing the finalists from all of the NSP Divisions to select the National Outstanding Award winners, and to Dan Schaefer, Norm Ando, Mel Carnahan, and Bill Chambers for serving on the Division National Appointment Board, reviewing our nominations for NSP National Appointments, and to Bill Mills for serving as our NSP Hall of Fame judge. You've all done an outstanding job.

As always, this year's awards honored some very dedicated patrollers and some truly amazing patrol work. Please take a moment to make your own personal assessment of the accompanying list of recipients, and if you get a chance, congratulate them. Tell them how much you appreciate what they do. Their example is both sign and symptom of all we strive to be.

NSP Board - to Vote or not to Vote, that is a question

~Dan Schaefer, Huff Hills Ski Area

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."

Each year we the voting membership of the NSP select the board that will provide the guidance and promote your wishes of the National Ski Patrol membership. I wish I could say the membership but generally a very small percent actually vote. We as the 29,000 plus members need to vote as to whom we want leading and spending our hard earn membership dues. As each member we can and will determine who will sit on the National Board of the NSP.

FDR point: *We need to be educated to make a good vote.* Wait, who the heck has time for reading, with all the studying we have to do keeping our OEC up to date, we are tapped for time. Let's look at it this way: If we don't vote, we have to keep my mouth shut on any issues that the NSP board wrangles with and makes or choose not to. That matters to us. So if we choose not to vote, we will then have to keep my opinion to ourselves now won't we! Wait, having been to enough division meetings we all know how quickly and freely we share opinion. (Just saying) WE BEST VOTE!

The Northern Division has a candidate in the race this year. (The honorable) Mr. Mike Huber from Casper Mountain courageously put his name in the running for the National Board. If you look at his position paper you will see what matters to Mike. What has always impressed me about Mike is his commitment to quality and pride in what is done by his comrades within the scope of the NSP. He stated that in his paper. He lives that. So his positron statement is a reflection of that. Must be true. Mike wants to listen to the membership and take the needed action. Not telling you what to do but: VOTE MIKE HUBER!!!!

You really should get to the NSP web page where you can find all the NSP board candidates listed and they have a position paper list too! Look them up and decide how you feel about the concerns you have for the NSP and find the candidate that best fits you agenda. Then Vote!!!!

The following names listed are the candidates that Jeff Motley and I felt (in our opinion) would serve the Northern Division and the NSP the best. (OUR OPINIONS) The following are drawn from our conclusions, but we encourage you (especially if you don't care for the way Jeff or I think.) to research them yourself and vote your way. These are listed in no order: **Mike Huber, Ed McNamara, Gary Deaver, Wendy Aarnio, Jim Woodrum, Jhon Damon, Edward Manco and of course Mike Huber.** In case I forgot to mention him. But there are so many great candidates that it was hard to narrow downbesides I don't read so good. . So please read up on this and vote.

Final point, as a member of the NSP and Northern Division, look closely at the people that have taken the time to serve on the boards and those that are offering to serve the NSP. This is not small task. While humbling to be asked for our opinion regarding this annual election, we ask that you take on the task of educating yourself and then get out and vote for who you think will serve the NSP the best. All the candidates deserve to have you read their position and make your best vote. Jeff Motley and I are honored that we were asked to give our opinions but we both feel you too should take the time and select who should serve the Northern Division and the NSP the best.

See you on the hill/mountain!

*"In an emergency we don't rise
to the level of expectations:
we fall to the level of preparedness".*

~ Choteau County EMS

I Want to Become an NSP Instructor!!

Martin (Marty) Merwin, Region 1 Director

The purpose of this document is to help you in your quest to become an instructor of a discipline such as Outdoor Emergency Care, Outdoor Emergency Transportation, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche or even Instructor Development.

In becoming an instructor you not only help others to learn and develop their skills, within one of the above listed disciplines, but you also enhance and develop your own skills; after all: **“the best way to learn is to teach”**. Before you can teach any program within the National Ski Patrol you will need to successfully complete the Instructor Development Course (I.D. Course).

After successful completion of the I.D. Course, the National Ski Patrol utilizes a “Mentoring” program to assist you in your development as an educator in adult learning (this program doesn’t attempt to indicate that you now have the same level of training or skills as a professional teacher). Also, **you are not an instructor in any discipline until you have completed the mentoring process for that course and each subsequent course you wish to teach**. For more information on the mentoring program please see the attached file “A Guide To Mentoring New Instructors”

The first thing to do is to talk to your Patrol Representative. He or she will be able to direct you to your patrol’s Instructor Development Course instructor. This person will be able to provide you with course date, time and place. Once you are registered into an instructor development course, or any course you wish to teach, you will have to complete the following steps:

Register for the course; then collect the course name and the course number from the Instructor of Record for that course for your records. Write that information on the lines below (you can use this form for each discipline you wish to teach).

IOR/IT’s Name: _____
Course Name: _____
Course #: _____

At the end of your course you will be directed to an Instructor Trainer (IT) of the discipline chosen, within your patrol and/or the Division Program Supervisor of the discipline chosen. These people will assign you a mentor to help you to develop your teaching skills. See **“A guide to Mentoring New Instructors” page 29 “ The NSP Mentoring Process”**. This process may be modified depending on your need, experience, course difficulty and division program supervisor’s requirements.

You will be asked to teach a class or classes (some portion or all of it). You will need to keep track of the class(es) taught (the number of classes needing to be taught may vary by disciplinary and after conferences with your mentor). (This following information is part of the required NSP forms)

Class: _____ Date: ___/___/___
Class: _____ Date: ___/___/___
Class: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Mentor’s Name: _____
Mentor’s Signature _____
Date ___/___/___

When you and your mentor feel you are ready for a formal evaluation of your teaching skills, a class in **that discipline** will be assigned. (For Instructor development the division’s Instructor Development Program Supervisor will assign an Instructor Trainer to evaluate you. This applies to all other programs as well.)

IT’s Name: _____
IT’s Signature _____
Date completed ___/___/___

Keep this form for your records.

Alumni Advantage

The topic of how to keep long time ski patrollers who are no longer actively patrolling actively involved was recently discussed during the Saturday business portion of the annual Northern Division meeting held on September 19, 2015. The voting members of Division agreed to form a standing Alumni Committee. The purpose of the committee is to help Patrol Representatives reach out to their patrol alumni in an effort to keep those individuals involved in local and division activities and to the extent of their desire.

The standing committee does not have a chair. The committee plans to communicate electronically as needed. Patrol Representatives are encouraged to reach out to committee members as needed. The current committee membership is made up of:

1. Two current alumni
2. The Region 1 & 2 Directors
3. The Assistant Division Director
4. One currently active Division member at large

The committee members are as follows:

Marty Merwin, Region 1 Director.
Carl Shiner, Region 2 Director.
Chuck Kempner, Alumni.
Herman Handstede, Alumni.
Chuck Allen, member at large.

The committee is encouraging Patrol Representatives to reach out to individuals who are alumni or have recently stopped patrolling. We believe these seasoned patrollers are an excellent resource and can become involved with many

Karl Uhlig, Assistant Director

patrol functions. The patrol might offer incentives to these alumni in an effort to re-engage them and to strengthen their bonds with their local patrol and the National Ski Patrol System and re-energize the comradery they once had with old friends.

1. Alumni can assist with trainings, such as OEC classes, yearly refreshers, on hill trainings
2. Alumni can assist hill management by becoming Guest Greeters and/or Mountain Hosts.
3. The local patrol can work with area management to offer alumni a designated ski day with discounted day passes. Alumni ski days can include other events such as an evening get together with food and drink.
4. The local patrol could offer annual Alumni get togethers. This could take place at the area or a patroller's private residence. The get together will give the Alumni a chance to catch up and the patrol a chance to re-engage those individuals.
5. The local patrol in conjunction with the Northern Division could initiate regional or division alumni get togethers. Perhaps these dates and locations could rotate through the division.
6. The local patrol could invite Alumni to year end parties and award banquets.
7. The local patrol could include Alumni in all patrol business emails in an effort to keep them informed.

If you have any questions or wish assistance re-engaging your local Alumni please contact one of the standing committee members.

Registration

Did you just receive by mail the Ski Patrol Magazine & Winter catalog? If not, please revise your profile at National for both your mailing address & e-mail.

Have you been receiving the Sweep for September 2015? Received the Polaris in late August? Please add the following e-mail addresses to your address book. This will help stop these important updates from going into your Junk e-mails.

editor@nsp.org

for information from the National Ski Patrol

w.a.lay@bresnan.net

or mailings from the Northern Division

Bill Lay, Northern Division Registration

If you are having problems, I can try to help as I have been doing this for a number of years. If you would rather not deal with trying to update you profile, please send me the information and I will do it for you. I would also encourage you to have your e-mail with National. It is not farmed out to others, it is used by NSP & Northern Division to keep you informed and updated.

William Lay

Northern Division Registration

w.a.lay@bresnan.net

(406) 799-0739

Northern Division NSP Fall Meeting

September 18, 2015

REPRESENTED PATROLS:

BEAVERHEAD, LOST TRAIL, 5 VALLEY NORDIC, NORTH ABSAROKA, GREAT DIVIDE, TURTLE MOUNTAIN, HUFF HILLS, CASPER MOUNTAIN, EAGLE CREEK, BIG HORN, SNOWBOWL, FLATHEAD NORDIC, GREAT FALLS, ANTELOPE BUTTE, BEARTOOTH

MYSTIC BASIN ABSENT

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 8:14

Only Patrol and Regional Advisors can vote on issues raised today.

ADVISOR REPORTS:

ALUMNI REPORT: The Northern Division/NSP Patrol is aging. There is a push to get alumni patrollers more involved in the organization. Does the Northern Division want to be involved in reaching out to the alumni? Suggested activities for Alumni: OEC Classes, Mountain Greeter, Training Assistance, Alumni Ski Day (Free or discounted tickets), Yearly alumni get together, Awards/Presentations and Year End Parties, Keep them informed about local patrol activities through email lists.

Alumni Committee should consist of 5 members: 2 registered alumni members, 2 registered active patrol members, Assistant Division Director.

Northern Division Committee: Marty Merwim, Chuck Allen, Chuck Kempner, Herm Hamdstede, Karl Uhlig, Carl Schiner.

Karl Uhlig will be contact for this committee: KUhlig@wgmgroupp.com

BUDGET: \$800

DIVISION DIRECTORS REPORT:

There is a lot going on at the National Level. Website issues continue. Be sure to go to your regional and division representatives to let them know about any problems.

BUDGET: \$3000

ASSISTANT DIVISION DIRECTOR:

Assist with OEC, OET activities as directed by advisor.

BUDGET: \$500

SECRETARY:

Need a new Division Secretary. Jana Barnes (Beaverhead Ski Patrol) agreed to do this for one year starting at the Division Meeting today.

REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE: Marty Merwin

Was able to attend all refreshers for Region One except for Beaverhead Ski Patrol and Eagle Creek Patrol. He is available for questions/issues. He can help direct you to assistance and be involved in resolving the problem. He is looking for a replacement for his position at this time.

BUDGET: \$ 2,040

REGION TWO REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Shiner

Helps with issues. Encourage communication within the division with any concerns/questions.

BUDGET: \$612

OEC: JOHN FRADETTE

*Hybrid OEC Refresher was in widespread use last year for the first time. There is still an option to do the traditional refresher. Most patrols are offering the Hybrid option with an online portion of the refresher.

*Beta testing will not occur with the OEC test this year. Ran into a lot of hurdles this year. This whole process has been postponed until the other IT problems with National are resolved.

*Senior Clinic: Pre-Senior: 13 candidates. Held at Lost Trail. Final Senior Test was held at Great Divide. Fantastic pass rate this year: 85% (11/13 passed)

*OEC National Meeting: There has been a move in Midwest to "dumb-down" OEC. Voted down at the National Meeting to make any changes to OEC at this time. The Midwest Division continues to address this issue and push for change to OEC.

BUDGET: \$3800

AVALANCHE: Steve Thompson

*First season with new Avalanche Instructor Manual. 3 roll out sessions for the instructors in Northern Division: Modularized system. Allows for search and rescue people to do certain modules, not the whole program.

*Attended the Avalanche Meeting in Banff last year. This occurs every 2 years. Next will be in Colorado at Breckinridge.

*New National Avalanche Supervisor: Ed Carlson, Glenwood Springs Colorado.

*Avalanche Awareness Course: 2 Level 1 courses, 1 Level 2 course at Lost Trail done last season. 2 Level 1 Instructors, 5 Level 2 Instructors were certified.

BUDGET: \$1500

OET: Mike Marlow

*Every patrol needs to have a toboggan refresher every year and this needs to be signed off by an OET IT. There were 8 registered toboggan refreshers last year, should have been 15 registered. There is a curriculum to follow.

*Winter Tip-Off: Red Lodge: January 8,9,10. Cost: \$189 includes lift tickets. PSIA Instructors are there for instruction. This year there will be an obstacle course. Encourage Nordic patrollers to participate.

*Senior: Plans for a Senior again this year to get back on an every other year schedule, offset with the Avalanche course every other year. Cost: \$250. Deadline for sign up will be December 1. Need a minimum of 10 participants. Need evaluators for the Senior: Can this be rolled into the tip-off to get training evaluators for the Senior: Need to be a Senior, Should be an OEC Instructor, but this is not mandatory, WebX prep and then an on the hill scenario for the evaluators. Tentative Dates: Clinic early February (tentative location Maverick Mountain), Test early March (tentative location Showdown Mountain).

Northern Division NSP Fall Meeting

September 18, 2015

*OET Certification: OET Instructors should attend Winter Tip-Off once every three years. Need to take the Instructor Development Course, Mentorship, Teaching, and then get signed off.

BUDGET: \$4000

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT: JEFF MOTLEY

There is no online instructor development course at this time. This is getting rebuilt and hopefully it will go online at the beginning of the year 2016. The traditional course is available. This is going under a rewrite/redo at the National Level.

There have been several courses completed by instructor candidates this past year. Mentors should be contacted this season so that instructor candidates can be certified.

BUDGET: \$500

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: VICKI MOTLEY

Currently looking for a national advisor for the young adult program. 4 candidates.

No information at the National level regarding the Youth Development Program. Need to get registration done correctly so that the Young Adult Program candidates can be registered as such.

National Committee: Tom Sherry, John Lawson, Liz Dodge, Ken, Richard.

Consider coordinating a Youth Development Yearly event with the Senior test. Offer a scholarship when they graduate to encourage young adults to complete the course and become instructors.

BUDGET: \$2000

NORDIC and MOUNTAIN TRAVEL: Troy Walker

*Flathead held an MTR course: 10 students were enrolled and passed. Level One, may be Level Two MTR at Lost Trail this year, Contact Craig Martin

*MTR Course: Alta, UT: June 2016.

*Recertification for Avalanche, MTR, Nordic Instructors: Lava Hot Springs, Idaho: November 14th one day recertification.

*Powder Fall Canyons, Utah: was a good event, despite the snow conditions.

MTR BUDGET: \$1500

NORDIC BUDGET: \$1000

LEGAL: Brent Brooks

*Use of Patrol Monies Memo: This is still valid.

*What is the legal advisor/committee doing? 5-6 conference calls per year, working hard to get more involved with policy making, etc at the National Ski Patrol.

Recommend that all patrol reps talk to the area manager and/or Pro Patrol Director to discuss expectations, etc for the year, every year. It is wise to have an understanding (in writing) about what

activities are covered by the area liability coverage.

*There is a move in some states to get the Ski Patrol and OEC registered under the state EMS regulatory bodies. So far this has not happened in MT, but may come up in legislation, so be aware and looking out for any talk of this. Not recommended for NSP/OEC-Ts.

*Anytime there is a legal issue, contact John Larson at the Northern Division Level and the legal representative. Try to resolve issues locally and then move up the chain. Communication is key!

*Encourage all patrollers to consider buying an umbrella personal liability policy to cover activities while patrolling. This usually is done under homeowner's insurance.

BUDGET: \$750

MEDICAL ADVISOR:

Every patrol should have a medical advisor from the local ambulance service or local hospital to define services/quality assurance.

CRITICAL INCIDENT/STRESS ADVISOR:

There is an 800 number to call. This seems to work in the eastern part of the division. Does not seem to work in the western part of the division. Every area should have a number to call: Sheriff's office, County, etc.

AWARDS: Eric Sakariassen

*Every patrol got a packet with certificates for individual patrol members. Please give these to your patrollers and congratulate them on their accomplishments and years of service.

*Alumni Certificates were awarded.

*Please encourage all of your patrollers to update their personal record on the website! This is the only way that Eric has to contact/track patrollers.

*Northern Division Patriot Star: New award this year for patrollers that have also served in the military.

*Dwight Chambers Rising Star Award: New award this year for a patroller 35 years and younger.

BUDGET: \$1500

POLARIS NEWSLETTER:

Need a deadline for articles to be submitted. All patrols need to submit articles for the newsletter.

Will plan for 2-3 newsletters per year: One November 1 with Winter information/registrations for events, One July 1 with Fall information/registrations, and possibly one May 1 with winter wrap up/upcoming summer events.

Deadline for submission for November 1 Polaris:

October 7, 2015

Send articles to Joann.

BUDGET: \$250

Northern Division NSP Fall Meeting

September 18, 2015

WEBSITE:

There continues to be issues with the National NSP.org website. Be sure to try to register courses, update your profile, etc on the national website. If you run into problems, contact Northern Division representative of respective program with which you are having trouble.

*Consider creating a website for your individual patrols for recruitment, etc. Look at beartoothskipatrol.org website.

NSPnorth.org website is up and functional. Be sure to get information to the Sherry at Snowbowl, who is posting things to the Northern Division website.

BUDGET: \$300

REGISTRATION: Bill Lay

*The website is not working well. Patrol directors need to review the registration forms carefully. Contact Bill to walk through the online registration form. It will take 4 weeks for everything to be complete with registration from time submitted to time registration is complete with National.

*Please complete Patrol Registration forms and get them to Bill Lay between: December 1 and December 15, 2015.

*Contact Bill Lay for any registration questions, DO NOT CONTACT NATIONAL!!

BUDGET: \$450

SENIOR:

BUDGET: \$10000

This cannot pay for itself. We have a deficit every year. Please see Mike Marlow's report for more information regarding upcoming Senior Level Testing.

PATROL RECRUITMENT:

Nothing planned for this next year.

BUDGET: \$0

BUDGET APPROVAL:

Motion was made Marty Merwin, Ron Wiggins seconded to approve the budget. Discussion was conducted:

Checking Account Balance: \$66,000+

Savings: ???

Investment: \$95,000+

Eric Sakariassen: Made a motion to discuss the entire budget (line items) and dues at the spring executive committee meeting. This was seconded, voted on and passed.

Deficit: \$9807.00 for the next fiscal year budget. Call the question: Jamie Cottom seconded. Vote: 15/17, approved.

Vote on the motion to approve the budget for fiscal year 2016: 16/17 for, motion passed.

REIMBURSEMENT:

Spring Executive Committee Meeting: proposed that Patrol Reps and Board Members receive reimbursement of ½ of room cost and \$0.40/mile.

Marty Merwin made a motion to accept the proposal of the executive committee of ½ of room rates and \$0.40/mile for patrol representative, board member, or Instructors. Motion withdrawn.

Dan Schaeffer made a motion to accept the proposal of the executive committee of ½ room rate, and \$0.40/mile for patrol reps and board members with a cap of \$150 per night for the annual meeting starting fiscal year 2016. Jeff Motley seconded. Vote: 17/17, motion passed.

There was a motion made by Trevor Motley, seconded by Ron Wiggins to amend the previous motion to change the reimbursement rates as above but for this Division meeting into the future. No discussion. Motion passed.

2015-2016 NSP PATROL REFRESHERS:

Lost Trail, Great Divide, Huff Hills, Big Horn October 3rd

Snowbowl: Oct 10th

Great Falls: October 18th

Flathead Nordic: October 31st

Casper: November 7th

Beaverhead: November 14th

These were updated on the Northern Division Website.

COURSE FEES: Marty Merwin, Karl Uhlig

Executive board asked Marty to structure course fees and make recommendations for future course fees. How can we promote patrolling and take away obstacles to becoming patrollers?

Take away introductory course fees.

Take out affiliate member fees for nonqualifying courses.

National fees are only for OEC and Outdoor First Care

*Please see the attached fee schedule for detailed information.

Trevor Motley moved to accept course fees as proposed. Ron Wiggins seconded. Discussion: Is a good schedule. Will help the patrol directors to explain fees. This information needs to be disseminated to all patrol directors for distribution. Vote: 17/17, motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:16

Calendar of Events

- January 8, 9, 10, 2016 **Winter Tip-Off**Contact - Mike Marlow
Mmarlow@infosysmt.com
- February 6 and 7, 2016 **Senior Training Clinic, Maverick Mountain**Contact - Mike Marlow
Mmarlow@infosysmt.com
- March 12 and 13, 2016 **Senior Final Evaluation, Showdown**Contact - Mike Marlow
Mmarlow@infosysmt.com

*"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time
to sit still and watch the leaves turn." -- Elizabeth Lawrence*

DON'T MISS OUT!

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

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

*The official publication of the
Northern Division of the National Ski Patrol*

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