



WYOMING • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA • MONTANA

# Polaris

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION NATIONAL SKI PATROL

SPRING 2017

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## *From the Director*

*John Larson, Northern Division Director*



This is my last letter to you as your division director. I very much appreciate your support for the last 6 years and know that you all will support Karl for the next 6 years.

We have had a lot of good events over the years but support for the senior program seems to have fallen off. If you have any ideas about rebuilding this program please let Karl or any of the division leadership know.

At this time we do have division representation on the national board but we need to vote in national elections to keep this representation. So this fall read voter pamphlet and vote - it is your NATIONAL SKI PATROL.

Thanks again for your support in the past and keep skiing.

John Larson  
Past DD

## *Region I News*

*Rusty Wells, Region 1 Director*

What a winter (even though it waited into December to get real snow). At this point Whitefish Mountain Resort in Whitefish has 150" of settled snow. North of Havre, where Eagle Creek Patrol skis, they had - 68 with wind chill one day. The good news is they were able to open the hill and ski this year vs lack of snow last year.

At least 3 Patrols in Region 1 held OEC classes this year and Great Falls hosted the WinterTip Off.

During a very stormy (wind, snow and cold) Presidents Day weekend Flathead Nordic was called upon by the County Sheriff to help in the search for a local Doctor who went missing at Whitefish Mountain Resort (Big Mountain). Searchers over 16 days turned up no clues. Maverick Mountain Patrollers also were involved in at least one off area search (more successful).

Enjoy the change in Seasons and I hope to see a lot of you next Fall at the Division Meeting.

Rusty Wells  
Region 1 Advisor



# Northern Division Historian

by Steve Thompson, Historian



Welcome to Spring from Priscilla Patroller. I hope that you all had a great ski season. I never got a chance to get on my skis this year because I was very busy shoveling, blowing and plowing snow in the Seeley Lake area. Today was a typical Spring day - 25 when I got out of bed, then it rained, the sky cleared up and the sun came out and currently as I am writing, it is

snowing. Like someone very wise said - if you don't like the weather just wait 5 minutes and it will change.

Enough about the weather - we can't do anything to change it. While I was preparing some items for the E-Board meeting the end of April, I happened across the minutes for the 1 May 1965 Spring Meeting of the Northern Rocky Mountain Division (yes 53 years ago we were the Northern Rocky Mountain Division of NSP). I thought it might be interesting to share some points from that meeting.

- \* There were 25 people in attendance including the National Director - Chuck Schobinger

- \* Bank balance 1 May 1965 was \$772.50

- \* Expense of \$152.00 for the Divisional Chairman to attend the National meeting in Denver was approved

- \* Expense of \$41.55 for travel to Vail for Professional Ski Patrol Clinic was approved

- \* There were 3 Regional Chairmen and 6 Section Chiefs (I have a map of that breakdown but I'll bring that to the Division Meeting in September).

- \* Boot on-Boot off discussion was held — Conclusion - depends on judgement of local patrol and the local medical advisor

- \* Jack Nicholas, Legal Advisor, Sinks Canyon, WY, "explained the 'Good Samaritan Law'. He stated this law does not apply to us. It applies mostly to Doctors. It reduces standards for physicians to layman level." HmMMMMM

- \* \$1.00 fee for those registering for the annual Divisional Avalanche School

- \* A Public Relations and Ski Safety Advisor was appointed

- \* Beartooth Patrol reported that they "use several women skiers for" their Auxiliary First Aid program to handle walk in accidents. (Priscilla has another HMMMMMM)

- \* Zipper and seam problems with the Sportcaster jackets were discussed. The National Director asked if one of those jackets could be sent to Denver so Sportcaster could see what the problem was.

As I reflect on a number of the above meeting items, I see some things that could just as well be 2018 discussion points. I can't wait to see what the "hot topics" will be at Buck's T-4 the end of April.

Just a couple of other items:

1. I forwarded my PATROLLER THEN AND NOW powerpoint presentation to Justin Data and he is going to put it on our Northern Division Web Site. You may recall that I presented that at the Division meeting last September.

2. Mike Marlow sent me an awesome scanner that will fly through individual sheets and Cheri purchased a roll-over scanner that she has been using on books for her genealogical work. With those two pieces of equipment available, I am once again asking your help in gathering historical information on each patrol in the Northern Division. A lot of history was recorded in those 1965 Spring meeting minutes. Those type of records, pictures, newspaper articles and anything else you have about your own patrol are all great stuff.

As I said in Sept, if it would be easier for me to come to you, just let me know. I know I have to schedule a road trip to Whitefish so I can go through all the "treasures" that Rusty Wells has.

Hope you all have/had a great season wrap-up and your Spring and Summer are just as great. Cheri and I are hoping for clear skies all summer.

- steve

## Beaverhead Alumni Event

The Beaverhead Ski Patrol held the first annual Ski Patrol Alumni event at Maverick Mountain the end of March. The event was wildly successful. 24 Alumni and 12 current patrollers attended the event. Mountain management offered discounted lift tickets and a baked potato bar for dinner for all current and past ski patrol members.

Door prizes were awarded to the alumni who travelled the farthest (300 miles), the oldest past or current

*Jana Barnes* Beaverhead Ski Patrol

patroller, and the longest serving patroller (Don Hand 45 years). The event was very successful with 30% of those who received an invite attending.

The ski patrol and area management are already planning the 2019 event. Beaverhead Ski Patrol would encourage all patrols in the Division to engage alumni and organize an event!

# Division Happenings

*Karl Uhlig, Assistant Division Director*

## Northern Division Patrollers

We all know the 2017-2018 ski season is rapidly winding down. Open OEC, OET, and Intro to Patrolling classes are finishing up for the season. We hope your recruitment classes are bringing new enthusiastic patrollers to your local ski areas and the Northern Division. I have a few notes to share with you as the season concludes and we head to the spring E-Board meeting in April.

The Executive Board will meet on April 28th. If you have any issues that you would like discussed during the Board meeting please discuss them with your Patrol Representative and if appropriate forward those to either Jana Barns or me at and we will get them added to the agenda.

Marty Merwin, our trusted Alumni Advisor is stepping down from the position. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in carrying on the good work that Marty has initiated, please let us know.

During the April 28th meeting we will decide the location for the annual Division meeting held on the third weekend of September the 14th-16th. We also set a Draft budget for the 2018-2019 year. Additionally, we will set a tentative agenda for the fall meeting. I hope you liked the Saturday morning breakout sessions. So far I've received good

feedback and some have shared ideas on possible topics for this year. We will also discuss vendors. I thought that having vendors attend was a great addition to the social hour and banquet. If there is a NSP affiliated company that you would like to see attend the fall meeting please let me or Mike Marlow know at mmarlow@infosysmt.com .

At last year's Division meeting we tried to offer reimbursement at ½ the event expense to anyone who was a first time attendee. I believe there were only two who took advantage of the offer. I'd say that's rather disappointing. I will encourage the Board to approve a similar offer to any Northern Division patroller in good standing for the continuance of the reimbursement offer. My hope is that we as a Division can grow attendance at the one Division event held each year. Growing attendance at the meeting will also help build momentum and enthusiasm with younger patrollers; after all they will become our future leaders.

Please stay tuned and read any announcements sent by Justin Data from the Division web site. I will try my best to keep everything short and to the point. Enjoy the rest of your ski season and summer.

- Karl Uhlig  
Assistant Division Director

## OET Update

Wow! and the snow continues! There's is still plenty of good snow to be had. Maverick, Red Lodge, Big Sky are all closing in the next week or two. Great Divide is open until at least May 5th!

This year's Winter Tip Off was a rousing success with the PSIA team with us for one and a half days, they really helped patrollers in the handles and on the tail rope. The Toboggan Rodeo was fun as always. Congratulations to Elias Williams, Fred Crockett and PSIA Kevin as the 1st place finishers and \$100 NSP gift certificate winners. 2nd place and 3rd place teams each won \$50 gift certificates and \$25 gift certificates, respectively. Fred Crockett came up with an idea to have a traveling Skunk Hide Award for the last place finishers starting next year! Justin Schmeisser won his ENTIRE reservation back. Maverick Mountain scored this year and we look to having them back again!

We added quite a few Alpine Patrollers this year with Snowbowl, Lost Trail, Great Divide, Beaverhead (Maverick), Great Falls (Showdown), Huff Hills, Casper, RedLodge and

*Mike Marlow, Northern Division OET Supervisor*

EagleCreek holding Introduction to Patrolling classes.

Winter Tip Off 2019 will most likely be held January 11,12 & 13, 2019 with Toboggan Training, PSIA training , a Toboggan Rodeo and Instructor ReCertification class being held that weekend. If your Instructor Certificate is expiring this year (12/31/2018) plan on attending to renew. You only have to renew once every 3 years.

I am always open to suggestions for WTO sessions so email me at mmarlow@infosysmt.com if you have ideas or comments.

Powderfall is set for Snowbird next year - April 3-6, 2019. It's like a BIGGER version of Winter Tip Off with OEC, Avy, MTR events all rolled in. PLUS discounted lift tickets BEFORE and AFTER the event so more fun can be had!

See you on the slopes (this year still!) next year and Plan on joining us at the ALWAYS Entertaining and ALWAYS Educational WINTER TIP OFF!

Michael Marlow - OET Supervisor

# Northern Division Winter Tip-Off



PSIA instructors testing alternative behind-the-back tail rope technique



Dan Schaeffer in handles



After Saturday tobogganing clinic/refresher

## Honoring A Legend.

*Erik Sakariassen, Awards Supervisor*

When the National Ski Patrol unveiled its Hall of Fame during the 75th Anniversary Celebration in January 2013, the inaugural class of five included such pioneering luminaries as NSP founder Minnie Dole, National Skier Association head Roger Langley, early NSP Director Harry Pollard, and NSP Historian and author of *The National Ski Patrol: Samaritans of the Snow*, Gretchen Besser. Included among these first inductees was Dr. Warren Bowman of Billings, Montana.

Dr. Bowman, who died in March 2017 at the age of 87, made a lifetime of contributions to the NSP too numerous to count. He authored the medical textbook *Winter Emergency Care*, and oversaw the publication of three subsequent editions of *Outdoor Emergency Care*. Dr. Bowman served as NSP Medical Director for 30 years, and in 1990, he was presented the Minnie Dole Award for his outstanding service.

In September 2017, the Northern Division Board of Directors voted to establish the Dr. Warren Bowman Outstanding OEC Instructor Award in honor of his many contributions to ski patrolling. Eligible nominees must be a current NSP member in good standing, a current active OEC Instructor for at least six years, and have demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation in OEC education. Nominees must be sponsored by an active, current OEC Instructor who is a member of the Northern Division.

The submission deadline for the first Dr. Warren Bowman Award is July 13, 2018. If you are an active OEC Instructor and interested in sponsoring a nominee, please send an email to me at [erik@fortlincoln.org](mailto:erik@fortlincoln.org). The nomination form is easy to complete. I can't think of a better way to honor a legend!

# Alumni News

*Marty Merwin, Northern Division Alumni Advisor*

Hello everyone.

This is my last article as your Northern Division Alumni Program Advisor. I plan to retire from this position and patrolling May 31, 2018. I want to thank the division directors, e-board and you for allowing me to server you in this position as well as your former Region 1 Director.

Many thanks to all of you who have taken on the tasks of trying to develop Alumni Programs in your own patrols. It is really at the patrol level these programs get built. To help with this effort I asked your P.D.'s to ask you to register the Alumni Program as your "secondary patrol". As you will note, most of us on the Alumni Committee are still "Active Patrollers". Also, I was hoping this would bring more ideas, involvement and enthusiasm to your programs. Unfortunately, the national office decided that only "non active patrollers" could

become members of the Alumni Program. This seems to be mean only those who are registered as "Alumni Members" should be a part of the Alumni Program.

So, what does this mean for you and the Northern Division? It will be up to the Northern Division Director and e-board to decided if they want to continue to support this program—at least on the Division level (I hope they will allow the program to continue). One thing that will help them make this decision is if someone with enthusiasm for working with patrols and people to this end would step-up and offer to take up the reins. It really isn't that much work and the people are great!

Also, I will be available to help you anyway I can.

- Marty

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## OEC Updates

*John Fradette, OEC Supervisor*

As we wind down the ski season here is a rundown of Division OEC activities over the past season. There were 19 Cycle refreshers held with 419 OEC technicians refreshed. We had a total of 9 registered OEC classes. At the time of this article we still have two that are not yet closed out. The total enrollment was 51 students. The largest class was Flathead Nordic with 14. The count of instructors teaching at these classes was 28. However, the count of instructors is a little misleading as it appears that IOR's are not always updating or adding instructors to the course records. If you teach at a class make sure to tell the IOR to include you. If you are included you will see the class credited to your education record.

For instructors, take the time now to review your education record. If you have not had an opportunity with in your three-year instructor cycle to take an OEC

Instructor Continuing Education (ICE) course. I will be presenting one at the Division meeting this fall. You must have at least one OEC ICE course within your three-year cycle in order to be renewed. I will send another reminder in the Summer Polaris. It is very important if your OEC instructor status is expiring this year to review your education record for this requirement. I will not be able to renew you if you do not attend an OEC continuing education. The reason the continuing education is so important is that it gives the opportunity for instructors across the division to exchange ideas and learn about changes to the OEC program.

I will be attending the OEC national committee meeting in April so look for updates regarding the OEC 6th edition and other OEC changes in the Summer Polaris.

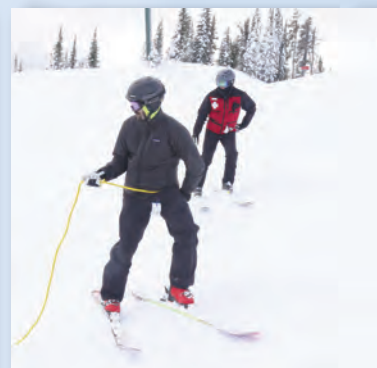
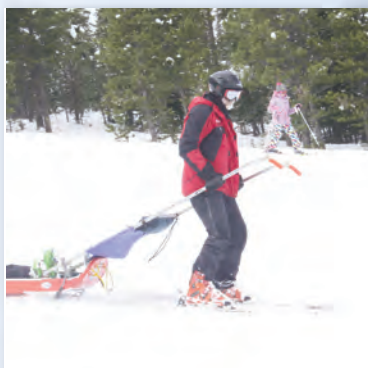
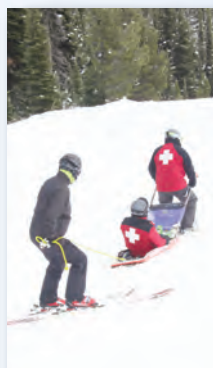
# Calendar of Events

September 14 - 16, 2018 **Division Meeting** ..... **Location TBD**  
Contact - Mike Marlow  
Mmarlow@infosysmt.com

January 11,12,13, 2019 **Winter Tip-Off** ..... **Location TBD**  
Contact - Mike Marlow  
Mmarlow@infosysmt.com

"Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear." -- George Addair

## Northern Division Winter Tip-Off



www.nspnorth.org

## 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)

### 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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