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*Division Happenings*

*Karl Uhlig, Division Director*

Northern Division Members,

**September Northern Division Meeting Summary**

The Northern Division annual business and refresher meeting was held this past September 14-16 in Big Sky. On Saturday morning those attending were treated to a series of Nordic/Backcountry clinics. I learned that we have a lot of talented individuals within the Division who are willing to share their expertise. Each clinic was professionally presented and I'll encourage each of you to consider attending the Division meeting next September.

The OEC Refresher practical side went off very smoothly with many patrols participating. Thanks to those patrols who stepped up to champion a station and thanks to both John Fradette and Dan Schaefer for guiding participants through the afternoon and keeping everyone on time.

We had several vendors display their latest products available at the Saturday evening banquet. Vendors included: NSP Catalogue, Titan Straps, and Duckworth Wool, with LOTS of giveaways happening. Vendor sponsors not attending but providing giveaways and auction items were Oboz and Sun Mountain

On Sunday the Division Board met to review the proposed budget for FY 2019. We also discussed several items. Here is a short list. If you are curious or need more information please contact your Patrol Representative or a Executive Board member for clarification.

1. Critical Stress - John Larson presented a PPT discussion and placed that presentation on the Division web site. There is a great list of resources available to you as individuals and to patrols included in the PPT.

2. Registration. The Division has not increased dues for many years. There is no increase again this year. Dues are National—\$55, Division—\$48 for a total of \$103.

3. By Law changes.
  - a. Fiscal year. The Board approved a shift in fiscal year for the Northern Division to match the National fiscal year. Our new fiscal year will be July 1- June 30. That means the 2019 financial reports are due to Jeannette sometime in July 2019.

- b. Section 3 & 4. The Board approved a change in these two sections to allow the Executive Committee to transfer funds between budgets as needed (line items). However the total yearly budget must remain the same and cannot be changed without full Board approval. As a reminder the full Board consists of the Executive committee and all Patrol Representatives.

4. Under New Business. A discussion and approval given for the Division to rejoin the MSAA (Montana Ski Area Association). The annual dues are \$250 and gives the Division a seat at the Area Owners association. These owners are one of our partners in the industry and I think it very important that we work together wherever possible. Being an active member of the association will help us strengthen our association with area owners.

5. You may not be aware but the Jim Anderson family was involved with a boating accident this spring. Jim's wife and son did not survive. Jim is a longtime supporter of NSP and is a Level III PSIA ski instructor who regularly attends and instructs the latest ski techniques at Winter Tip Off. The Board unanimously approved a donation through the GoFund Me Site in the

*- continued on page 3*



# Northern Division Historian

by Steve Thompson, Historian

Now that we are all getting ready for another ski season, I thought it might be interesting to share the following questionnaire from 55 years ago. As you read through, note how many items are still current issues and what have changed. Apparently, sexism was alive and well in '63. Hope everyone has a good startup to your season.

- steve

**October 29, 1963**

**FROM: Divisional Chairman (Fred Klein)**

**TO: All Patrol Directors**

**SUBJECT: Questionnaire (sic)**

Questions arose at NRMSP Meeting last week that would be beneficial to all patrols is compiled and re-distributed. Please be as complete as possible.

1. What method is used to finance your patrol.
2. Who pays individual dues:
  1. Club
  2. Area
  3. Patrol
  4. Individual Patrolman.
3. How do you recruit new members.
4. Do you give FA instruction to new members.

5. Must new patrolmen have to have ADV. FA card before consideration.
6. What remuneration does your area offer to individual patrolmen for duty.
7. Can you assure division office that all correspondence will be distributed to individuals.
8. Regardless of cost, would you prefer each bulletin to be mailed to patrolmen direct.
9. Could your candidates for Senior Patrol travel to nearest major area for testing in March.
10. How many men would you estimate would be eligible to become seniors by March.
11. Election of patrol leaders beneficial to patrols is done at last meeting in spring. If impossible for your patrol please explain.
12. Is patrol equipment owned by your patrol.
13. Maintained by who.
14. Are your men required to attend safety systems of lifts.
15. Is slope maintenance part of your duties.
16. Would you approve of an unscheduled evaluation being made at your area or would you prefer being notified in advance.

## Region I News

### SO THERE I WAS

4 a.m. and my phone was ringing for a second time (I chose not to answer it the first time). It was Steve Burglund of Ski Patrol and we had a mission. A lost skier in West Bowl (out of bounds back that time) at Big Mountain Ski Area had been located by search and rescue and they needed our help getting him out. It was my first mission with the Patrol. As other Patrollers arrived I was given the task to find anchor sites and set up raising systems to get the lost skier (Hypothermic but responsive) back up the hill and into the ski area where the Pro Patrol could pick him up.

Many of you attended mini seminars on MTR, Avalanche and Nordic at the Division meeting. Renewing old skills or learning new. I encourage each of you to go online and take the ICS 100 course (now required for all Patrollers). This year a Level II Avalanche course, teaching avalanche rescue leadership skills, will be offered at Lost Trail. MTR Instructors are available to teach off area search skills (some areas allow patrollers to help with off area

### Rusty Wells, Region 1 Director

searches). Ample opportunities exist for learning valuable skills that you may be called upon to use as a Ski Patroller.

After 2 vertical raises (using a Z-drag pulley system ) and 1 long traverse we were able to access help from a groomer that hoisted the sled the remainder of the way. Thirty years later I realize that every mission brings something new and skills that were once learned, but never used, suddenly become important.



By the way, Jer Lundgren and I had a bunch of fun teaching and reviewing knots and z-draggs at the Division meeting!

- Rusty Wells  
Region 1 Director

- continued from page 1

# Division Happenings

amount of \$1000 to help the Anderson family through this tragedy

## Refresher Season

Our typical refresher season is well underway. If you have not already had a refresher at your local area I'm sure it's coming soon. I know John Fradette is busy trying to keep up with sending IT's to various refreshers. If you missed your refresher please check out the Northern Division's web site calendar to see if there is one scheduled soon near you.

## Voting for National Board Members

With your latest edition of the Ski Patrol magazine was a 2018 Board Election brochure. Side note, if you did not get the Fall 2018 edition, update your NSP profile in the members area of the web site. This year there are five candidates running for four open positions. Voting is open from October 15th through December 3rd. To vote, log onto the National web site at [select For Members](#), then click on the Vote Now image, then the 2018 Board Election Vote Now button. I encourage you to read through the candidate statements, ask them questions at the appropriate link on the [nsp.org](#) web site and vote. As you read profiles ask yourself whether you think an individual would do a good job of representing the Division and issues that affect you and your patrol. Your vote does make a difference, as an example our very own Mike Huber now sits on the National Board in part because of your voting efforts.

## 50 Years of Patrolling

I was able to attend the Lost Trail Patrol's refresher and need to report that Patrol Representative Keith Talley recognized Chuck Kempner for 50 YEARS of patrolling. That's quite a milestone. Congratulations Chuck!! If you happen to see Chuck, please congratulate and thank him for his many years of service.

*Karl Uhlig, Division Director*

## Patroller Profiles

I would like help creating a Patroller Profiles section in the Polaris. The section would include two patroller profiles written by Patrol Representatives or someone they designate. Each profile would highlight someone within the Northern Division that many of you might not know. I think it would be interesting for us to learn a little about each other. Each profile would contain a current picture, brief patrolling bio, highlights on what the patroller does for the patrol, and something about what the patroller does during the off season. There could also be a lighter side such as nick name if they have one and how that name came to be or favorite saying when patrolling or something else unique. Please give me input on whether this is something that is of interest. You can reach me via text, phone or email. Just let me know your thoughts. If the feedback is positive, I'll reach out to two patrol representatives early in the season for profiles that will debut in the Spring Polaris.

## Classified

I don't know about you, but occasionally I have items for sale, sometimes patrol related and other times not. I've asked Mike Marlow and Justin Data to see if we can initiate a classified page on the Northern Division web site. I'm not sure whether this is something that is of interest or would be used much but I believe it's worth investigating. Another idea is to create a brief classified section in the Polaris. Yes, I realize the Polaris is only published three times a year but with some planning a classified section could work. The section (wherever it resides) could contain both for sale and wanted sections. Our ski area owner partners could also post job openings whether they are looking for summer or winter help.

I hope to see you on the slopes!  
Karl Uhlig  
Division Director  
406-240-7793



**Outstanding Ski Patrol:**  
North Absaroka Ski Patrol

# Winter Tip Off

*Mike Marlow, Northern Division OET Supervisor*



From the #1 NSP Program ... OET!

Whew! Now that you gotten the refresher done for the second most important NSP program (OEC) done, we can concentrate on the #1 program, OET!

Several fun things are lined up this year, the annual Winter Tip Off is coming to the Great Divide, the SECOND week of January 2019, Jan 11,12,13. (Registration form enclosed) We will be having an annual OET instructor refresher, Friday, January 11th. (Like any other discipline, instructors need to attend ONCE every three years AND teach to maintain their instructor status. National is coming down harder on us supervisors to maintain the quality of the program). Last WTO was so successful including the PSIA instructors as part of our training, we going to try to do it again!

Secondly, Snowbowl is hosting a Cascade 350 training on January 26, 2019. We are bringing in "guest" instructors

(actually Division Supervisors from the PNW and FarWest) to help train. Class size is limited so sign up sooner that later. (Registration form enclosed) If you have NEVER touched a 350 or even if you have, JOIN US for some training on these unique toboggans.

NSP's Powderfall is headed back to Snowbird (outside Salt Lake City) this year April 3-6, 2019. This is Winter Tip Off on STEROIDS! There is so much to do, so much patroller networking to have and so much too learn, you're crazy to pass it up! (Especially since it's happening relatively close to the Northern Division). Grab your friends and catch some year end snow! Registrations are limited to 750 and there are ONLY 100) OPENINGS LEFT!

Lastly, Patrol reps, remember to register your OET Refresher so that your patrollers can stay NSP certified. Questions on this - email me!

See you on the slopes AND at one of our upcoming events!

- Mike

# Saturday Night Fever!

*Erik Sakariassen, Awards Supervisor*

Forgive me if I get a little carried away once a year. That Saturday Night awards banquet at the Northern Division Annual Meeting does it to me every time. I get to be the DJ, spinning vinyl under a mirrored disco ball. One hit after another. It's funky town!

So boogie to this: Two Northern Division patrols won second place in the National Outstanding Awards, SnowBowl in the large Alpine category and North Absaroka in the small Alpine category, receiving Silver Unit Citations. Shake your booty! And 18-year-old Kyle Christensen from Casper Mountain won first place as the National Outstanding Young Adult Patroller, receiving the Gold Merit Star. Can you dig it? And we inaugurated a new division award, in memory of Dr. Warren Bowman, as the first Northern Division Outstanding OEC Instructor Award was presented to John Fradette for excellence and innovation in OEC education. Get down, brother! And finally, we saved the last dance for "Oh Johnny" Larson

who received the Distinguished Service Award, presented by NSP Executive Director Meegan Mosztnski, for a lifetime of service and devotion to the National Ski Patrol. Right on!

The success of our awards program requires the efforts of many volunteers. I would like to thank those individuals who helped make it all happen this past season. A special thanks to Kurt Weinberg, Colleen Finch, Vicki Motley, and Jim Whaley for serving on the Northern Division Awards Review Board, selecting our National Outstanding Award nominees, and to Marie Ando and Allan Rabbitt for their work as National Judges, reviewing the finalists from all of the NSP Divisions to select the National Outstanding Award winners. Slap me some skin!

As always, this year's awards honored some very dedicated patrollers and some truly amazing patrol work. So please take time to look at the list of 2017-2018 winners and honorees that appears elsewhere in this Polaris. Keep on truckin'!

# Winter-Tip Off - January 11, 12, 13, 2019

## — Great Divide Ski Area —

Cost: \$189 by 12/30/2018; \$214 after 12/30/2018.

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** Friday all-day tickets available for \$25 per day, contact Mike Marlow before January 9th

**12:30 p.m., Instructor Recertification for OET**

Attendance required for all OET IT's! Email Mike Marlow at mmarlow@infosysmt.com that you will be attending.

**SATURDAY** Boot up 8:30 a.m., Clinic 9-4 with lunch break

Toboggan Clinic with PSIA Instruction: 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!!

**SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET** - Location TBD

**SUNDAY - Boot up 8:30 a.m., Clinic 9-Noon**

Personalized PSIA Ski Instruction: Working with PSIA Instructors and Clinicians

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 1/4 ZIP BASE LAYER (Design to be Discovered!)- \$30**

SIZE:  SMALL  MEDIUM  LARGE  XL  XXL (\$55)

Woman's sizes available too!

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 National Ski Patrol at Doubletree Helena

22 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, \$ 129 per nite

(Room Block closes December 21st) **(406) 443-2200**

# Mountain Travel & Rescue News - 2018-2019

by Troy Walker, MTR Supervisor

Hello everyone and it's great to be back into another patrolling season! Hopefully we have a lot of snow this season!

To start off this new season we had a wonderful time for me and many others that attended our annual fall Northern Division meeting held at Big Sky, Montana again this year! Many of our attendees were Division Staff, Patrol Reps, OEC Instructors along with many patrollers just wanting to attend the meeting.

The Fall Division meeting is always a fun time by being able to teach our mini training sessions hosted by three of our Education programs of Supervisors and their Instructors. The Avalanche program teaching Avalanche beacons, Nordic program teaching fire starting & survival skills and the MTR Program teaching Rope Hauling systems. This is a great way to teach some of education program skills to all that attended. It is a great way to interact with our local Patrol Reps from each resort on how they can get the word out about our programs and the things you can learn from our education programs by sharing with their local patrollers to help further their education in these programs.

**We are hosting a Mountain Travel & Rescue Training level 1 & 2 combined course this year being held by the Flathead Nordic area! The Field session is scheduled for February 8th thru February 10th 2019. Classroom dates have not been confirmed at this time which will be in advance of the field session. Please contact Derrick Mercer at 406-531-0991 or dlmercer11@gmail for more information to join in and get more details.**

At this time I am working with a two other patrol areas to host a MTR level 1 & 2 combined course in March of 2019 that will be held in the South East part of Idaho. No dates have been confirmed at this time, however we will have our dates set this coming January so if you are unable to attend the Flathead Nordic MTR course this could be another option for your MTR trainings.

If you don't have the time this season or would like to still learn more about the MTR training you can still purchase our student manual through the NSP website. "Mountain Travel & Rescue, 2nd Edition"

Thank You and here we go for another exciting Patrol season! Be Safe & have Fun!

You are welcome to contact me anytime at:

Troy Walker - 801-360-2445  
Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor  
Northern Division.

## Stress Management

*Seth Larson, Critical Incident Stress Advisor*

As I am writing this article, I am thinking back on several different calls I have been on, both as an OEC technician and as an EMT off the mountain. When I was younger the tough calls never seemed to bother me. We always used humor, usually dark, to shrug off the pain or emotion of the call. Lately tho the harder calls I've been on seem to stick with me. I can't laugh away the feelings anymore.

isn't enough. Most likely they are going through similar emotions, if they were on the same calls as me. Being able to talk through your emotions in a open, non-judgmental environment is best. Keeping things informal is key. With ski season fast approaching it is crucial we are ready for it, both physically and emotionally.

Seth Larson  
CSIM Advisor

This is where stress management comes in. We all handle stress differently. I like to workout, mostly run and bike. I also reach out to my peers when this

# Cascade 350 Training

## January 26, 2019

### 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

— Snowbowl Ski Area, Missoula, Montana —

Cost: \$49, Registration needs to be received BY Jan. 18th or you may not have a spot.

Guest Instructors from the Far West and Pacific NW Divisions

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

- booted up and ready to go by 9AM
- boot up outside Patrol Room
- Muster upstairs for introductions, logistics and initial discussion

Lunch and Dinner Provided

Snowbowl Ski Area - Missoula, MT

Jan 26, 2019

\$49 (Lift Ticket Provided)

Registration limited to 20 attendees

Guest instructors from the Far West and Pacific NW Divisions

## CASCADE 350 TRAINING REGISTRATION

### Lift tickets and Lunch Provided

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NSP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

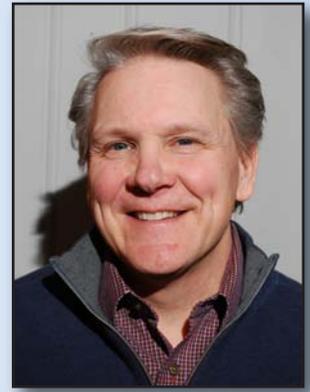
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to *Northern Division*.  
Mail completed form along with check to  
Jeanette Amrine, 4853 Forest Hill Lane, Missoula, MT 59804

# Northern Division 2017-2018 Awards

*Erik Sakariassen, Awards Supervisor*



## Certificates of Recognition – National Anniversary Celebrations:

### Active Patrollers:

- 25 years: Bruce Gerlach, Richard Perkerewicz
- 30 years: Karl Uhlig
- 35 years: Bruce Amrine
- 40 years: Jim Baker, Allan Rabbitt, Daniel Stine, Bradley Ward
- 45 years: John Coulthard, Russell Sigman
- 50 years: Kent Doing, Sam Weaver
- 55 years: Janet Chambers

### Alumni:

- 25 years: Bill Cathey, Jeff Gilman
- 35 years: John Dobson, Debra Mills
- 40 years: Chinook Swindle
- 50 years: Charles Kempner
- 55 years: Donald Wolcott

## Certificates of Appreciation:

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

## NSP Recognition of Meritorious Service:

SnowBowl Ski Patrol

## Purple Merit Star (action in saving a life):

Bill Bucher, Paul Janzen

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

Stan Sneath, Eric Weckenbrock

## Outstanding Awards:

### Northern Division Certificates of Honorable Mention:

#### Outstanding Alpine Patroller:

Chick Rolling (Great Divide)

Joe Rogish (Lost Trail)

#### Outstanding OEC Instructor:

Casey Redder (Great Divide)

#### Outstanding Patrol Representative:

Marie Ando (Lost Trail)

#### Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol:

Great Divide, Great Falls, Lost Trail

### National Outstanding Award Finalists:

#### Outstanding OEC Instructor:

David Martin (Lost Trail), Yellow Merit Star

#### Outstanding Alpine Patroller:

Mel Carnahan (Great Falls), Yellow Merit Star

#### Outstanding Instructor:

Colleen Finch (Great Falls), Yellow Merit Star

#### Outstanding Patrol Representative:

Allan Rabbitt (Great Falls), Yellow Merit Star

## National Outstanding Award Runners-Up:

### Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol:

North Absaroka Ski Patrol,  
Silver Unit Citation

### Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol:

SnowBowl Ski Patrol, Silver Unit Citation

## Northern Division Outstanding Awards:

### Outstanding Volunteer Patroller:

Mel Carnahan (Great Falls)

### Outstanding Ski Patrol:

North Absaroka Ski Patrol

## National Outstanding Award:

### Outstanding Young Adult Patroller:

Kyle Christensen (Casper Mountain), Gold Merit Star

### Dwight Chambers Rising Star Award:

Jamie Cottom (Beaverhead)

### Dr. Warren Bowman OEC Instructor Award:

John Fradette (Great Divide)

### Mark Behan Outstanding Instructor Award:

Martin Merwin (SnowBowl)

### NSP Lifetime Member Award:

Chuck Kempner (Alumni)

Kent Doing (Casper Mountain)

### Special Service Recognition Award—

#### 50 years National Ski Patrol:

Kent Doing (Casper Mountain)

Sam Weaver (Casper Mountain)

### NSP

#### Distinguished Service Award:

John Larson  
(Beartooth)



# Northern Division 2017-2018 Awards



# Recruiting Candidates

by Joe Lustik, Snowbowl Ski Patrol

Recruiting Candidates to Join Your Ski Patrol  
by Joe Lustik, SnowBowl Ski Patrol

Is the membership in your volunteer patrol shrinking? We at SnowBowl saw an upcoming need to substantially increase the size of our patrol to accommodate the expansion of our ski area. This impending need created an urgency that resulted in the discovery of several very successful recruiting tactics. Below are some ideas that have been working for SnowBowl. Many patrols handle recruiting very differently. Incorporate and modify the below ideas to complement your current efforts where practical.

- 1) **Do not be too concerned with how long a new recruit will patrol with you.** I call this the “paying it forward” attitude. Look at your own patrols and identify how many of your current members were once transfers from a different patrol. All but one member of the current E-Board at SnowBowl once patrolled somewhere else. By training candidates and getting them OEC certified you are feeding a pool of patrollers who may patrol anywhere. We lose some patrollers each year who end up moving out of town and/or transferring to different patrols. At the same time, we usually benefit from a few patrollers transferring onto the SnowBowl patrol each year.
- 2) **Employ a recruiting method that is self-selective.** Stifle the impulse to apply a pre-determined profile to your candidates. If there is any common attribute amongst patrollers it is probably eccentricity. Keep in mind the Grouch Marx quote: “I don’t care to belong to any club that will have me as a member.” We have learned that if we are thorough enough with spelling out the path to becoming a patroller that only the truly dedicated candidates are likely to proceed.
- 3) **Make it easy for candidates to find you.** To attract the younger generations you should have a website and social media presence.
  - a. The snowbowlskipatrol.org homepage has a button front and center labeled “Join Our Patrol.” That link opens a simple questionnaire that automatically sends an email to the patrol recruiter. We’ve received over 20 inquiries each of the past two years since updating our website with this function.
  - b. Create a FaceBook page for your patrol with a link to your website. Have all of your patrol members “like” and “follow” the page. Encourage them to “post” and “share” the page as often as practical to their network of friends. Get the word out. Use the page to show

patrollers in action and training. Like and share the posts from other outdoor enthusiasts in your area.

- 4) **Identify LIVE recruiting opportunities.** Following is a list of methods that we have identified, many of which we are regularly attending.
  - a. **High Schools** – Build a Jr. Patrol of enthusiastic young people, and watch them mature before your very eyes. Offer to visit the Jr. and Sr. classes at nearby high schools each year to do a “show and tell” about what it means to be a ski patroller. Maybe create a brief slide show with photos of patrollers on duty and in action. Bring some swag and door prizes (stickers, hats, etc.).
  - b. **Colleges** – See if your nearby college has a regular event on the calendar at the beginning of each semester where students are exposed to volunteering opportunities. Similar to a career fair but focused on volunteerism while enrolled. Set up a table at that event and have it attended by young patrollers (male and female) with whom the students may identify.
  - c. **Film Tours** – Each fall there are a number of adventure film tours that visit Missoula. If these film tours are not already visiting your communities then consider reaching out to them, maybe even become a sponsor to host one of the films. Following are film events where we regularly recruit:
    - i. **Teton Gravity Research** – Annual ski film tour event
    - ii. **Warren Miller** – Annual ski film tour event
    - iii. **Matchstick Productions** – Annual ski film tour event
    - iv. **Women’s Adventure Film Tour**
    - v. **International Wildlife Film Festival**
  - d. **Other Events** – Think outside the box. Look for other events in your community that attract an audience of active outdoor recreationists, especially ones with a winter sports focus. Following are two events that work for us in Missoula:
    - i. **Pray for Snow Party** – This annual fall event is a fundraiser for the West Central Montana Avalanche Center. It truly is a party, and a great place to mingle with like-minded winter outdoor enthusiasts.
    - ii. **SOS (Safety On Snow) Fair** – This annual gear swap is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

It is truly a part of the community with an emphasis on helping budget-minded individuals and families gear up with outdoor apparel and equipment for the winter season.

5) **Don't just stand there...RECRUIT!** – There is a benefit to having a table at some of these events, but the best results are achieved by engaging the public in close quarters. With most of the above events our recruiters stand or mingle outside wearing their ski patrol parkas. We created a simple sandwich board to hang over the front and back of the parka saying “Join SnowBowl Ski Patrol.” By walking through the crowds of people carrying a clipboard to collect names and email addresses you have a greater opportunity to interact with people. For the film events we have the best success standing outside as attendees are standing in line to enter. The sandwich board does most of the work. It is



sitting squarely on your chest. You can see people reading the board, and then the gears start turning in their head. They may chat with friends nearby and then they look at you again...hooked! Now just reel them in (pardon the fishing metaphor). The clipboard does the rest. No obligation or

commitment. If they have any interest in learning how to become a ski patroller then simply enter their information on the sign-up sheet on your clipboard. What's the harm in finding out more about it? They may start asking questions as if they want to hear a full recruiting pitch right then and there. Resist! All their questions will be answered if they simply give us their name and email.

6) **Don't just send them info...present it!** – All the names and emails are collected and managed on an annual candidate list. Following each recruiting event they receive an email acknowledging their interest in joining the patrol. The follow-up communication invites them to attend one of several Information Meetings. This is the opportunity for the truly interested candidates to reveal themselves while in the company of other candidates. I spend up to an hour going through the costs and benefits of becoming a member of the NSP and volunteering for our patrol, specifically. My enthusiasm is contagious as the Q&A reveals candidates imagining themselves as patrollers. I ask for a deposit to hold their seat in the class, thus securing their commitment.

7) **Everyone is a RECRUITER** – Encourage every member of your patrol to talk up being a patroller. We are all NSP ambassadors. Our patrol printed up business cards for recruiting that send potential candidates to our website. Give each member of your patrol a stack of business cards to hand out to potential candidates. Print hats, T-shirts, jackets with your patrol name on them to be worn proudly off the mountain—they are conversation starters.

8) **Volunteer as medical support for other events** – Provide first aid support for local events away from the ski area. This may include Fun Runs, Marathons, Trail Runs, Mountain Bike Races, Biathlons, Triathlons, etc. You can keep your first aid skills sharp through the summer by volunteering to support these events and increase your visibility in the outdoor recreation community. Make your presence known.

9) **Represent what you want your patrol to become** – We think that our patrol is healthier as it embraces more diversity. Welcome all comers. Trust that the dedicated ones will self-select. Try to attend the recruiting events with a mix of patrollers. Pair up young and old, male and female. Candidates need to be able to see themselves in the visage of their recruiters. If you keep representing with the same old mustached white male cliché then don't be surprised if your candidates lack a healthy diversity.

I hope that some of SnowBowl's above tactics have stimulated a creative flow of new ideas for recruiting with your patrols. There is no right or wrong way to do it. Just keep trying something different until you get the results you need.

# Nordic / Backcountry

by Dan'l Moore

It seems to me that there is some confusion as to what Nordic/Backcountry means. First a bit of history. Skiing was developed a thousand or more years ago, within the Nordic (Scandinavian) regions, and the Altai Mountains of north central Asia. Skis evolved as an efficient means of transport for nomadic hunters and herdsmen in the northern latitudes. Animal skins were often attached permanently to the ski, improving grip and uphill performance while still allowing for glide. Of course gravity inspired some fun too. So our earliest skiers all traveled across the country, wherever the reindeer led them.

Up until the 1930s skiers had to climb up in order to ski down. A free heel allowed easier climbing and travel, while the telemark turn enabled downhill control. The advent of lifts, grooming, and safety bindings pushed skiing towards the current view; "It's all about the down".

## What is Nordic skiing, backcountry skiing?

**Nordic skiing** - any skiing where the heel is NOT locked down. Often referred to as crosscountry (x/c) skiing. In the competitive realm (Olympics, World Cup) we have: classic X/C (diagonal stride), skate skiing, ski jumping, and telemark.

**Piste**- a marked, groomed, managed ski trail

**Backcountry skiing**- skiing anywhere that is NOT a managed ski area. Backcountry involves lots of wild, untamed snow and terrain. Usually in hard to reach areas with little outside help available. Contrary to popular media, not all backcountry skiing involves couloirs, avalanche terrain, glaciers or high alpine. You can be miles from anywhere on the flat in a very wild place, think Yellowstone, or Boundary Waters Canoe Area. You are on your own, and reliant on yourself and partners.

**Alpine touring**- Noun; ski gear that allows a freeheel ascent and fixed heel descent. Verb; wandering through alpine regions (mountainous terrain above timberline)

**Ski tour**- to wander over wild snow covered terrain on skis

**Cross Country skiing**- skiing using light freeheel skis, usually on rolling terrain and going from point to point. Usually performed on groomed Nordic trails.

**Skate skiing**- skiing on light Nordic gear with a skating motion. Requires an open, smooth surface, usually a piste.

I often lead X/C ski tours in Glacier National Park, where there is no trail grooming. People often ask about my ski gear; wide, metal edged, fishscaled, big boots (by X/C standards). This gives a big stable platform that handles that handles ungroomed, natural snow and irregular terrain feature with aplomb. Many folks consider themselves experienced crosscountry skiers, yet flail at these conditions. Their X/C ski experience is primarily on piste with skinny skis. They are not used to truly traveling across country. So, if the call it crosscountry skiing, why is it done on piste? Similarly skate skiers are definitely Nordic skiers, but crosscountry?

I also ski a lot of backcountry out of my backdoor. Old logging roads access thousands of acres of forested mountains. No alpine or avalanche (usually) terrain, but definitely backcountry. I just call it skiing. Or, better yet, ski touring.

As for the NSP Nordic/Backcountry program; we educate people on being prepared for any contingencies that may arise while out on a ski tour. Often, the patrols do not work with a classic management (ski resort) area, though some work with Nordic touring centers or events, or access backcountry via a touring center's trail system. Similar to accessing backcountry through a ski resorts lift system. We also train to be winter search and rescue (SAR), and avalanche rescue specialists within the Incident Command System (ICS). We interact with recreationists at trailheads, on tours, and in educational settings. We will be there when needed.

Thanks for letting me ramble.....now, let us go have a ski tour.....

Pray for snow,  
Dan'l

# *Hello Fellow Snow Enthusiasts!*

*by Dan Schaefer, Assistant Division Director*

Hello fellow "Snow Enthusiasts" of the Northern Division!

I would like to thank Karl "with a K" for his faith in appointing me as his assistant to the Greatest Division of all in the NSP. I am honored and looking forward to working with the great group of dedicated leaders working for you within the Northern Division. This was not a paid political ad. But I am encouraging you to vote in the NSP Board Election. In the past I have put out some names of folks that I had endorsed. I would like all you to get out and vote on your own. Some very talented folks who are as willing as you to volunteer want to be elected to work even harder for our sport. They really do put themselves out there for you. Some of the candidates have the same love, or even agenda, as you do. Read about them and make your choice.

Speaking of agenda's: I want to ask "What is yours? There are a lot of other important things that compete for your time. What drives your passions to put personal time aside and dedicate yourselves to the safety and protection of others? Thank you for your choice but really, sometimes it is hard to explain to people why they should join our cult! I mean group!

My agenda has changed a time or two along the way but primary stays true. I believe that said "agenda" along with back surgeries injures and family commitments, have adjusted along the way. My story and agenda collide a bit.

I started skiing when I was 13 after taking some old wood boards, soaking the wood and using wire to arc up to tips. Then after attaching some old boots from the basement to the somewhat formed old barn wood I had "SKIS". That "Barn Wood" was not worth much back then. Sadly, we did burn a lot of it. I could be rich!! Anyway... Image if you will the husky farm boy lacing up boots too big for him standing at the top of bluffs on the banks of the CannonBall River. That was my start and end of my youth skiing. My agenda then? Simply not to

prove my mom correct when she said "You're going to break your neck!" At 18 years of age in college now, The Chuppe boys decided we should go to Terry Peak and ski over New Years Eve 1979. Agenda? Once again, not to Die was high on my list. The Chuppe boys had been skiing for a few years. Not be a chicken, I went right to the top with them.... Who knew it was so difficult. I did run into a great friend that day.

Moving forward 1993-94 I was full time EMS and friends of the team patrolled at our beloved Huff Hills our agenda was to have fun do what we had to regarding patient care and have beer after. Simple enough plan for several years until somebody thought we should become better skiers and toboggan handlers.

My "Senior Agenda" Period. Folks, I tell you this, the senior program developed my skiing, toboggan handling considerably. However it developed more relationships than anything. On top of that is devolved the desire to help more folks now the path I had taken. I not only helped my skiing etc.. (it needed a lot of help) but it made me a better person. Thanks to all who were on that journey with me. More on this some other time.

My current agenda? Help Karl "with a K" build the new and improved Northern Division with the help of all the fine leaders we have already in place. I ask all of you, take on the next phase of your ski patrol agenda and grow! Think about the Senior program and if you are already a senior think about helping that said senior program grow by being part of it.

I have met some of my greatest friends on my Ski Patrol journey. What is in store for your ski patrol agenda?

P.S. VOTE !!!

Dan Schaefer  
Assistant Director of the Northern Division

## *Northern Alumni Program*

*by Bruce Amrine, Alumni Advisor*

As your new alumni advisor I would like to take a minute to thank all our patrollers for their time, hard work and commitment !!!!

The Alumni Program is evolving and not only includes retiring patrollers but patrollers that have life changing decisions to make that don't include patrolling at this time. Join the alumni program, do your annual refresher and stay connected through the magazine, catalog and your local patrol and keep your OEC certification. So, if you decide to

patrol again, get with the local patrol for a check out and on hill refresher. (Remember the patrol must accept you back)

The patrols don't want to lose you or your wealth of knowledge !

Spread the word, stay connected and give me a Shout !

Bruce Amrine. • 406-880-7380  
Kujoconstruction@yahoo.com

# Calendar of Events

January 11,12,13, 2019	<b>Winter Tip-Off, Great Divide Ski Area</b> .....	Contact - Mike Marlow Mmarlow@infosysmt.com
January 26, 2019	<b>Cascade 350 Training, Snowbowl Ski Area</b> .....	Contact - Mike Marlow Mmarlow@infosysmt.com
February 8-10, 2019	<b>Mtr 1 &amp; 2 Course, Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol</b> .	Derrick Mercer (406) 531-0991 dlmercer11@gmail.com
February/March 2019	<b>Avalanche II at Lost Trail Ski Area</b>	More info to come
April 3 - 6, 2019	<b>Powderfall, Snowbird Ski Area</b>	

"Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt." -- John Muir

## 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

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