



— OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION NATIONAL SKI PATROL —

POLARIS

MONTANA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA | WYOMING

SPRING 2019 THIS ISSUE

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Hello Patrollers!

KARL UHLIG

The 2018-2019 ski season is rapidly winding down. Open OEC, OET, and Intro to Patrolling classes are finishing up for the season. I recently attended the National Board meeting and Powder Fall at Snowbird resort outside of Salt Lake City UT. Here are some highlights from the National Board meetings and some news from the Northern Division.

National Board Meetings

OEC 6 is progressing nicely with many chapters completed and in review. The intent of the revision team is to reduce the size while maintaining the important information. The current goal is to reduce the edition from the current 1264 pages to something closer to 1000 pages.

The Awards committee is looking into revising language and policies so that individuals from the NSP Pro side are eligible to receive more awards for going above and beyond.

The National Board approved a \$5.00 dues increase effective for the 2019-2020 season. The reason for the increase is basically cost of living related. The last dues increase was approved in the fall of 2016 for 2017. Since that time program expenses for education have increased 32%, insurance is up 10%, Division Director meeting costs are up 5%, Magazine costs have risen 7%. IT operation expenses have increased 10% since 2016 and we expect increases on the order of 2-3% annually. On a bright side there have been some cost savings such as facility operations, conference calling services and others. Salaries and benefit expenses have risen with increased staff (finance director) and increases in salaries and benefit packages. The last dues increase was about maintaining financial stability. We are stable at the moment but because costs continue to rise we will become less stable in the future without periodic dues increases.

I believe the fastest growing segment of the NSP is in the area of Mountain Bike Patrols (Bike Patrols). The National Board has discussed this issue at length. If your ski area resort holds on area bike events during the off season, your patrol is encouraged to become involved by providing first responder care. Shifting from ski/board mode to mountain bike at your home area is not an issue from the National perspective. The issues arise when a standalone group of mountain bike enthusiasts who are not associated with a ski area start providing first responder services and want to join the NSP. The National Board has approved a process for these standalone bike patrols to join NSP as Associate Patrols, paying dues and having standing within their applicable Divisions.

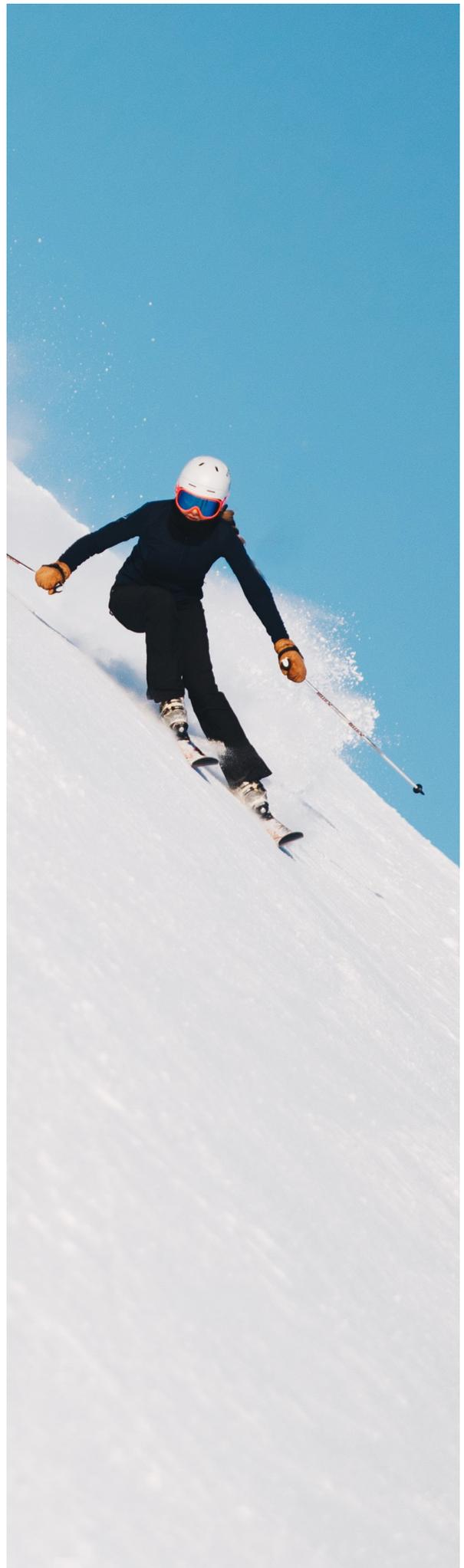
Northern Division

There will be a Northern Division Board meeting on April 27th in the conference room at Bucks T-4 in Big Sky. The meeting is open to any Patrol Representative or patroller in good standing who wishes to attend. The meeting agenda includes discussions from all program Supervisors and Advisors, determinations on the location and cost of the fall Division meeting, setting the location and dates for the ever popular Winter-Tip-Off event, preliminary decisions on a Division Senior Certification, and setting of preliminary budgets for all programs and events.

ICS-100

I'll guess that most instructors receive the E-blasts titled Instructor Updates coming from the National office. The March 6th edition includes some information regarding the FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) course. Here is the text sent out by National; ICS courses ICS-100, 200 and 700 are available to be registered in the database in the same way as other courses are registered. These courses are for record-keeping purposes since there is not a place for the course completion certificates to be saved in the database. The IOR should register a course then collect the certificates and close the course. The course can remain open for an extended period of time to capture as many completers as possible. Instructions for the ICS100 course, which is now required for all candidates and patrollers, may be found on the main Instructor Resources page. You can find that page after signing in, then selecting Member Resources, then click on Instructor Resources.

I'll encourage one of your patrol instructors to register the course soon so patrollers will have several months to complete the modules and print the certificate. The certificates should be turned into the Instructor of Record (IOR) who should keep track of who has and who has not completed the course. Eventually the IOR should send the certificates of completion into the National office. The deadline for current patrollers to complete the course is 12/31/2019.



Insurance

Mountain Guard holds a general liability policy for the NSP and associated patrols. This policy covers training events your patrol holds both on and off your ski area. It will not cover events that are not associated with your local ski area. So if your patrol is helping on off area events such as marathons, mountain bike races, triathlon races, or other events you are encouraged to work with the sponsoring organization such that your patrol is specifically listed as covered on the event insurance policy. Copies of the NSP insurance policy are available upon request

Division Senior

Many of you may know this but the Division is planning to offer a Senior Certification during the 2019-2020 season. Some of the details will be ironed out at the Spring Board meeting with the remainder determined at the fall meeting in September. If you are not a Senior Patroller, I'll encourage you to seriously consider raising your game. Becoming a Senior Patroller raises your level of proficiency and that of your fellow patrollers.

Please stay tuned and read any announcements sent by Justin Data from the Division web site. Enjoy the rest of your ski season and summer.

Karl Uhlig
Division Director





BACK AGAIN THE #1 NSP PROGRAM ... OET!

MIKE MARLOW

Wow! What a winter .. it started off with a whimper, and then hit us head on in late January - cold and blustery- too bad it skipped Winter Tip Off to start!

Speaking of WTO, Chuck Allen (Huff Hills), Allan Rabbitt (Showdown), Justin Schmisser (Maverick) took FIRST Place in the Annual Toboggan Rodeo (winning \$100 each), followed by Mary Marshall (PSIA), Jim Whaley (Great Divide), Steve Porcella (Lost Trail) in second place and Joe Lustik (SnowBowl), Ed Hill (Bear Paw), Trevor Motley (Lost Trail - Bozeman Edition) in third. Seems like the PSIA folks didn't figure it out so well this year. Kevin Siebke won his WTO Registration back also!

The PSIA team has been a GREAT edition for the ENTIRE weekend to our WTO, this year, as almost always, the PSIA team was led by Jim Anderson (and he appreciates all the well wishes that have come his

"WE HAVE A LOT OF FUN!"

way), so if you haven't been to a Tip Off (Tip Over as Mike Huber says) you need to join us, not only do we work on skiing and toboggan handling but we have a lot of fun (and don't take it just from me, ask any participant!)

We also had a great Cascade 350 training event at Montana Snow-bowl (Thank you Joe Lustik and the Snowbowl organization for your gracious hospitality, and eats!) The National OET Supervisor as well as 4 Division OET Supervisors were there to help train everyone from the novice to the expert on the four-handled toboggans. Cascade Rescue was even kind enough to loan us a couple 350's with one of them being their new carbon fiber version that breaks down for back country use.

Powderfall 2019 at Snowbird - don't tell me you missed it! We had a great contingent of 9 Northern members attending. Lots of great learning and demos courtesy of the National OEC, OET, MTR, ID, Avy and YAP programs. Snowbird even demonstrated a Tram car evacuation. The next one will be in April of 2021, location to be determined. It is also an event that shouldn't be missed.

Upcoming OET events - how about Pacific Northwest Division Nuts & Bolts at Mt. Hood? May 31 to June 2. Come join us and you can brag about Alpine Skiing in June. This is PNW's version of our WTO, you



can do PSIA, 4 handled training, 100/SS Cruiser trainer, out of bounds training, lots to choose from. I have registration forms if you are interested, shoot me an email.

Next year there is no PowderFall but there is PowderBlast at Aleyeska, Alaska, that you might consider attending too!

We'll be discussing and planning next years Senior soon, so this should give you plenty of time to consider it. There are no dates or locations set yet, but it will be Spring 2020. This gives you plenty of time to help with the Fall OEC Refreshers and classes, and help out with OET training to sharpen your skills. It is a great self-advancement track and the start of leadership within the NSP. It is also needed to become an IT in OET. I am more than happy (as is the rest of the eBoard) to discuss questions and concerns on the Senior.

Lastly, don't forget to set your sights on the Fall Division meeting, third weekend in September, location TBD.

Hope to see you at one of these upcoming events!

Mike

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“KEEP ON CLIMBING!”

STEVE PORCELLA

First, a big thanks to Matt Radlowski for his leadership and work as the Avalanche Director. I am working closely with Matt to take on this new position. Matt has led the charge on setting up a drive to store and catalog all things Avalanche education related. I will be growing and expanding this centralized process. We hope to use Matt in the future for Avalanche classes because of his ‘human factors’ expertise. Thank you again Matt for all your service!

Steve Thompson and I will be reworking the Level 2 study guide and exam this summer to bring it up to 2019 Avalanche education standards.

Recently the American Avalanche Association (A3) agreed that the NSP L1 and L2 curriculum exceeds A3 guidelines, therefore the NSP will now be listed as an endorsed provider on the A3 website. This gives the NSP the go ahead to complete the edits for L1 and L2 courses to make them cross compatible with A3 L1 and L2.

We also have an outstanding core group of avalanche instructors in the Northern Division that recently helped teach the L2 at Lost Trail such as Dan'l Moore, Rusty Wells, Jonas Grey, Steve Thompson, Chris Gaughan, Matt Galier.

There are other Avalanche educators in the Northern Division that I hope to meet and support. I hope to work with new folks that want to become instructors. I encourage all NSP Avalanche educators to become A3 members to stay current with the latest in avalanche forecasting, history, and science. Please let me know what I can do to help the Northern Division with Avalanche education. While new to this position I appreciate ideas and input anyone may have. Please use the two email addresses below to get a hold of me.

Keep on climbing and see you in the steeps!

Steve Porcella

Northern Division Avalanche Director

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ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2019

NORTHERN DIVISION ALUMNI ADVISOR

R. BRUCE AMRINE

Since taking office last April I have been present on five of the national conference calls, attended the Whitefish Alumni Celebration and Powderfall at Snowbird Utah.

Receiving a list of Alumni patrollers from Cheri, I proceed to separate them by year (2017,2018,2019) on excel spread sheets. Emailed them out to our northern division patrol reps. Unfortunately only a few of them responded. My hope was to locate, confirm their contact information, life status, in the hopes of updating our northern division alumni list.

My feeling are that the local patrol leaders and their membership are the best way of contacting and cleaning up our roster for a better count on the membership.

“EXCITEMENT IS STEADILY GROWING!”

The Whitefish Alumni celebration was enjoying as well as eye opening to how beneficial these types of functions can be to maintaining our camaraderie. Some of the activities included: Skiing, Snowboarding, sled rides, cross country skiing, tours to Glacier and of coarse Shopping. We should do more of these functions in every Division. Start the planning now !!

Powderfall was very educational and I met and saw a lot of new faces. The Alumni program has received a kick start and interest and excitement is steadily growing.

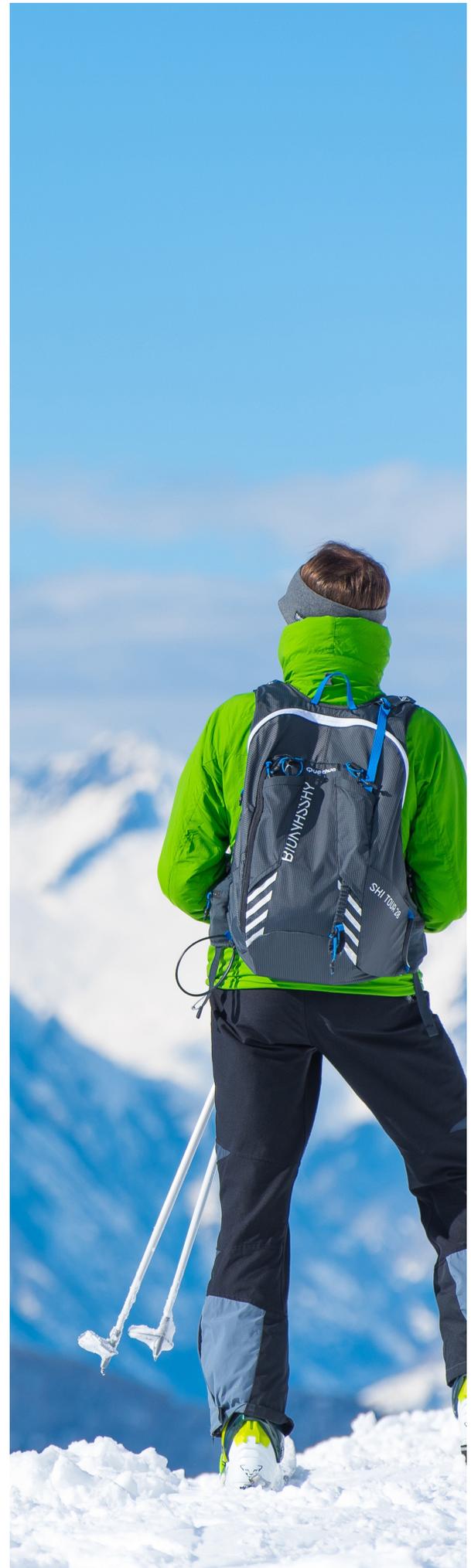
Please reach out to patrollers who have left your patrol or who are leaving and get their contact information to you patrol rep and Me. This will help keep them in the information loop and also, invite them to participate in training events, testing and public events that your patrol is doing.

So, far I have made new friends, met a lot of people, all with one thing in common. Patrolling !!!

Thank You,

Bruce

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SO THERE I WAS

, standing on a snowshoe trail in Glacier National Park next to McDonald Falls with 10 people from the Kansas City Ski Club. I thought I recognized an NSP emblem hidden under a packstrap on the coat of Jim, the person standing next to me. When I asked about it, Jim confirmed it was an NSP emblem and explained he was a 22 year veteran of Snow Creek Ski Patrol in Missouri. He also told me he was a long time OEC Instructor and had taken an NSP Avalanche class once in Colorado.

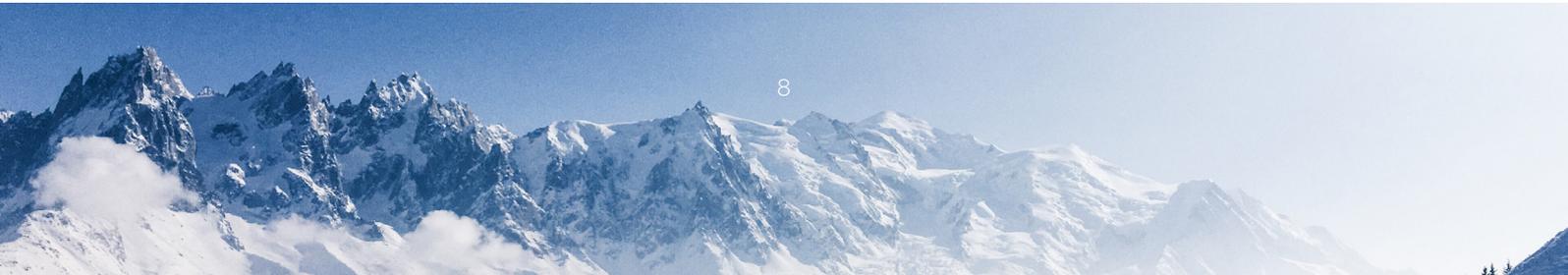
One of the benefits of NSP is that our training is standardized throughout NSP. Whether a Patroller is in Missouri, Montana or New York it is consistent. Because of that we can move State to State or Patrol to Patrol without a need to start our training over. Recently I had an email from a Patrol Representative in Minnesota asking if we had any Patrollers who were interested in helping Patrol the Birkebeiner race. They needed more help and knew as NSP members we were qualified. Our training is recognized Nationally by the National Park Service and the Forest Service as well creating opportunities for interesting partnerships in the off season (Flathead Nordic recently started helping in Glacier National Park as volunteer Bike patrollers based largely on their OEC skills).

After my visit with Jim I looked up Snow Creek. It's located in Weston, Missouri and has a 300 foot vertical with 2 triple chairs, a double chair and 3 rope tows. It also has snowmaking. Who knows, someday I may have to visit Missouri and volunteer for a day with the local Patrol. They know my skills...

Rusty

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Rusty Wells Region 1 Director



Safety First





Who are these people?

ERIK SAKARIASSEN

Ask any patroller why we do what we do and the answer is usually people. At our March meeting, for example, one of our new candidates, Emily Joynt, asked the Huff Hills Ski Patrol to support her participation in “Brave the Shave,” a local fundraiser that grew out of the national St. Baldrick’s Foundation effort to help find cures for children with cancer. It didn’t take much prodding. Most of the patrol dug into their wallets or volunteered their heads for the razor. The event was promoted out at the hill that weekend with “WANTED” posters and jars for patrons to stuff their cash into. Other donations poured in through the event’s web site, and the ski patrol team raised over \$1,000 for the cause!

Closing day at Huff Hills came as it should—corn snow and Hawaiian shirts. We had five patrollers out, pulling ropes and bamboo, packing away toboggans, straightening up the hut. One of us, I noticed, spent most of his day over on the bunny hill, working with a youngster on skis for the first time. Kurt Weinberg retired last year after 40 years of teaching physical education in the public schools. His life’s work is people, little ones, many with special needs. When I asked him what was up, he told me he’d arrived early that day and struck up a conversation with the family. It turns out the five-year-old boy was a cancer survivor. More than anything, he wanted to learn how to ski.

“BRAVE AND SHAVE!”

Funny how things always seem to intersect. But that’s the way it is when you care about people. The NSP Awards Program exists to recognize that special kind of selflessness we share. I’ve often said that ski patrollers are a family, born into service and a love for the sport. In September, the Northern Division “family” will gather again as we do each year. We’ll swap stories and hoist a few beers. And we’ll pause and reflect on those who might stand out among us with an awards banquet that’s all about people. Hope to see you there!

Erik

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Awards Advisor





Spring is in the Air

STEVE THOMPSON

Spring is in the air, snow is melting, ski areas are shutting down and with any luck our water will thaw out soon. (We froze 9 March even with pipes 7' down) As our son would say - "Dad, that's a 1st world problem."

Continuing through the treasures that I received from Stan King, I wanted to share a couple of items.

The first is a letter dated January 5, 1949 from Clyde Kneidler, Division Director, National Ski Patrol System, Northern Rocky Mountain Division (current Northern Division). The letter was sent to Mr. Harlan T. Cory, 414 4th Ave. No. Great Falls, MT

Dear Harlan:

I presume you have your litters by now. I sent them out last Saturday, or rather Dec. 31. You saw that I sent four arm splints instead of leg splints. I guess those fellows in Seattle don't know the difference—anyway, I got twenty arm splints instead of leg splints. The cost plus the transportation comes to \$1.90 each. Have your club secretary make the check to me as it was my personal funds which financed this deal.

I haven't forgotten your request for Junior patches- I will send them on as soon as I get them from Minnie.

*Sincerely,
Clyde Kneidler*

Sounds like orders still get mixed up but when was the last time you bought an arm splint for \$1.90?

The second item from "Stan's treasures" is a letter dated March 21, 1953. It was written by Edward F. Taylor, NSP National Director to Jack C. Throckmorton, a Great Falls patroller. (More about Jack at a later date.)

"Dear Mr. Throckmorton,

As the last quarter of 1952 came around you received our letter. Your generous response helped in financing the National Office. The cost of operation last year was larger than anticipated, due to the necessity of having to absorb some old debts of the preceding season.

With your help the Patrol passed another milestone last year. Manuals were printed adding that professional touch and insuring a more universal interpretation of our system. The steady response from hundreds like yourself has given a great lift in the burdensome load of national management.

The items requested on your card will be sent within the month, if they are not enclosed. The decals can be a source of revenue for some club project along with the manual. Write us about this.

If some Patrolman friend has been a little lax in responding - your help out there in the area is earnestly solicited.

A trite thank you seems quite inadequate, so my warmest regards, for your unselfish service, accompanies this letter. Let me hear about any of your problems or successes, in this way the office can offer a better personal service.

Sincerely, Ed

NOTE*** Jack Throckmorton's gift to the National Office - \$5.00!!!!!!



Lastly, I am excited to report that James Banister, former member of the Marshall Mountain Ski Patrol, “gifted” me a whole pickup load of treasures. I have only started looking through things but thought the following might be interesting since seasons are wrapping up.

ACCIDENT SUMMARY 1981-1982

Males:	Females:
Ages:	Ages:
0-10 - 7	2
11-20 - 22	16
21-30 - 21	8
31+ - _____	_____
58	31

INJURY SUMMARY

Lower leg breaks	9
Other breaks (nose, thumb)	4
Femur break	1
Cuts or lacerations	12
Blows to the head	2
Dislocated shoulders	3
Dislocated knees	3
Other dislocations	2
Knee injuries	20
Ankle injuries other than breaks	12

Injuries occurring on rental skis 25

Total of 89 accidents

Tree collision	2
Jump involved	6

Check out the above stats and see how your respective seasons compare to Marshall’s from 37 years ago.

Hope everyone has a great season wrap-up. Don’t forget, as evidenced above, I’m still interested in collecting patrol history.

Steve
slthompson44@me.com

“NOW IT’S TIME TO
PUT THE SKIS AWAY
FOR THE SEASON
AND GET THE BIKE
OUT!!”



News from OEC

JOHN FRADETTE

Looks like we had a busy year with 10 registered OEC classes for a total of 50 enrolled students. Unfortunately, the reports from the National office do not tell me the number that passed the course. However, reports from the Instructor Trainers and Instructors of Record indicated an over 90% pass rate. That tells me that our active instructors are providing a quality level of instruction.

I am tentatively planning on conducting an OEC Module of the Senior Program (OECMSP). OECMSP is a bit of a mouthful but that is its official name. The Senior program gives a patroller the opportunity to improve their proficiency as an OEC Technician, but more importantly gives them the management skills and confidence when handling more complex and difficult incidents. I would highly recommend any patroller consider going through the Senior program. More information will be coming out in the next few months.

I do not have a lot of detail regarding the new OEC 6 manual other than it is well underway. The planned release date is summer of 2020. With the constant changes in emergency medicine, there will be some definite changes in how we will handle patients. For those of you that are not aware, we have a contract with a new publisher, J&B, which is the publisher of the OEC 4. J&B is a very much larger company than what they were when the OEC 4 was published. As a larger firm, J&B has a wealth of adjunct material available to us so look forward to much better on-line course material and information available to all OEC Technicians.

Now it is time to put the skis away for the season and get the bike out! Hope everyone has a great summer.

John

jfradette@bresnan.net

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL & RESCUE NEWS

TROY WALKER

Hello everyone and it's sad to announce we are coming to the end of a great snow season! For many of us I think we are looking forward to doing many other summer activities as I am!

This season Flathead Nordic held a MTR Level 1 & 2 Combined course, which I am going to refer you to read the Nordic report in the Polaris from Dan'l Moore to tell you more about the MTR course event along with some wonderful photos of the Field Session.

It was enjoyable for me to see and visit with some of our Northern Division friends along with many other of my friends at Snowbird Resort for the Powder Fall event this year. There were other NSP Education programs that had face to face meeting prior to Powder Fall this year. The same goes for the MTR Supervisors which we held 2 days of face to face meetings during this time. As always I recommend attending Powder Fall when it is held again every 2 years. It's always great to see old friends, making new friends along with lots of great learning segments from all education programs you can attend.

These are some of the items we had discussed along with what we are going to start implementing into the MTR Program as a committee this year.

1. ONLINE MTR RESOURCES AND RESOURCE SHARING

- Develop online Resources, Classroom Portions along with Testing for MTR courses.
- We have already established an MTR NSP learning management system for us to start developing these items.
- Only Members of the MTR Program Committee are administrators and can post materials for testing and further discussion during the development period.
- The next objective will be to go live with classroom portions of the MTR F and MTR 1 curriculum.

2. MTR TEXTBOOKS & IMPLEMENTING CHANGES

- By October 2022 MTR courses will use the following textbooks for MTR F, MTR 1, and MTR 2:
 - Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 9th edition
 - Introduction to Search and Rescue (for SAR content)
- The MTR program committee will provide guidance to the content of these texts that covers the material prescribed in the MTR Instructors' Manual through the following channels:
 - A Ski Patrol Magazine article
 - Information posted on the NSP website
 - NSP's monthly instructors' newsletter.





- Instructors may start using these textbooks, instead of Mountain Travel and Rescue 2nd edition, immediately.
- Between now and October 2022, MTR instructors may use any of the following combinations of text books, provided the courses cover the material prescribed in the MTR Instructors' Manual:
 - o Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills (9e), with Introduction to Search and Rescue for SAR content
 - o Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills (9e), with Mountain Travel and Rescue (2e) for SAR content.
 - o Mountain Travel and Rescue (2e).
- Mountaineers Books still has roughly half of the originally printed copies of Mountain Travel and Rescue (2e), so the supply should suffice to allow continued use of the book through the transition period.

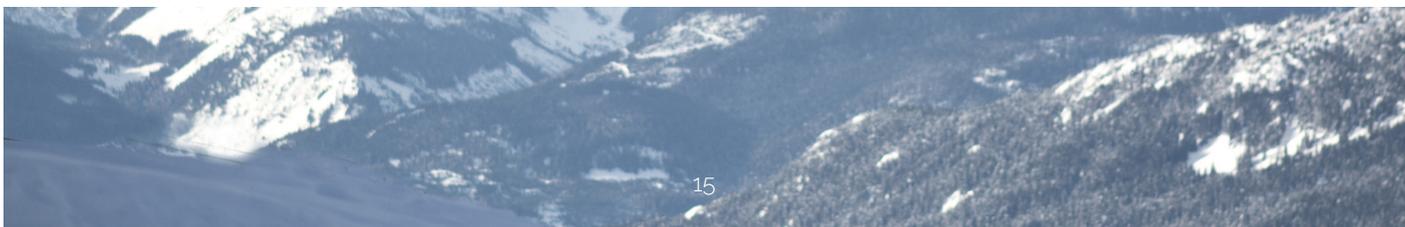
I welcome any questions from our membership along with our instructors as to the items I mentioned that the MTR Committee will be implementing into to the MTR program.

Anyone that has any further interest into the MTR program please reach out to me and lets discuss your needs or questions.

Thank you and Enjoy your summer and see you again this Fall!!!

Troy

Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor - Northern Division
troywalker13@gmail.com



Northern Division Young Adult Program

VICKI MOTLEY

There are many wonderful opportunities for the youth of today. Belonging to the National Ski Patrol is one of those opportunities. The skills that are learned within this program are numerous. The National Ski Patrol is undertaking rewriting the young adult patroller guidelines/handbook. At the National level we have been able to add the category of young adult patroller to the registration process. Please make sure that your young adults are listed as such. This will help us to correctly identify all of the young adult patrollers throughout the National Ski Patrol System. National has also offered opportunities through scholarships for young adult patrollers to attend Powderfall. They have designed specific things for them to attend while at the conference.

The Northern Division also offers up to 2 - \$500 scholarships for Young Adult Patrollers. This information will go out to all patrollers through an EBlast.

Vicki

Young Adult Advisor
motleyv@icloud.com



"We have a lot of work to do!"

DAKOTA GALI



Antelope Butte Ski Patrol, 2019 candidates, lift operators, and volunteers after our 4th lift evacuation practice of the year.

Welcome Back Antelope Butte!

It's December 21st and the ski hill at Antelope Butte looks much the same as it has for the last 14 years. The two chairlifts sit idle and the only tracks on the mountain are from those souls with enough moxie to reach the summit under their own power. Hundreds of saplings break up the white slopes of the runs the locals know as A, B, and C. Things appear much the same, but something is very different about this day and at 8:30 am a series of beeps from chair 2 let's everyone know why. Today chair 2 is spinning. Today chair 2 is going to haul skiers up the mountain. Today Antelope Butte is open for business. Today a community realized their dream of resurrecting a ski area.

It really starts to sink in as I am standing at the top of one of the three runs that are open. On either side of me are fellow patrolmen who rode these same lifts on the last day the mountain operated. We have the excitement of 5-year olds on Christmas morning and we aren't the only ones. The entire place is buzzing with excitement. The rehabilitation of a ski hill doesn't happen overnight and many of the folks riding the lift have spent countless hours volunteering, fundraising, and politicking in order to see this day. However, the most important contingent on the slopes is the group of around 30 school kids from nearby Tongue River Elementary. They embody the mission statement of Antelope Butte Mountain Recreation Area, "To provide affordable and accessible year-round mountain recreation, training, and educational opportunities, with a focus on youth and beginners." It is almost beyond comprehension, but I have something else on my mind.

"We have a lot of work to do!"

We are still in the process of getting moved into the temporary patrol room. We need to reevaluate old protocols. We need to establish new protocols. We need to get everyone scheduled for duty days. We need to, we need to, we need to. Our to-do list is a mile long. Unfortunately, "we" consists of the 8 patrollers we have on our roster. We are overwhelmed.

Fortunately, most of us know each other from patrolling at nearby Meadowlark Ski Area. Even more fortunate than our familiarity, is that our core group of patrollers are all on the same page. We understand what is important, we are all willing to do what it takes, and we are all in. We are small, but we are committed to a common goal; to make Antelope Butte the safest ski area possible.

As I write this article, load testing and certification of the Summit Lift is scheduled for this Thursday, 4/4. If all goes well, we will have the top open for our end of the year celebration (better late than never). This year was an unprecedented success for Antelope Butte Mountain Recreation Area and all small ski areas. We only had the lower mountain open this year, but we did not kick our feet up and take it easy. Instead, we developed protocols, engaged in multiple training exercises, established a recruiting plan, and prepared for the additional challenges of next year.

Next year the whole mountain will be open and we will be ready.

Dakota

Antelope Butte Ski Patrol
antelopebutteskipatrol@gmail.com

Nordic / Backcountry

DAN'L MOORE



The Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol is wrapping up another busy season. “Are You Beeping” signage and beacon checkers were deployed around Whitefish Mtn resort exit points, and various trailheads around the Flathead. The annual “hotdog days” at Canyon Cr., W-MR side country saw large public interactions, literally hundreds of skiers, and snowmobilers, about half of whom were carrying avalanche rescue gear. Many patrollers put in time helping the Flathead Avalanche Center with education efforts aimed at school kids and the general public. Others assisted the FAC forecasters with observations and field work. An NSP Avalanche Level 1 refresher was held in Dec., followed by the organized rescue module in Jan. A combined MTR 1-2 was offered this year. 18 people registered and took the classroom portion in Jan. The field session the first weekend in Feb. was postponed due to Arctic cold and high winds. Six students completed the field session at the end of March in very warm weather, and challenging snow conditions. Also at the beginning of March there was a Level 2 Avy course at Lost Trail. Five FNBP students, and two instructors participated. So, overall it was a busy and rewarding season for the only Nordic program within the division.

“ARE YOU BEEPING?”

Now that the lifts have stopped spinning, the truly great spring ski season begins. Grab your backcountry pack, skins, avy gear, and get out there and enjoy the long days and spring snowpack that allows access unthinkable in the depths of winter.

Cheers,

Dan'l

chforge@cyberport.net



Calendar of Events



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
April 27th, 2019	Annual eBoard Meeting	Buck'sT4
May 31- June 2, 2019	PNW Nuts and Bolts	Mt. Hood
Sept 20, 21,22, 2019	Annual Golf/ OEC Refresher/Division Meeting	Location TBD
Fall 2019	OEC Refreshers	All around the Division
Jan 10, 11, 12, 2020	Winter TipOff	Location TBD
Spring 2020	Senior Clinic and testing	Locations TBD
April 25, 2020	Annual eBoard Meeting	Location TBD