

# POLARIS

MONTANA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA | WYOMING

## Fall 2023

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## Hello Patrollers!

### From the Director's Desk

I hope you all heard what a great Division meeting we had at Fairmont Hotsprings in September. If you were there, I thank you for coming and participating in the events and banquet. If you were not able to attend, I hope you've heard what a great event we had this year, which included a golf scramble, distillery tour, mini sessions including an informative patroller wellness discussion, and of course the banquet with well over 100 attending. I hope to see everyone at next years fall meeting.

Here's some news as we approach the coming ski season.

### Division News

I was asked during the Division meeting to explain a little more about the tax filing requirements, registration, and general patrol administration. At the moment and to the best of my knowledge here's how things stand. I do know that over time these discussions will become dated and change somewhat. I will also be including these short paragraphs into the packets that all Patrol Representatives/Directors receive each year in September.

### Fiscal Year and Taxes

The National Ski Patrol system uses a July 1-June 30 fiscal year. Recently the Northern Division amended its Bylaws so that the Division fiscal year matched the National Board and office's fiscal year. This means that for tax purposes each patrol within the division should be closing their "books" for one year on June 30th and opening a new set of "books" for a new year on July 1st of each calendar year.

At year end or shortly thereafter the Division Treasurer will be sending out a Tax Template



form to each patrol director and/or each patrol's treasurer asking for standard information related to income and expenditures. These forms are due back to the Division Treasurer no later than September 30th.

The Division retains the services of an outside accounting firm for tax filing purposes. There are deadlines for both the Division Treasurer getting the compiled patrol reports and the division report to the accountant. The accounting firm needs to file the division report with the IRS and the National office by a certain date. There is an opportunity to ask for an extension of time. If an extension is needed because a patrol does not or cannot meet the September 30 deadline, any costs incurred, both filing fees and accountant time will not be borne by the division. The patrol who could not meet the deadlines and ultimately caused the delay will be billed for any expenses associated with filing the extension. Therefore, it's incumbent upon all Patrol Representatives to ensure the timely filing of tax documents with the Division Treasurer.

## Patrol Registrations

Each year everyone must re-register with the National office. There are two ways you can be registered. Your patrol may elect to do a batch registration, where your Patrol Representative/Director submits one registration for the entire patrol and pays the National and Division dues at that time. The Patrol Representative/Director indicates to National that you are part of his/her patrol and then as an individual you pay your dues directly to the National office to remain listed as a member and in good standing.

The National electronic registration system opens on September 30th of each year for the coming season. The registration portal remains open through the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. The registration "deadline" without

incurring late fees is December 31 of each year. There is a 30-day grace period before late fees begin on February 1. There is a late fee of \$10.00 for the division and an additional \$10.00 for national dues starting February 1st. Additionally, if you or your Patrol Representative/Director is paying with a credit card a 3% administration fee will be deducted from the division dues portion before those moneys are returned to the division. The 3% deduction is broken down as 2% going to the credit card company and 1% going to the NSP office for administration purposes. The work around here is to pay by check.

## Patrol Administration

With the new Learning Management System (LMS) and the Member Management Systems (MMS) now on line, registering courses, closing courses, and updating patroller status has changed slightly. I'm NOT going to go into a lot of details here but will hit some of the highlights.

It's up to the Instructor of Record (IOR) to go into the LMS and register courses. Instructors should designate a course location along with the course name. Listing a location will make it much easier for those wishing to enroll to find the course. Everyone should know that once the course start date is reached no additional registrations will be accepted by the system. This is because the system is set up to not allow late registrants. There is a time function that can be set to 11:59 pm of the first day of class to allow registrations to happen on the first day. The Instructor Trainer (IT) for the course is the one who will actually close the course. The IOR and IT should communicate at the end of the course about participants. Once the IT completes the course closure process, the course should show up on student's profiles.





here is when a candidate completes all the requirements (OEC, Intro to Patrolling, and any on hill testing) their status should change from candidate to patroller. At the moment the Patrol Representative/Director is the only one who can make that change in the system. The system will not let IORs make status changes. One workaround is for the Patrol Representative/Director to designate one or two of the patrol's discipline Supervisor as assistant patrol directors in the LMS system. The patrol Representative/Director will need to contact member records at NSP to make these updates to the LMS.

## National News

**Code of Conduct.** The National Board of Directors recently approved an updated Code of Conduct (COC). There is a new clause that requires all formal COC allocations be documented on an NSP form and sent to the National office. Once filed with the National office a determination will be made on the appropriate level of review. Typically, the allegation will be reviewed and decided at the lowest administrative level possible. The big difference from past practices is that now the National office will keep a record of the allegation, who is involved and the decision made. I must admit to being fearful of the security of any COC filed with the National Office. The Division Director team has expressed this concern several times to Executive Director, Stephanie Cox and Board Chair, Rick Boyce. They have both stated something to the effect of, not to worry our system is secure. I have my doubts. As a result, I will ask all patrols and patrollers that if a conflict arises between individuals at your home patrol, if at all possible, keep the situation informal and resolve it as quickly as possible.

**Elections.** I hope you all have seen my recent eblast letter discussing the National Board of Directors elections

and my recommendations for voting. I strongly encourage you to vote. I will encourage each of you to do your own research by reviewing candidate applications, position statements, and listening, if you dare, to the taped candidate forums to help you formulate your own opinion on who to vote for. All these documents can be accessed by going to the NSP Elections tab.

Again, there are eleven (11) candidates vying for five (5) open seats. You can vote for one or up to five candidates as you see fit. I am voting for these five individuals:

- **Lance Vaughan** – Far West Division
- **Deb Endly** – Central Division
- **Liz Dodge** – Pacific Northwest Division
- **Joseph (Butch) MacQueen** – Eastern Division
- **Jeff Wille** – Rocky Mountain Division

If you are thinking that you cannot support any incumbents, consider replacing Deb Endly with Ben Garrison. I would also like you to note that I do not encourage you to vote for Janna Allen. I do not believe she has the best interests of NSP in mind as she approaches a potential leadership role. Please note that these are my personal opinions and I will again encourage you to do your own research.

These are just highlights of what's going on at both the Division and National levels. If you have a question on a topic not specifically mentioned or one you feel should be addressed, please reach out to me.

*Karl Uhlig*  
Division Director  
karlskis210@gmail.com



# Vaccines and Vaccination

The new COVID and Influenza Vaccinations are available, and I've gotten them. Why? Because I don't want to be a vector of disease. I am a reasonably young, healthy individual, my risk of developing severe COVID or Influenza is minimal, but not zero. So, why would I get vaccinated? I don't want to be the person that infects the immunocompromised kid, I don't want to infect my parents, I don't want to infect YOUR parents.

That's the whole damn point of vaccination, we get vaccinated to protect OTHERS as much as ourselves.

What about the risks? We have all heard of all the bad stuff that might occur from COVID vaccination. The current vaccines are minimally modified from the original vaccine the mRNA has been changed to the new spike protein is all that has happened. Prior to FDA authorization they have been studied in hundreds of thousands of patients. And there is risk, because there is always risk.

And that risk is small. The best data we have is probably from Ontario, Canada where this is heavily monitored in a health system where all the data is available. Best estimates of adverse events by our friendly Canadians for COVID Vaccination..... 0.06% of vaccinations associated with adverse events. Out of 38+ million doses given since December of 2020.

Anytime you give ANYTHING to 38 million people there will be bad outcomes, some of those might even be due to the thing you gave. Most will not.

In the end everyone has to decide their risk tolerance, and how much risk they are willing to take to protect their fellow human beings. Frankly, you are probably more at risk driving to the ski hill and skiing than you are from getting vaccinated.

*Michael A. Jasumback,*  
MD FACEP  
Medical Director



## DEAR FELLOW SKI PATROLLER,

First of all, thank you for being a patroller or joining the Alumni group. According to NSP records there are some Alumni who have not paid their 2022-23 dues. I want to encourage you to do so. Your continued participation is important and has many benefits. If your dues and OEC are current, you may rejoin active patrolling at any time. If you choose to continue as an alumni, the time counts for lifetime membership. However, your time needs to be continuous. Some benefits that you receive are SPM, periodic alumni newsletters, pro & catalog access, and you are eligible for many awards.

On both the divisional and national levels, we are advocating more participation by alumni in teaching and committee work.

Plan to attend - Alumni event for 2024:

At Whitefish Mountain, MT we will be staying at Grouse Mountain Lodge. We have reserved rooms in this lovely lodge. Ski passes are a low \$30 for seniors 70-up. Also, there will be Glacier/Yellowstone Park options. We are preparing for February 25 – March 3, 2024. Mark your calendar and look for details coming.

Please contact me and let me know your plans, concerns, and suggestions. If you have any issues doing your renewal, please contact me at [Kujoconstruction@yahoo.com](mailto:Kujoconstruction@yahoo.com) or 406-880-7380.

Think Snow!

Be Safe!!

*Bruce Amrine*

Alumni Advisor

# Northern Division Young Adult Program

## *The Mission Statement:*

***The National Ski Patrol Young Adult Patroller (YAP) Program is a volunteer educational program that provides a structure and atmosphere for young adults, ages 15 through 17, that will help them develop and enrich their lives as they make the transition from teenagers to adulthood by learning skills around snow sports safety and injury prevention, emergency care and response in the outdoor environment, skilling and snowboarding, physical fitness, leadership, and ski patrolling. Through outstanding training programs and engagement of the young adult patroller, the Young Adult Program provides a foundation for future lifelong patrollers and develops the future leaders of the NSP.***

As the Young Adult Supervisor for the Northern Division, I am asking for your help. I need to know if you are operating any type of Young Adult (Junior) Program. If you are, please let me know. If your patrol is interested in starting a Young Adult Program, I would be happy to help in any way that I can. There is a Young Adult Start-Up Manual on the NSP website, but I would be happy to discuss any questions that you might have. I also have a manual that my patrol has used that might also be helpful.

If you are operating a Young Adult Program, each person that works with the young adults need to take the **Youth Protection Training Course**.

### **YPP access process:**

1. Each patroller should write to ([memberrecords@nsp.org](mailto:memberrecords@nsp.org)) to request an invite from Armatus/Praesidium. Please give them the following:
  - Last name, First name, member ID, email address **IN SEPARATE CELLS**.
2. You will then receive an invite, click the link, make a password/activate account, and then follow the items presented to you. (There is a specific list, and you must complete all to receive a completion certificate)
3. **If you have already completed the course in the past, you do not need a new link. You can login with the same login information**
  - a. To access your Praesidium Academy training account please follow the directions below,
    - i. Click <https://www.praesidiumacademy.com/learn>
    - ii. Click on **Forgot your password**
    - iii. Enter in the email address associated with your Academy account.
    - iv. Click the blue **Reset Password** button.
    - v. Check your email.
    - vi. Click the link inside of your email to set a new password for your Academy account.
    - vii. For extra assistance: Praesidium, Inc., 800-743-6354



4. You must then send the certifications to me Vicki Motley, proving they have completed the required items. Our Division Director has appointed me the designee to send all of the information to National.
5. Required modules:
  - a. Duty to report
  - b. Preventing sexual activity among adolescents
  - c. Meet Sam
6. How long each option is valid for:
  - a. NSP option (free)
    - i. Armatus/Praesidium - 3 years
  - b. Non- NSP options (may have a fee):
    - i. Boy Scouts of America - 2 Years
    - ii. Virtus - 4 Years (Catholic Archdiocese)
    - iii. Ministry Safe - 2-3 year and they get background checked
    - iv. Civil Air Patrol - 4 years
    - v. SafeSport - Annual
    - vi. Medical and Educational Professionals credentials are also accepted
7. **Submit your certificate, patroller NSP # and patrol to Vicki Motley, Young Adult Supervisor – motleyv@icloud.com**

*Vicki Motley*  
Young Adult Advisor



# Creating the Ace Roofing Ski Patrol Building at Great Divide in 1147 Easy Steps!

Great Divide Ski Patrol needed a new ski patrol clinic. It wasn't a desire; it was a need.

The hut we were in was, to be kind, well used. It was cramped (135 square feet), needed repairs, and had served its' time well. It was our home for many years and had a sentimental attachment, but....it had carpeting in the treatment room, no running water, it was up the hill from vehicle access, and the primary toboggan access was right at the base of the steps to the slopes. The old treatment hut was built for a different time, with different needs and fewer snow-sports guests. It served us well, but its time was in the past.

OK – that decision's made. Now, where could we put the new building? How will we pay for it? How are we going to make sure we own it in the end? Who will build it?

One thing at a time. Let's start with what we want, and then we can figure out how to get it. Our wish list included ski-in toboggan access, running water, same-level ambulance and vehicle access, privacy for IPs, a training room, ski storage, and a limited kitchen.

We worked with the mountain management and found a spot, though it was waaaaaay on the other side of the lifts and a creek.

We started to reach out within our patrol for resources and expertise. One of the patrollers' brothers is a retired architect. Excellent - he designed a 20' X 40' building to fit the site. 20' X 40' is a standard for construction. That works – less customization and less cost. The location was skiable from the main part of the mountain -- kind of. We would have to snowmobile from the beginner area or the lodge, but we thought we could make it work. The plan was for two stories – a lower level for treatment and an upper level for getting ready for work and training. Brilliant.

One side of the building would face the lifts for signs for our supporters – a way to raise money – and provide sponsor recognition by putting their signs on the building. We worked with Great Divide management on standards for ads and the architect on how much space we would have on a 40' wall for billboards. OK – we can sell 4' X 4' billboards. That should raise some money. Hey, Great

Divide, can we sell the naming rights to the building? Sure – as long as they don't have to redo the trail maps. Great – another way to raise money.

Throughout the process, we learned a lot about the business structure of ski patrols. As a subdivision of the Northern Division of the National Ski Patrol, anything the Great Divide Patrol has, and all funds, technically belong to NSP through the Northern Division. That makes sense and, more importantly, keeps things legal based on the NSP Federal Charter. We wanted the Patrol to remain in NSP and needed a vehicle to ensure ownership of the fruits of our labors stayed with us locally.

The answer was to create a charitable Foundation to support the efforts of the Great Divide Ski Patrol. That way, we could collect and spend money, donors would get the charitable tax deduction, and we would control whatever the Foundation owned. Active Foundation members are both patrollers and non-patrollers, and it has a separate board and decision-making process. More to the point, the Foundation does not provide outdoor emergency care – it supports the people who do, and that is its sole purpose.

Once we started down that path, Great Divide management recognized we were serious and started discussing leases for the land the building would sit on. The Foundation could lease the building back to Great Divide for use by their ski patrol. Making money was never the goal of this effort – we agreed to charge each other \$1 per year for renewable 20-year term leases. Great Divide provides the land, secures the permits, and provides us a foundation and access to utilities and septic. The Foundation builds the building, connects the utilities and septic, stocks the building with medical equipment, supplies, and tools. The Great Divide Skiing Company, in leasing the building for outdoor emergency care services, takes care of paying taxes, utilities, and general maintenance. The hill gets a new clinic building for its' ski patrol, the Foundation knows the building will be maintained, and the Patrol will continue to be able to serve the community. With the Foundation structure, we can help pay for patroller training, travel, equipment (like toboggans), and the medical stuff needed to support patrolling. The Foundation, by raising money through the community, has raised public awareness of ski



patrol services – we also volunteer for summer community events - and will be able to continue to raise money.

We began raising money in earnest in the fall of 2022. After the ground thawed out after the 22 – 23 season, we realized we could not use the site we had picked – the county would not permit septic in that area. Mountain management found another spot we could tuck the building into, though it required some modifications. The new site required re-engineering of spring runoff, vehicle traffic, and rotating the structure 180 degrees. We still had the essentials of what was needed, and the new site has better ski-in access by a long shot.

Like others, our patrollers come from a variety of backgrounds. We have business people, engineers, medical professionals, attorneys, construction and marketing people. Everyone stepped up to help us make the building a reality and to put the building up. We hired out insulation, plumbing, and electrical. A local building supply company put together pre-framed walls and gave us a nice discount as a charitable donation. We rented a crane and put the pre-fabbed walls and roof trusses up. The insulation guys, the plumbers, the wall boarding and painting guys, everyone except for one or two, provided discounts. The cabinets, the countertops, the fixtures – almost everything and everyone helped us meet our goal.

We had the walls of the building up in a weekend. In two or three weekends, we had the structure complete. Another couple of weekends, windows and doors were in and we were weather-tight. Within nine weeks of starting, the building was up, power was in, water was available, interior walls were complete, flooring was down, and we had commitments for final plumbing, septic, and heat. It really was about that fast.

We need to say a specific and special thank you to Ace Roofing for offering labor and roofing materials in exchange for the naming rights (The Ace Roofing Ski Patrol Building at Great Divide has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?). Pro Tech Steel donated the siding and roofing material, and deserves recognition. A fantastic small team of skilled builders on our patrol managed the project and provided most of the labor. Beyond that, our construction leader, Joe Asher, and his wife, Katherine Weber, our medical leader, practically lived up there during the summer. They made sure everything was where it was supposed to be and that all the shelving, plumbing, fixtures, painting, window trim - - literally everything was just right.

The funding is another area where expertise is critical. In hockey, you can't score if you don't shoot. We never

expected someone to accept our naming rights offer for a significant donation. I almost fell out of my chair when they emailed about donating in exchange for naming rights. I remember my feet were 10 feet off the ground after the meeting with Ace Roofing and shaking hands on the deal. That was one of the first demonstrations of the dream becoming reality.

The Ace Roofing Ski Patrol Building at Great Divide is our new home. We sold all of the 18 potential signs. Now, of course, we have people wanting more.

We created a 'Wall of Fame' recognizing our \$1000 and more donors – and we sold the naming rights to that. This will help us recognize all the people who could not make the more significant contributions but are still very important to our efforts.

Like many patrols, we have annual awards, some of which are named for those who came before us. Many of them were so far before us some of us really don't know who they are. So, we created a Great Divide Ski Patrol Hall of Fame and sold the naming rights for it, to thank those who came before us, honor them, and to remember all they did for our patrol.

A project like this takes focus, dedication, and goodwill. The key is to create the Foundation for fund-raising. Put together the plan with mountain management and the Patrol, and test it with the community. Raise the money. Communicate, communicate, communicate.

These days, there are plenty of people who are wary of what you're doing and why you're doing it. Our approach was to be completely transparent. Some Patrol members worried the Foundation would take Patrol out of NSP. That can't happen; the Foundation charter does not permit us to provide care – only to support those who do. Some were concerned about how the money would be used – we offered to share the bank statements with anyone who wanted to see them. We proactively communicated with the Division leadership – before they asked. We joined the Chamber of Commerce, we got on the radio, we talked to the newspaper, we created a website and a Facebook page, we wrote letters - lots and lots of letters - and we spoke at any community meeting that would have us. As a result, we raised money, and we have credibility and community support.

Easy? No, but anything worthwhile is always challenging. C'mon out to the Ace Roofing Ski Patrol Building at Great Divide – and – It's a Great Day to Ski and Ride at Great Divide!

# IN LOVING MEMORY



**William C. Mills & Kathleen Jennings-Mills**

## A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON

**Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of November**

**At 10:00 AM**

**First Baptist Church of Darby**

**107 W. Missoula Ave.**

**Darby, MT**

In lieu of flowers, the family is suggesting  
donations to the volunteer ski patrol at Lost Trail.  
[www.losttrailskipatrol.com](http://www.losttrailskipatrol.com)  
or any other charitable cause of your choice

## **William “Bill” Mills**

Bill Mills, born Nov. 19, 1941 in Scottsbluff, NE, passed away on Oct. 17, 2023 at his home in Darby, MT. Bill spent his youth in Riverton, WY where he participated in FFA, graduated from high school, learned to hunt and fish, and honed his mechanical capabilities. After graduation he moved to Utah where he entered electronics school, which was the beginning of his life-long profession in nuclear engineering technology. He designed, managed, and built many detailed and complex systems to support the US Nuclear Navy over a 40+ year career in Idaho, Pennsylvania and Washington. He received multiple

awards for his creation of unique systems, and the completion of demanding projects with Westinghouse and Bettis Laboratories during his career.

Bill and his wife Kathleen were proud supporters of Texas A&M University. Over the years, they made many trips to Texas in the fall to present an Engineering student with a prestigious scholarship they supported. After spending 12 years building his dream property in Darby, he served for many years as the board President of the Tin Cup Water District. Bill was responsible for the implementation

of a satellite-based control and monitoring system that regulates and maintains the flow of water for district members' irrigation needs. He kept a herd of pack mules and enlisted them to travel into the Bitterroot Mountains for his trips to Tin Cup Lake & beyond. Two mules still enjoy the run of the Blue Bird Ranch that Bill & Kathleen called their home.



While living in the Rocky Mountains, Bill and his wife Kathleen (NA #8480) became volunteer Ski Patrollers. Bill began patrolling in 1975 in the Intermountain Division at Taylor Mountain where, within his first three seasons, he trained approximately 100 new patrollers. Bill was proud of the fact that many of those patrollers went on to join the ranks as instructors.

Bill was a ski patroller for 48 years, and during his career he volunteered with a few patrols as work took him across the country. Bill served on six different Patrols across three Divisions during his tenure (Taylor Mountain, Grand Targhee, White Pass, and Snow King in Intermountain Division; Seven Springs in the Eastern Division; and Lost Trail in the Northern Division). Bill received numerous accolades and awards throughout the years including National Appointment #6007 in 1983; a Distinguished Service Award in 2012; a Blue Merit Star; multiple Yellow Merit Stars; The Doug McLaren Award for Exemplifying Outstanding Character; Snow King's Instructor of the Year; and Snow King's Don Fritch Award.

Bill served as the Intermountain Assistant S&T Advisor, and also worked as a member of the National Proficiency Board. While in these rolls, Bill made several trips to other Divisions and sectors of the Canadian Ski Patrol to develop NSP's Senior level testing and training criteria. He used information learned during these trips to help the NSP committee rewrite the toboggan training manual as we know it today. Bill spent countless hours while patrolling at White Pass and Seven Springs doing on-hill demonstrations and developing safe handling procedures for snowboard tobogganing. Bill was a trailblazer who played a pivotal role in the NSP toboggan education

program which allowed for snowboarders to become recognized members of the NSP. Bill also served NSP on the review committee for one of the OEC textbook revisions.

During Bill's 15 years in the Intermountain Division, he held various positions on the Division staff. Bill was a Patrol Director, the Idaho/Wyoming Regional Director, and the Division Assistant Testing & Training Advisor. From 2002-2006 Bill was dual registered at Snow King and Lost Trail, spending many hours on the road to patrol at both resorts. Bill was a multi-discipline instructor

in MTR, OET, OEC, and Instructor Development for 46

years. While at Lost Trail, Bill spent countless hours mentoring Senior Candidates, teaching OEC, writing National Appointment and award applications, put his engineering background to work to build and install an outhouse at the Top of Chair 4 that he secured through grant funding that today, still benefits both the patrol and public.

Bill is survived by his brother Jerry; son Charles; three grandchildren; three



great grandchildren; a niece; Ski Patrol family; and many wonderful friends from the Darby, Richland, and Idaho Falls areas. He enjoyed all the great friends that made his life in Darby full and was always willing to help anyone at any time who needed construction expertise, a tow to get out of the ditch, or hauling a skier off the mountain.

*Trevor Motley & Vicki Motley*

Lost Trail Ski Patrol - MT/ID



# Nordic/Backcountry Report

## INTERNATIONAL SNOW SCIENCE WORKSHOP 2023

Four N/BC division supervisors attended and made a poster presentation at the ISSW in Bend, Oregon Oct 8-13. They were: Amy Holman Alaska Division, Eric Geisler PNW division, Lin Ballard Rocky Mtn division, and Dan'l Moore Northern division. The poster's title- N/BC patrols and Avalanche Centers- Partners in Safety. The poster outlines how and what Nordic/backcountry patrols are, the training they do, the community outreach and education, SAR trainings and missions, snow pack observations, trailhead signage, etc. The poster was well received by people in the avalanche community, who by and large didn't even know of the existence of N/BC patrols.

The ISSW is a professional conference on all things snow and avalanche related. Lots of good new cutting edge research being done. The theme for all ISSWs is the "merging of theory and practice". There is a lot of information to digest, share, and network. It was especially nice meeting and talking with other members of NSP, division avalanche supervisors, board members etc. Especially with the ongoing avalanche class, NSP-AAA, discussions. I think we came to the conclusion that NSP needs to make an official presence at events such as ISSW, ICAR conferences, Mountain Rescue conferences etc. to show that we are still providers. All in all it was a great experience.

The conference had over 1100 registered participants from all over the world. There were 7 members of the FNBP in attendance, and 25+ folks from the Flathead avalanche community; patrollers, researchers, forecasters, educators, guides, railway, SAR were all represented. And of coarse there were folks from the Gallatin, and West Central Mt avalanche centers also. It was a great venue with a large conference room set up with multiple microphones for questions, large flat screens displaying the featured speaker/presenter so all could see, everything being recorded. There was an exhibition hall downstairs where various businesses had displays (this is where NSP needs to be present) and lots of swag. Coffee breaks and happy hours led to much serious networking. The poster displays were also in the exhibition hall. There were approximately 65 posters each day for viewing with a 2hr window where presenters would talk about their posters. The organizers did an outstanding job. Very evident on Thursday, when power went out in Bend for 3-4

hours. The posters were all carried outside to be viewed in daylight. The audio/visual crew managed to set up a flatscreen and mics outside, powered by generator to keep the program running with minor delays. What a fantastic job they did.

Now to division news. The FNBP is looking forward to another year of promoting avalanche and backcountry safety through out our region. We are in the midst of refresher season. Looking forward to holding a combined MTR 1 & 2. Classroom, zoom sessions Wed. in Jan., field days Mar 8-10. Contact Dan'l Moore [chforge@cyberport.net](mailto:chforge@cyberport.net) 406-257-4766

Cheers,

*Dan'l Moore*  
Nordic/Backcountry Supervisor



Dan'l Moore N. Div. N/BC supervisor,  
Amy Hollman. Alaska Div N/BC sup.,  
Lin Ballard. Rocky Mtn Div. N/BC sup.,  
Eric Geisler. Pacific NW div N/BC sup.



Outside set up when power went out



# Nordic/Backcountry Ski Patrols & Avalanche Centers - Partners in Safety

Authors: Amy Holman<sup>1</sup>, National Ski Patrol (NSP) Alaska Division Nordic/Backcountry Supervisor (N/BCS); Dan'l Moore<sup>2</sup> NSP Northern Division N/BCS; Lin Ballard<sup>3</sup>, NSP Rocky Mountain Division N/BCS; Eric Geisler<sup>4</sup>, NSP Pacific NW Division N/BCS

## Background

Growing interest in motorized and non-motorized backcountry recreation is driving increased demand for avalanche awareness, education, and observational data. Recreational courses fill quickly, awareness events are jam-packed, and users are spreading out into more and more terrain. The National Ski Patrol (NSP) and the US Forest Service (USFS) initiated organized rescue and avalanche training in the 1940's. NSP continues to be a leader in avalanche education. Patrollers across the country augment staff and educational programs through public education events, avalanche safety courses, search and rescue, and snow, weather, and avalanche observations.



## Education



**Avalanche Safety Instruction:** Nordic/Backcountry Patrols regularly involve staff from their local avalanche centers as guest instructors in safety instruction from Avalanche Awareness to Recreational Level 1 and 2 courses. In many areas of the country the patrols also collaborate with avalanche centers to host Public Avalanche Awareness Days with beacon practice and more.

**Preventative Search & Rescue:** In addition to courses, Nordic/Backcountry Patrols conduct activities aimed at preventing accidents. Examples of these are trailhead outreach about familiarity with the current forecast, gear, and trip plans and providing funding support for signage (e.g. Are You Beeping?).



NSP Nordic/Backcountry Patrollers specialize in Outdoor Emergency Care, Mountain Travel & Rescue as well as Avalanche Safety. Many of our patrols are trained and certified to be a part of Search And Rescue (SAR) teams. Our patrollers excel in problem solving: Locating, Accessing, Assessing, Stabilizing, and Transporting the patient (LAAST). Patrollers are excellent partners with avalanche centers as they are prepared to work long hours in all weather to do what it takes to accomplish the task.

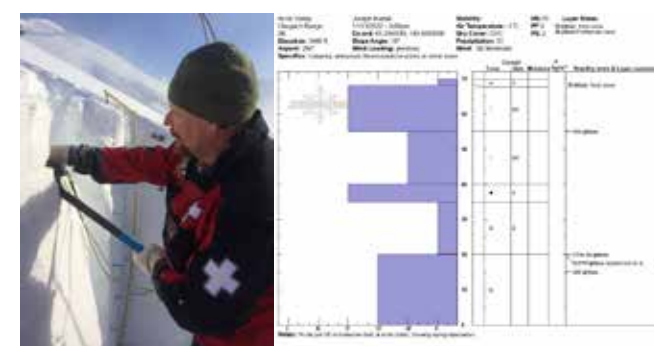


## Search & Rescue

Nordic/Backcountry Patrols specialize in organized rescue. As resources for the local agencies having Search and Rescue jurisdiction, they respond to avalanche incidents and frequently help design and participate in interagency avalanche response exercises.



## Observations/Data Collection



Snow observations are a regular part of Nordic/Backcountry Patrol contributions to their avalanche centers. Many Patrols collaborate with local forecasters by asking for priorities of the day, information gaps to fill, and covering geographic areas staff are not able to cover.

The authors can be reached at <sup>1</sup>[amy.holman.ak@gmail.com](mailto:amy.holman.ak@gmail.com), <sup>2</sup>[chforge@cyberport.net](mailto:chforge@cyberport.net), <sup>3</sup>[avalin2@yahoo.com](mailto:avalin2@yahoo.com), <sup>4</sup>[ericsg eisler@yahoo.com](mailto:ericsg eisler@yahoo.com) | Want to know more about the NSP Nordic/Backcountry Program? Scan this code!



As the Division Historian, I am taking on a project to collect historical information on each patroller within the Northern Division. This information is critical when nominating a fellow patroller for an award and it was pointed out at the Fall meeting that there is little historical information available at the National office.

***I would greatly appreciate each of you taking some time to fill out the form and return it to me.***

Andrew Niemantsverdriet and Mike Marlow have worked their computer magic so you only need to fill in the form. Thanks in advance.

*Steve Thompson*  
Division Historian

<https://nspnorth.flowforms.io/form/patroller-history>

## OET Updates!

### *Just a reminder!*

**Toboggan Refreshers:** Every Alpine Patroller is required to attend a registered Toboggan Refresher, just like an OEC refresher is required. This can be a simple couple run thing, or if needed, a full day event. (IOR's remember when you are registering to put me, Michael Marlow, as the IT. That helps me keep track of refreshers around the Division.)

**Powder Rendezvous:** This years Powder Rendezvous (PR) is being held at Snowbowl, MT January 19 (Instructor Refresher but anyone welcome), January 20 Toboggan Refresher (with PSIA), Toboggan Rodeo and Banquet,

January 21 – Group Lessons with PSIA. This year we will be welcoming back other National OET Supervisors as well as having a 350 clinic for those interested. See the Registration Form and Electronic link elsewhere in this Polaris.

**PowderFall:** National PowderFall is in Vail, CO next year April 10 thru 14, 2024. Registration is open on the NSP webpage. Get your registration in before it sells out! It is always a great time for learning, skiing and networking. And of course, the National OET Team (including myself and Brian Beattie) will be helping teach courses.

*Michael Marlow*  
Northern Division OET Supervisor



# Avalanche

NOV. POLARIS 2023.

Hi everyone, I hope you are all doing well. A big thanks to all for help and support at the Northern Division. The Division meeting was really good.

We are in a robust El Nino cycle, which means that the winter in the Pacific northwest will be, slightly drier and warmer than average. This El Nino reverses the La Nina cycle we had for three straight years. What does this all mean relative to snowpack and winter sports? Basically, anything still goes, with the one aspect of, we may have mini cycles of warmer or drier weather than average. This does not mean we may not have a great snowpack or winter. Yearly averages are calculated over many, many decades of data, and there could be enough variation in the 2023 El Nino model to allow a great winter for us in our northern ski areas.

We will have an **Avalanche Level 1 class at Lost Trail this season** with the field days (at Lost Trail) of **March 9 and 10th. Please let me know by email** (below) if you or someone you know would like to take the class (Zoom lectures will be online). I will be putting together an email list for more information. Any questions, please reach out to me.

A big thank you to all N. Div Avalanche instructors who applied for their A3 membership and got it. There is still time if you have not done this. Please contact me if you would like my help on this critical application process.

This summer I was appointed to serve on the NSP's Avalanche Education Task Force. Below is some information on things we have accomplished so far.

Thank you all for your volunteer work and help.

*Steve Porcella,*

Avalanche Supervisor, N. Div.  
sfporcella@gmail.com

**REINSTATEMENT with A3.** The application to the American Avalanche Association (A3) for NSP to be reinstated as a recognized avalanche education provider has been submitted. Some changes to the Avalanche Instructors' Manual (AIM) were suggested and are in progress.

**CHANGES to P&P.** On October 18, the National Avalanche Committee (NAC) approved, by a majority vote, a revised Avalanche appendix to NSP's Policies and Procedures. The revisions provide an accurate, current description of NSP's Avalanche courses and make it clear that the Avalanche Senior Elective and Avalanche Companion Rescue count as electives for NSP's Senior Program.

**BADGES in the LMS.** The national office staff has created a system of electronic badges in the NSP Center for Learning to ensure that Avalanche Instructors and Instructors of Record are members of A3 at the appropriate levels.

**SELECTION COMMITTEE.** Consistent with the task force's recommendation and Policies and Procedures, National Board of Directors Chair Rick Boyce has appointed the following people to the selection committee for the next National Program Director of the Avalanche Program:

Myron Allen and Kristi Ball from the National Board of Directors

Mary Lou Legg and Nancy Stromswold from the Division Director team

The National Avalanche Committee must select one of its members to serve on the committee.

The task force includes the following members:

Myron Allen, National board member, chair

Cindy Gagnon, Rocky Mountain Division Avalanche Supervisor

Maddie Miller, NSP Education Director

Steve Porcella, Northern Division Avalanche Supervisor

Josh Worth, Eastern Division Assistant Avalanche Supervisor

Allen, Gagnon, Porcella, and Worth are active NSP level-2 Avalanche Instructors and professional members of A3.

*Myron Allen*



# Fall Polaris 2023

## Division Meeting Recap

Hello everyone, I'd like to thank those of you who attended our Annual Northern Division Meeting & Refresher at Fairmont Hot Springs. We had record attendance this year and we're looking forward to another great conference next year!

New this year we offered a Friday afternoon tour. Tour attendees were able to take in the sights of Historic Butte from the Kelly Mine site while on our tour of Headframe Spirits. During the touring of the production facility, participants were able to see the distillation process from grain to bottle, enjoy libations in their copper mule mugs, and learned about the science of building continuous distillation stills. The tour made a second stop on it's way down the hill towards uptown Butte. At the second stop, all enjoyed the Headframe Spirits tasting room located in the old Buick dealership. A highlight during this stop was seeing the timeline of whiskey distillation over the course of one year.

Saturday at the annual meeting we had presentations from MTR, Avalanche, and the National Medical Advisor. Additionally, the Northern Division Mobile Museum was unveiled! After the OEC Refresher (that seemed to be completed in record time), we concluded Saturday with our annual awards banquet where patrols and patrollers were honored. Sunday, the annual Division business meeting was held and the annual operating budget was approved.

**Please save the date for the 2024 Division Meeting**

**Fairmont Hot Springs  
September 13-15, 2024**







## **Mountain Travel & Rescue News for Fall of 2023**

Hello everyone and it feels great to be back for another season of patrolling. Hopes are for another prosperous snow season like last year!

Mountain Travel & Rescue Program Events for the 2023-2024 Season:

For this season the Flathead Nordic Patrol will be hosting an MTR level 1 & 2 course. Classroom Dates will be held in January 2024. Specific dates have not been confirmed yet for classrooms. The Field Session is confirmed and will be held March 1st through March 3rd, 2024.

There may be options for those who cannot attend the classroom dates in person once confirmed that they may be able to attend Zoom meetings with the class. Please reach out to: Dan'l Moore for exact details at: Email: [chforge@cyberport.net](mailto:chforge@cyberport.net)

There will be another MTR level 1 & 2 training session happening at Herriman State Park in Idaho which is part of the Intermountain Division. Classroom dates have not been confirmed but will be held towards the first part of February 2024. The field session is confirmed for March 8<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Once again if you are unable to attend in person the classroom dates when they are confirmed, there will be options of attending zoom meetings with the class. Contact me personally for more information on this MTR training session.

There are also options if you are interested in attending either one of these Classroom events and have conflicting dates on the field session dates you are welcome to attend the other field session.

Any other patrol area that would like to host or want to know more about putting on an MTR program for your area please contact me and let's get working on it!

Here we go for another fun and exciting patrol season! Be Safe & have Fun!

Troy Walker - Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor – Northern Division.

801-360-2445 – [troywalker13@gmail.com](mailto:troywalker13@gmail.com)



# Hello Northern Division Ski Patrollers!

With Karl Uhlig at the end of his run as our Division Director, I, Dan Schaefer am officially putting my name in the Hat to Run for Division Director of the Northern Division. I wanted to share a bit about myself so you all can decide who your patrol director votes for in the next election.

Currently I live in Bismarck North Dakota, and recently married LeAnn. Now with a blended family that comprises of 7 kids and 11 grandkids, I thank the Good Lord each day for my life and the Grace and Mercy given to be here today writing this note to you.

Professionally, I am the Operations Chief and Paramedic with Metro Area Ambulance Service in Bismarck ND. We do about 15,000 calls for service each year. It keeps us busy providing the logical parts moving to provide EMS to our communities and staffing EMS providers who are willing to serve others.

My background prior to EMS is that I grew up on a dairy farm in the SW part of the state of North Dakota. That rural life instilled a love for the outdoors. I have enjoyed a few careers that have given me great perspective on people and how to serve other people as we do in the NSP. After High School, I ventured off to College in Bismarck ND for an education in the trade of HVAC. Took a job in Dickinson ND close to home with a plumbing and heating company. The Oil industry called with twice the money so I decided to try that for a couple years. Again all dealing with different people and customer service. Oil business is boom and bust and it did bust so, I took on a job with Pepsi Cola and sold and delivered Pepsi products. Met some wonderful people!

Then one day my hometown grocery store in the little town New England ND came up for sale. Next thing you know my brother and I own a grocery store and we are selling groceries in our home town. Once again providing customer service to the community. Working in a small town business owners and others in small towns generally must volunteer and wear many hats. So, I joined the volunteer Fire/Rescue team and Ambulance service. I took a liking to the EMS side of things and next thing I know, I sold my part of the grocery store moved back to the big city and enrolled in Paramedic School. Metro Area Ambulance hired me and have been working as a paramedic in Bismarck/Mandan since and still my current employment. This is my 30th year. Guess the EMS thing stuck. I also went back to college at the University of Mary for business.

Had to support the local economy you know!

About Ski Patrol you ask? Well about 29 years ago, a buddy asked me if I wanted to help him patrol at Huff Hills Ski Area. Well, that stuck too! Next thing I know, I am loving the fellowship of all you all.

I tell a bit about myself so you understand my background like yours is likely a twisting road and that we all come from sorted back grounds, we are all typically motivated by some of the same things like helping others or we just like to skiing a lot. We know that by adding both the joy and also the stress of patrolling to our lives so we more complete humans. Why do we do it? It is not just to serve ourselves but to help others and by serving all the other snow sport aficionados, we get to meet the greatest people and patrol with even better people.

As the potential leader of this Great Division, I humbly hope to succeed Karl with his continued visions, and to continue to work to find a succession plan for NSP for the next generations of patrollers. If by now you have not voted for NSP National Candidates, (I encourage you to do so) you would have reviewed the bios of the candidates. Most, if not all are concerned for the future of NSP. From technology to the lack of new/young members ready to take on leadership roles at all levels. Globally, NSP must find less gray hair in leaders and patrollers at all levels. We have to find and remove the barriers that hold back potential patrollers both young and old while moving forward. I believe that NSP is heading in the right direction but the pace needs to pick up with what they are doing. I, like





the national candidates, would hope to embrace that need while listening to your thoughts and concerns as to where you want the NSP to go.

Sometimes we have hidden agendas when folks are looking to take on leadership roles right? My agenda will be out in front! I am planning to work to keep the Northern Division strong and finically fluid. I will work to build out a succession plan to move forward but will need all your help. I believe the Northern Division is strong because our individual patrols are working hard. At the same time, it is imperative that each patroller on every patrol works to help others and help provide the needs to fill all need roles at every level to keep the whole division strong.

The Northern Division is solid due to the foundations that Karl and others have built in the past. My Goal is simple! I want to help others take over. I just want to eventually just patrol and attend all the division functions as a participant. See that is a simple plan! Success in most things comes

from work and dedication and we generally are all products of someone teaching us what we needed to succeed. Mentor's/FTO's are critical for success. We need them at all levels and as so goes the need for all of us to reach out and help teach someone our jobs. My hope is to find new people to take on roles that serve the Northern Division. It starts at the local patrols. Each of us owe someone for where we are and we need to pass it on or pay it forward. It is a simple plan and that is for all if us in the Northern Division to train our replacement. I hope you will appreciate the simplicity of my agenda. Be safe!

Thank you for your time reading this.

*I am Dan Schaefer  
and I approved this Message!!*



# NORTHERN DIVISION AWARDS

## 2022-2023

### Certificates of Recognition – National Anniversary Celebrations:

(Patrollers with 25+ years of service, reaching a 5-year anniversary date)

#### **Active Patrollers:**

- 25 years: Penny Palm Bucher Erin Jones Daniel Whitesit  
Steve Porcella Jill Wiese Shawn Livingston  
Dave Ocenosak Colleen Finch
- 30 years: Bruce Gerlach Jeff Azure Richard Perkerewicz
- 35 years: Karl Uhlig
- 40 years: Bruce Amrine
- 45 years: Allan Rabbitt
- 50 years: Russell Sigman John Coulthard
- 55 years: Kent Doing
- 60 years: Janet Chambers

#### **Alumni:**

- 40 years: Debra Mills John Dobson
- 45 years: Chinook Swindle Daniel Stine
- 60 years: Donald Wolcott

### Certificates of Appreciation:

#### **Division Officers:**

Division Director: Karl Uhlig

Assistant Division Director: Dan Schaefer

Treasurer: Jeannette Amrine

#### **Region Directors:**

Region 1 (Western) Director: Allan Rabbitt

Region 2 (Eastern) Director: Ron Wiggins

#### **Division Supervisors & Advisors:**

Bruce Amrine	Dr. Mike Jasumback	Bridgett Paddock	Brent Brooks
Bill Lay	Steve Porcella	Brian Beattie	Mike Marlow
Steve Thompson	Mel Carnahan	Dan'l Moore	Troy Walker
Justin Data	Jeff Motley	Ron Wiggins	Colleen Finch
Trevor Motley	John Fradette	Vicki Motley	

#### **Region 1 (Western) Patrol Reps. and Region Advisors:**

Tina Buttleman	Trevor Howard	Dan Korb	Frank Maus	
Joe Metcalf	Mike Warner		Steve White	Andrew Yuasa-Green

#### **Region 2 (Eastern) Patrol Reps. and Region Advisors:**

Dan Schaefer	Ron Wiggins	Brian Beattie	Travis Gies
Toni Ilgen	Deryk Jeter	Kevin Siebke	Todd Sivertson
Boyd Sivertson	Erin Sobel		



**Division Outstanding Award Review Board:**

Christine Lustik

Mark Bower

Stephanie Mapelli

Steve White

**Division National Appointment Review Board:**

Keith Talley

Alice Ford

John Larson

Bob Short

**National Outstanding Award Judges:**

Christy Lohof

Bridgett Paddock

Steve Thompson

Kurt Weinberg

**Northern Division Patriot Star:**

- ❖ Bryan Baldwin (Great Divide)
- ❖ David Martin (Lost Trail)
- ❖ Douglas Lilly (Lost Trail)
- ❖ Kurt Werhane (Lost Trail)
- ❖ Michael Sharkey (Lost Trail)
- ❖ Robert Griswald (Lost Trail)
- ❖ Steven McLaughlin (Lost Trail)
- ❖ William All (Lost Trail)

**Spirit of the Patroller Award:**

Paul Plourde – Antelope Butte

**Patroller Cross:**

LeRoy Wosoba – Great Divide (sorry, no photo)

Ryan Gregory – Antelope Butte

**NSP Merit Stars:**

Lost Trail lifesaving incident:

Nate Olson – Purple Merit Star

Joe Kirkland – Purple Merit Star

Heidi Messner – Blue Merit Star

John Alford – Yellow Merit Star

Chris Gaughan – Yellow Merit Star

Chinook Swindle – Yellow Merit Star

Joe Krakker – National Certificate of Appreciation

### Dwight Chambers Rising Star Award:

Emily Joynt (Huff Hills) –  
*no, that is not the trophy, in case you were wondering.*



### Dr. Warren Bowman OEC Instructor Award:

Jeff Motley (Lost Trail)



### Mark Behan Outstanding Instructor Award:

Dan Schaefer (Huff Hills)





### NSP National Appointments:

Brent Brooks (Red Lodge)  
Steve Porcella (Lost Trail)



### NSP Lifetime Member Award

#### (50 years with the NSP):

John Coulthard (Great Falls)  
Russell Sigman (Beaverhead)

### Distinguished Service Award:

Russell Sigman (Beaverhead)



### Hall of Fame:

Rusty Wells (Flathead Nordic) – Congrats Rusty!!





# Congratulations to Rusty Wells,

## 2023 Inductee into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame!



It takes a special patroller to make it into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame. It starts with a lifetime of dedication to the patrol way of life, helping at each turn. Rusty Wells fits the bill.

Rusty first joined the NSP back in 1983, bringing with him a wealth of mountaineering and avalanche knowledge, having been a summer and winter mountaineering instructor and trip leader for the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) in Lander, Wyoming. Rusty was one of the driving forces in the formation of the Five Valleys

Nordic Patrol in Missoula, MT, where he served as the patrol representative for the first four years the patrol was active. In 1988 he moved to Whitefish, MT and joined the Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol (FNBP). He served as patrol representative for FNBP on two separate occasions. When NSP decided to hold their 2000 national meeting in the Kalispell area, Rusty was one of the key organizers behind that very successful meeting.

Rusty is well known for his teaching skills. His quiet demeanor is always brimming with encouragement and a wealth of knowledge. He has definitely “walked the walk” - just ask him to tell you about one of his many adventures in the wilds of Montana, Wyoming, or Alaska! Rusty is never one to “blow his own horn,” instead he quietly moves behind the scenes dropping bits of knowledge, all the while encouraging everyone in the class to “practice a little more, try it this way and you’ll get it, that was a good job.” It speaks volumes that he is an IT in 3 fields of education: MTR, Nordic, and Avalanche. He teaches at the Patrol and Division level and is often IT for Division level MTR 2 and Avy 2 courses. He truly shines as a mentor and has been the stimulus for many patrollers to go on to become avalanche and/or mountaineering instructors, which is the core of maintaining and growing the NSP.

Rusty has done a bit of everything in the patrol world, from being an “on the mountain patroller” at Blacktail Resort as well as a Nordic patroller with a much larger area to patrol. He has responded to lost/missing skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers. He was an integral part in two major avalanche rescue operations in the Kalispell/Whitefish area.

Not all of Rusty’s NSP work was in the field. He was highly involved in the re-writing of the NSP Ski Patroller manual for the Mountain Travel & Rescue Manual 2nd edition that



was published in 2012.

Rusty coordinated an agreement with the National Park Service personnel in searches for lost/injured persons in and around Glacier National Park. Rusty also helped finalize an agreement between the Flathead County Search & Rescue and FNNP. He is constantly looking for ways to improve the rescue services in the Flathead/Glacier area, even training his own dogs to be avalanche rescue dogs.

Rusty has held numerous NSP leadership positions, including Patrol Representative for two Patrols, Division Mountaineering Supervisor, Division Nordic Training Advisor and Northern Division Region I Director.

He has received multiple NSP awards including four Yellow Merit Stars, two Green Merit Stars for avalanche rescue work, a National Appointment, Northern Division Mark Behan Award, and a Distinguished Service Award.



The Northern Division is lucky to have Rusty Wells! Rusty, thank you for all your skills, energy, and dedication over the decades! Congratulations on your well-deserved induction into the NSP Hall of Fame!

## 2023 OUTSTANDING AWARDS

### Northern Division Honorable Mention Certificates:

**Outstanding Alpine Patroller:** David McKay (Great Divide)

### Northern Division Outstanding Award Finalists & Yellow Merit Star Recipients:

**Outstanding Young Adult Patroller:** Ella Corbally (Great Divide) – Sorry, no photo



**2023 Outstanding Non-OEC Instructor:** Bridgett Paddock  
(Great Falls)



**2023 Outstanding Paid Patrol Representative:** Toni Ilgen (Antelope Butte)



**2023 Outstanding Volunteer Patrol Representative:** Tina Buttelman (Great Divide)

*Each year the crowd anxiously awaits the announcement of who will take home the coveted Northern Division Outstanding trophies. Drum roll please...*





2023 Northern Division  
Outstanding Patrol Finalist  
& Unit Citation Recipient:  
Large Alpine Patrol: Lost Trail

The Northern  
Division  
Outstanding  
Patrol Trophy goes  
to Huff Hills, who also  
happens to be the  
**NATIONAL**  
**Outstanding Small**  
**Alpine Patrol.**  
Yes NATIONAL!!  
The top dog.  
Numero Uno!  
Congratulations Huff  
Hills!





# WANTED:

**Motivated individuals for fun and rewarding position making new and improving old Ski Patrollers. OEC, OET, Avalanche, MTR and Instructor development Instructors needed. The Northern Division of the National Ski Patrol is seeking individuals to become certified Instructors for the National Ski Patrol. This is an opportunity to better the Northern Division by becoming an instructor ( NOT SKI SCHOOL ) put your skills to work help train new Patrollers, old Patrollers, refresh your skills, gain new knowledge and have fun.**

**With in the National Ski Patrol there are many opportunities to share your knowledge and experience by becoming an Instructor with the National Ski Patrol. By completing the free online course and the practical teaching assignment you are well on the way to becoming an instructor in the discipline of your choice. Learn more about this great opportunity by contacting Jeff Motley at [motleycrew@q.com](mailto:motleycrew@q.com)**



*It's a wedding reception and you're invited!*

*Dan and Leann Schaefer*  
*Wedding Reception*

**Saturday, December 30, 2023**

**Showdown, Montana**

**Top Rock Hut**

**4PM**

***You have to get on the lift BEFORE last chair at 4PM***

**RSVP to - Allan Rabbitt [allanrabbitt@yahoo.com](mailto:allanrabbitt@yahoo.com)**

**No Gifts Please**

**Bring a Headlamp – you'll be skiing down in the dark!**

**Stay at the EDITH  
(406) 547-8888 in White Sulphur Springs  
*book your rooms SOON!***





# POWDER RENDEZVOUS!

Snowbowl, Montana

January 19, 20, 21, 2024

Cost: \$199 by 12/29/2023 - \$219 after 12/29/2023

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 group

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

## WINTER TIP-OFF REGISTRATION

**FRIDAY:** All-day tickets available (discounts to be determined). Must secure tickets by January 18, 2024 with an email to mmalow@infosysmt.com.

### 12:00pm: Instructor Recertification for OET Instructors

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

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

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

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

**SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET** - Location TBD

### SUNDAY: Boot up 8:30 a.m., Clinic 9-1ish

**Personalized PSIA Ski Instruction:** Working with PSIA Instructors and Clinicians

**All Women's Clinic will be held Saturday also.**

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

### NORTHERN DIVISION ¼ ZIP SECOND LAYER (Design to be Discovered!)

SIZE: (\$40) ☐ SMALL ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LARGE (\$45) ☐ 2XL ☐ 3XL *Woman's sizes available too!*

Make checks payable to Northern Division. Mail this completed form along with check to:

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

**Hotel Accommodations Info - you make your own reservations:**

C'Mon Inn Missoula

2775 Expo Pkwy, Missoula, MT 59808

Phone: (406) 543-4600

**Room Block Closes on December 19, 2023 — Mention National Ski Patrol for Rate of 128.99/night**

**CLICK HERE FOR eFORM**

# Congratulations Jeff Motley!

*Jeff is the local Stevensville fire chief and has been on the department for over 28 years. He was responsible for starting the Quick Response Unit which responds to medical calls. He has also been a member of the National Ski Patrol for 40+ years and helps train incoming patrollers. He was recognized as the MSU Bobcat First Interstate Community Hero September 30th.*







## Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
November 18, 2023	Red Lodge	OEC Refresher
January 19 - 21, 2024	Powder Rendezvous!	Snowbowl, MT
February 2024	Senior Training Clinics for All Patrollers	TBD
April 10 - 14, 2024	NSP Powderfall	Vail, CO
April 26 - 27, 2024	Tentative eBoard Meeting Date	TBD
September 13 - 15, 2024	2024 Division Meeting	Fairmont Hot Springs

