



- OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION NATIONAL SKI PATROL-

# POLARIS

MONTANA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA | WYOMING

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## HELLO PATROLLERS!

### From the Director's Desk

I hope you all had a great summer with friends and family. As I write this the wildfire season is now just beginning. Let's hope some late summer rains make it a short season.

The Division's annual convention, banquet and business meeting is now scheduled to the weekend of September 15-17 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. The Registration form is included in this edition of the Polaris newsletter. If you can I'll encourage you to attend because I'm sure you will have fun and learn some things over the course of events. If you have any exciting news to offer or a topic that concerns you, please contact your regional advisor and ask them to have the news placed on the agenda. They are Allan Rabbitt (Region 1, Western) and Ron Wiggins (Region 2, Eastern).

### Division News

Rather than give you a lead in to the great work our Program managers are doing and what's being planned for the 2023-2024 season, I've been asked to briefly explain why we have a division meeting in September, what does it cost and what are the benefits. Additionally, to discuss what Division dues are used for. For ease, I'm going to break these topics into two discussions.

#### Part A:

#### ***What are the purposes and benefits of the fall Division meeting?***

The primary purpose of the entire NSP organization and this includes the fall meeting is EDUCATION and consistency. Additionally, the meeting purposes include passing a division yearly budget, approve any publication projects (Polaris dates and delivery)



and take action on other division business such as Bylaw changes. The meeting is an opportunity for leadership to gather, build comradery, mentor future leaders, and solve problems by open discussions.

We also gather to hone our skills and pick up new teaching and learning techniques. These are typically passed down from Program leadership such as OEC, MTR, Avi, OET etc. Those running the mini-sessions on Saturday morning and the OEC refresher in the afternoon are responsible for teaching and demonstrating the latest techniques and articulating the most up to date terminology, thinking and skills as developed in the industry. These sessions and afternoon refresher are opportunities for your patrol discipline Supervisors to be updated on all we as NSP do so when they come back to your home patrol and oversee your OEC, on-hill, and OET yearly refreshers, everything taught or reviewed is consistent across the Division and the organization. This consistency ensures that if you are on vacation and encounter an incident you will fit right in with the home patrollers, whether they be on fat skis, skinny skis, or on wheels.

The second purpose for the fall meeting is to pass a division budget for the year. Passing a budget is not merely agreeing on a number or dollar amount, it's much more than that. It's discussing what programs will be offered and where those offerings will be located. We are trying to answer the question of what do the "every day patrollers" across the division desire in terms of specific training opportunities and where are the best locations to offer those opportunities. If you or anyone you know has a need or desire for further educational courses, please let you Patrol Representative know so we as a division can offer events that help you grow as a patrol.

### **Part B: What does the fall meeting cost and how are division dues used to enhance the meeting?**

Here is some data from our treasurer for the years 2019, 2021, and 2022. In 2020 the fall meeting was canceled due to Covid.

#### **2019 Total cost of \$22,632**

Registration fee of \$100  
76 attendees = roughly \$298 / person  
Division kicked in \$198 / person for a total of \$15,000.

#### **2021 Total cost of 21,273**

Registration fee of \$110  
106 attendees = roughly \$201 / person  
Division kicked in \$91 / person for a total of \$9,650.

#### **2022 Total cost \$20,248**

Registration fee of \$109  
72 attendees = roughly \$281 / person  
Division kicked in \$172 / person for a total of \$12,380

#### **SUMMARY:**

Average attendees = 85  
Average division portion = \$154  
Average division cost to run meeting = \$12,343  
Average registration fee required if no division support  
(average. registration fee + average. division expense)  $\$106 + \$154 = \$260$ .

As another example I will review the most recent Senior program groups 2022-2023 and the Covid years of 2019-2021.

#### **2022-2023**

7 candidates  
Application fees of \$250 each equate to an income of \$1,750  
Total expensed over both the Senior Clinic and the Senior Evaluation weekends totaled \$13,186  
Profit/loss amount was  $\$11,436 \div 7$  participants = \$1,634 per individual the Division is kicking into the program.

## **Covid period**

11 candidates

Application fees totaled \$2,750

Total expense for the two clinics of \$16,421

Profit/loss amount was \$13,671 ÷ 11 participants =

\$1,243 per individual the Division kicked in

For many years it's been a conscious decision by the Division board to contribute money to the senior program in an effort to encourage participation.

## **Brief paragraph on where do dues go?????**

It's for refreshers, OEC courses, intro to patrolling courses, offset the costs of the division meeting, the costs for the Spring Executive Board meeting, offset the total costs of the Senior program, any Toboggan clinics, filing tax documents, accountant fees, publishing the Polaris and maintaining the division's web site.

Please note that both Powder Rendezvous and Avalanche II courses tend to break even or contribute a little cash to the division checking account.

Request to Patrol Representatives. Please bring potential Senior candidates to the division meeting so they can be involved in the discussions related to whether we offer a Senior this season or some other forms of education.

Instructor Development. In an effort to help eliminate or reduce ongoing confusion regarding how to become an NSP instructor in any discipline, I'm instituting a new requirement. For the 2023-2024 season if you are a patrol representative (director) you will be required to complete the Instructor Development (ID) course before mid-season. If you have completed the course in the past it will show up on your NSP profile so you do not have to repeat unless you desire. If you have never taken ID you need to take it.

One final Division note. The Division continues to be strong financially and as a result I am NOT proposing any dues increase for the coming 2023-2024 season.

## **National News**

Stephanie Cox, our new National Executive Director (6-7 months in) is working with returning Board Chair Rick Boyce on several initiatives. I can say as reported in the Sweeps e-blasts that Subaru is no longer a sponsor of the NSP. There is a subcommittee working with several vehicle representatives in an effort to continue a sponsorship. I can also tell everyone that Patagonia king NSP patrol specific clothing. They have promised to keep limited inventory available throughout the 2023-2024 season. So, if you are on the fence and thinking about making a Patagonia

order, I suggest that you pull the trigger and make your order sooner rather than later. Please keep an eye on the Sweeps e-blasts for the latest news from the National office.

For specifics the Board and the four standing committees of Finance, Governance, Education and Planning are working through several items. Note, the listing below is by no means all inclusive. These are just the highlights that I captured during the spring meeting with the Division Director group and the National Board held May 30-June 3.

**Senior Program**—This past season's Bata testing of the new procedures related to evaluating candidates was a success and the OEC Program Committee voted to make it the standard moving forward.

**Finances**—National Finance committee reported that YTD performance is good and expect to break even for FY2023. They are looking at collecting credit card fees for those who pay dues with a card, whether it's an individual or a patrol, likely 3% broken down as 2% for card fees and 1% for office mgt. Suggest holding dues steady for now with likely more frequent but small increases.

**Telecommunications, Dick Wolf**—NSP is the largest nonprofit holder of radio frequencies. He will be giving updated programs at the 2024 Powderfall. First Net eligibility, NSP members are now classified as first responders. If you are trying to sign up, use your NSP # for your license #. Coming on line soon, by 2025 the FCC has granted First Net with permission to launch a series of low orbit satellites where your First Net service will automatically switch to when you are away from tower coverage. This is a great thing for patrollers and those of us who recreate outside of the tower network frequently limited to the HWY system.

**Board Chair, Rick Boyce report**—Vail, Altera, and Boyne all need NSP. We need to keep improving our program (OEC, Avi, MTR) consistency and delivery. NSP can work with both Union and Non-Union patrols. He is working on bring Big Sky back into NSP. Stress injury and psychological safety are critical and very important from the patrol level upward. Leadership development starts at the patrol level by mentoring quality individuals up to the division level and then on to the national level. As current leaders we all need to be looking for the next group of future leaders and helping them succeed.

**Dave Byrd, Director of Risk and Regulatory Affairs at National Ski Areas Association (NSAA)**—Altera just

purchased Schwitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint ID. NSAA is now tracking yearly fatalities (42) and catastrophic accidents (53). Aerial evacuation refreshers now require training on adaptive skiers. Some ski areas are now requiring employees to show proof of current health insurance coverage as a condition of employment. Insurance carriers may soon be requiring video surveillance of lift loading and unloading areas.

### **National Board Project List:**

**Code of Conduct.** There discussions during the spring Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in early June in Denver. Some amendments/revised language was proposed. Proposed update went back to the Bylaws subcommittee and should be back before the BOD in August or September.

**Request for Action (RFA).** Hosts to Traditional. During the June BOD meeting the Board voted it down. Per existing Bylaws, it cannot come back to the BOD for one year, meaning it's dead for now. This action was a disappointment to me and many others in attendance. I hope it will come up again during 2024.

**Request for Action (RFA).** Board Restructure. As expected, the BOD voted this one down. I strongly suspect the board vote has something to do with a perceived loss of power.

**Request for Action (FRA).** Give the Division Directors a vote in Board Chair selection. This proposal came before the BOD but was not seconded for discussion so it died on the table. I strongly suspect for the same reason listed above.

**Review and possible updates to both the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures.** The National Board and various standing committees will be reviewing both documents in an effort to simplify the operations of running the organization. This effort was initiated last year and is ongoing. Update: The review and update of the Bylaws is almost complete and will be presented to the BOD in either August or September for approval. I've read through the proposed changes/updates and offered suggestions. I hope they are accepted and included. Stay tuned.

These are just highlights of what's going on at the National level from my notes. 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

## **SEEKING 'HISTORICAL' PICTURES OF NORTHERN DIVISION PATROLLERS**

OK you have left me with toooooo much time on my hands and I've come up with a new idea. In going through some of the old patrol things I have inherited, there are many pictures but unfortunately lots of them have no information like who is in the picture, where was it taken, what was the occasion.....

With that in mind, I would like to start a collection of pictures of Northern Division patrollers BUT here's the twist. I would like to collect pictures of current ND patrollers WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG. This was prompted by the Division meeting presentation when I was inducted into the Hall of Fame. It started with a picture of me back when I had hair and was probably 10 years old, skiing with a friend at Marshall Mountain.

Please look through those scrap books that your folks made of you "back then" and if you could share one picture, I would truly appreciate it. It doesn't have to be you skiing. I would like you to put your name on the

back and if you have an idea of the year that would be aaawwwweesssoommmeeee. You can mail the picture to my home:

Steve Thompson, P.O.Box Seeley Lake, MT 59868

If you have a picture and are coming to the Northern Division Fall Meeting in September, you could bring the picture then. I have an idea for a little fun at the meeting, IF I have some pictures.

I think that this would be a great way to start a historical collection of NSP folks in the Northern Division. Who knows, we may be the first division NSP-wide to have something like this.

Thanks in advance,

*Steve Thompson*

Division Historian  
slthompson44@icloud.com



## HELLO NORTHERN DIVISION SKI PATROLLERS!

### SUMMER IS HERE!

I personally would love a nice cool fall morning with coffee instead of needing to hydrate in the morning. But soon enough we will be complaining we haven't had a Powder Day!

I also want to promote the Division Meeting/Refresher this year. An extra session addressing mental health of our patrollers. The Session is to address the stress of events that can linger even years after the event itself as long passed. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing it or witnessing or having to respond to it. We need to address the stresses of being providers of Healthcare. While we all can say we are (FINE), we are not always and we need to watch our patrols for the signs of not being (FINE).

One of the things EMS has finally addressed on a more consistent level is the mental health of the Emergency providers. And yes we are Emergency Providers! Damn Good ones too! The fact that we are doing what we love on the lovely slopes, it can sneak up on us! I have written before about (SAD) Seasonal Depression, While I wanted to pile on with what the Division Director has been saying in the previous article regarding bringing new patrollers to the Division Meetings. I too would ask that each patrol bring someone who has been growing in your patrol that would consider moving up in the leadership ranks or that you hope would be! While Karl was very transparent with the spending of your division funds, he did not mention that we give good deals on folks that have never attended a division meeting. It is going to be a dandy!

Remember: Perception is the ground work to happiness!

Thank you for what you do for the Ski Patrol.

Keep the ski legs nimble this summer !

*Dan Schaefer*

Assistant Division Director  
Huff Hills Ski Patrol

# OET/SENIOR/ETC NOTES

## OET UPDATE:

I hope this Polaris finds you having a great, somewhat smoke-free summer.

Besides our normal events, like Powder Rendezvous and some toboggan clinics, maybe even a regional Senior Clinic for all patrollers, I am personally looking for to Powderfall Spring 2024.

The following are some National OET Updates

The NSP Website was recently updated. Some OET content was misplaced in the update. We are currently working to get our information included with the new website.

Powderfall 2024 is going to be at Vail, April 10-14 NSP is exploring an outside vendor to organize Powderfall logistics. Currently Powderfall is in the preliminary planning process.

Let me know if you have questions, concerns, or different ideas for the OET program. I'm here to listen!

See you on the Snow!

## SENIOR UPDATE:

2024 Senior Events will be decided by the full board at the September Division Meeting. The eBoard is presenting a choice of having a couple regional Senior Training events for all patrollers or having a full Senior Event with a Senior Clinic and a Senior Final.

The decision rests in the hands of your Patrol Rep at the Division Meeting. If you are interested in being part of a full Senior Clinic/Final, please reach out to your patrol rep and let them know!

*What's required of you? It's a \$250 fee (payable by December 1, 2024), and quite a few hours of training and preparation.*

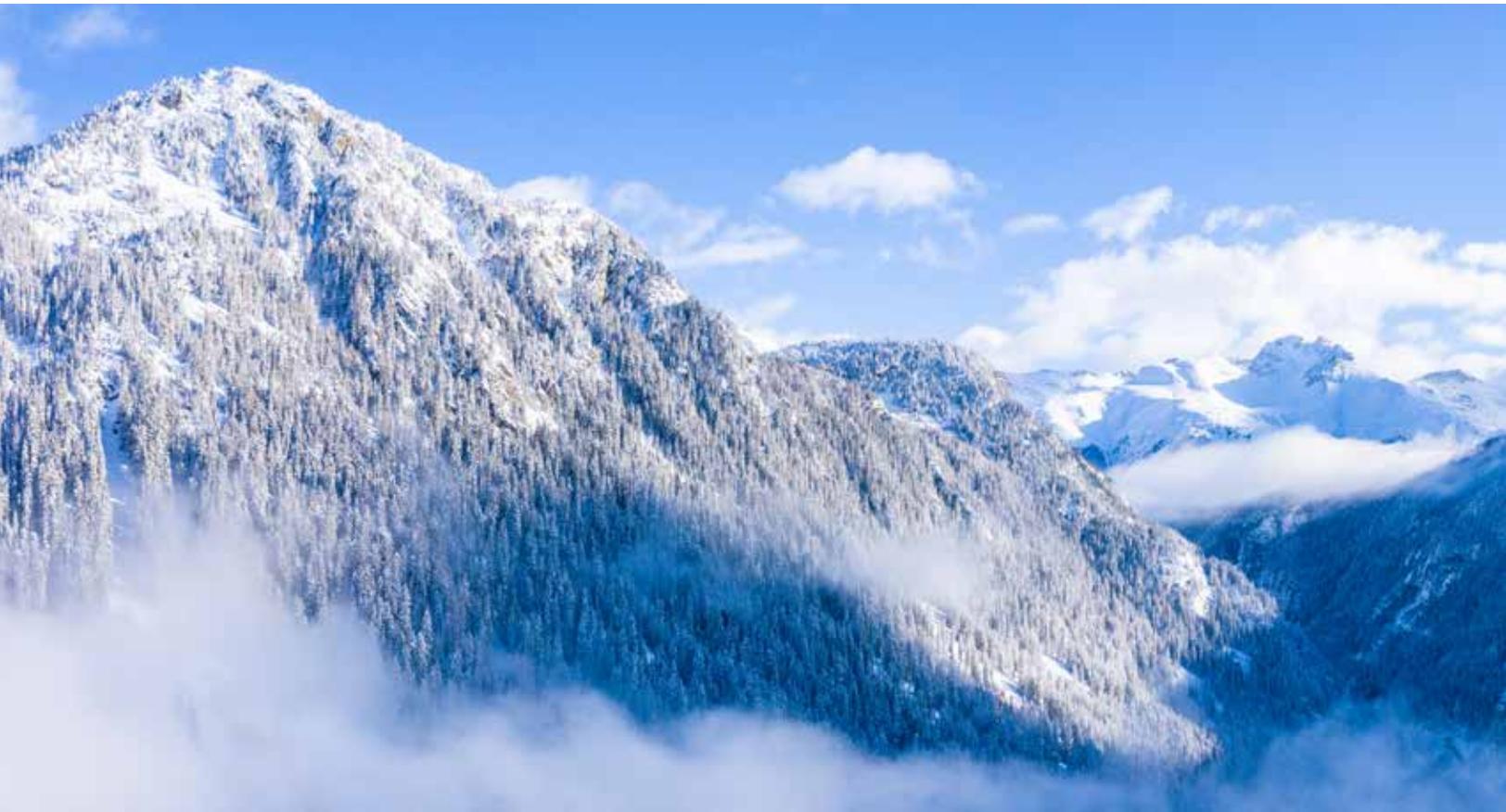
Patrol Reps – please come to the Division Meeting prepared to present the number of your patrollers wanting to take Senior this year.

Want to help with Senior in the future? Please reach out!

Until next time!

*Mike Marlow*

Northern OET Supervisor  
mmarlow@infosysmt.com  
406-443-8386





## **Avalanche, Mountaineering, & Nordic Combined Training Sessions during our Fall Division Meeting 2023**

**You are ALL invited to attend our Fun filled mini training sessions with the Program Supervisors & Instructors from each of these programs together during our mini training events during the Northern Division Annual Meeting this September!**

**Fun hands-on learning along with prizes for all attending!**

**Avalanche - Mountaineering - Nordic Programs  
Learn multiple skills from each of our programs along with answers to many of your questions during our event!**



***Come & Enjoy Learning and Mingling  
with Your Fellow Patrollers, Staff Members  
and Friends!***

# SCENE SAFETY

You know scene safety on the hill, right? Crossed skis above the victim, head on a swivel, maybe 2 sets of crossed skis. That's your world in Ski Patrol, on the hill, in your comfort zone. But..... You are also a first responder. You took OEC and have at least some role in public safety, even off the hill.

OEC addresses personal safety on a different level, skiers and infection are different than cars, fire and bystanders. As a first responder you have an obligation to avoid becoming another victim. You need to consider scene safety differently off the hill. This isn't what you are trained for, so you need to think this through beforehand. With more hills having summer events, with bike patrols etc, we really need to address scene safety more fully.

Imagine a bucolic Sunday afternoon (a bit like today), you are on your way home from the lake, or the trailhead or your campsite. You've just watched the sun go down in your rearview mirror and as you round the corner on the two-lane road.....

Rolled vehicle in the middle of the road! Both lanes mostly blocked..... One victim half out the window another ejected into the ditch and a third in the backseat, minimally

responsive.....

You just came around a corner, and ahead of you, 100 feet past the wreck is a rise obscuring the road ahead.

What are your priorities???? IS THE SCENE SAFE? NO!!

How do you make that scene safe? Are you solo or is the family along? For right now, forget about patient care. How are you going to keep yourself safe before care begins?

I can't give you the answer. But I do know that there's a reason SCENE SAFETY is the first priority in EMS, and you are EMS. Every scenario is different. Is it night, day or dusk? Is the road straight? What are the factors that play into safety on that scene. Think about this. Play this out in your head, think about this while you drive home from the lake, trailhead, campsite or river. Always remember that one of the main roles of any responder is to not become another victim!

*Michael A. Jasumback,*  
MD FACEP  
Northern Medical Director

## NORDIC/BACK COUNTRY

N/BC division supervisors are presenting a poster presentation at the International Snow Science Workshop on the inter-relationships between regional avalanche centers and N/BC patrols. There is a huge demand for information about avalanches and safe travel. N/BC patrols can help fill this void with our avalanche and MTR skills. We also help training on companion and organized group rescue, inter-agency SAR, gathering current field observations, partnering with forecasters on field days, fund raising, and raising public awareness to prevent future SAR missions. We hope to impress upon the world the importance and relevance of the NSP's Nordic/Backcountry patrols.

Cheers,

*Dan'l Moore*  
Nordic/Backcountry Supervisor

# SO THAT'S WHERE IT CAME FROM

Return with me to 1978. For those who weren't here in 1978, just let your mind wander - but not too far. The following information was contained in "The Journal of Winter Emergency Care", Winter 1978, Volume 3, No. 1 in an article titled "Death from Food Choking Prevented by a new Life-Saving Maneuver".

"Death caused by choking on food had always seemed to me to be an uncommon tragedy. Isolated incidents were reported only when a prominent personality such as Tommy Dorsey, Ethel Kennedy's sister-in-law, or Mama Cass (The Mamas and the Papas) was the victim. Thus, it astounded me when I read that food-choking takes the lives of 3,900 people in the United States yearly (equivalent to 75,000 throughout the world. For children under the age of one, it is the leading cause of accidental death in the home (more than 14 deaths per 100,000 infants). In fact, food-choking is the sixth leading cause of accidental death. Actually, it occurs with even higher frequency, as indicated by an autopsy study done in one nursing home which revealed that three patients thought to have died of myocardial infarction had actually died from food-choking.

Standard methods to overcome food-choking, such as reaching into the throat with fingers ... were obviously unreliable... ..

Appreciating that removal of an obstructing object through the mouth was frequently impractical and not successful, I sought a means of forcing it out from below.... Through experiments on animals it was determined that pressure applied to the rib cage was not effective...pressing quickly upward just below the rib cage was consistently successful in dislodging an airway obstruction..."

The author of this article is, obviously, Henry J. Heimlich, M.D. The Jewish Hospital, Cincinnati, OH. This article was printed in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" and an editor designated the method as the "Heimlich Maneuver".

As we annually go through our OEC and CPR refreshers, I thought you might be interested in some of the historical background on **"WHERE IT CAME FROM"**.

*Steve Thompson*

Division Historian  
slthompson44@icloud.com



# MOUNTAIN TRAVEL & RESCUE NEWS

## FOR 2023-2024

Hello everyone and welcome to the MTR News and now that the Fall season is coming upon us fast. It's also time to prepare for our personal training in many ways for our next patrol season!

To start off another season it is time for all of us at the Northern Division staff & Patrol Representatives to come together by attending the Fall Division Meeting this year that will be held at Fairmount Hot Springs in Montana, September 15th through the 17th 2023.

If you have never attended, it would be a great time to start and get to know all the board members and staff members along with many others that attend and learn how the Division works in many ways.

During the Division meeting this year if you attend you can join in on our OEC Refresher along with attending our Mini Sessions we do every year for our Avalanche, Mountain Travel & Rescue and Nordic Programs. This is a great time to meet with these specific Program supervisors along with some of the instructors for each of these programs. We always welcome questions along with helping you brush up on some skills and hopefully learn a few new skills along the way with us.

This snow season Flathead Nordic Patrol will be hosting an MTR level 1 & 2 combined course. For exact details of dates and locations for this course please contact Dan'l Moore our Nordic Supervisor at his email address: [chforge@cyberport.net](mailto:chforge@cyberport.net).

The classroom portions for this course will be starting in November so reach out early to become part of the course. For this season where it is sometimes difficult for some students to travel to the classes and timing, we can work with you on doing distant-online learning for your classroom portions. Then of course you would need to attend the field session. There are even other options once you have completed the classroom portion that you can attend outside of the Northern Division field courses being put on if approved by the Division MTR supervisor.

Upcoming plans for other MTR courses this season being held will be discussed and finalized during the Fall Division Meeting this year of any other locations needed or being requested. 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!

As part of the MTR program, WE would love to have you on board as a new student or past student and take the next step in becoming an instructor with the MTR program.

Always feel free to contact me for any questions you may have about the MTR program.

Stay Safe and I look forward to seeing many of my friends at the Division meeting this September and on the slopes.

*Troy Walker*

Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor – Northern Division.  
801-360-2445 – [troywalker13@gmail.com](mailto:troywalker13@gmail.com)



## **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*

# A FUN AND TWISTED HISTORY OF ANTELOPE BUTTE'S FIRST CHAIR LIFT(S) IN THE BIG HORN MOUNTAINS

Antelope Butte (AB) ski area was first operated as Fun Valley, Inc. by a dedicated group of individuals from the Big Horn Basin side of the mountain as well as many from the east side Sheridan area.



Once Highway 14 was kept open during the winter months, in the early 1960s, skiers from both sides of the mountain met and planned out a true "ski area".

Local artist and former USFS Ranger Hans Kleiber was enlisted to help choose the best location as he had spent a couple of decades working in this country in the early 1900's.

The recommendation for both good snow and access was off Highway 14, near Granite Creek, not far below Granite Pass.

Around 1961 an initial permit to operate was obtained from the USFS for a temporary "winter recreation area", which consisted of a rope tow, with a couple of small warming & ski patrol huts, with parking below off of US Highway 14.

In 1962-3 construction of "Fun Valley" began after a stock offering raised enough funds to kick off the big project. A Constam T-Bar was the "big lift" while a small rope tow served as the second "lift". Lift is a debatable term for both of these means of transportation, but the T-Bar had the better claim.

The rope tow was replaced by a Poma Platter tow in the late early 1970s.

In 1987 a Riblet chairlift was purchased from Crystal Mountain Washington. This lift was known at that mountain

as C 2 and reached the summit of that mountain, after accessing it from C 1, for an incredible view of Mt. Rainier peak. The lift that replaced it runs today as REX, Rainier Express Lift.

In January of 1988 Antelope Butte's Chair One began operations, replacing the T-bar and carrying people all the way to the top of the mountain. This was the first chairlift installed in the Big Horn Mountains.

In 1996 Chair Two was installed at Antelope Butte, replacing the Poma Platter tow. This was the second chairlift installed in the Big Horn Mountains.

Chair Two's claim to fame is that it is comprised of components from 7 other lifts of varying manufacturers, none of which would be known to the public at large other than perhaps the SLI (Ski Lift International) components, which are the chairs purchased from "Bob," aka Robert Redford, who owned Sundance Mountain. Robert Redford played "The Sundance Kid" in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." AB's Chair Two married Riblet clips to SLI chairs.

Adding to the fun and "twisted" part is that a gentleman by the name of George Cassidy, who, having spent time in South America, may have returned to the US as W. T. Phillips to open a machine shop in Spokane, WA. That machine shop subsequently supplied parts to the

Riblet Tramway Company, then a major force in mining trams, becoming in the 1960 -70s one of the largest ski lift manufacturers in the United States.

George Cassidy, who was perhaps W.T. Phillips, had great fame as "Butch" Cassidy. Butch was played in the 1969 film by Paul Newman, with Robert Redford playing the "Sundance Kid", so twist that how you want, but know that the first chair lifts installed in the Big



# FUN VALLEY, INC.

WEST OF SHERIDAN, WYOMING - HIGHWAY 14 - 35 MILES EAST OF GREYBULL, WYOMING  
BIG HORN NATIONAL FOREST

Nov. 15, 1964

Fun Valley Inc. was incorporated Sept 20, 1960 at the office of Bruce P. Sadley, attorney, Sheridan Wyo. with the first three directors, J. H. Horn, Greybull elected vice president, Dr. Phillip M. Hall secretary, and Harold Skaar president Sheridan Wyo. These three people along with several others had been studying the possibility of a ski area located on U. S. Highway 14 for several years and came with a very favorable location at Antelope Butte and decided to form a corporation for the purpose of operating a rope tow ski area at Antelope Butte to study the snow conditions and the possibilities of locating a permanent ski area there. In the past, the only ski area serving Sheridan was the Little Bear Ski area located 17 miles west of Sheridan on the Red Grade part of the Big Horn Mts. which was operated as a volunteer fun groupe. Bad road conditions sent these people to look for a better ski area on a good year around highway which we have at the new area. The Fun Valley directors purchased the rope tows and buildings of the Little Bear Ski Area and moved them IN to the Antelope Butte area in the fall of 1960. During the winter of 1960, the directors obtained the services of Sel Hanna for his opinion of the area and reported we had the hill for a good intermediate ski area providing we had the three if's. Snow, People and no road problems. The first we have satisfied ourselves as being better than average for this country. The second we wont know for several years, the third is not a problem. During the winter of 1963-4 a very active stock sale was put on and over 70,000 dollars was subscribed between the towns of Greybull and Sheridan. This was sufficient to build the first stage of the Fun Valley project and a contract was signed with Human Brothers of Sheridan to cut the trails and install the Constan T. bar. This lift is 2250 ft long, 650 ft. vertical, has capacity of 400 an hour with 36 new self loading T bars and with the addition of 20 more Ts will deliver 600 an hour. The power is a 60 H. P. electric motor. Trails A - B- and D- have been cleared which consists of about 30 acres,. A and B are trails to the left of T bar and range from 60 to 200 ft wide with some slopes as much as 50% grade which will offer the better skier a reasonable thrill. Trail C will be cut in the near future which is to the right of the T bar. Trail D is the practice slope which now has a rope tow 1000 ft. with 150 vertical. Buildings at the area include a 14X24 frame building at practice slope, 6X8 operators buildings at top and bottom of rope tow, ticket office and control room at bottom of T bar, 8X8 operators building at top of T bar, a log building 12X24 for ski patrol, a new log garage building 24X48 which will be used for warm house until the new lodge building is built. Access road, 1/4 mile from highway 14 has been improved and a 150 car parking lot has just been completed. A concession stand will be operating in the garage lodge serving hamburgers coffee and etc. Area will be operating about 45 days and hope to be open starting Thanksgiving day and operate Sat. and Sun. and holidays. There are over 300 stock holders in Fun Valley Inc. from the Sheridan and Greybull area. This has been a hand across the mountain venture. All present directors are listed on side of this letter head. For this year the directors will take turn operating the area, two for each day. The corporation owns a model LA case tractor with a 6 ft. rotary snow plow which will take care of the roads and parking lot. The sub contractor, Ed Townsend and Sheridan, have just completed the contract except for some clean up and seeding which will be done next summer.

by Harold Skaar

Horns have a rich history, and one that we can all add to by riding and skiing it at much as possible!

Who knows, maybe Butch and Sundance rode through here years ago and stated, "Damn, that looks like a great place to ski"!

AB closed in March of 2004. The Antelope Butte Ski Patrol (ABSP) members maintained their dues and service in the Big Horns and assisted in supporting efforts to reopen the area. Antelope Butte Foundation, Inc. (ABF), a 501c3 non-profit, was formed in late 2011. The first fundraiser was at Luminous Brewery in Sheridan in March of 2012, and ABF purchased the assets from the USFS in June of 2016.

Chairlift and lodge renovation commenced. In early 2018, ABF made the strategic decision to put the lodge renovation on hold, get chair work done, and open the mountain. Fourteen years after closing, in December of 2018, Antelope Butte opened with C2 (shorter lift), our brand-new Sunkid surface lift (funded by Wyoming Business Council), and a 1,200 sq ft yurt.

In March of 2019, the load test on C1 was completed and the entire mountain opened to lift-served skiing for the first time in 15 years! The ABSP worked hard to grow its numbers and get the mountain back into skiing shape. The mountain survived the 2020-2021 covid pandemic better than most with a customer base accustomed to parking lot picnics, porta potties, and no lodge services.

Finally, the beautifully renovated lodge opened to the general public in January of 2022, and in November of 2022 the National Ski Patrol announced Antelope Butte Ski Patrol as winner of the National Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol. In January of 2023 Antelope Butte was honored to host Powder Rendezvous for the first time in Northern Division history.

May small ski areas and the ski patrols which love them continue to thrive and grow for generations to come!

\*\*This history was compiled by Christy Lohof, current ABSP Director, in correspondence with Emerson Scott, former AB Ski Area owner / operator, and Jeff Grant, ABF director.



# AVALANCHE TOPICS

Hi everyone, I hope you are enjoying your adventures this summer and staying cool. Here is a rundown of various Avalanche topics;

- Please bring your avalanche beacon(s) to the Division Refresher. We can use your extra beacon and we hope to have a beacon refresher station with leadership skills and a timed search field.
- If you are interested in an NSP Avalanche Level 1 class this year, please email me your name, Patrol, and approximate time of year you can take the class, and if you can or cannot travel for a class. My email address is below.
- Recently, this spring, the NSP Board voted to be AAA (American Avalanche Association) accredited for all NSP avalanche classes and NSP avalanche instructors. This AAA accreditation means that our NSP Avalanche classes and instructors will be at the standard, rigor and level of detail AAA requires. AAA accreditation provides acceptance and transfer of avalanche classes across accredited providers, ski patrols, ski resorts and areas, and ski industry employers, industry-wide. Failure to be AAA accredited would result in our NSP avalanche classes not being accepted as industry standard. If you went to at least two colleges, you know how important accreditation is in the seamless transfer of courses and work performed, to another college, to an employer, or towards a profession.

AAA accreditation comes with some requirements for all certified NSP Avalanche instructors such as; mandatory Pro-level membership in AAA for teaching a Level 2 class, or being an IOR or IT of a Level 1 or Level 2 class. Affiliate membership is required at a minimum for teaching a Level 1 or lower-level NSP avalanche class. All NSP avalanche instructors need to be either Affiliate or Pro-level members by Oct. 1st, 2023. AAA membership is not required for 'Assistant Instructors' that lack certification, but help with classes. The NSP instructor list will be provided to AAA after Oct. 1st and their accountants will check it against their roster of paid members. In addition, efforts are underway to capture and monitor this level of scrutiny at the NSP website for quality control of proposed, open-for-enrollment, and completed NSP avalanche classes. If you have not already done so, please get your application going soon because the AAA Board of Directors only meets once per month to approve new member applications. The membership application (link below) requires that you load the latest version of Google or Firefox onto your computer, as your browser, before using it. AAA Membership application fees are non-refundable. The Northern Division, at the

Spring meeting, decided that if you work with me on your application and you are turned down, I have the budget to reimburse your fee or pay for a resubmission of your application. I am happy to help anyone with this process. Please email me any questions or concerns.

- There is a list of regional Avalanche workshops in the upcoming months at the AAA website under Events (Link below). Also listed is the ISSW workshop in Bend OR, on OCT. 8-13 (Lost Trail's NSP refresher is Oct. 7-8th).
- CAIC shows 29 avalanche deaths this year in the US, the most recent a climber in early July, on Split Mtn, a 14,000' peak in CA that I know well. This season's 29 fatalities compares to 17 in 2021-2022, and 37 in 2020-2021.
- Regarding future Winter weather, the Pacific is currently in an El Nino pattern. El Nino is a coupled climate pattern, meaning, changes in water temperature are coupled to changes in the atmosphere. There is now 90% certainty El Nino will continue through the winter. The Northwest is typically dryer and warmer during an El Nino. However, to add a glimmer of hope to our ski dreams, the current atmospheric response is less than current water temps suggest it should be, meaning, there is a small chance that this El Nino could be weaker than predicted, or a very slim chance it may end sooner than expected.

Please let me know if you have any questions about avalanche education.

Safety is always #1.

Ski the steep and deep.

LINKS:

AAA membership website URL (make sure you are on the latest Google or Firefox browser):

<https://www.americanavalancheassociation.org/membership-levels>

AAA Events website URL:

<https://www.americanavalancheassociation.org/events>

Link to NOAA and this years El Nino:

<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/july-2023-el-niño-update-learning-steps>

Thank You

*Steve Porcella*

N. Div. Avalanche Supervisor

email: [sfporcella@gmail.com](mailto:sfporcella@gmail.com)



# 2023 Northern Division Annual Meeting Schedule



September 15 - 17, 2023  
Fairmont Hot Springs – Anaconda, MT

## **Friday, September 15, 2023**

9:45 am - 12:30 pm – Golf Tournament - Fairmont Hot Springs Resort Golf Course  
1:30 pm – Headframe Spirits Tour – Butte (Bus Departs from Fairmont Hot Springs)  
6:15 pm – Registration, Social, & Hors d’oeuvres – Sapphire Room

## **Saturday, September 16, 2023**

OEC Instructor Refresher  
Mini Education Sessions and/or Patroller Critical Incident Stress Management (NSP Guest Lecturers)  
Lunch  
OEC Refresher  
Cocktail Hour & Silent Auction Begins – Sapphire Room  
Annual Awards Banquet & Auction - Sapphire Room

## **Sunday, September 17, 2023**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm – Northern Division Annual Business Meeting – Sapphire Room  
12:00 pm – Lunch – Sapphire Room

*Meeting/Accommodation/Tour Questions? Email – Trevor Motley - [secretary.nspnorth@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nspnorth@gmail.com)*





# 2023 Northern Division Annual Meeting



September 15 - 17, 2023

Fairmont Hot Springs – Anaconda, MT

Registration Deadline - August 16, 2023

## Registration

2023 Meeting – NSP Member Registration \$120

2023 Meeting – NSP Pro Division Member Registration \$168

2023 Meeting – NSP Member Late Registration (After 8/16) \$150

2023 Meeting – NSP Pro Division Member Late Registration (After 8/16) \$198

## Accommodations

**Fairmont Hot Springs Resort** – Accommodations Available September 15-17, 2023

Room Rate \$189/night + taxes and fees

For reservations call (406) 797-3241, block price under NSP Northern Division,

Room block and rate expires at Noon MST on Wednesday, August 16, 2023

**Fairmont RV Resort** – Accommodations Available September 14-17, 2023

Located one block away from Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. Call early to reserve your space!

There is no set block or group rate available

## Golf Tournament

9/15/2023 - Check in @ 9:45 am, First Tee @ 10:00 am

9-hole scramble, teams of 2. Email Mike Marlow ([mmarlow@infosysmt.com](mailto:mmarlow@infosysmt.com)) for more information and to confirm your spot.

## Headframe Spirits Distillery & Tap Room Tour

9/15/2023 - Bus Departs Fairmont @ 1:30 pm | Returns 5:30 pm (MUST REGISTER ONLINE)

Are you interested in touring a distillery, still production facility, and tap room? If so, this opportunity is for you! The tour fee includes a round trip bus ride from Fairmont Hot Springs to the production facility and the public tap room. Along with transportation, the registration fee includes: drinks at the production facility, an engraved copper mule mug, two drink tokens for Headframe’s public tap room, and the chance to win additional prizes. Tour space is limited to the first 46 who register via the link below. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are available at both tour stops.

Tour registration costs \$50/per person, include payment in your meeting registration.

Register for the Headframe Spirits Tour via this link or the QR Code

<https://link.edgепilot.com/s/84dfe854/kJwcaU4PPUe8aLFHsk3FQA?u=https://nspnorth.flowforms.io/tour>

**ONLY 46 SEATS AVAILABLE, REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**





# 2023 Northern Division Annual Meeting Registration Form

## Registration Deadline - August 16, 2023



(Each NSP Member must complete a separate form.)

Attendee Name:

NSP #:

Phone #:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Dietary Restrictions (If Applicable):

Guest Name(s) & Dietary Restrictions (If Applicable):

For first time attendees, the Northern Division offers scholarships to pay half of the registration fee. (Limit two scholarships per patrol) **First Time Attendee?** Yes

**Meeting registration includes: meetings, refresher, Friday social, Saturday lunch and dinner, and refreshments throughout the event.**

**Will you be attending the OEC refresher?** Yes  No

### Commemorative Apparel

Get your commemorative NSP North Sweatshirt! Our new (to be discovered) Division logo will be screened on the front with a white cross on the back of a red sweatshirt. Include payment with your meeting registration. Apparel orders are due 8/16/23. Sweatshirts are \$49.00 size XS-XL, and \$59.00 size 2XL+.

#### Online Apparel

Order & Pay Online

<https://nspnorth.flowforms.io/form/northern-division-shirt-order>



#### Tour Registration

Must register for tour online!

<https://link.edgenilot.com/s/84f6854fb-1b6ea144-PPUo8aL-FH5kzPQA2n-https://nspnorth.flowforms.io/home>



#### Online Meeting Registration

Register & Pay Online

<https://nspnorth.flowforms.io/form/register-for-the-2023-northern-division-meeting>



Meeting Registration – NSP Member \$120   NSP Pro Division Member - \$168	\$
Late Registration (After 8/16) – NSP Member \$150   NSP Pro Division Member \$198	\$
Additional Banquet Guests – # _____ x \$40.00	\$
Additional Lunch Guests – # _____ x \$22.00	\$
OEC Refresher Only (w/ Lunch) – NSP Member \$80   NSP Pro Division Member \$128 <i>Late Registration (after 8/16), add \$30.</i>	\$
Apparel - Please Indicate number wanted in space next to sizing. \$49.00 XS - XL   \$59.00 2XL+ Men's – XS _____, S _____, M _____, L _____, XL _____, XXL _____, 3XL _____ Women's – XS _____, S _____, M _____, L _____, XL _____, XXL _____, 3XL _____	\$
Headframe Spirits Tour 9/15/23 – \$50 <b>(Limited Space, Must Register For Tour Online via Seperate Link)</b>	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

(One check may be submitted for all - make checks payable to Northern Division Ski Patrol)

**Send Payment To:** Northern Division Ski Patrol

c/o: Jeanette Amrine

4853 Forest Hill Lane, Missoula, MT 59804

# WANTED



YOUR  
LEARN TO  
SKI PHOTO

In connection with my position as Northern Division Historian, I came up with a fun idea. I would like all (note that ALL) Northern Division patrollers to send me a photo of yourself early in your skiing life. Please put your name, patrol and an approximate date on the back.

Thanks, Steve

[slthompson44@me.com](mailto:slthompson44@me.com)

Mail: P.O.Box 413 Seeley Lake, 59868



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Sept 15 - 17, 2023	Northern Division Annual Meeting	Fairmont Hot Springs
Sept 16, 2023	Division OEC Refresher (Noon to 6)	Fairmont Hot Springs
Sept 23, 2023	Huff Hills OEC Refresher	
Oct 7, 2023	Snowbowl OEC Refresher	
Oct 7, 2023	Lost Trail OEC Refresher	
Oct 14, 2023	Great Divide OEC Refresher	
Oct 21, 2023	Casper Mountain OEC Refresher	
Nov 18, 2023	Red Lodge OEC Refresher	
Jan 19 - 21, 2024	Powder Rendezvous!	TBD
Feb 2024	Senior Training Clinics for All Patollers	TBD
April 10 – 14, 2024	NSP Powderfall	Vail, CO