

- OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION NATIONAL SKI PATROL-

# POLARIS

MONTANA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA | WYOMING

## WINTER 2021 THIS ISSUE

From the Director.....	1-2
Medical Director.....	3
OET Notes.....	3
Norther Divisions Awards.....	4-7
Stan King of the Hill.....	8
Northern Division Women's Program.....	9
Region 1 Director.....	10
CISM.....	11
Mountain Travel Rescue.....	11
Alumni News.....	12
Dues Increase.....	13
Chuck Kempner.....	14
Northern Division Nice.....	15
National Apointees.....	16-17
Hall of Fame.....	18-19
Avalanche.....	20
Nordic / Baackcoutry.....	21
Powder Rendevous / Registraion..	22
Calendar of Events.....	23



# Hello Patrollers!

## From the Director's Desk

Well now...As I take a large breath of clean air, I notice fall is here and I see fresh snow in the mountains. We are well into refresher season with many patrols recently completing their OEC, CPR and On Hill refreshers. Other patrols will soon complete their refreshers. If you still need to refresh, please take a look at the Division website at [nspnorth.org](http://nspnorth.org) for a listing of upcoming opportunities. Along with refresher season it is also time to be thinking about voting. Each fall, starting in October and ending in early December we as patrollers have a responsibility to vote for new National Board members.

## Annual Board Elections

This year there are 9 candidates to fill 4 open positions. There are two incumbents running for re-election. There is also a very important By Laws amendment to consider.

Here are my brief thoughts on Board member elections and how I will be voting. After reviewing the candidate statements, application materials, resume's, attending a call-in forum, and making a few discrete calls to fellow Division Directors and current Board members, I'm ready to list my suggestions. But before I do, I will encourage you all to go to the National web site, elections tab where you will find candidate information. Please take some time to review the materials for yourself. By doing so you will begin to form your own opinion and hopefully vote accordingly rather than just following my lead.

I will be voting for Myron Allen, Rick Boyce, Richard Yercheck and Kristi Bell.

## By Law Amendment

As mentioned above, this year there is a ballot question that I feel is more important than any candidate for the board, a YES vote on the question helps change the organization and moves us into the future. The question is changing Hosts to Traditional members. Hosts members pay the same dues as traditional members, however, they have no voting privileges. Hosts provide a valuable service to both Bike and Land Units combined. It is the position of the Division Directors nationwide that all dues paying members deserve the right to vote for their representation. In that, I encourage you to VOTE YES on the ballot question. For more information,

please visit the National website Member page, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

Here is why you should vote yes on making host a traditional member.

The proposal does NOT make the Hosts 'Patrollers', it only brings them under the arm of Traditional membership.

OEC certification is NOT a requirement to be allowed to Vote. Examples – Physician Partners are traditional members, are not required to have OEC and can vote. Candidates who are registered on a patrol unit training to become full patrollers are considered traditional members whether they have completed OEC or not, and they can vote. Alumni members are not required to maintain OEC certification, they are considered traditional members and they can vote.

At many areas the Mt Hosts work side by side with the patrollers, doing assignments that are consistent with their level of training; NSP or local area training. They are required to have OFC or OEC, and quite a few have OEC. In some areas they are even allowed to run empty toboggans to accident scenes. They often have the same duty day requirements of the patrollers and pay the same NSP and region/division dues. Yet they are often looked down upon by some patrollers as inferior. Often the Hosts transition into patrollers, or from patrollers to hosts. They should be considered part of the TEAM. Currently they are not allowed to vote, or access to other NSP benefits.

For the person who said maybe we should wait a while to see how the Host program evolves. The NSP has had the Host program for years. It went into development in 2006, pilot program was in 2007/08, and went fully live program in 2008/2009 – 13 years ago. Host program was re-worked/updated in 2014.

The NSP has had the OFC (Outdoor First Care) course since 1994. That course was re-worked/updated in 2008 and 2014.

These facts are the reasons I am in support of the proposed By Law change and I hope they help you with your decision.

### **Region 1 Supervisor Position Opening**

Rusty Wells has indicated that he wishes to step down as the Division's Region 1 Supervisor. I would like to sincerely thank Rusty for his many years of dedicated service to the Division and wish many happy turns in the future. If you are interested in taking over for Rusty please send me (karlskis210@gmail.com) an email expressing your interest. Please include why you are interested in the position and what you would hope to accomplish as Region 1 Supervisor. Also please include a ski patrolling resume. Please email both to me by December 15, 2021.

If I receive only one letter of interest, I will likely appoint that individual by proclamation. If I receive more than one letter of interest, we will be conducting an election. I will form an election committee and they will be contacting the voting membership. According to the Division By Laws, voting membership for Region Supervisors consists of the Patrol Directors serving in the respective region.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me. I hope to see many of you in September.

*Karl Uhlig*

Division Director  
karlskis210@gmail.com



## Ski season is imminent... Are you prepared?

As providers of healthcare it is important to make sure you are prepared for the season. Physically and mentally. This season, like last, is going to throw us some curveballs. It remains to be seen precisely what the lay of the land will be. When you practice any sort of emergency care, you must be prepared for everything!

### How can you prepare for this season..

Be in shape. You probably should have already started, but it's not too late. Begin your preseason workouts. Think about what you will be called upon to do this season. Are you ready to move a patient? Backhaul gear? Put in a full day on the hill?

Be mentally ready. OEC Refresher? Is there some topic you feel uncomfortable with? The OEC text and online course is the best training of it's kind that I've ever seen and I'm pretty sure I've read every EMS textbook published in the last 20 years. Review stuff you aren't familiar with. Think about how you will respond to a given scenario. Practice in your head.

And last, but not least, prepare your immune system. Get you Flu shot! If you haven't already, get the COVID vaccine. It is safe and effective. We have massive amounts of data demonstrating safety and efficacy. If you have questions, please email me. No one wants you to spend two weeks off the slopes in bed, or worse yet, in the hospital... on a ventilator.

You still have time to prepare. You are a provider of emergency care, it is incumbent upon you to be prepared for whatever the season throws at us. Start now!

*Michael A Jasumback*

M.D. FACEP, FAMPA

## OET Notes

The newly rebranded Winter Tip Off is upon us, Powder Rendezvous is being held at the newly (well 3 years ago) Antelope Butte Ski Area outside Sheridan, WY. The event will be fun and educational as always with Toboggan and Ski (led by the PSIA team) training, with a Toboggan Rodeo with prizes. It will be held January 21, 22 and 23, 2022. See some old friends from across the Division and make some new ones! The registration form is attached and within a few days, if you log onto NSPNorth.org, you can register electronically.

Also, coming up in 2022, is the bi-annual NSP PowderFall, April 6 – 9, 2022 in Breckenridge, CO. This is also a GREAT networking, fun and educational event. Over 500 patrollers from around the globe have already signed up so sign up SOON! [CLICK HERE](#)

As in OEC, get your OET refresher done this year too! Last year it was a virtual refresher but this year it should be on the snow again. The Powder Rendezvous counts as an OET Refresher, so there's another GREAT reason to go!

Lastly, if you have a more creative name for Powder Rendezvous, let me know. (There might be some schwag in it for you!) National uses PowderFall, Alaska uses PowderBlast, Pacific NW uses Nuts & Bolts, etc

See you on the snow!

*Michael Marlow*

Northern OET Supervisor

mmarlow@infosmt.com

# NORTHERN DIVISION 2020-2021 AWARDS

## CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION – National Anniversary Celebrations:

### ACTIVE PATROLLERS:

- 25 years: Andy Beck, Dawn Easton, Jason Huestis, Josh Jones, Christy Lohof, Frank Maus, Kent Pederson, Rick Turner, Erik Weckenbrock
- 30 years: Charles Brooks, Neil Marjerrison
- 35 years: Mel Carnahan, Kimberly Ranalla, Robert Walker
- 40 years: William Eusterman, Sandra Whalen
- 45 years: Bill Lay, Dave Martens
- 50 years: Don Hand
- 55 years: Mike Huber, Cheryl Thompson
- 60 years: Stan King

### ALUMNI:

- 25 years: Michael Parnell
- 30 years: James Banister
- 40 years: William Maiers
- 50 years: Sandra Nations



Bridgett Paddock - Yellow Merit Star for Division Outstanding Instructor Non-OEC





**Northern Division Outstanding Patroller – Justin Grohs**

**CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:**

Presented to all Division and Region Officers and Supervisors, Division and National Awards Judges, and to all Patrol Representatives.

**NORTHERN DIVISION PATRIOT STAR:**

Lynn Hyath

**NSP MERIT STARS:**

Blue Merit Star: Trevor Motley (Lost Trail Patrol)

**OUTSTANDING AWARDS:**

*Northern Division Honorable Mention Certificates:*

**Outstanding Administrative Patroller:** Katherine Weber (Great Divide Patrol)

**Outstanding OEC Instructor:** Debra Huestis (Great Falls Patrol)

**Outstanding Patrol Representative:** Jereme Babb (Great Falls Patrol)

**Outstanding Patroller:** Shannon Hane (Great Falls Patrol)

**Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol:** Great Divide Patrol, Huff Hills Patrol, Lost Trail Patrol



**Great Falls Ski Patrol - Silver Unit Citation as Large Outstanding Patrol Runner-up**

*National Outstanding Award Finalists & Yellow Merit Star Recipients:*

**Outstanding Administrative Patroller:** Justin Data (Huff Hills Patrol)

**Outstanding Alpine Patroller:** Justin Grohs (Great Falls Patrol)

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

**Outstanding Patrol Representative:** Brian Beattie (Huff Hills Patrol)

**Outstanding Young Adult Patroller:** Olivia Data (Huff Hills Patrol)



**Behan Pack**

*National Outstanding Award Runner-up & Silver Merit Star Recipient:*

**Outstanding Alumni Patroller:** Terry Stevenson (Great Falls Patrol)

*National Outstanding Award Runner-up & Silver Unit Citation Recipients:*

**Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol:** Antelope Butte Patrol

**Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol:** Great Falls Patrol



**Bill Butcher - 2021 recipient of the Mark Behan Award**

*Northern Division Outstanding Awards:*

**Outstanding Volunteer Patroller:** Justin Grohs (Great Falls Patrol)

**Outstanding Ski Patrol:** Antelope Butte Patrol

**Dr. Warren Bowman OEC Instructor Award:** Cheryl Thompson (SnowBowl Patrol)

**Mark Behan Outstanding Instructor Award:** Bill Bucher (SnowBowl Patrol)

**NSP National Appointment:** Trevor Motley (SnowBowl Patrol)

**Distinguished Service Award:** Allan Rabbitt (Great Falls Patrol)

**NSP Lifetime Member Award:** Don Hand (Beaverhead Patrol)

**NSP Hall of Fame:** Charles "Chuck" Kempner (Flathead Nordic)



**Northern Division Outstanding Patrol – Antelope Butte**



Don Hand - 50 year plaque



Trevor Motley - Blue Merit Star



Great Falls Ski Patrol - Silver Unit Citation as Large Outstanding Patrol Runner-up



Bill Butcher - 2021 recipient of the Mark Behan Award



Trevor Motley - National Appointment



Olivia Data (Yellow Merit Star – Division Outstanding Young Alpine Patroller)  
Justin Data (Yellow Merit Star – Division Outstanding Administrative Patroller)



4 Lost Trail sign and Stephanie Mapelli



Allan Rabbitt - DSA



Brian Beattie - Division Outstanding Patrol Representative - Yellow Merit Star



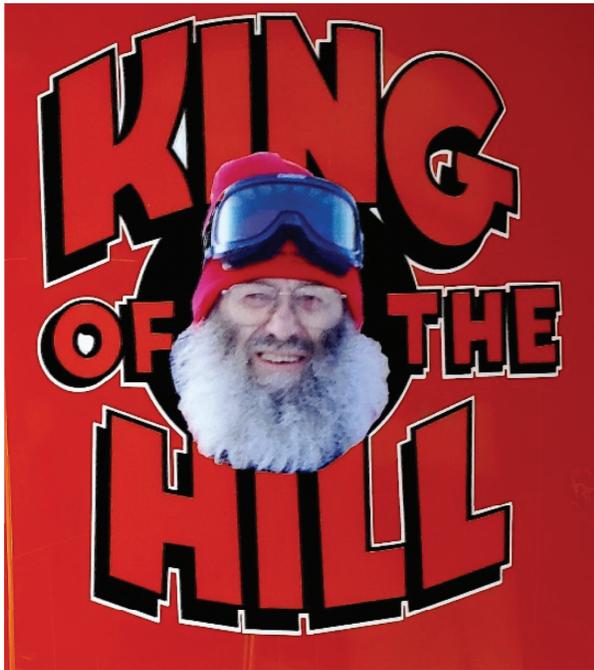
Auctioneers Marlow and Schaefer



Terry Stevenson - Silver Merit Star - National Runner-up Outstanding Alumni



Cheryl Thompson - Warren Bowman Outstanding OEC Instructor



## *Stan King Of The Hill*

Today the Great Falls Ski Patrol had the pleasure of honoring our friend and fellow patroller, Stan King, for 60 years of service to the National Ski Patrol.

Over his 60-year career he served as GFSP director, training and testing advisor, and has been an instructor for OEC, Avalanche 1&2, MTR, OET (IT), and PSIA Level 1. Stan's Northern Division positions have included Section Chief, Regional T&T advisor, and a six-year stint as Division Director. He also represented the NSPS as a patroller for the Winter Olympics and Special Olympics in Calgary. Stan has received a Purple Merit Star, two Blue Merit Stars, been awarded Division Outstanding Patroller and was the first recipient of the GFSP Mike Bell Service Award. He received his National Appointment in 1970, # 3810. He never had to buy a drink because he couldn't remember it! Stan has been instrumental in recruiting, training, and mentoring new NSPS patrollers for 60 years- including myself 45 years ago. The next time you see my friend Stan, thank him for his dedication and congratulate him for a job well done! He still lives and breathes NSP and our Stan King toboggan will honor him for years.

## *Diane Eusterman*





# Northern Division Women's Program

Refresher season is coming to an end and before we know it, we will hopefully be knee deep in the white fluff. I was happy to connect face to face with some of you lovely ladies that attended the division refresher at Fairmont, looking forward to getting together over the next coming months. In addition of had some of you connect with me direct about interest in women's specific programs. I must thank Meg Eandi from Snowbowl, she shared some great ideas to help us women of the Northern Division get together and share ideas.

One of Meg's ideas was to offer a monthly **Zoom call** to give us women an opportunity to get together remotely, given the vast nature of our region, and discuss our needs and share ideas. I am happy to announce we will be rolling out a monthly Northern Division Women's Chat, to be held the last Thursday every month at 7pm MST. If you are interested in attending these chat sessions, please email me so I can send you an invite.

**The first chat will be held 11/30/21 @ 7pm MST.**

[CLICK THIS LINK TO ZOOM IN](#)

**Meeting ID: 769 5612 9503 Passcode: 2xEyBq**

## PRAY FOR SNOW!!!!!!

Secondly, the owners of Great Divide Ski Area have graciously agreed to allow me to host Women of Northern Division Monthly Sessions. These monthly sessions will be held on either the first or second Friday of the month cost is \$15 which will include an all-day lift ticket and lunch.

**The first session will be held Friday 12/10/21 9a-4p and the focus will be getting our ski legs back for this upcoming season.** Future session focuses will be dependent on what you ladies would like to focus on. I am hoping I can get some feedback from you all during the monthly Zoom chats. Please email or call/text me if you are interested in attending any of the dates.

**Remaining dates for the season should be posted shortly on the division calendar, for simplicity here they are:**

**1/14/2022 9a-4p**

**2/4/2022 9a-4p**

**3/4/2022 9a-4p**

**4/1/2022 10a-5p**

My goal continues to be bringing women together, help identify specific areas you would like to work on and help guide you to additional resources and training opportunities available throughout the National Ski Patrol system.

**Don't forget to mark you calendars for Powder Rendezvous (formerly Winter Tip Off) to be held the 4th weekend in January at Antelope Butte in Shell, WY, much fun to be had by all that attend.**

Last but not least, at the National level, the Women's Program Advisors have finalized a great line-up of Women's specific sessions to be held at Powderfall at Breckenridge, see the schedule-at-a-glance by going clicking [HERE](#).

*Katherine Weber*

Northern Women's Program Advisor  
katherine.weber@hotmail.com



# The Northern Lights

So there I was.... Enjoying a "Moose Drool" at the Division Awards Banquet with my old Ski Patrol friend : 93 year old Chuck Kempner. Chuck didn't realize it but he was soon to be awarded membership into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame. Chuck started with NSP in 1969 with the Kelly Canyon Patrol in Idaho. Before he left Idaho for Montana he started the Galena Nordic Ski Patrol and helped start the Idaho Falls Patrol. By 1976 he was awarded national Number # 4890. Never one to miss an opportunity, half way through our Moose Drools Chuck quizzed me hoping to catch me off guard for the next round: "What's your National Number Rusty?"

In addition to many leadership rolls in the Northern Division, among them Nordic Adviser and later Avalanche Adviser, he was the National Avalanche Adviser for one year and helped with the rewrite of the Mountain Travel and Rescue book. With over 50 years tenure with NSP, Chuck was an active Instructor in Avalanche, MTR, OEC (starting as an ARC Instructor) and CPR. At a CPR refresher for Flathead Nordic we found our room had not been set up with a VCR machine by our host. Chuck held up the Video : "ARC says I am required to show everyone this video. Can you see it?" As an Instructor he became Northern Division's first recipient of the Mark Behan Award and mentored quite a few of us into the ranks of Avalanche and MTR Instructors.

My personal recollections of Chuck are many since we spent over 20 years together on Flathead Nordic. At that time our Patrol's mission was twofold: Education and Winter SAR and Avalanche Rescue. Typically we were called at night (friends don't usually get reported missing until they don't show up at the end of the day), inclement weather (the best powder days) and holidays. Peters Ridge Avalanche was New Year's Eve 1993. Some of us, including Chuck skied/skinned the 2 miles to the Avalanche site ( we were the lucky ones) a few were transported by snowmobile. We got back at 4 a.m. New Years Day. In 1994 I was being mentored by Chuck to become an MTR II Instructor. At the end of our 2 night overnight we had just sat down for a Moose Drool at the Izaak Walton Inn when we became involved in a rescue of an Avalanche victim with fractured Femur (and as it turned out also Tib/Fib of the same leg) 3 miles from the trail head near Marion Lake. Somehow I became the Search Leader : one of the 2 that I sent as advance party to stabilize the victim was Chuck. I knew his OEC skills were exemplary, after all he had a Purple Merit Star for saving his friend in a Glacier Park Fall and was on the Nordic Patrol for the 1980 Olympics. Luckily a helicopter was able to land ( anchored to a sloping hillside using skills learned in MTR) and none of us, including Chuck needed to test our OET skills for the 3 mile journey out. Chuck later confided to me his cataracts were bothering him on the ski down the switchbacks coming out by headlamp and he needed the skier behind him to tell him when to turn. In 2008 being a little more advanced in age (you do the Math) Chuck helped with Base Command for the Red Meadow Lake Avalanche. Those were some of the bigger missions, but during those over 20 years with Flathead Nordic , Chuck was there for many night searches for lost skiers on the backside of Big Mountain.

I drove Chuck and his wife Mona as far as Missoula after the Division meeting this year and had the chance to reminisce with him many of those years and missions. He reminded me of the ending to our rescue of the Avalanche victim near Marion Lake. The groomer that came to transport us back from the trail head had brought us Hot Cocoa. While we were standing around drinking cocoa at -20 temperatures sometime after midnight we looked up and saw an incredible display of Northern Lights.

## Rusty Wells

Region 1 Director  
fe2o3h2o@yahoo.com



# CISM Critical Incident Stress Management

A few years back the division E board set up the position of CISM coordinator.

We held small group discussions at several division meetings. There was not the interest I had hoped for. So Karl and I think the job should maybe be sunsetted. But we would like to be sure that the access to critical incident stress debriefing is available to all patrollers. What I saw in the small group we ran was that the old-timers who had had issues showed up but younger folks didn't take advantage, not sure why.

The issue I would like to stress to everyone is that cowboying up is never the best way to handle tough incidents! I have tried to find local contact resources through the division and have not had much success.

I will be sending out a request for local information to all patrollers so please respond. The time to know where to turn is not in a time of crisis. The plan at this time is to set up links on the division web page. Generally, access can be gained through your local ambulance or fire. I am not trained as a debrief facilitator and this training is fairly expensive and requires recertification.

So, in closing, please respond to the request for information and we will be posting help links on the division page.

Please, if you ever feel that an incident might be bothering you, reach out for help.

*John Larson*

johnroaldlarson@gmail.com

## Mountain Travel & Rescue News!

If you have ever wanted to expand your outdoor skills & Rescue skills, then MTR is a class for YOU! Maybe you will enjoy it enough that you want to continue your skills and become an instructor with us? If so, we have Great News!

We are putting on a Mountain Travel & Rescue Course at the Great Divide Ski Area this season! This will be an MTR Level 1 & 2 Combined course. If you have already done a level 1 you are welcome to join us and finish out your level 2 portion for your advanced trainings skills.

**\*Classroom Dates will be January 29th & 30th 2022 at Great Divide Ski Area**

**\*Field Session Dates will be March 4th, 5th & 6th 2022 at Great Divide Ski Area**

Please contact me for details on enrollment and or any questions you may have. We are limiting the course to 15 students so enroll early. Dates will also be posted on the website [HERE](#).

Always feel free to contact me of any questions you may have with the MTR program.

*Troy Walker*

Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor - Northern Division

troywalker13@gmail.com



# ALUMNI NEWS



## Thank you to our Alumni Members

NSP's 5,200 Alumni members enrich the organization and support their local patrols and host units in myriad ways. You all add your experience and talent, and support NSP's long and valuable history. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of you found new ways to remain active and contribute to your patrols, regions and divisions.

In exchange for your continued participation, along with continuing connection to your colleagues and friends, remember that you receive alumni perks such as access to the NSP Online Store and NSP Pro Deals. As an Alumni member, you retain your ongoing years of membership.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Third annual Alumni Celebration Week  
Feb. 27 - March 6, 2022**

**The Third annual Alumni Celebration Week at Whitefish Mountain Resort, Montana, has been rescheduled for February 27-March 6, 2022.**

The lovely Grouse Mountain Lodge has booked a block of rooms for only \$79/night, and this year, Whitefish offers day tickets for seniors 70 and over for only \$26, with similar savings for those 64 to 70 – you can hardly afford not to come to Whitefish! For more information on the Whitefish event, see the [NSP Alumni website, HERE](#) and look for the registration form on the right side of the page.

2022 National alumni advisor face-to-face meeting at Whitefish, Montana, as part of **Alumni Celebration Week, March 2 and 3, 2022.** If interested in attending let me know.



**Just some of the 40+ alumni and family at the 2019 Alumni Celebration event in Whitefish, MT.**

Thanks to all of our Alumni members. We welcome your continuing involvement in your local patrol, region or division. Please share your thoughts with Northern Division Advisor, Bruce Amrine, [kujoconstruction@yahoo.com](mailto:kujoconstruction@yahoo.com), (406) 880-7380.

# DUES INCREASE

## National member dues will increase for the 2022 calendar year:

**\$60:** All NSP members (patrollers, candidates, physician partners, associates and hosts) who are registered with a geographic division (Alaska, Central, Eastern, Far West, Intermountain, International, Northern, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and Southern Divisions)

**\$48:** Professional Division members (all member types other than alumni); this is 80% of the regular rate

**\$35:** alumni

### WHY THE INCREASE?

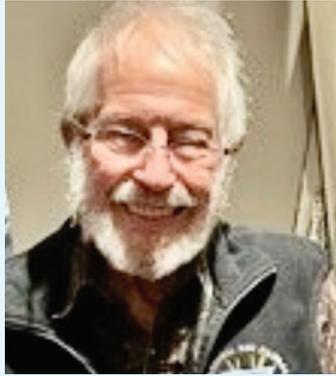
- NSP's costs increase every year due to inflation. This dues increase allows NSP to keep up with inflation without losing ground.
- Small, periodic dues increases ensure that NSP can continue to keep up with the costs required to provide gold standard training and safety programs to our members while maintaining a balanced budget.
- A balanced budget, including depreciation, helps us build up reserves and remain in line with NSP's strategic plan. This plan, along with good business practices, require us to ensure that our organization is financially stable; we cannot accomplish this without periodic dues increases.
- We need to ensure adequate funding for current and future capital projects, and to support NSP's investment in staff and technology to meet our members' needs.
- Aligning National dues rates for different membership categories allows for more simplified and streamlined communication to members about National dues.
- Dues alignment saves NSP money in costs associated with processing annual registration: one dues product is easier and cheaper to program and maintain.
- Collecting Division dues from hosts and associates allows the geographic divisions to support their host units and associate members.
- Helps maintain the value of your membership: available and affordable education and training, connection with other patrollers and best practices, access to the NSP Online Store and pro deals

A final thought. I would like to see every patrol appoint an alumni advisor who can keep track of patrollers coming and going. This will take the pressure off the patrol reps and help keep in contact with non active patrollers.

**Think Snow and Happy Holidays !!!!**

*Bruce Amrine*

Alumni Advisor  
kujoconstruction@yahoo.com



# Chuck Kempner

1929-2021

It is with a great deal of sadness that we announce the passing of **Charles “Chuck” Kempner**. Chuck passed away Nov 5, 2021 at the young age of 92, following a heart attack.

At our recent 2021 Northern Division meeting at Fairmont Hot Springs, it was a true honor to see Chuck inducted into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame. He and his lovely wife Mona were the stars of the evening at that special time. As Chuck told me at the time, “It is just so wonderful to see all of my ski patrol friends.”

Chuck joined NSP in 1969 as a member of the Kelly Canyon Ski Patrol. In 1976 he was awarded National Number 4890. In 1980 he was a member of the Lake Placid Olympic Nordic Patrol. For a number of years he maintained dual certification as both a nordic and alpine patroller.

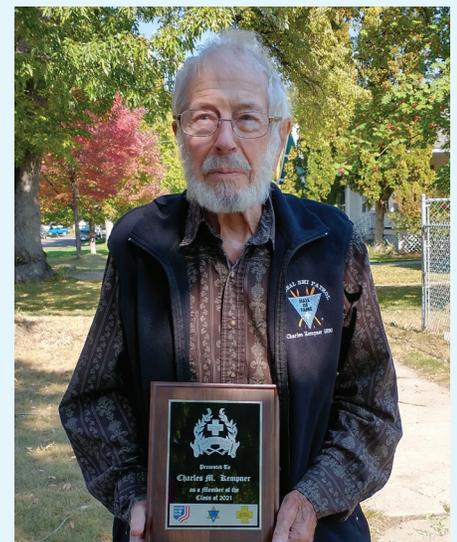
In his 40+ years of patrolling, Chuck helped organize 2 different patrols, served in various patrol jobs from patrol, region, division and national levels. He was a multi-discipline instructor in OEC, CPR, Avalanche and MTR.

While Chuck was never one to “toot his own horn”, his work did not go unnoticed. Over the years, Chuck had received several yellow merit stars, a green merit star and a purple merit star. He was the Northern Division Outstanding Nordic Patroller in 1994, received a Distinguished Service Award in 2000, was the first recipient of the Mark Behan Outstanding Northern Division Instructor award in 2008 and most recently was inducted into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame in 2021.

All of us in the Northern Division extend our prayers and condolences to Mona and their family.

**Chuck, may you be blessed with endless, effortless deep powder turns. Your final sweep is complete.**

## Rusty Wells & Steve Thompson



# Be Northern Division Nice!

By Dan Schaefer and some plagiarisms.

Hello Northern Division Snow Sport Safety Specialists! That is PC for Ski Patrollers apparently! I say this because we are truly in a state of confusion regarding what people are thinking these days. Sadly it seems folks have kinda lost their minds regarding human kindness, forgiveness and frankly being just plain rude for no reason. "We're going through a time where physiologically, people's threat system is at a heightened level," says Bernard Golden, a psychologist and the author of *Overcoming Destructive Anger*. It seems to show a deeper direction; it does appear that folks to have forgotten their niceties, especially with those whose job it is to assist them. Most business are reporting ruder clients. Restaurants are reporting ruder patrons. The reports of discourtesy that some customer-facing businesses have been forced to provide security to keep employees safe. As mentioned we need to be ready in the Snow Sport industry to face this threat from our Mental Health Pandemic. It is real! It will carry over to the outdoors eventually.

**WTH happened?** This period of threat to all people has been going on so long that it is having a damaging effect on people's mental health, which for many has then been further debilitated by isolation, loss of resources, the death of loved ones and reduced social support. "During COVID there has been an increase in anxiety, a reported increase in depression, and an increased demand for mental health services," we see it every day in healthcare. People have just plain had it with the uncertainties life keeps presenting to us. We are all sick and tire of being sick and tired. Whether people believe the virus is an existential threat or not. "Half the people fear COVID," the other half the people fear being controlled." We don't trust anyone or anything that is said. We need proof and even then we don't believe it.

Some people may have thought that, having been prevented from mingling with other humans for a period, folks would greet the return of social activity with hugs, revelry and fellowship. But in many ways, say psychologists, the long separation has made social interactions more apprehensive.

## "Smiles are as contagious as the Corona Virus!"

The combination of a contagious, life-threatening disease and a series of unprecedented, life-altering changes in the rules of human engagement have left people anxious, confused and, especially if they do not believe the restrictions were necessary, deeply resentful of leadership regardless of the levels. From the POTUS to School board chair. Nobody is trusted.

The point here is that we as providers need to watch ourselves as well as our fellow patrollers and keep working hard on being NSP nice! Northern Division Nice! We all need to understand where people are mentally and adjust our focus a bit. Soften up our tones when we speak, take extra time to just be nice. One of our local hospitals is promoting Hello Human Kindness as their slogan. The notion starts with the proven idea that human connection leads to better health. Hello human kindness was born out of the fall out of Covid and how hard providers worked just to be kind to humans. While simple, it is an effort to promote being nice to us humans. So when working with others and training and providing and all the things we do with other humans, be Northern Division Nice! We just don't know what or who is struggling with.

**Smiles are as contagious as the Corona Virus! Don't worry, Be Happy!**

See you soon winter!

*Dan Schaefer*

Northern Division Association Division Director  
ndskihuffhills@gmail.com



# *Early Northern Division National Appointees*

I was recently provided with a reprint of the 1941 National Ski Patrol System Manual. This came to me from Rick Hamlin who is the National NSP Historian. This manual was written as NSP was celebrating its 3rd birthday. The reprint was done in 1988 as NSP was celebrating its 50th birthday.

The manual contains such information as: the organization of NSP; how to form a ski patrol; finances and publicity; equipment for patrols, patrolmen and ski tows; legal liability; your patrol and the Defense of the U.S.A.(remember your US history) and first aid equipment.

## **By the 3rd birthday NSP had accomplished the following:**

- \* there were 82 registered patrols in NSP with approximately 1200 registered patrolmen.
- \* 283 patrollers had been awarded their national appointment

## **Starting the 1942 season, here's what growth happened:**

- \* there were 180 registered patrols in NSP with approximately 3800 registered patrolmen.
- \* 139 additional patrollers had been awarded their national appointment.
- \* the National Ski Patrol System was present in 25 of the 50 states.

Most patrollers understand that there is a significant difference between being a National Patrolman/woman AND receiving a National Appointment. In the 1941 NSP manual there is one section titled NATIONAL PATROLMEN. It in part contains the following:

“How do I become a National Patrolman?...” (I am assuming that the writer was talking about receiving a National Appointment) “... The answer to the question is this: A skier cannot have himself made a National Patrolman. The National Ski Patrol System chooses and appoints its National Patrolmen through the patrol leaders, Section Chiefs, Divisional Chairman, and National Chairman. The skier who hopes to become a National Patrolman may eventually become one if he qualifies himself for that honor through his training, interest, and usefulness to the National Ski Patrol System. ...the overwhelming majority of National Patrolmen are appointed ... after they have proved themselves.” With that as the underlying premise for national appointments, here are the earliest members of the Northern Rocky Mountain Division (later to be renamed the Northern Division) to receive national appointments.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>NATIONAL#</b>	<b>CITY/ PATROL</b>
Brooke Ricker	89	Helena Ski Patrol
John Morrison*	90	Helena
Ray Johnson	106	Mt. Helena Ski Club
William Pentilla*	110	Bozeman Ski Club
Robert Selzer*	221	Great Falls Ski Club
Sverre Knudsen*	222	Missoula Ski Club
Russell Campbell	223	Helena
George Prentice	300	Great Falls
Clyde Kneedler	301	Helena

\*Those persons held 4 of the 5 Division level jobs in the Northern Rocky Mountain Division of NSP. John Morrison was the Division Director.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b># OF PATROLS</b>	<b># OF PATROLLERS</b>	<b>AREA SERVED</b>
1942	180	4000	25 of 50 states
2021	650	31,000	US, Canada, Europe, Asia

**We have come a long way since 1938!!**

## Many thanks to Mike Huber

I want to extend a big thanks to Mike Huber for sending my/the Northern Division, a copy of Dr. Gretchen Besser's book 'The National Ski Patrol: samaritans of the snow'.

The book documents the origins of our 83 year old organization. I hope to be able to share some of this with you all in later editions of the Polaris.

Thanks again Mike,

*Steve Thompson*  
slthompson44@me.com

# Hall of Fame Highlights

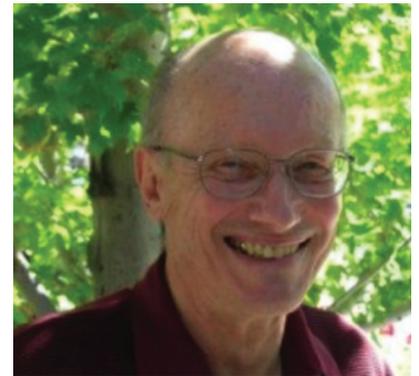
The National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame was created in 2013, in conjunction with the 75th NSP Anniversary Celebration. The NSP HOF inductees are the Superstars, the Legends, and the Leaders of our organization who have dedicated so much to create, develop, and improve the NSP. This prestigious award is presented to Patrollers who have had a positive and lasting impact on the NSP.

The Northern Division currently has five patrollers who have been inducted into the NSP HOF. Here are a few highlights of each of these patrollers.

## Class of 2013

**Warren Bowman** was in the inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 2013. Bowman authored the first emergency care manual specific to the nonurban rescuer and oversaw four versions of Outdoor Emergency Care.

He was a founder and president of the Wilderness Medical Society and medical director of the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR). A two-time recipient of the NSP Outstanding Administrative Patroller Award (1978 and 1989), Bowman also received the prestigious Minnie Dole Award (1990).



## Class of 2019

**Steve Thompson** joined the NSP in 1960. Steve has accomplished so much in his 60+ years as a Patroller, instructor, mentor, and leader.

In his early years, while stationed in Europe he was instrumental in starting three new Patrols. He was also the Regional Director for Southern Europe.

Once back in the States his energy and enthusiasm for the NSP continued, from the local to the National level. He filled many roles, including Instructor in OEC IT, ID IT, MTR and AVY 2 IT, Section and Regional Director, Division Avalanche Supervisor, and now the Division Historian. I am sure I am missing a few highlights since Steve is always up to something!

Steve has earned a National Appointment #4668, a Distinguished Service Award, two Yellow Merit Stars and a Purple Merit Star.

## Class of 2020

**Mark Behan** began his patrolling career at Loveland Ski Area in 1951. From then until his death in 2008, Mark either joined a ski patrol or organized one wherever he was living. He held nearly every position possible in NSP – from basic patroller to Division Director, to 1st Assistant National Director. Behan earned the prestigious Minnie Dole Award in 2003.

Marks true passions were Education and Avalanche. He guided and developed Avalanche training at the local, Division and National levels.

The Northern Division Mark Behan Outstanding Instructor Award was created in 2008 to recognize and honor his dedication to teaching and the NSP.



## Class of 2019

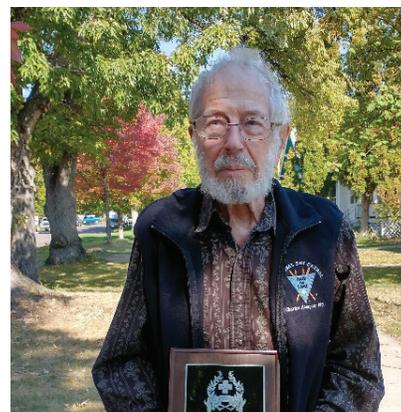
**Bill Lay** joined the NSP in 1977 and has since dedicated much of his time and energy to his patrol, the Northern Division and the NSP. His leadership roles include Instructor in OEC IT and AVY IT, Patrol Representative twice, Region and Division First Aid Advisor, and currently the Northern Division Registration Advisor.

Bill was chosen to Patrol the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary, Canada. He has earned a National Appointment #6688, a Meritorious Service Award, Seven Yellow Merit Stars and a Gold Merit Star as the 2020 National winner of the NSP Outstanding Administrative Patroller Award.

## Class of 2021

**Charles (Chuck) Kempner** is Northern Division's newest inductee into the National Ski Patrol Hall of Fame. Chuck joined the NSP in 1969 and quickly made a name for himself. He was instrumental in the founding of two Nordic Patrols in the Intermountain Division. He has been Patrol representative for 3 different patrols. He has held multiple Section, Region, Division and National leadership positions. He was a member of the 1980 US Olympic Nordic Ski Patrol in Lake Placid, NY. He was an instructor for 42 years in MTR, AVY 1 and 2, and OEC.

Please refer to the article by Rusty Wells in this Polaris Edition to get a better picture of all that Chuck has contributed.



# Avalanche

Hello patrollers, is 2021 a La Nina year? A year ago, we were asking the same thing about 2020. In the November 2020 Polaris I discussed the data behind increased avalanche accidents and deaths in La Nina years in the northern hemisphere, and in El Nino years in the Southern Hemisphere. What does La Nina mean for us in the Northern Division? More moisture, colder temps = more snow, which contributes to an increase in avalanches and accidents. Currently there is an 87% chance for a La Nina winter starting in December thru February 2022. You might ask yourself, "but what about last year, don't the global weather-influencing climatological oscillations of La Nina and El Nino rotate through a non-influencing global weather 'neutral' phase?" You would be correct! However, back-to-back La Nina's are not usual, in fact, two in a row are known as, "*The Double Dip La Nina.*"

## **Avalanche Instructors: Continuing education info:**

- The Northern Rockies Snow and Avalanche Workshop will be held Nov. 11th and 13, online the 11th, and in person on the 13th. Google: NR-SAW 2021 Avalanche and check it out.
- The Professional Utah Snow and Avalanche Workshop (PROSAW) is Nov. 5th (google ProSAW Avalanche 2021) and it also will be available online.
- Become a member of the American Avalanche Association (AAA). All of our Avy course work is in alignment with the AAA curriculum with the exception of our focus on ICS training. General membership is \$35.00 and gets you emails of job listings, funding ops for conferences, and..., The Avalanche Review - an outstanding bimonthly on avalanche science.

We have a new National Director of Avalanche in the NSP, Patrick Stanton who resides in the state of Washington. I will go to an in-person meeting in Denver on Nov. 18th-21st. Two conf. days focused on curriculum and Avy education in the NSP.

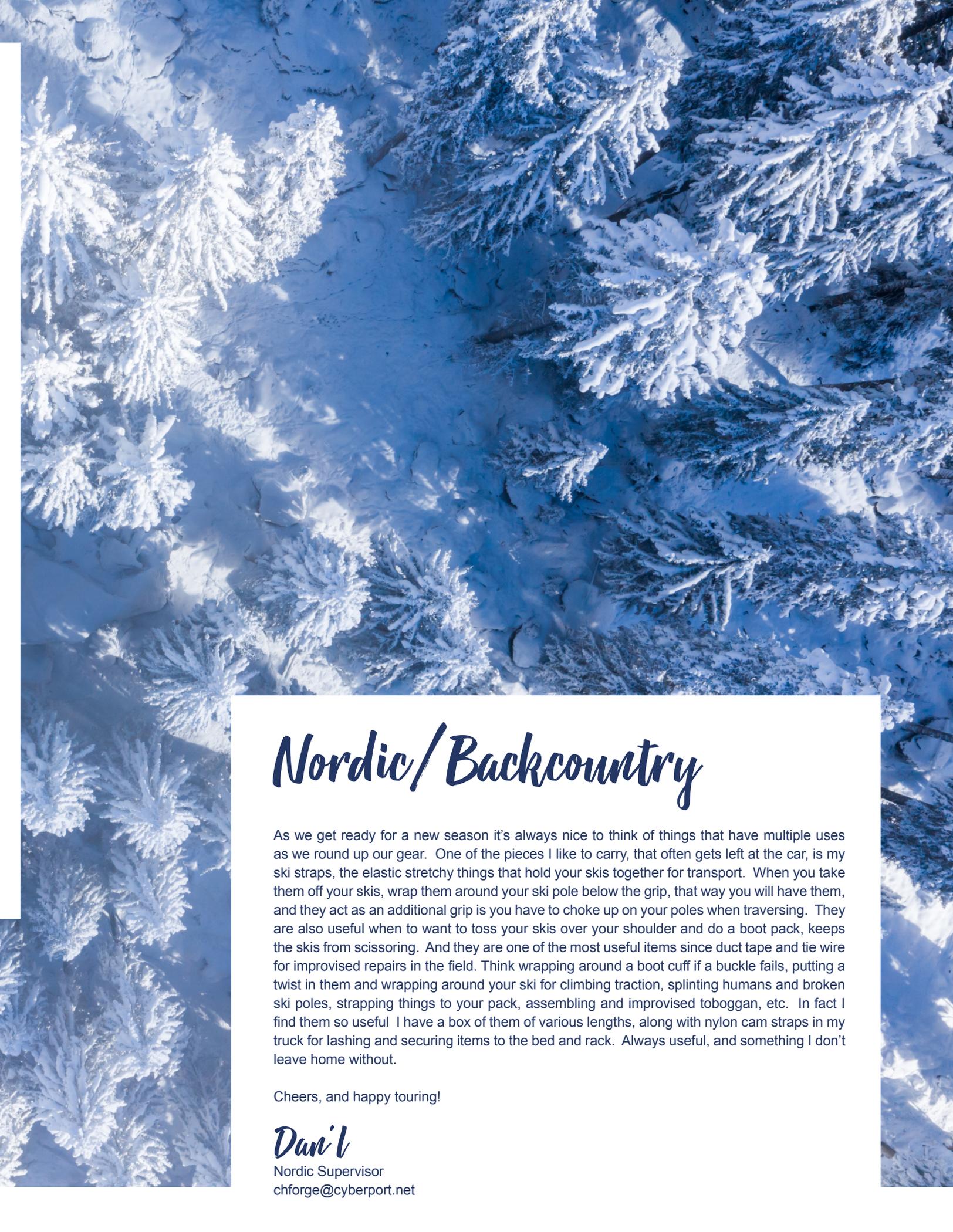
Speaking of classes, we are looking at hosting an Avalanche Level 1 course this year, at Lost Trail, the field target dates are Feb. 26th-27th, 2022. Classroom time will be done online. Please email me if you want to take this course. We hope to do a Level 2 next year. A Level 1 or equivalent is a prerequisite for Level 2.

Lastly, let's talk about beacons! I advise the Tracker 4 for Pros or the Tracker 3 (cheaper), both are lightweight, and available through the NSP Catalog at discount. Less expensive options are the Black Diamond Guide or Recon (the latter is the least expensive of all 4), both BD beacons are available at discount through the NSP Pro Deals log-in page for Black Diamond. Other brands also are good, do your research. Always wear your beacon, check your batteries, beacons only work when "on", practice with them, and always take the batteries out at the end of the season. Don't perform a beacon search with personal electronics or radios on, they can generate false signals.

Enjoy the Double Dip, and be safe in the steep and deep.

*Steve Porcella*

Avalanche Director, Northern Division  
sfporca@gmail.com



## *Nordic/Backcountry*

As we get ready for a new season it's always nice to think of things that have multiple uses as we round up our gear. One of the pieces I like to carry, that often gets left at the car, is my ski straps, the elastic stretchy things that hold your skis together for transport. When you take them off your skis, wrap them around your ski pole below the grip, that way you will have them, and they act as an additional grip is you have to choke up on your poles when traversing. They are also useful when to want to toss your skis over your shoulder and do a boot pack, keeps the skis from scissoring. And they are one of the most useful items since duct tape and tie wire for improvised repairs in the field. Think wrapping around a boot cuff if a buckle fails, putting a twist in them and wrapping around your ski for climbing traction, splinting humans and broken ski poles, strapping things to your pack, assembling and improvised toboggan, etc. In fact I find them so useful I have a box of them of various lengths, along with nylon cam straps in my truck for lashing and securing items to the bed and rack. Always useful, and something I don't leave home without.

Cheers, and happy touring!

*Dan'l*

Nordic Supervisor  
chforge@cyberport.net



# POWDER RENDEVOUS!

Antelope Butte, Wyoming

JANUARY 21, 22, 23 2022

**REGISTER ONLINE: [CLICK HERE](#)**

<https://nspnorth.flowforms.io/forms/688>

Cost: \$189 by 12/31/2021 - \$209 after 12/31/2021

Early Registration BONUS! One Lucky Participant will get their Registration Reimbursed!!

Checks payable to Northern Division Ski Patrol

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

Please register as soon as possible so we can adequately plan instructors and groups.

Questions - Call or email Mike Marlow at 406-443-8386 or [mmarlow@infosysmt.com](mailto:mmarlow@infosysmt.com)

## WINTER TIP-OFF REGISTRATION

**FRIDAY:** All-day tickets available (Discounts to be determined.) Must secure tickets by Jan 19 with an email to [mmarlow@infosysmt.com](mailto:mmarlow@infosysmt.com).

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

Attendance required for all OET IT's! Email Mike Marlow at [mmarlow@infosysmt.com](mailto:mmarlow@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.**

**Please check box if you are interested in participating in the following:**

**All Women's Clinic.** Have fun working on anything and everything with a PSIA Ski Instructor.

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

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

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

**NORTHERN DIVISION 1/4 ZIP BASE LAYER** (Design to be Discovered!)- \$40

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

Best Western Sheridan, 612 N Main Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

Call the front desk at 307.674.7421 or they may also use the following link: [BOOK HERE](#)



# Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
January 21, 22, 23, 2022	<b>Powder Rendezous</b> (formerly "Winter Tip Off")	Antelope Butte, WY Shell, WY (outside Sheridan, WY)
February 12, 13, 2022	<b>Senior Clinic</b>	Showdown
March 19, 20, 2022	<b>Senior Final</b>	Lost Trail
April 6-9, 2022	<b>NSP Powerfall</b>	Breckenridge, CO <i>Beaver Run Resort &amp; Conference Center</i>
April 30, 2022	<b>Northern eBoard Meeting</b>	TBD
June 2-4, 2022	<b>Nuts &amp; Bolts</b>	MT Hood, OR