

2007 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Certified Program in the Central Division. John Keating, the current CD Certified Program advisor, asked Bill Hubbard to reflect on the program in the Central Division.

Central Division Certified Beginnings

25 years? It can't be. Since I'm only 39, I'd have had to pass Certification at the age of 14, and I don't think the rules allow that. Someone must have made a mistake!

Actually, I finally passed Certification in the Eastern Division in 1980, I think, after 3 years of trying. We moved to Minnesota in '81, and, not willing to let my Certification lapse, got in touch with Tom Worley, who had gotten started in the Southern Division, but had a few requirements to meet. At that time, I think I was the only one in the Central Division who'd passed all the requirements.

Tom put together a Certified exam at Nubs Nob that winter using examiners from the Eastern Division, including George Wesson, Mary Bozack, Jim Franklin, and maybe others. Needless to say, it felt like old home week for me, since I'd associated with all these people in the Eastern Division for quite awhile.

The people from Eastern felt that the terrain at Nubs was adequate for an exam, although much shorter than we'd had in the east. It was steep enough, bumpy enough, and we could find adequate crud to meet the requirements. Finding adequate terrain and snow in Central remained difficult, since we never wanted to have a watered down Certified program in Central, and, at least I, felt that any Certified patroller should be able to acquit himself or herself adequately with Certs from any part of the country.

We had two people pass all the requirements to become Certified patrollers that first year, Mike Husar, and Rick Barber.

The program grew from the modest beginnings, but someone else will have to provide the particulars of how many have passed, how many are still active, etc.

The Certified program provided both a high level, national program for patrollers to shoot for, and a group of people from around the division who had passed some or all of the requirements as a resource for the administrative types in the regions to draw from if they so chose. For example, when I became Division Training Advisor, each region had its own way of doing things, including the Senior Program, and minimal training of the Regional Advisors to improve that situation. I think the broader perspective I had from the Certified program (and experience in Eastern) helped convince the Division Board of Directors to improve the training with PSIA Ed Staff people to conduct the skiing portion and Certified Patrollers to conduct the toboggan portion.

John Keating asked if I knew who had headed up the Certified Program. Although my CRS is pretty advanced, I know that Tom Worley was the first Division Certified Advisor, and I think Mike Husar succeeded him. Beyond that, I can't help much.

It was always interesting to watch the development of the people who became involved in the Certified program. Nearly everyone came into the program thinking they were pretty hot patrollers, and most had a pretty good grasp of at least some of the aspects of the

program. As they progressed through qualification to take the test, the test itself, and becoming examiners, you nearly always saw people improve in all aspects of patrolling. I don't think I ever attended an exam where I didn't learn some new tricks about how to do some things. But I think that is the real value of the Certified Program, improving the skills of those involved, so that they can pass them along to those they train and associate with.

I had the chance to ski with Chuck Martschinke, Brian and Lori Cobble, Linda Murphy Jacobs, and her husband Dave, and Jim ?, your Division Director, when they visited Vail in January. I sure enjoyed making some turns with this group, and hope anyone who visits Vail or Beaver Creek will give me a call so that we can hook up to get out and ski.

Good luck to all those involved in the Central Division Certified Program on this unlikely anniversary. As I said, 25 years can't possibly have passed since we brought the program to Central!

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