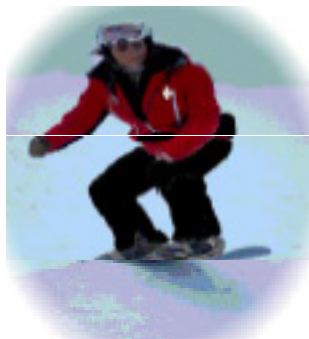




Rusty Parka News



Vol. 56 Issue 2

www.nspcentral.org

Winter 2018

Division Director's Report



John Thomas
Division Director

The Winter edition of the Rusty Parka is already here, where does the time go? I hope everyone is having a wonderful season and you are enjoying the time you are patrolling.

The National Board meeting was very interesting with some surprising changes. The Board voted Rick Knight in as the new National Chairman. Changes were made to the committees and in my opinion this will make us go backwards. The committee that was created to look at the National Board structure was eliminated. I believe that an organization always needs to do a self- review for continuous improvement. If you eliminate committees that review the current structure, how do you ever improve? My professional experience has taught me that you always look for ways to improve. This decision shows me that the current Board doesn't believe in improving the Board Structure. The other Committee that was eliminated was the Ski Area Relations Committee.

This committee was formed to have Board members receive direct feedback from the Area Owners and Managers to understand how the NSP can better serve our primary industry partners. Again, my professional experience taught me that you should listen to your primary partner/customer especially if your organization doesn't exist without them. It was interesting how fast I received phone calls from our industry partners asking me what was going on. All that I can do at this point is keep the communication open with the MSAA to keep on the same page with the owners/managers.

The good news: My contacts with the MSAA and NSAA have committed to work with the National Legal committee on the releases that some of the Area and Patrols have been discussing. I will keep you informed as more information is available. In the meantime, please stay calm and let the NSAA and the National Legal committee work this issue.

As we look towards spring and award season, it's up to all of us to recognize

Parka Picks

Fail Forward	P. 3
Region Reports	P. 4
Central Division Meeting	P. 9
Snowsports School	P. 11
Womens Program	P. 13
Avalanche Opportunities	P. 16
Citius, Altus, Fortius	P. 18
CD Nordic	P. 21
Helicopter Service	P. 22

our fellow members of the NSP. Please work with your PR/PD to recognize the hard working members and unsung heroes on your Patrol. There are Patrol level, Region level, and Division level awards. This is the only way we have to say thank you for all you do for the Patrol. Please support the awards program and help your PR/PD with information and suggestions of awards for your fellow members.

426 Fund

Otherwise known as the Dan Somalski Memorial Fund, this trust was set up to honor a very special friend, patroller and mentor, the late Dan Somalski. Dan, as many of us know, dedicated much of his 25 year patrol career to helping others attain their goals both on and off of the mountain. As a long time Certified (#426) and PSIA level 3 he was legendary both inside and outside of the traces. It is in memory of Dan's example that the trust was created to ease the burden of a patroller's credentialing costs while encouraging advancement.



The fund committee is currently seeking applications from interested patrollers that could use financial assistance in their quest for further credentialing advancement. Application forms are available online. www.nspcentral.org (Look for Dan's picture.) The completed application form should be sent by email or fax to Tom Anderson.

Kasten's Korner



Gary Kasten 2018



Tom Anderson
ADD

Change Someone's Life

Well I am sure everyone is knee deep in powder or at least dreaming about it so I will keep this short and to the point...

"Who did you bring to the hill today?"

At both Division Skills workshops and a couple of Region events since then I have posed this question to the participants. Not just with recruiting future patrollers, but with the idea that as patrollers we have enormous strength in the industry to recruit new skiers and riders to the sport. All it would take is for each one of us to introduce just one person to our sport. It will go along way in growing the industry, that let's face it, without them we'll just be dreaming!



Fail Forward



Chris Raudabaugh
ADD

As students and instructors, the common fear when training/testing is failure. Many of us volunteer patrollers are either teaching, training, learning, and/or taking tests. It's important to understand that the failures lead us to those important, albeit not as common, successes. Experiencing failure should not be construed as embarrassing. Failures are the directions for learning and progressing forward in our skills and knowledge.

There are many opportunities to work on success. The Senior program, PSIA/AASI certifications, Certified program, etc. are opportunities for learning and gaining skills. However, it can include some failures to work towards a successful outcome. You should embrace failures for your own learning and understanding. If you are an instructor, it is even more important to embrace failure so you understand the fears of your students. Reassure students that failing is ok. Encourage practice and continued lessons.

There is a thought provoking video from the PSIA demo member panel on failing. A link to this video can be found on the Skill Development website (www.centraldivision.org). Please take some time and watch it.



A Big Winter Hello and Thanks!



Dr. Julie Stone
ADD

I hope this finds you enjoying the 2017-18 as much, more so, as ever. For sure I am; while we've had some warm weather there has been a ton of cold weather and snow making in St Louis this season.

I wish to say thanks to all of you for the great support during the last NSP Board election. While I was not elected I did still have the opportunity to talk to so many of you, meet more patrollers from around our Division and other Divisions. Once results were shared I have received an outpouring of support and continued best wishes. I have the best of both worlds - still - since I will continue in my role as ADD! And I believe, since this was a major quality desired from any candidate, that those elected must have the concerns of the entire membership at the foundation of all their work. I look forward to good things from this Board, and so should you.

The program advisors with whom I work are tremendous and very active. Check out their articles in this Rusty Parka, and stay in touch with them about what interests you, drives you, and concerns you. It is only when we share information up the chain that those patrollers in decision-making and guidance roles can lead their program and this organization into the future. They work for you as a member, and they work for the division advising you. They also interact with the NSP sharing your input to strengthen their programs.

We all (you, me, our advisors) love the snowsports and outdoor recreation industries and have found a great camaraderie and bond as ski patrollers. Continuing communication and working together help assure a good future for the NSP. We all have differing goals and ways in which we can be involved. This is good; obviously we cannot all do the same things. So, keep on setting your personal goals and set measurable achievements as you strive to meet them. In the process, communicate with our program personnel about how their programs impact you and how you can make an impact on their programs. This type of collaboration will strengthen the NSP in the future.

See you soon, its not too early to put the Central Division's Fall Meeting and Banquet on your calendar!

Region Reports

Eastern Michigan Region



Mike Schons
E MI Region
Director

By the time you read this, the region staff will pretty much have all three scheduled SES, SNES, TES and a STW completed for the Eastern Michigan Region. We still have a YAP event schedule for February 10, 2018. This and all EMR events can be found on the EMR calendar located on our website, nspemr.org.

This year has our largest group yet of candidates who have registered for the Senior program. We have 35 folks registered for the program and it makes the region staff happy to know that folks want to grow in their training and NSP education. The pre-evaluation clinic is scheduled for February 11, 2018 and the on-hill evaluation at Boyne Mountain on Saturday, February 24, 2018. We will need a number of extra patrollers to make sure these events run to the high standards we have set.

This upcoming year, we are proud to announce that we will be again participating



in the downtown Detroit Winter Blast. Times are: Friday January 26th thru Sunday January 28th.

We will work at what we love doing, patrolling! Boyne Mountain has constructed a learn to ski ride "hill" in downtown Detroit where we will be patrolling.

This is LOTS of fun "Patrolling" among the skyscrapers of Downtown Detroit Sign-up is available on the EMR website.

I am trying to personally get to every patrol at least once every year. This year so far, I have visited Pine Knob, Mt. Brighton, Alpine Valley, Blizzard Metro and Snowsnake. I have talked to the shift patrollers and some of the resort General Managers, looking for suggestions, questions or comments of how we could provide a better service to the skiing public. So far, all the resorts visited have had a great relationship between the patrols and resort management. This has been very positive for me. I have had a few suggestions that I will be forwarding to the region staff.



Patrolling among the sky scraping peaks of the Detroit skyline on the City Slopes of Winter Blast.



South Central Region



Steve Paladini
South Central
Region Director

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Mother nature has cooperated this season with temperatures below normal, allowing most of our areas to make plenty of snow and open.

Patrols have completed their On-Hill and chair evacuation refreshers. Again, On-Hill refreshers were registered on National's web site, with patrollers having to go on-line and "sign up" for their areas refresher. The process, being the same as the OEC refreshers, gets better each year, with the number of questions and "hardships" diminishing.

During the month of January, the Region has held two Toboggan Trainer Workshops, one Toboggan Enhancement Seminar and both the Senior On-Hill and Senior OEC clinics. The evaluations are scheduled for February 18th and March 11th, respectively. Wishing South Central Region's and all of Central Division's candidates, good luck in their journey.

In other news, most of you know that our Region Legal Adviser, David Schwartz, moved into the position of Division Legal Adviser, in the Fall of 2017. Filling his position, is Peter van Houwelingen, a member of the Nordic Mountain Ski Patrol. Peter started patrolling while in college at Cannonsburg Ski Area, MI. Joined the Nordic Mountain Ski Patrol in 1984 and is currently in his 46th year with the NSP. Peter is the managing director and sole shareholder of Corporate Legal Counsel, Ltd., established in 1993. He is licensed in Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana. Also, Section Chiefs I and IV are up for re-election this year. We are also holding our region Women's Seminar at Mt LaCrosse in February.

Finally, the Region's 2018 Division Meeting Committee has been working hard over the past months and will continue to do so, planning this year's Division meeting at the Chula Vista, in the Wisconsin Dells. Registration should be available through the South-Central Region's web site in mid-May. If you haven't attended a Division Meeting, please consider doing so. This is a great opportunity to represent your patrol, network with other Division patrollers and have a great time!

Northern Michigan Region



Richard Jacques
N MI Region
Director

Well, it was almost heaven. After a very slow start in late November and early December, Mother Nature started dropping snow on Northern Michigan Region. After three weeks of non-stop snow we were getting very spoiled with a soft base and three to 18 inches of fluffy powder every day. Then reality set in and we had summer in January with 60+ degree sunny days followed by 2 inches of rain, hard base and corduroy groomed surfaces.

NMR's annual Instructor Certification and Calibration Clinic was held at Nub's Nob with 43 ski and toboggan instructors recertifying and 3 completing mentoring. These fresh skills were applied the next day at the Candidate Clinic. All NMR Patroller and Senior candidates are invited to a day of training in ski and toboggan skills appropriate to their certification and experience level. 22 Alpine and Senior Patroller candidates gained valuable experience on the hill under the guidance of this instructor corps.



A dozen OEC SEM candidates gathered at Schuss Mountain's Cedar River complex for our annual Candidate Clinic. Aided by 30 instructor/evaluators, patrollers, family and friends, they completed 8 senior level scenarios in preparation for the OEC SEM Evaluation in March. With a 8 year old patrol grandkid having fun acting as a patient and telling the adult actors how to act drunk like the intoxicated person they had seen at a fast food outlet and a tween who wants to be a YAP, acting the part of an injured snow boarder and a ski racer without breaking character, the candidates had a great day. The instructional staff appreciated mother nature contributing a sunny 30-degrees instead of a typical single digit day.

The Region will be hosting patrollers from across the state for the Michigan Special Olympics Winter Games Jan. 30, 31 and Feb1. The games attract 1200 athletes to Schuss Mountain for Alpine Ski and Snowboard and Nordic Competition. Approximately 30 patrollers from Northern, Eastern and Western Michigan Regions will provide coverage for the three-day competition. This event provides a unique opportunity for patrollers to work together with EMT's, Athletic Trainers, Doctors and other "downstream" providers and gain valuable insight into how our patient care affects other care levels. The Michigan Special Olympics Medical Team has become an international model for integration of all levels of care to treat injured and ill Special Olympians.

Region patrollers and candidates will have another opportunity to hone their ski and toboggan skills at the NMR SES on Feb. 3 at Schuss Mountain and TES on Feb. 4 at Boyne Mountain. These events are open to all Northern Michigan Region Patrollers at nominal a fee and offer a great opportunity to polish skills for Alpine Patroller and Alpine Senior Evaluations or for seasoned patrollers to just have fun in the tracers or get pointers on latest ski techniques. Contact NMR Proficiency Advisor Annaka Norris at annakanorris@gmail.com for more information.

The Northern Michigan Region Women's Program Seminar will be held March 18 at Nub's Nob. Watch to NMR WEB Site or contact Women's Program Advisor Charlon Hibbard at chibbard@marykay.com for more information.

Think Snow!

North Central Region



Les Robinson
NC Region
Director

Well the winter is here as I am writing this it is -25 here in central WI. I looked at the article I wrote last year for the winter edition and I'll be: it was -9 that night, I should quit writing articles so that it warms up.

I have been lucky to have had patrol season start Nov 11, so I have a few hours both on the skis and doing OEC. We held the division ASDW's did a lot of toboggan work, skiing, and are bringing that back to our region where we are holding our own TTW and STW.

We are running our senior clinics and are heading into the senior S&T evaluation soon. I wish all the senior candidates much success remember to give it your all.

The next thing we know our banquet will be here, so let's get the awards written so we can have a great banquet. Remember that this year we have new forms for the outstanding awards make sure you use the newest forms, they will reject any used

that are not the newest ones. Any questions about that contact your awards advisor. For us in north central that is Brenda Robinson.

This could be my last article for the Rusty Parka as my term will be expiring come July 1 its been fun to represent the patrollers from the North Central Region. The patrollers and patrols are what make this organization. I would recommend to all patrollers that are new or those that aren't so new but have not been involved as they could be; take a step forward and volunteer. There are plenty of opportunities for you to help by taking a position or volunteering for a helper on your region staff, we are always looking for YOU.

**Remember; "who have you
taken skiing?"**



Western Michigan Region

During the fall, I was able to make it to all the refreshers in the Region and had an opportunity to meet many of the dedicated patrollers who do so much to make our organization work. I am always thankful to have so many talented individuals giving their time to their patrols and serving on our Region staff.

In addition to the fall OEC refreshers, four OEC classes were completed across the Region. We also have a successful mountain host program running at one area that is also serving to help recruit patroller candidates for that patrol.

As I write this for the Rusty Parka News, the Region has experienced a great start to the season thanks to the cold weather and snow in December. All of the areas in our Region were up and running for the holidays, if not earlier (some were open just after Thanksgiving). Most patrols have started hill training activities and have also begun their on-hill refreshers. Senior training, both OEC and on-hill activities, have also begun and senior clinics are scheduled shortly. In addition to ramping up for Senior events, the Region staff are also working with individual patrols to put on events to enhance skills (Toboggan, Ski/Ride/Nordic) in various SES/TES/Nordic programs as well as planning for our annual Women's Clinic.

Since last July, when I moved into the director role, we have welcomed new patrol representatives at three areas: Bittersweet (Doug Haas), Timber Ridge (Jason Kovacs) and Caberfae Peaks (Dennis Menke). In addition, Lourie Hurley took over the Section Chief position in our Section 3 after Scott Waddel finished his final term.

John Donnelly
Western Michigan Region Director

Sharpening Your Saw



Marty Blaszkowski
NSP-C Snowsports
School

This ski season has been a unique one again. The Midwest is having a good winter while Colorado is suffering for snow. As we go through this season, think about keeping your saw sharp. What does that mean? Whether you are teaching or taking an event, focus on the details. As the lead instructor it's imperative to teach to the details of the skill. Keep it simple starting small, and take baby steps to achieve the desired outcome you want to achieve. As the student, focus on the one skill that will make the biggest impact on your skiing/riding. I use my I-Pad and a free app called Hudl. Whether its Coaches Eye, Sprongo or Hudl, using video as a teaching tool helps change the mind's eye. Small changes will make a huge impact on your skiing/riding. This season my focus is to get more from the ski with less effort; keeping my femur straighter.



This season the NSP-C Snowsports School is awarding people for passing PSIA/AASI exams. You had to sign up before December 1, 2017. \$50.00 for passing Level 1, \$100.00 for passing Level 2 and \$300.00 for passing Level 3. Congratulations to Scott Moncur, now a Level

1 Alpine and David McKinley now a Level 2 tele. The awards will be distributed at the fall division meeting. Good luck to those who will be taking their exams the next few weeks.

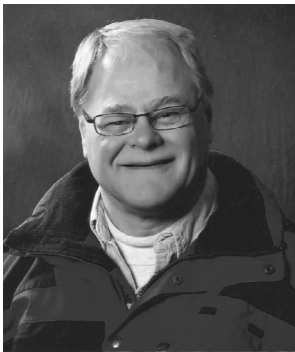


- Located on the Wisconsin River
- 6 Restaurants & Bars
- Includes up to 6 Water Park Passes Per Room!
 - 26 Waterslides Over 1.5 Miles Long!
- River Walk Spanning the Entire Property
- Hundreds of Acres and Hundreds of Activities



Hotel Rooms \$134.00 per Night, includes tax
18 Holes of golf for \$45, incl. cart
Saturday Afternoon Seminars
Register on line beginning Mid May

Active Alumni program is good for alumni and the patrol!



Mark Holtan
Alumni Advisor

Appears that we are having a great snow year throughout the Division. The MN Vikings were conference champs but lost their run to the Super Bowl LII (52) which would have been the first team have played in a Super Bowl in their home stadium. Though the edge is off for Viking fans, the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul is buzzing more than ever as Minneapolis hosts the Super bowl in the new US Bank stadium. Many of you may have seen the new stadium if you attended the 2016 Central Division meeting, hosted by the Western Region and Three Rivers Patrol at Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area. Another connection to the Super Bowl festivities is that a temporary strong wood frame American Birkebeiner International Bridge, was transported from northwest Wisconsin to Minneapolis to cross over a main street in downtown Minneapolis. Spectators can ski, tube and slide on the bridge during a 10-day event. Then the 200 ft. 50,000 lb. bridge will be disassembled and transported back to Hayward, WI for the Birkie held February 22-24, 2018. The American Birkebeiner (Birkie) is a nearly 35-mile cross-country ski marathon that traverses its way through the north woods of Wisconsin on the Birkie Trail. The American Birkebeiner International Bridge is used by Birkie skiers to safely ski over

U.S. Highway 63 to the snow-covered Main Street of Hayward, WI, and to the race's finish line. This is an annual international ski race, many of our patrollers either compete or serve with the Birkie Patrol, a registered Nordic patrol. With over 10,000 volunteers recruited to assist with this Super Bowl event, I wonder how many are patrollers, or retired patrollers who should be registered Alumni patrollers. Yes, what a perfect fit to serve the community with a tremendous skill set.

If you haven't already done so, I encourage all patrollers to read the "FORTY YEARS and COUNTING!" article written by Marty Huebner, NSP National Alumni Advisor, in the Winter 2018 issue of Ski Patrol, page 72-73. This is an excellent article summarizing the birth, growth and development of the Alumni Program. I remember Charles Haskins, our National Chairman when he introduced this program. I was out of college, was employed at Big Sky as an accountant and on the NSP patrol at Bridger Bowl. I was younger, did my share of extreme skiing at Bridger, and didn't think too much about this new program until a couple of very close patroller friends, were at a point of needing to give up patrolling due to physical limitations. They were among the first to transfer to the alumni classification, and continued as a part of our Bridger Bowl patrol, helped with first aid training (yes, it was ARC Advanced First Aid), our community ski swap which was a huge success for the patrol, mentored new patrollers, etc. I thought at the time that this was really a great opportunity for my friends. Now I am one of them! This is a great article to educate, promote and recruit alumni. Please advise if you have any questions.

I have been a strong advocate for improving and enhancing the database systems for alumni administration at all levels. I have communicated with the national office recently and learned that little progress has been made, but it remains on the "list". One of the problems is how patrol reps can track and check to see if alumni who have renewed have paid their dues. Currently, we need to check with the national office to verify. I will continue to pursue and keep you advised.

A frequent problem NSP is having with new alumni registrations, is registration forms submitted without dues payment. It is very easy to transfer to or register as alumni by filing out a simple form, available online which can be copied, and submit to national office with dues payment.

Some Regions have an active Alumni Advisor and viable Alumni Program which I look forward for your input and feedback. We have guidelines and promotional material to assist newly established advisors and programs. A Region Alumni Advisor DOES NOT need to be registered as alumni. I recommend that Region Di-

rectors solicit or select a patroller who is a self-starter, interested in the program and the desire to get involved at this level for your Region and fellow patrollers. Any RDs or patrollers who may be interested and have questions can feel free contact me.

For Individual patrollers:

If you are an individual patroller considering alumni status, check out the NSP Alumni Manual on the NSP website, and consider Alumni status. It provides you ongoing NSP registration, access to NSP catalog and sweet deals, info from the NSP, your individual patrol and the “halo status” of continuing your NSP affiliation! Talk with your individual patrol’s leadership; there is always a place for an alum who seeks to stay active in unique ways to match your talents!

For more info, go to NSP website: www.nsp.org, [Sign In](#), click on “[For Members](#)”, click on “[PROGRAMS](#)”, select from drop down “[Alumni](#)”. The NSP Alumni Manual and FAQs should answer most of your questions.

For individual patrols, several suggestions:

1. Appoint someone from your patrol as your alumni advisor.
2. Send that advisor’s contact information to your Region Alumni Advisor, or to me if your Region does not yet have an Advisor.
3. If you already have an active alumni program, please advise your Region Advisor or myself and share your ideas/events that worked like crazy for you. Sharing this info will strengthen our Region and Division Alumni programs.

I am hoping to assist as best I can this ski season in promoting, rewarding and energizing your patrol’s Alumni program and our Division’s Alumni program.

That’s all there is to it folks!

Why does the National Ski Patrol have a Snowsports School?



Dan Moss
PSIA / AASI Liaison

Though the germination for the beginning of the NSP’s Snowsports School is not complicated, it has many contributing elements that helped bring it into existence. The National Ski Patrol is divided into Divisions similar to the Professional Ski Instructors of America - American Association of Snowboard Instructors (PSIA-AASI). Yet the history all begins in the Central Division.

In 1987, several members of the NSP within the Central Division had their ski/ride credentials through the PSIA-AASI. Yet maintaining ‘active’ status working as members of their local resort’s ski school was quite difficult while also meeting their responsibilities and shift requirements as a patroller. The PSIA required members to be associated with a ski school so the patroller/instructor needed a vehicle that allowed them to continue to be a ski or ride instructor, yet meet their patrolling responsibilities.

Midwest resorts in the Central Division often keep long hours of operation, skiing and riding late into the night. Most Midwest patrollers are volunteers; working full time jobs outside of the snow sports industry, and volunteering their time and resources to their local patrol. At any small Midwest resort with night skiing, it may take well over 100 patrollers to staff the shifts and that means a lot of training to keep up with human resource demand.

The new-hire patroller requires ski/ride instructors that are available during their shifts, can work around

their schedules, understands the toboggan-transportation requirements, and can meet the time sensitive calendar for local area management.

Resort management is concerned about presentation as they compete for the snow sports enthusiast; grooming, customer service, food...and, 'how well do our patrollers ski & ride.' This was a question that the NSP Central Division wanted to tackle.

Like many organizations that come into existence, the timing and needs were right for a traveling ski-ride school within the NSP's Central Division. It would meet the needs of the patroller/ski-ride instructor, help train the new hire, and better serve local resorts by providing additional training seminars for patrollers.

In 1987 the NSP-Central Division Ski School was formed, later morphing into today's 'Snowsports' School. In 1991, the school further formalized by adding insurance coverage that traveled with the instructor.

Prior to this, local patrols passed along necessary skills for toboggan transportation but never had a division-wide formalized program to help train patrollers in ski/ride skill development. With the addition of the insurance carrier, the idea of a traveling ski school spread to the Alaska, Southern and later other divisions.

The NSP-C Ski School's mission is the development and training of patrollers only, and while embracing and supporting the educational leadership and credentialing of their sister organization PSIA-AASI.

The NSP-C Division Snowsports School today has 202 members, 68% of whom are members of the PSIA-AASI.

Social Media

Submitted by: Darcy Hanley

Our ski patrol family and friends are out doing what they love, helping others in an outdoor environment, and making a positive impact with our ski area owners and operators. Our Facebook page has grown to 1,040 likes and is still growing. Be sure your candidates know Facebook link! Be sure to post information about the great things that are happening at your areas. Be sure to stay connected to your fellow patrollers via FB!

Through Facebook we have shared safety moments, NSP election information, accomplishments of patrollers, and shared moments of success! Facebook can be the place for questions, highlights of a fun season, or learning. Each Tip of the Week receives over 400 views! If you have suggestions or want to see something of interest, please just let us know. Otherwise stay connected and enjoy a season that is filled with lots of snow and happy turns!



Central Division Women's Program Meeting



Kerstin Hammarberg
Women Seminar

On Friday, January 26, 2018 the Central Division Women's Clinic was held at Lutsen Mountains in Lutsen, MN. Almost forty women from the Central Division converged on Lutsen for laughter, fun, and supportive work on skiing, riding, and toboggan handling. The Western Region will not be the same – in a good way! This was a record setting group!

A big THANK YOU to the following people for making it happen: Dani Rafn Western Region Women's Advisor, Judy Hill CDWC staff member and Lutsen patroller, Mark Rafn Assistant Patrol Director, Jim Ruzicka Patrol Director, and Tom Rider Co-President at Lutsen. This year we had guest instructors from the Western and Southern Regions: Jeannine Mogan from Giant's Ridge, Nicole Werts from Spirit Mountain, Heidi Jo Karlsson from Wild Mountain, Susan Healy from Viking Nordic, and Kathy Schmidt from Glacial Park Nordic. These ladies joined the CDWC staff

of Chris Moe-Herlick, Linda "Murph" Jacobs, Anne Blaedow, Sue Brann, Erika Krol, Judy Hill, and Kerstin Hammarberg to round out this year's Central Division Women's Clinic staff. Thank you all for a great weekend!

The 40 women who signed up for the clinic and our staff of instructors were very excited to be together! The planning of a full weekend of skiing, riding, Nordic and toboggan work really paid off. Lutsen Mountains opened their doors to us and has made us feel wanted and welcomed!

For the first time ever, there was a Nordic event included and those who participated were treated to some of the best trails in northern Minnesota. With instructor Kathy Schmidt taking the lead, the ladies worked hard and had a great time. Hopefully, this will become a regular event for our Nordic sisters in the future!

The staff of the Central Division Women's Program thank everyone for their support and we look forward to having a blast at next year's event! Begin planning ahead for 2019 at Perfect North Slopes (PNS) in the Ohio Region! Check out our Face Book page for more information and photos from our events!



Everyone from the Women's Clinic in front of the Subaru



Part of the staff: (L to R) Julie Timmons, Kerstin Hammarberg, Sue Brann, Linda Jacobs, Chris Herlick, Anne Blaedow, Erika Krol on Friday morning staff ski-along

Ladies wearing hats hand knit by Linda Jacobs for the participants. Dani McPherson wearing "The Vest" and holding Pearl our mascot.



Sunday sliding: (L to R) Darylann Trout, Cricket Nickolaou, Nancy Trout, Karen Palmquist, and Charlon Hibbard

OEC Update



Susan Hayes
OEC
Supervisor

Happy New Year! Wishing you the best of everything for your 2018!

OEC refreshers and basic courses have wrapped up and we turn our attention to the Senior Testing Season. The OEC Module of the Senior Program aka OEC-MSP. Your Senior Trainers and evaluators are getting ready to put on your Region test and looking for your help. Please say "yes" the first time when you get that email. Consider that your engraved invitation- don't make these hard working people beg! Putting on a Senior precourse/test is similar to putting on a Broadway show. We need evaluators, station managers, helpers, patients, by-standers, runners for multiple stations, and more. It's a big job and many hands make light work. If you're interested in the Senior program, it's a perfect way to get a better picture of how it all works and how to be successful. You also get the benefit of meeting some fun new patrollers in your Region. I know this to be true: Patrollers are a pretty cool people to hang out with. Check with your Region OEC Administrator for more information.

Speaking of tests. Social media is a wonderful way to share those experiences with your friends and family. As a patroller, you're proud of what you do. You're pretty awesome at it. Just a gentle reminder: The Basic OEC test and the Senior OEC test are SECURE National tests. What does this mean? Well, we must be diligent with our behaviors with this information. For example, photos of moulage, close ups of stations, etc. should NEVER be posted on social media or online. Discussions about the skill and scenario stations, written evaluations, etc. should be kept between OEC Instructors and helpers on testing day only (or prep for). This is SUPER IMPORTANT to follow and please share this expectation with all patrollers and non-patrollers involved in these events. The basic OEC test is used until July 1, so when any bit of information is posted on Facebook (for example), you don't know what level of security others have or who they are friends with. If someone "likes" your photos/discussions, it could easily be seen by others throughout the Region, Division, or NSP. Thank you for your help with this!

Have a wonderful sliding season! If any questions or issues arise, always start locally with your Patrol Representative or Region OEC administrator before calling National. Here are their names and numbers. They are happy to help you with all of your questions.

Thank you for all you do! We couldn't do it without you!

Central Division Regional OEC Administrators:

Ohio Region	Jim Bichl	JimBichl@gmail.com	(216) 548-9750
Eastern MI Region	Rae Ann Ruddy	raeruddy@comcast.net	(248) 672-7511
Western MI Region	Doug Mesara	dougmesara@gmail.com	(269) 908-2666
Northern MI Region	Mike Malanga	Malanga@charter.net	(989) 636-2929
North Central Region	Mike Olson	OLSOMP05@aol.com	(920) 213-8733
South Central Region	David Kleinschmidt	1davidk@att.net	(262) 617-2128
Southern Region	Kim Zambole	kimzambole@gmail.com	(847) 323-2900
Western Region	Ken Liddell	ken@adwearpromo.com	(651) 308-8000

Avalanche Opportunities 2018



Dale Mihuta
Avalanche Advisor

Next season we will have a new avalanche program. We will continue having modules in Level 1 that are consistent with the current program.

Level 1, Module 1-----Classroom Session

Level 1, Module 2-----Field Session

Level 1, Module 3-----Rescue

When you complete all three modules you have the qualifications to take Level 2 Advanced Avalanche Studies. In the Central Division we also require Incident Command System Courses 100, 200 and 700 before the Level 2 course. These courses are online.

The courses remaining this season are:

Western Region CD; Lutsen Mt. Feb. 28th, 8 AM, Location TBA For more info contact dmihuta@fuse.net Level 1 Module 1 (classroom, Senior Elective).

Level 1, Module 1, 2 and 3. Mt. Washington, NH. March 16th thru 18th. Contact Eric Zaharee ericzaharee@comcast.net Go to the NH. Region website for more information.

Level 2 Advanced Avalanche Studies at Whiteface Mt. on March 8th thru 11th. Contact Chuck Boyd at chucknspavy@gmail.com This course is rapidly filling up.

Central Division Certified Update



Ron Gerdes
Certified

What is the Certified program? The Certified Program is a national skills development and verification program that provides a readily identifiable resource of highly motivated, skilled, and knowledgeable patrollers to better serve the NSP, ski area management, and the outdoor recreation community. Our staff members are proven leaders across multiple disciplines and are available as a dynamic resource to accommodate any need that may arise.

The Central Division Certified Program will be holding their annual evaluation at Lutsen MN on 3/1 through 3/3. The success of the certified program predicates directly on the participation of not only the staff members, but all NSP members, family's, and friends. We owe our success to all the people that support us throughout the year.

If you are interested in participating as a supporter, please let me know. We would love to have you and I promise, we will put you to work!

50th Anniversary! Eastern Division is hosting a 50th anniversary gathering on March 20th, 2018 at Killington MT. This event will coincide with their evaluation. Patrollers from all over the US, Canada, and Europe will be in attendance. It is sure to be a weekend of learning, good times, and good

friends. If you are interested in attending, Please do so! Central Division will be well represented but the more the merrier!

Recert/Qualification clinics. In order to enter the program, you must go through a qualification event. This event gives the prospective candidate an opportunity to see what the program is all about and allows the certified staff to evaluate where the prospective candidates skill levels are. In order to maintain status, all certified staff members must recertify their ski and toboggan skills every three years. This way, we can maintain the high standard that the program demands.

This season, we held Recertification/qualification events at Perfect North Slopes (Ohio), Nubs Nob (Northern MI), Chestnut MT (Southern), Welch MT (Western) and Marquette MT (North central)

A BIG THANKS!!! After several years of service, Eric Massanyi will be stepping down as Ohio Region Certified Advisor. Eric has been a solid leader over the last several years but its time for him to move on to bigger and better things (A growing family!!!) We thank Eric for his service and welcome Dave McKinley as his replacement.

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I am always available!

The Season is in Full Swing!



Troy Southwick
Toboggan
Supervisor

Mother nature has been good to us so far this year! We have our Division ASDW's now behind us. We had a great time "sharpening our edges" and working on our ability to "Teach Small". This is all about utilizing the physical fundamentals (movements we can make) to get the performance out of our skis that we want. The small fundamentals that build upon each other and make us better skiers and successful toboggan pullers.

Now is the time to be looking for a TES or SES near you! All Regions are taking the training received at the Division Clinics back to the region trainers. They will soon be offering TES's and SES's for patrollers to attend. This should be an event that is valued by the patroller population. To learn all the tips and drills to enhance what we love to do. Check your region calendars and treat yourself to a great learning experience.

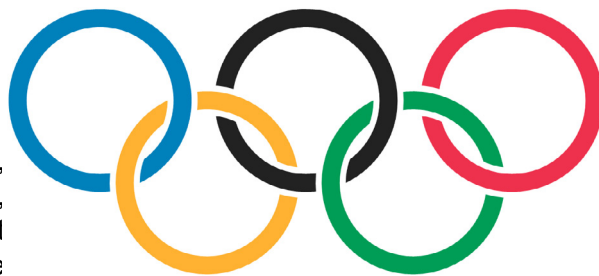
Thanks to all those who participated in two very successful ASDW's

Hope to see you on the slopes soon!!!



Troy Southwick, Anne Blaedow, Time Thomas, Pete Holdridge, Patrick Perlman, Tony Ortega

Citius, Altius, Fortius



Rob Carpenter
Senior Supervisor

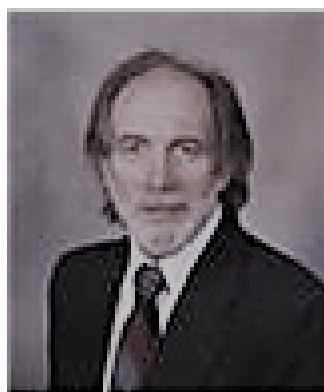
The Olympic motto is 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' which translates to 'Swifter, Higher, Stronger'. This means that the competing athletes should strive to run faster, jump higher, or throw farther. Also, the Olympic creed is:

"The important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part. The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well." - Baron De Coubertin

With the winter Olympics happening this year it occurs to me the NSP senior program is much like the Olympics. Participants of both are striving to better themselves and take part in something big and important. Rather than running faster, jumping higher, or throwing farther our senior candidates are working to improve their ski/ride, toboggan, OEC, and other patrolling skills. While the time and effort required may not come close to that of an Olympic athlete, the time and effort required of a senior candidate are still considerable, especially given that most senior candidates have significantly more going on in their lives than just preparing for senior evaluations. It can really be a fight for them.

As we close in on the senior on-hill and senior OEC evaluations I would like us all to recognize the time and effort being put in by our senior candidates and wish them well in attaining their version of 'Citius, Altius, Fortius.' For the senior program we might want to adopt the motto 'ski et snowboard celerior, toboggan fortior, quanto subitis cura sollers' which translates to 'ski and snowboard swifter, toboggan stronger, higher skilled emergency care'.

National Ski Patrol Awards: A Few Tidbits of Information



Martin Fahje
Awards Supervisor

- We have 6,400 patrollers, serving over 100 patrols, eligible to write and receive awards.
- Any active Patroller can write and submit a nomination for Merit Star, Critical Care, Patrollers Cross, Patrollers Memorial, Distinguished Service or a Certificate of Appreciation.
- A Region Director, Division Director, or higher officer can submit a nomination for a Meritorious Service,
- Only a Patroller with a National Appointment can submit a nomination for an Appointment.

The act of saving a life deserves recognition. Did you know that most Medical Merit Stars are awarded for acts outside of the Patroller's ski area? It's true. Do not limit your Patroller nominations to activities and duties at your area. In the last few years my Region has presented Purple Merits for acts at a community Dragon Boat Race, on an airliner at 30,000 feet, during a marathon, a car accident, a fitness Center, and a rock climbing area in remote

Colorado, to name a few. In the last 5 seasons, the Western Region has presented Purple Merit Stars for 5 acts at the ski area and 15 at other venues.

Apple Computers: It has come to our attention that Apple computers do not like the checkboxes on the nomination forms. If you are using an Apple computer **DO NOT** attempt to check the checkboxes. Send

in the electronic form with the boxes unchecked. When you print out the hard copy to be signed by the sponsor and Patrol Rep, manually check the checkbox. Otherwise what should be done is to double-click on the checkbox and a dialog window pops up where you indicate if the checkbox is to be checked or unchecked. **DO NOT** type an "X" in the checkbox.

Award Nomination Guidelines are available on the Division web site! These guidelines were created for you to help gather and present a nomination and have a high degree of success. If anyone wants copies or has trouble downloading from the Division web site, contact me, and I'll be happy to send them out.

New Nomination Forms: National has developed new nomination forms. Any nominations submitted this year must be completed on the new version. If an old version is submitted it will not be reviewed, but sent back to the sponsor to transcribe on the new form.

Three Requests for Action (RFA) were submitted recently to the National Board of Governors. These RFAs all involved Mountain Hosts and Alumni. The first was to have Mountain Host or Alumni who hold an OEC or OFC card to be eligible to receive Medical Merit Stars. The second and third were to allow them to receive a Patrollers Cross or Patrollers Memorial. I've sent out notes but have been unable to find out the current status of these RFAs.

National Board Members from Central Division

Brian Rull
BRull@nspserver.org

Ty Damon
Tydamon@me.com



Jay Zedak
jay@bugbusterinc.com

Jim Woodrum
jrwoodrum@centurytel.net

Sharpening Our Edges



Cheryl Raudabaugh
Skills Development

The Skills Team had a super busy December with Alpine Skills Development Workshop (ASDW) events held at Boyne Highlands and Afton Alps. We focused on “Sharpening Our Edges” to refine our work with fundamentals the previous year. We had 107 registered participants representing the eight regions, with 20 instructors/staff leading each of the two events. 43 took part in the ski/ride activities and 64 in the toboggan sessions.

These region leaders are now busy running clinics and spreading the message to individual patrols to make sure that we provide consistent training and proficiency of skills throughout our divisions. Please extend a thank you to your trainers; they work hard all year long to make sure the Central Division provides consistent high quality education!

What is your training focus for the year? Learn new equipment, start your senior journey, enhance OEC Skills, become a toboggan instructor, improve your skiing/riding ...? How are you doing on that path – if things seem to stall out a bit, maybe find a buddy or mentor to help you along the way. Or consider being a mentor or instructor for someone else – it can not only be rewarding to see that person succeed, but may improve your skill set along the way.

Reminder to check us out at www.centraldivision.org to download our special Skills Summary card to print and keep handy in your patrol parka. There are also a variety of resource documents and some videos to help you keep your edges sharp. Have a great season!



Instructor Development



Virginia Rodeman
Instructor
Development
Supervisor

As I sit down to write this, I note that we have had some the coldest weather we have had in a long time. Although it is typically the time of year that throughout the NSP we do on-hill activities, I find myself involved in an Instructor Development Class. There isn't one best time to take an Instructor Development Class. Maybe you are a Patroller involved in training this year. Think about taking an Instructor Development Class and helping your trainers next year. There are two different Courses available—the hybrid which includes the online and a face-to-face, and the full in person class.

What happens once a Patroller becomes an Instructor? Is that all there is? The Instructor term is 3 years. The Instructor must re-certify to continue teaching. Continuing Education classes are offered in the disciplines each year. Continuing Educations classes provide some new information, best practices, and over-all sharing by the participating Instructors. It is up to the Instructor to attend one CE within the 3 years and to be observed teaching by an Instructor Trainer. Some disciplines have an expectation of how much the Instructor is expected to teach during the 3 year term.

Central Division Nordics



Jeff Schmidt
Nordic
Supervisor

Greetings!

My name is Jeff Schmidt and I am the new Division Nordic Supervisor. This is my second time in this position, and I am happy to be back helping grow the Nordic program.

I want to thank Peter Wollen for doing such a great job leading the Nords in this position for the past several years. He has helped me get acclimated back into this position and I appreciate all of his assistance.

We have several things going on in the Nordic program. I have been working on the National side of the program helping with updating the Basic, Sr. and Master levels of the Nordic program. We are working on a standard set of skills, annual refresher requirements, and putting them into a new manual.



This past fall the NSP board of directors officially changed the name of the Nordic program to the Nordic/Backcountry program. This brings in all elements of Nordic skiing under one umbrella no matter where you live and what type of terrain or equipment you ski on.

We recently completed this years Division Nordic Ski and Toboggan refresher up in Minocqua Wisconsin. I believe a good time was had by all attendees. I think we all walked away with some new (and refreshed) skills. The third day of this clinic was a Tele clinic up at Indian Head ski area in the U.P. This three day clinic is held annually the first full weekend on January.



The American Birkiebeiner race(s) will be held Feb. 22 – 24, 2018 in Hayward Wisconsin. I encourage anyone that is interested in getting involved with the Birkie Patrol to contact me for more information. This is the highlight of the season for many Midwest patrollers

The first Nordic breakout group at the Division Women's clinic will be held up at Lutzen Minnesota the weekend of Jan. 27 and 28, 2018. This Nordic clinic is being led by Kathy Schmidt. Hopefully this will become an annual component of the Women's clinic.

Hopefully everyone is getting out on the snow this season. The weather has not been very skier friendly here in the southern parts of the Division so far this season.

I hope everyone has a great rest of the season and think snow.



The Excitement of Learning to Coordinate with Helicopter Service

Schuss Mountain Ski Patrol is over 45 minutes from hospital care. Because of this, Mike Moreen, Patrol Director, arranged for a training seminar from North Flight Aero Med (NFAM). During the two hour training session, Lee Smith, Flight Medic, presented materials explaining landing zones and communications between first responders and NFAM pilots, and identified circumstances that will help responders determine when to call for the helicopter. "Medical emergencies involving major trauma, major bleeding, multiple patients, any pediatric critical, major burns, near drowning, head or spinal injuries or illnesses when the patient is unconscious," Smith said. He also added, "When ground transportation to the hospital exceeds 30 minutes, or a patient is inaccessible by vehicle on the ground, air transportation should be considered."



Picture Credit Joanie Moore

Written by Candy Jacques and Ginny Rodeman

Mortal Ski Company PRO DEALS!!!

Mortal Ski Company of Cincinnati OH is one of the very few Midwestern ski builders. Mortal Skis specializes in building skis for hardpack, man made snow conditions, with the working patroller in mind... After all, they are built by working patroller!

Mortal Skis has HUGE discounts available to patrollers, instructors, and other industry folks. If you are interested in taking advantage of these deals, or just want to know more about this revolutionary ski, please drop us a line at mortalskis@gmail.com or visit us at www.mortalskicompany.com or facebook.com/mortalskis.



Thank You to Our Sponsors



patagonia



WeatherTech



FIRST CAL

YAKIMA



Veterinary Pet Insurance

HESTRA



bridgedale



ROSSIGNOL



lenovo FOR THOSE WHO DO.



LEKI



PHILIPS



SLINGSHOT



RĒVO HEAD PRIMAL

NORDICA

Powerwerx Two-Way Radios



DUCKWORTH



Central Division Calendar

To find the most recent and update version of the Central Division Calendar please visit the link below
<http://nspcentral.org/calendar.php>

Central Division Staff Roster

Administrative Staff



DIVISION DIRECTOR

John 'JT' Thomas 72212
300th Ave
Lake City, MN 55041
(H) 651-345-5160
(C) 507-254-9067
jttheskibum@gmail.com



ELECTIONS/ MEETINGS/MSAA

Ken Meldahl
63 North Avenue
Fox Lake, IL 60020
(H) 847-587-2397
(C) 847-204-0634
kmeldahl@comcast.net



TREASURER

Marty Jarvi

(H) 262-377-6447
marty.jarvi@gmail.com



ADMIN. ASSISTANT

Laurel Oetjen



AWARDS

Martin Fahje



RUSTY PARKA NEWS

Katie Flanagan

(H) 319-321-7493
(W) 507-255-7568
fahje@mayo.edu

laurel.vansoest@live.com

(C) 248-767-4146
rustyparka1@gmail.com

REGION DIRECTORS



E MI REGION

Michael Schons

(H) 248-683-0465
schonsm@gmail.com



NC REGION

Les Robinson
751 Blue Ridge Lane
Nekoosa, WI 54457
(H) 715-325-3025
llrobins@wctc.net



N MI REGION

Richard Jacques

(H) 248-398-3379
rjacques@smsp.us



OHIO REGION

Guy Day
3149 W 165th Street
Cleveland, OH 44111
(H) 216-221-9617
(W) 216-695-0714
gcday@sbcglobal.net



SC REGION

Steve Paladini

1700 Carriage Lane
Appleton, WI 54914
(W) 920-740-6222

scrsection4@gmail.com



SOUTH REGION

Don Steen

519 Meadowview Dr.
Clinton, Ia 52732
(H) 563-243-3950
(C) 563-249-5735

Donald.Steen48@yahoo.com

WEST REGION

Scott O'Connor

(H) 612-584-1876

sjozac@comcast.net

WEST MI REGION

John Donnelly

(H)(616) 682-1963
(C)(616) 893-5302

Director@NSPC203.com



ADD

Chris Raudabaugh

173 Tar Heel Drive
Delaware, OH 43015
(H) 740-369-9634
(W) 740-368-5931
chris@raudabaugh.net



PSIA LIAISON

Dan Moss

Box 282
Frisco, Co 80443
(W) 614-578-9002

dan@mossremodeling.com



AVALANCHE

Dale Mihuta

5793 Filview Cir.
Cincinnati, OH 45248

(C) 513-919-3129
dmihuta@fuse.net



NSP-C SNOW SPORTS SCHOOL

Marty Blaszkowski

(H) 248-393-0973
(W) 248-393-0973
mjb8804@yahoo.com
nsp@ccrventures.com



CERTIFIED
Ron Gerdes

rjgerdes@gmail.com



SAFETY TEAM

Mike Husar

(H) 262-629-4902

mike@husars.com



WEBMASTER

Kent Anderson

(H) 763-577-0843
(C) 612-730-6324

kjanderson@labycon.com



NORDIC

Jeff Schmidt

nordjas@aol.com



ADD

Dr. Julie Stone
(H) 314-691-2340

jactstone@gmail.com



OEC

Susan Hayes
(C) 507-421-0243
(H) 507-255-5921

hayes.susan@mayo.edu



INTRO TO PATROLLING

Jodie Fuller
(C) 989-245-3248

JF4seasons@aol.com



YAP Advisor

Jane Bickerstaff

janebic@yahoo.com



MEDICAL

Stephen Werner MD
PO Box 368
Clarkston, MI 48347
(H) 248-625-2730
(C) 248-408-4313
steve.werner@usa.net



MT TRVL RESCUE

Jon O'Dell
(C) 586-718-4503

bikenskil@yahoo.com



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Russ Livermore
(H) 248-761-8371
(W) 248-761-8371

livermore.russ@us.sika.com



Mountain Bike

Aaron Hislop

aaron@houseofhislop.com



ADD

Tom Anderson
112 Pineview Drive
Marquette, MI 49855
(H) 906-228-6126
(W) 906-475-7640
tpanderson@charter.net



INSTCTR DEVLPMNT

Virginia Rodeman
1817 Potomac Dr.
Toledo, OH 43067
(H) 419-536-1179
(W) 419-531-1618
rodewoman@yahoo.com



WOMEN'S SEMINAR

Kerstin Hammarberg
(W) 612-600-5082
(W) 612-600-5082
bhsp-pd@hotmail.com



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Cheryl Raudabaugh
173 Tar Heel Drive Delaware, OH 43015
(H) 740-368-5931
(C) 614-582-6080
nsp@ccrventures.com



ALUMNI

Mark Holtan

1304 W Medicine Lake Drive
 Plymouth, MN 55441
 (H) 763-541-9962
 (C) 763-370-4392
 marko@iphouse.com



TOBOGGAN

Troy Southwick

8380 Papillon Ave.
 Reynoldsburg OH 43068
 (H) 614-861-1442

Tsouthwick@lb.com



SENIOR

Rob Carpenter

10916 Arbour Drive
 Brighton, MI 48114
 (H) 810-227-5269

rajcarpenter@msn.com



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Paul Botnen

(H) 612-860-3033

botnenp@gmail.com



The official e-newspaper for the
 National Ski Patrol®, Inc.
 Central Division
 The Rusty Parka News is published three times annually.

2015 NATIONAL SKI PATROL®, INC. CENTRAL DIVISION
All rights reserved. The words “Ski Patrol” and “National
Ski Patrol” are trademarks registered in the U.S. Patent
Office

Division Director

John ‘JT’ Thomas
72212 300th Ave
Lake City, MN 55041
651-345-5160

Editor

Katie Flanagan
28486 Cottage Lane
New Hudson, MI 48165
248-767-4146

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

The appearance of advertising material in the Rusty Parka does not imply that the National Ski Patrol endorses any product, service or company unless specifically stated. Statements or opinions expressed in the Rusty Parka reflect the views of the author(s) and are not necessarily the views of the National Ski Patrol, its officers, staff, board of directors or members. The Rusty Parka will assume no loss or liability for loss or damage to any material submitted for publication including manuscripts, photographs, or art work. All contributions and submissions are subject to revision or editing at the sole discretion of the Editor. The act of mailing, submitting or transmitting materials to the Rusty Parka shall constitute an express warranty by the author or contributor that the material is original and in no way an infringement upon the rights of others.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be submitted electronically to:
rustyparka1@gmail.com

The RPN reserves the right to publish and withhold letters based on content and length. Letters in excess of 250 words may be edited due to space limitations.



ADDRESS CHANGES

Changes to address should be updated on the NSP National Web Site. Please log on to www.nsp.org and access your NSP Member Page to update your personal information. The Rusty Parka e-mail list is downloaded from the National database. All address changes and corrections must be made on the National site.