



# Rusty Parka News



**Vol. 60 Issue 3**

**[www.nspcentral.org](http://www.nspcentral.org)**

**Summer 2022**

## Division Director's Report



**Mike Schons**  
**Division Director**

This year we got somewhat back to normal. Events ran and evaluations held. Congratulations to all the successful candidates, of which I met and talked to a number of you.

For those of you who don't know, I was forced to have a total knee replacement which was going very well until Powderfall which set me back a bit. Hopefully next week I'll be able to get back on my bike patrolling again.

If you're following the travels of the Subaru, I want to thank ADD Allison Lavene for managing the vehicle for me. Region Director, LJ Lavene, Board Member Jay Zedak, National Bike Program Director, Jeremy Verbeke and Section Chief John Mehl for taking the car around to visit patrols and events for me.

So what is going on in the Division and Nationally that may affect you as a member?

This summer the new Learning Management System (LMS) will be launching. A number of programs have information already uploaded into the system. Instructors and members will be using this new system to complete a number of on-line learning modules. Part of our 2022 Fall Refresher will be conducted using the LMS system.

Following the LMS system will be the Member Management System, making managing our member and educational profiles much easier. This will automate a number of things currently managed by people and hopefully make updating faster and much more accurate.

One of the national committees I have been assigned to is the Code of Conduct rewrite. It seems to me anyway, that the attitude of our nation today, has a small portion of the population believing that being uncivil to others is a popular and acceptable concept. Incivility will not be tolerated, especially in the Central Division. PLEASE, let's listen to and treat others with the same respect we want to be treated with.

Hopefully a number of you will join us at the Fall Division Meeting. This year it is in Midland, MI. There is a bike ride schedule along with other

## Parka Picks

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activities and of course celebrating with friends for their achievements and awards. More is also coming out about the division meeting soon.

If you have questions or concerns or really just want to talk anything ski patrol, feel free to contact me! This covers both positive and negative comments or things you would like to maybe see changed or just get a better understanding of.

## Assistant Division Director Update



**Les Robinson**  
**ADD**

Welcome to the summer, it is here. Hopefully you've all taken some time off from patrol activities in the early summer because it's time now to think about OEC and our refreshers.

I want to congratulate all the winners for NSP awards in all the regions, all the merit stars, outstanding award winners, COA's, nationals, and locals. Great job to all who patrolled this season both Ski and Bike. Be sure and attend the division awards at this September to celebrate the division winners.

Our bike patrols are exploding, we have added bike hosts members, bike patrols are growing. This is awesome news for NSP and will help our ski patrols as many of these new folks are also skiers. Also, so many of our ski patrollers are bikers, think about joining your local bike patrol or start one.

I also want to bring up the topic of life, family, friends, and enjoyment. I encourage all to stop occasionally, to (smell the roses) enjoy company, think about important things in life and how YOU can make an impact on others. Be a positive person to improve all the others around you. If we all do that think of how others may change too. Don't take anything for granted, be a blessing to all those around you, smile have fun and enjoy life. You are the only one that controls how you want to be.



**Educating patrollers is our passion.**

**I ask ALL patrollers to look at your local and Region programs and reach out to help with some aspect of a program that intrigues you. What do you want to learn more about? What program could you become an instructor for? How can you improve your own skill set and offer to help others grow their own skills?**

## Assistant Division Director News



**Allison Lavene**  
**ADD**

Summer has arrived in the Midwest. I hope this season finds you well. These previous ski seasons have been busy with many things occurring. Our resorts have had more than the past number of guests, we had training to catch up on, even our Division Attorneys have been kept occupied with an unusually large amount of Ski Patrol issues. With that in mind, please lead by example with treating others in the same respectful manner you would like to be treated.

I am wishing great success to all OEC candidates and instructors as it is in full swing across the Division. Our bike patrols are also training and patrolling and growing in many regions. We are looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of you all at the Fall Division meeting in Midland, MI.

Respectfully,  
Allison LaVene

# 4 New Events for December and March!!

## This year's Branding Contest!



**Anne Blaedow**  
**ADD**



**Jackie Bottomley**  
**Skills Development**

Every year in December, the Central Division puts on 2 training events to certify and recertify your instructors and evaluators in a variety of Alpine programs. These clinics have been traditionally called the Alpine Skill Development Workshop (ASDW). We are looking to expand these events to become more inclusive of other Central Division programs and activities.

We are also adding two additional weekends in March to allow even **more opportunities for all patrollers to participate**. That means there will be 4 week-end opportunities to gain credentials, learn new skills, and meet patrollers from all over Central Division. The March events will include a larger assortment of program sessions since more terrain will be open and skier counts tend to be lower at the host areas.

Because of these changes, we need to rebrand and rename the events. The new name and logo should reflect all aspects of ski patrolling. What better place to find a new identity, than to take it to all of the members directly.

Here is this year's logo contest.

**The Task: Create a name and logo for this event for the Central Division Program**

**The Reward: \$100 gift certificate for some swag from the NSP Central Division Gear Store.**

We have developed the following ideas but know that there are more creative people out there than our team.

A few suggestions by the Skills Development team to get your creative juices flowing:

- Central Division Ski Patrol Festival
- Patrollers' Skills Fest
- Ride, Slide and Haul Clinic

Use one of these OR **come up with a better idea!** We are hoping to leverage your ideas to create a catchy title for our event and logo to use.

Please submit your designs by July 30, 2022 to Anne Blaedow at [ad2@nspcd.org](mailto:ad2@nspcd.org). The Winner will be selected and announced in August.



# Region Reports

## Eastern Michigan Region



**LJ LaVene**  
**Eastern MI**  
**Region Director**

Eastern Michigan Region would like to welcome you all to the Fall Division Meeting, September 9-11, 2022, to be held in Midland, Michigan. Midland is a small town located in the middle of the state surrounded by several parks and natural beauty.

We will be offering several courses over the weekend. Ty Damon will be holding an Adaptive course in case you missed the opportunity at Powderfall. Kim Zambole and Rae Ruddy will be offering OEC recertification clinics. Our Division Awards Advisor will be meeting with Region Awards staff.

There will be many fun activities to partake in such as golf, a planned bike ride, kayaking, and Dow Gardens visit to name a few. There are several boutique shops in the downtown area as well as a selection of restaurants all in comfortable walking distance.

The first of July all the sign-up information will be sent to you. We are looking forward to getting together this fall.

Respectfully,  
LJ LaVene

## Western Region



**Jeff Olsen**  
**Western Region**  
**Director**

Western Region experienced an eventful season with a major focus on patroller education



Here are some of the highlights of the 2021-22 Season.

Buck Hill Patroller Kerstin Hammerberg receiving the 10th Mountain Division Award at Giants Ridge.





The season kicked off with a Summer Region Awards and Training event in mid-July at Giant's Ridge.

Over 120 patrollers attended, and in addition to Region Awards, the event included:

- Review and training related to the new Chairlift Evacuation procedures:

- Training and discussion related to Bike Patrolling:

Region Bike Advisor Aaron Hislop leads discussion.



Wild Mountain YAP patrollers Sam Ward, JJ Runde and Claire Landberg involved in first aid scenario.



Detroit Mountain patrollers with their new OEC Technicians. "I will check CMS before and after everything I do!"



Many patrols added new members and celebrated a successful OEC class, like the Detroit Mountain Ski Patrol:

The Region held a Mountain Travel & Rescue Course in the Fall with another one planned for this Summer. 16 Western Region patrollers attended and participated in the Division ASDW at Granite Peak. 6 Region YAPs attended the division YAP event at Granite Peak and YAPs from two region patrols met and slid together:



**Western Region YAPs with YAPs from other Regions at the Granite Peak.**

Six Ski Enhancement Seminars throughout the region, at Detroit Mountain, Spirit Mountain, Wild Mountain, Mt Kato, Welch Village and Lutsen.

Similarly, five Toboggan Enhancement Seminars were held at Detroit Mountain, Wild Mountain, Mt. Kato, Buck Hill, and Lutsen. Overall, the region added 10 new toboggan instructors and renewed 21 toboggan instructors.



Active Senior Training and Evaluation activities over the course of four weekends at Giants Ridge, Hyland Hills and Wild Mountain resulted in 8 new Senior Patrollers, 3 patrollers who passed Senior OEC, 1 patroller who passed Senior Skiing and Toboggan and 1 patroller who passed Senior Skiing:





**Region Toboggan IT  
Kerstin Hammerberg  
demonstrated proper  
tail rope position at  
Toboggan Instructor  
Recert Event at  
Wild Mountain.**

Western Region held its first Avalanche Course taught in the Region in over 8 seasons:



**Three Rivers  
Patroller Kelly Wilder  
participating in training  
at a Region Senior  
Clinic.**

Western Region hosted a Division ASE Exam at Welch Village resulting in 4 region patrollers becoming Accredited Senior Evaluators:



**Left-to-right, Chad  
Bjorkland, Marc Donnelly,  
Dan Richardson, Kristi  
Ball, Dan Wilder, Kelly  
Wilder and David  
Anderson.**



Western Region Women's Clinic was held at Giant's Ridge with close to 40 participants:



Western Region held a first of its kind NSP-PSIA Clinic for patrol trainers that had just under 30 patrollers attending from 13 of our 19 Alpine Ski Areas:



**Women's Clinic  
attendees at Giants  
Ridge.**



**Patrol Trainers at NSP-  
PSIA Clinic watching  
and listening to  
tips from NSP/PSIA  
Instructor (and Ohio  
Region Director) David  
McKinley.**



Lutsen hosted the Division Certified Test in March:



**Certified Candidate  
Kristi Wilke from Spirit  
Mountain getting  
encouragement from  
certified patroller  
John Thomas and Jeff  
Olsen.**

Western Region will end the season with our Summer Region Awards and Training event in mid-June at Detroit Mountain.



Much effort was made in preparation for this season to work with our patrol directors and advisors to plan and deliver training opportunities throughout the region. Monthly region Zoom Meetings, with agendas limited to no more than one hour (!), have created a sense of community among patrols and a willingness to work in common to address region educational needs. This effort will continue in the coming season with more outreach to encourage patrollers to become instructors and consider Senior and Certified training. Based on feedback from Patrol Trainers at the NSP-PSIA Training Event in March at Giants Ridge, we are planning to kick-off the season with a region “ski school clinic” to help patrol trainers gear up for patrol toboggan refreshers and patrol candidate training.

The region is growing with the addition of two host patrols, at Great Bear and Mt Du Lac ski areas (we now have three host units.) We also added two bike patrols at Detroit Mountain and Spirit Mountain (although we also have bike patrollers at Giants Ridge.) Finally we added a nordic patrol at Spirit Mountain, increasing the number of region nordic patrols to three.

Section One in our Region is likely going to add 2 Alpine patrols, one in Eau Claire, WI and the other in Somerset, WI. If this occurs, we will have 21 alpine patrols, 3 nordic patrols, 2 bike patrols and 3 host patrols, or 29 registration units!

All-in-all, a busy and exciting season is set for next year!

# Benefits of Mountain Host Unit



**Jackie Bottomley**  
**Crystal Mountain PD**

What are the benefits of starting a mountain host unit at your ski area? Well let me tell you, our story. Back in the fall of 2015 I approached our area management with the idea to add mountain hosts to our patrol. The selling point was they would be volunteers, members of the National Ski Patrol, trained in basic first aid (OFC), CPR, chair evacuation, and additional hands, eyes, ears, and visibility on the slopes. We would utilize mountain hosts on weekends and holidays and other busy times. Benefits would be similar to our patrollers.

So, we started the 2015/16 season with about 5 mountain hosts. Recruiting people to become mountain hosts was an easier job than recruiting people to join as patrollers.

The Outdoor First Care course was online and \$25, they would spend a couple weekends of hands-on training, CPR certification and learn how to assist with chair evacuation. We provided them a mountain host yellow vest for the season (on loan), a season pass and a few other benefits. They went through a mentoring program and shadowed patrollers to see how they could assist with accidents, hill safety, customer relationships and so much more. The training was not as intense as the OEC course, and they became beneficial helpers at our area. We taught them how to do simple care such as sling/swath, splinting, stop the bleed, recognizing signs/symptoms, patient assessment and radio communications. Many times, our hosts were first on the scene, made the assessment and radioed for assistance and transport.

Over the years, our mountain host unit now has 30 members. We start new people who have little to no medical background out as hosts rather than overwhelming them with the OEC course. This gets them active in our patrol and gets them motivated to take the next step to becoming a patroller. We think this is a wonderful place for our 15–18-year-old to get started. This mountain host program is an excellent recruiting tool. Over the past 5 years, 11 mountain hosts have become patrollers. Five more mountain hosts are planning to take the OEC candidate course this fall. We get about 8-12 new mountain hosts recruits each season.

The benefits of a mountain host unit program at your area can provide new people to get involved with your ski area. They become a part of the team and grow into becoming patrollers. Recruiting, getting young people involved and providing that extra support on busy weekends are just some of the extras we have gained by our mountain host unit. If you'd like more information on how to start a mountain host unit, please feel free to contact me at: [skills@nspcd.org](mailto:skills@nspcd.org) Plus, when the ballot comes out next fall to make mountain hosts as "members" of the National Ski Patrol – please vote yes. These members are so valuable to our ski areas and patrols.



Jim's Sportswear is a Screenprinting and Embroidery company owned by Nub's Nob Ski Patroller Jim Arlen.  
Our email is: [jimssportswear@gmail.com](mailto:jimssportswear@gmail.com).

We offer our services to all patrols across the country.

Check out their website at:  
<https://jimssportswear.com/>

# Avalanche



**Michael Walenta**  
**Avalanche Supervisor**

Please join me in congratulating our newest member of the Central Division Avalanche Instructor cadre.

Daniel Richardson of Afton Alps Ski Patrol, Western Region, Central Division has now completed all of his requirements for Avalanche Instructing as an Avalanche Level 1 Instructor.

Daniel started telemark skiing before it was all the rage. I have no doubt that if Daniel had been born a few decades earlier he would have traveled to Telemark, Norway to meet personally with Sondre Norheim, the godfather of telemark skiing to gain a few pointers.

Daniel's NSP profile lists a number of Instructor positions and a wide variety of courses he has completed or taught over his many years with NSP.

Daniel is a very committed backcountry skier with annual treks out west in the mountains. Being in the mountains with snow sparked an interest in his own personal avalanche education. In 2019 then Western Region Director Scott O'Connor asked Daniel to move forward into the avalanche community.

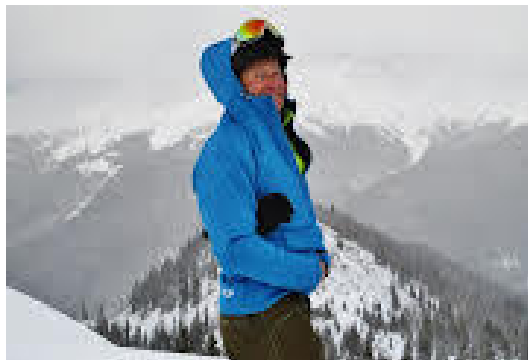
If you are interested in an Avalanche Course in the Western Region, please reach out to Daniel at [rfd55p@yahoo.com](mailto:rfd55p@yahoo.com) or 651-797-3444

**CONGRATULATIONS DANIEL!**

Daniel was mentored through the process by NSP Board Member Kristi Ball, Level 2 Avalanche Instructor and Avalanche IT.

If you are interested in becoming an Avalanche Instructor now or in the future, please visit [nsp.org](https://nsp.org), click on Programs, click on Avalanche in the drop down menu, click on Become an Avalanche Instructor Click Here. Fill out the form and click Submit.

You will be contacted shortly.



The Utah Avalanche Center is hiring a Forest Service avalanche forecaster for the 2023/2023 season. The position is a temporary seasonal GS-8, meteorological technician position. Apply soon at [USAjobs.gov](https://USAjobs.gov) under announcement number 23-TEMP1-R4-3796-8DT-MM. The job will be open for applications from June 17-24.

Please share this with anyone who may be interested and qualified.

For more info contact Mark Staples at [mark@utahavalanchecenter.org](mailto:mark@utahavalanchecenter.org)



## BCA Tracker4 Safety Recall Notice:

[https://backcountryaccess.com/en-us/blog/p/bca-tracker4-safety-recall-notice?fbclid=IwAR0XMwRpluiACHO\\_wJWbMp-Z63UQU7Z8r1NIFEW13e2392P91d9El-SJxIE](https://backcountryaccess.com/en-us/blog/p/bca-tracker4-safety-recall-notice?fbclid=IwAR0XMwRpluiACHO_wJWbMp-Z63UQU7Z8r1NIFEW13e2392P91d9El-SJxIE)

PIEPS and Black Diamond Equipment Avalanche Transceiver / Beacon Safety Check

We have observed a small number of PIEPS and Black Diamond Avalanche Beacons with malfunctioning electronic components that may prevent it from switching between SEND and SEARCH modes. Our testing is ongoing, but it is important to us that we communicate this information promptly and ask that anyone in possession of the following beacons to immediately perform a safety inspection to ensure your beacon is functioning properly.

- PIEPS Micro BT Button, Race, Sensor
- PIEPS POWDER, PRO BT
- PIEPS DSP SPORT
- BLACK DIAMOND RECON, GUIDE

If you have one of these beacons, we ask that you immediately check and verify that the SEND/SEARCH/BLUETOOTH modes are working properly. If your beacon does not pass the Safety Check, you should retire it immediately and return it to PIEPS / BLACK DIAMOND for service, free-of charge.



## Nordic News



**Jeff Schmidt**  
**Nordic**  
**Supervisor**

I hope everyone is having a good summer. Plans are underway for a great Nordic season and refreshers are already being planned.

We will be having our annual Division Nordic training in Minocqua Wisconsin, January 7 and 8, 2023. Followed by the Division Tele clinic up in Big Snow Resort/Indianhead on Monday Jan. 9th, 2023. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us!

We are currently updating the Nordic/Backcountry patrol manual and adding updates to the Nordic/Backcountry landing page for the new online instruction program. More to follow . . .

I hope to see you at the Division Meeting Sept. 9 – 11, 2022 in Midland, Michigan.

Think Snow (in a couple months)



# Safety Team News



**Safety Team**  
Kevin McQuillan

## FIRST, CURRENT ITEMS:

The Safety Team has two tents and six flags for use around the Division. The flags we purchased are doubled sided and two can be used inside or outside. One “set” is on the West side of Lake Michigan and the other “set” is on the East side. These are available for use by all programs for both the summer and winter.

East Side Contact: Katie Flanagan: [flanag40@msu.edu](mailto:flanag40@msu.edu)

West Side Contact: Bret Duesdieker: Bret Duesdieker [dues711@mac.com](mailto:dues711@mac.com)

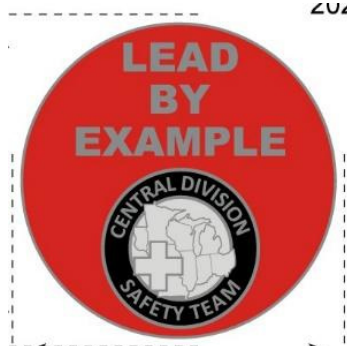


NECK TUBES are still available at the Central Division Gear Store:

[https://promotionpros.store/CD\\_Safety\\_Team/shop/product-detail/1002391](https://promotionpros.store/CD_Safety_Team/shop/product-detail/1002391)

## WHAT'S NEW:

Lead By Example Pins are on order.



Coming later this year will be lanyards and cards promoting the new Central Division Safety Code and Chair Lift Safety.

# Instructor Development



**Marie Traska**  
Instructor Development

Exciting times for the National Ski Patrol, be sure to check out the new NSP Center for Learning. This will be new IMS system. Instructor Development will be updating all their programs to the new system. The older materials will still be available (for a while) if you are completing any of the current courses.

Be sure to continue to encourage patrollers to become new instructors. NSP is always in the need of new instructors for the various programs that are offered. Another benefit of the ID program is that it can be one to the electives for the Senior program.

Also, for instructors they should check to see if they need to recertify their status in the various disciplines. Instructors need to do every three years. The system will lead them to the various models that they need to complete.

## PSIA Update for NSP Members



**Amy Arnold**  
PSIA Liaison

The 2021/2022 season saw lots of updates to the PSIA Certification process. New National Certification Standards were implemented for Alpine, Snowboard, Telemark, Cross Country and Children's Specialist. The new standards provide a more consistent pathway with common language across disciplines and divisions. People skills, in addition to teaching and technical skills are now part of the assessment for each level of certification. Certification Standards – PSIA-AASI

Another new resource available are performance guides for each discipline, people and teaching skills. These performance guides provide details on successful and unsuccessful performance contributors in relationship to the national standards. Links for Alpine, People, and Teaching performance guides.

[https://thesnowpros.org/download/Alpine\\_PG\\_10\\_21.pdf](https://thesnowpros.org/download/Alpine_PG_10_21.pdf)

[https://thesnowpros.org/download/People\\_PG\\_10\\_21.pdf](https://thesnowpros.org/download/People_PG_10_21.pdf)

[https://thesnowpros.org/download/Teaching-PG-10\\_21.pdf](https://thesnowpros.org/download/Teaching-PG-10_21.pdf)

Also, the score cards for exams have been updated to an unified Assessment Form. This new form allows the examiners to determine if candidates skills meet the National Standards using a six point scale. Areas that are assessed include, Instructor decisions and behavior, teaching skills, skiing performance, people skills, technical understanding, and movement analysis. Assessment forms are available on The PSIA Central Division website [PSIA-c.org](https://psia-c.org) under the Education and Certification tab.

If you are considering taking a certification exam next season use these new resources to prepare. Summer is a great time to expand your knowledge with some dryland training.

For the 2022/2023 season the ASDW Division Event is being rebranded with additional clinics added to the weekend. One consideration is an early season Alpine Level 1 certification exam. Holding the exam at the same time as traditional ASDW offerings would allow those patrollers seeking level 1 certification to travel/ share lodging with fellow patrollers. Interested NSPC Snowsports members/patrollers would need to register for the exam through PSIA. There are four parts to the Alpine Level 1. Two virtual clinics, an E-learning course and a two day on the snow assessment. The virtual clinics and E-learning course need to be completed in the Fall so that there is plenty of time to study/prepare for the on the snow portion. Please contact me at [psia@nspcd.org](mailto:psia@nspcd.org) to let me know your interest in an early season Level 1 exam. It is important to start identifying interested patrollers so that they would be available to sign up for the virtual clinics and E-learning course early Fall.

Please reach out with any questions regarding the new assessment format, available resources or joining PSIA.

Amy Arnold

## Patroller 101



**David Dahl**  
**Patroller 101**

Good news! The current Patroller 101 (Introduction to Patrolling) manual is available electronically at the following link:

[https://nspserver.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/web\\_Intro-to-patrolling-document-MAY2020.pdf](https://nspserver.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/web_Intro-to-patrolling-document-MAY2020.pdf)

Did you know: The History and Organization of the NSP can be found in this manual?

Why is this important?

1. It's important to know your NSP to be aware of the hierarchy. We have had instances recently where patrollers have contacted the National Board directly with a problem. By knowing the organizational chart of the NSP, patrollers will be aware that local concerns should be handled by the local patrol. If that is not successful, the next step would be to go to the Section Chief, then the Regional Director. After that the Division would become involved and FINALLY, the National Board would be the last avenue of recourse after all other measures have been exhausted.

2. As patrollers, we are often asked by the skiing public about the patrol. Sometimes they want to know what it takes to become a patroller, or what the number on your jacket means (National Number). It's good to have a broad knowledge of both the organization and history of the patrol to interact with these customers.

The manual also contains a large section on the Bike Patrol and Risk Management, among other things.

It is my hope that Patroller 101 can be incorporated into the training of all incoming new patrollers. Ideally, a section of the Patroller 101 manual could be included in every area's refresher. There are several new components including the NSP Code of Conduct/Harassment Policy and the Youth Protection Policy, which we all need to be reviewing.

## Recruit new patrollers with Patrol SWAG!

The **Central Division Gear Store** is a simple to use resource for you to order your SWAG and promote your local patrol. This resource will provide all leaders an EASY and AFFORDABLE resource for creating custom gear to promote programs with a professional looking brand! You can purchase ski patrol gear to reflect the programs that we are involved in. Think of the possibilities!! Check out the new Central Division Gear Store at this link:

[https://promotionpros.store/nsp\\_central\\_division\\_gear](https://promotionpros.store/nsp_central_division_gear)

NEW Central Division Logo  
NEW Central Division Bike Patrol Logo  
All Official NSP Logos



**Patrol Directors:** Our partner company, Promotions Pros will create a custom "store" for your patrol. You can

simply upload your logo and select your wearables, promotional items, awards, recognition and recruiting items to increase your visibility in public. Your local patrol certainly could promote itself with some great looking logo clothing.

If your patrol has never had a logo created, the Promotion Pro's design team can help with that as well. Minimum orders of 6 pieces per embroidery design are required and 12 pieces for screen printed items. Discounts for larger quantities are available.



Here is the process to create a store for your patrol or program:

1. Submit a logo to our customer service rep Emily at [emily@promotionpros.com](mailto:emily@promotionpros.com)
2. Select the clothing, bags, gear of your choice that you want screen printed or embroidered. They can pretty much get any type of clothing, promotional item, gear or awards that you could desire.
3. Promotion Pro's will create the "store" for you and send out a link for collecting orders.
4. Offer the opportunity to order for a couple weeks. Orders will process when the store is "closed".
5. Items processed and shipped within 2 weeks directly to the purchaser.

## Powderfall 2022 YAP Experience



**Brad Peterson**  
YAP Advisor

Young Adult Patrollers from around our nation came together to experience the big mountains and big snow at Powderfall 2022 in Breckenridge Colorado. For some, it was a first in many respects.

Steady 40 mph winds at the base and up to near 100 mph at nearby peaks added to the thrill. Meeting other YAPs from the east to west set an atmosphere of instant camaraderie and new friendships. Skiing together, a friendly chance to test skills and teamwork bonded these young adults.



The memories will be cherished over the years. Perhaps, one day, they will come together again as future NSP Leadership and will reminisce about this experience with a smile.

Top honors went to Taylen Peterson in team and individual OEC events and to Claire Landberg from Western Region.

Support your Young Adult Patrol Program! They are our future NSP Leaders!!

See additional photos on the next page!

Brad Peterson  
Wild Mountain Ski Patrol  
NSP Central Division & Western Region  
Young Adult Patrol Supervisor







## Social Media



**Darcy Hanley**  
**Social Media**

The summer fun has begun! Yippee and that means you will all be getting ready for the next season of happy turns and snow....

The Facebook page for the Central Division is linked to many other pages such as Certified, National Women's program page, Southern Region, NSPNCR, and groups like National Day, National Mountain Bike Patrol. If you would like your patrol or region to be connected to the Central Division FB page let me know. We would like to have all our regions connected to the CD page. We promise to post division worthy news, Tip of the Week and Snowsports news. Thank you for staying connected with us...Enjoy the warm weather and summer fun. The snow will be back sooner than you think....



# Skills Development Program



**Jackie Bottomley**  
**Skills Development**

Even though we are in the heat of summer, the Skills Development team has been meeting monthly to recreate and rebrand the December training sessions. In this Rusty Parka you will see a challenge contest to help us with rebranding, renaming, and developing a logo for the Central Division training sessions that happen in early December. So please help us out with your suggestions.

So, what is the Skills Development team doing? We are going to present to the Central Division Board in September our proposal to host four separate events. Two will be held in early December for credentialing of existing senior evaluator, new senior evaluators, and IT's. We are also planning to have a PSIA Level 1 exam, some sessions on training the trainers, and specialty sessions.

Then the big news is we are planning on hosting two more sessions in mid/late March. These sessions will include an ASE exam, a few credentialing sessions, OET toboggan instructor sign off and sessions for new and upcoming instructors. Both the December and March sessions will offer a weekend course on the east and west side of Lake Michigan. Another substantial change is that these training events will be open to all patrollers. Your Region Director and/or Advisors will have to recommend you attend as we will not be able to have "open" sign up. There will be limitations on the number of patrollers we can have in each session due to the ski resorts and instructors available. Another exciting idea we are discussing is the opportunity for other programs to host along with us their training. Maybe YAP, Certified, Avalanche or risk management. We will be discussing this idea with the program supervisors so they can piggyback on the Skills Development event.

Lots of changes will be coming for the 2022/23 season. We are still in the planning stages. Nothing will be finalized until the September Board meeting. We are just giving you a flavor as to what we are discussing. If you have any suggestions or sessions you would like the Skills Development team to consider, please contact Jackie Bottomley at: [skills@nspcd.org](mailto:skills@nspcd.org) This is your event and we'd like to make it to accommodate your needs. Have a great summer and we will see you at the Fall Division meeting in Midland, Michigan.

## CENTRAL DIVISION ALUMNI UPDATE



**Dan Dalquist**  
**Alumni**

**NUMBERS:** Central Division has 1497 alumni registered. Here is the count by region: Eastern = 141, North Central = 121, Northern Michigan = 119, Ohio = 244, Southern=207, South Central =228, Western = 430, Western Michigan = 121.

**WHO ARE THE ALUMNI:** We have young patrollers who have a job change or starting families and do not have the time to Patrol. Retirees who have yrs of experience and no longer want to patrol. Patrollers who have had a medical event that will not permit them to patrol.

All of the above want to keep their membership active and to help local patrols in any way they can.

**SKILLS AVAILABLE:** Alumni offer a variety of skills to local patrols. The list includes OEC instructors, OET instructors, PSIA/AASI members, experience with scheduling, building maintenance, equipment maintenance, mentoring new patrollers etc. The list is long! And most are willing to help as best they can. A significant talent base for patrols to use.

**HOW TO BECOME ALUMNI:** Go to the [NSP.org](http://NSP.org) site, click on Programs and then Alumni. Print off the

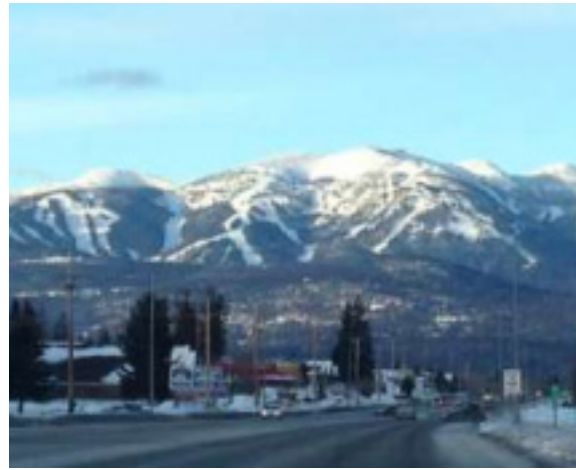


document titled "Become an Alumni Member", fill it out and attach a check. Mail it to the National Office. An easy low-tech system.

**CHALLENGE:** I ask our Alumni members to reach out to your local patrol or home patrol. What are the areas you can help them with? Patrol Directors - reach out to the Alumni from your patrol. How can they help you?

**PATROL DIRECTORS:** Please consider registering Alumni as secondary to your patrols. That makes it much easier to identify home patrols for Alumni.

**ALUMNI MEMBERS:** The National Alumni event, scheduled for Whitefish Mt, was canceled due to covid issues. Please put the following dates on your calendar for next season: Whitefish MT - Feb 26 thru March 4 2023. A flier is in this article of the RPN. This event is open to Alumni and patrollers. Come out and ski and meet others from around the NSP system.



## NSP Alumni Celebration Week at Whitefish Mountain, Whitefish, Montana, **February 26-March 4, 2023**

Whitefish Mountain (formerly Big Mountain) is consistently rated in the top 30 US ski resorts, offering 3,000 skiable acres, almost 2,400 vertical, 11 chairlifts and presents an incredible skiing/snowboarding experience (see: [skiwhitefish.com](http://skiwhitefish.com)). In 2022, \$29 lift tickets for "super seniors" (age 70 & up) and discounts to those 65 & up (book on-line, for multi days and save more); hence, alumni/spouses/younger skiers save money).

**Accommodations:** Most attendees stay at nearby highly-rated Grouse Mountain Lodge ([glacierparkcollection.com](http://glacierparkcollection.com)), just minutes from the mountain, with free shuttle downtown, then to mountain, or to/from airport, lovely rooms, double occupancy; just \$89/night. To book, call the lodge, (406) 892-2525 or email to: [glacierpark@pursuitcollection.com](mailto:glacierpark@pursuitcollection.com). Start on Sunday, Feb. 26, and stay for multiple days or the entire week. ID yourself as "National Ski Patrol Alumni"; also notify Tim, at [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com) of your arrival date.

Join fellow NSP Alumni, NSP members, family and friends for weekly activities and fun: Breakfast/espresso bar/pastries mornings: At Grouse Mountain Lodge, join your old and new NSP friends at 7 AM (so you can catch the lodge shuttle into downtown to connect to the Snow Bus)! Dinners at the lodge or in downtown Whitefish each night. Meet with friends or as a group each night. Cross country skiing: The Lodge is adjacent to a nice cross-country ski course, with night lighting! We'll also arrange an XC outing on Tuesday into nearby Glacier National Park.

Special nights out at local restaurants: 6:30 PM, Sunday night, at Grouse Mtn. Lodge; Monday night, at Latitude 48; Tuesday, Whitefish Lake Restaurant; Wednesday, Abruzzo Italian Kitchen; Thursday TBD.

Clinics: We hope to arrange a no-cost "Old Knees Clinics" during the week, and cross-country outing, so you can sharpen your ski skills on those well-worn knees and legs!

Shopping in downtown Whitefish: Plenty of time to shop each day; we'll organize car pools or use the hotel shuttle into downtown for those interested.

Optional tour into Glacier National Park (Tuesday, no charge), Horse-drawn sleigh rides (additional fee) or Dog Sled Adventures (additional fee) in nearby Montana State Forests. If interested, advise Tim for detail. Air service: Kalispell Regional Airport has major carriers; our hotel offers shuttle from/to the hotel, \$5 each way, arrange when you make your reservation, or by calling the lodge, 406-892-2525.

Advise National Alumni Advisor Tim Viall, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com), (209) 969-3875 of your planned arrival date, your old patrol/division, cell phone number and email; Tim will send you additional detail about optional tours and other planned week-long activities. Questions, contact Tim, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com)!

## WEATHER EMERGENCIES



Ahh.... Summer! This is the time when **some of us** get to take a break from our patrolling duties. As our summers slowly get longer, more and more resorts are offering summer activities for their guests. Zip lines, mountain biking, scenic chair lift rides, alpine coasters, hiking, and mud runs are just a few examples of how resorts are delving into year-round operations. Some of these activities require first aid services to be onsite.

**Jeannie Mogan** If you are patrolling in the summer, it's a good idea to understand your resort's **Outdoor Risk Management** policies surrounding severe weather.

### Monitoring

In the event of potential severe weather (i.e., tornado, hail, gale force winds, etc.), a designated employee should have access to a portable AM/FM radio or the internet in order to follow weather updates, specifically, severe weather announcements. The designated employee should understand how and when to alert the patrol to severe weather. If you do not know who the designated employee is at your resort, ask your Patrol Representative or an area manager. Consider having your on-duty patrol shift leader be in charge of monitoring for the patrol.

### Shelter Areas

Severe weather shelter areas are typically on the lowest floor of each building away from windows and near interior walls. These areas should be signed as shelters. If you do not know where your severe weather shelter areas are, be sure to ask your Patrol Representative or a resort manager.

Patroller responsibilities during a severe weather emergency may include:

- Directing or assisting guests and other employees or volunteer to the nearest Shelter Area.
- Informing guests when a weather emergency has ended
- Assisting Supervisors with other tasks as directed.

### Lightning

When lightning strikes, it will go for the tallest target on its way to earth. Chair lifts must be shut down if there is lightning in the area. It is dangerous for people on the chair lift, as well as for the lift itself. Many areas suspend activities for at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike. You will want to know what your area policy is for closing the lifts and how the lift operators are to unload customers and "call last chair".



In addition, you will want to know where guests are to shelter if they are at the top of the mountain. Many resorts have designated shelter areas for this.

Patroller responsibilities may include:

- Informing guests of lightning events and area policy
- Informing guests when a lightning delay has ended or the area is to close
- Assisting supervisors with other tasks as directed.

Thinking about what might happen during a severe weather emergency and what actions you should take, will make for a smoother operation during the event, decrease the likelihood of injury, and make you a more effective and valuable member of your resort's team.

As always – Stay safe out there!

Jeannine Mogan  
Outdoor Risk Management Advisor  
Central Division NSP

## NSP – C Snow Sports School



**Marty Blaszkowski**  
**NSP-C Snowsports**  
**School**

Come on come all to the next ASDW. That's right if you want to attend, please get with your region advisor and get your spot. I'm looking for snowboarders... this season we're going to have a snowboarder's only clinic. I want to fill the hill with enthusiastic boarders ready to learn. We'll have our normal programs as well and a few new ones. Make sure to contact your region advisors to reserve your spot.

Make sure to join the NSP-C Snowsports school and like us on Facebook. If you have any favorite progressions or story's you'd like to share, please feel free to do so.

For the 2021/2022 ski season the NSP-C Snow Sports School awarded people for getting their PSIA/AASI credentials, \$50 for level 1, \$100 for Level 2 and \$300 for Level 3. The NSP-C Snow Sports School will again be offering the awards program for the 2022/2023 season. The rules are simple, you must be a member of the school to participate (it's free to join). You must fill out the award application found on the division web site BEFORE December 16, 2022. After passing the event you must send me a copy of the certificate. The award will be distributed at

the fall division meeting.

If you are looking to join the division staff please forward me your NSP resume to [mjb8804@yahoo.com](mailto:mjb8804@yahoo.com). You must be a level 3 Alpine, tele or level 2 Snowboarder. A member of NSP in good standing, a Senior evaluator and a member of the NSP-C Snowsports School.

Have a great summer. I look forward to skiing with you this season.



# Scam and Fraud Alert



**Chris Raudabaugh**  
**Technology Advisor**

As you may well know, scamming and fraud via email/texting/phone calls are very common in this day of age. This type of 'theft' may have already affected many levels of the NSP organization including the region and patrol levels. This kind of loss can be preventable if you follow some simple guidelines when it comes to your email, and your cell phone text messages. Here are some guidelines/thoughts for you to consider if you are ever contacted by someone who is asking for "ANY" kind of financial assistance:

- Be very suspicious of unexpected emails, text, or social media (facebook!) messages that are requesting financial assistance.
- Inspect the email address, phone number, or social media account of the sender. Is it the phone number/email address recognized as being from the sender? Was the message sent from a hacked or duplicated social media account?
- If the sender asks for gift cards as the way to transfer the financial assistance. This is a BIG RED FLAG.
- Look for misspellings in the message. BIG RED FLAG
- Would you ever expect someone from NSP or patrol leadership to truly contact you for direct financial support? Most likely not.
- Will the person contacting you be willing to call you to talk about the issue if you request it (probably not. If they do not want to contact you, then it is a BIG RED FLAG). Person to person (voice) contact is the best way to verify a legitimate request.
- You are asked to keep it confidential, or a secret.
- You are asked to make the financial transaction happen very quickly.



What you can do to be proactive in preventing financial loss:

- Make your membership/organizational staff aware of the possibility of this type of fraud/scam.
- Share the list I provided to help everyone identify possible fraudulent activity.
- Create an approval structure that could include voice confirmation, or a 2 person authorization for any financial transactions
- Never share personal information to unsolicited or unexpected requests.
- Making payments with gift cards for anything is not a normal method of payment.
- Note that scammers could ask you to use other ways other than gift cards to defraud you (eg. Wire cash). However, gifts cards are the quickest ways to get to your cash.



Keep in mind that the scammers are very good at creating a plausible story (via NSP/ski patrol membership, or your own family) using real names and locations to dupe you into doing their financial biddings. You need to look past the narrative, and think about the points I made listed above. I'm sure there are many more 'red flags' I could list, but this is a good start. If in doubt, **CALL SOMEONE ELSE TO VERIFY**. It is best to make sure the request is legit before making a mistake and sending your money to a crook. Report any requests such as this to the appropriate channels.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

## Bike Program



**Bike Program**  
Mary Dunphy

Welcome to summertime biking season. Spring was cold and wet up north so many single track trails had delayed opening days. Road and gravel biking is in full force down south. CD bike patrol stickers were distributed to patrols. Contact me if you would like a few to give out to your bike patrollers. The CD bike program webpage is nearing completion, but still in need of northern Michigan and southern and south central region advisors. National bike program director Jeremy Verbeke traveled through WI and northern MI to visit patrols and biking areas. Chestnut Mountain in Galena IL will roll out lift assisted biking next month: thanks to Detroit Lakes and Giants Ridge and Spirit Mountain for their advice.







**sol alpine**



Founded by a Ski Patroller with the mission to support Patrols, Sol Alpine makes practical, rugged, innovative snow goggles. We partner with on-mountain shops to support their Ski & Bike Patrols by giving 1% of our sales to the Patrols where Sol Alpine goggles are sold. We'd love to support your Patrol.

**Pro pricing offered to NSP members. Contact us at [SolAlpine.com](http://SolAlpine.com)**



## The mission of the NSP Women's Program is to empower patrollers by advancing skills and developing leadership in a women-focused program.



**Kerstin Hammarberg  
Women's Program**

Hello all!

Here I sit with temps in the 80s and expecting 90s by tomorrow. What am I thinking about? SKIING!!! SNOW!!! Because in the summer it makes me feel COOL!

The past season was a great season! There were so many successes and celebrations of effort that there are too many to name. The BEST thing was that we got to be Face To Face (F2F) again!! Hurray!!

In mid-January, we found ourselves sliding on the snow at Pine Knob ski area near Detroit, MI. Pine Knob was a GREAT host area! Everyone treated us so well and we were made to feel special! Cricket Nickolaou and Nancy Trout along with their team did an amazing job. There were more than 30 ladies who participated in skiing, riding, and toboggan handling sessions. The staff had fun helping everyone learn new skills and refine familiar skills. Some women stepped up and tried their hand at teaching and coaching alongside the Division Staff. A great time was had by all!

In January we also traveled to Mont Ripley in Houghton, MI. The ski area was a great challenge, and we were treated very well! Our Region host was the Northern Michigan Region. There were more than 30 women who joined us for the weekend. We were excited to try new skills, drag toboggans through moguls, and ride and ski down great trails! Mont Ripley impressed everyone!

Some words from our participants:

I wanted to let you know how much I absolutely loved the women's clinic! I know this sounds sort of dramatic, but it was a hugely empowering weekend for me. I learned so much the day I had ski lessons and then again on the toboggan. I only wish I could have had 2 full days of both.

Thanks for running a great clinic! We really enjoyed the weekend!! We all learned so much and had fun while doing it.

Just wanted to thank you for a great weekend!

Thanks for a great weekend. You (and your entire staff) were wonderful. The excitement you all have, your positive energy, words of wisdom and just fun spirits made for a great weekend of skiing. You are all an inspiration and I'm looking forward to next year!

SOME of the successes of this season for our participants, staff, and other great women of the Division have been increased leadership roles, NEW leadership roles, achievement of training/testing goals, and new involvement in the ski patrols of the Central Division.

Other Region Women's Events held around the Division:

- Western Region – Giant's Ridge
- North Central Division – No event held
- South Central Division – Tyrol Basin
- Eastern Michigan – Division Clinic at Pine Knob
- Northern Michigan – Division Clinic at Mont Ripley
- Western Michigan – Crystal Mountain
- Ohio Region – Snow Trails
- Southern Region – Sundown Mountain

The 2023 Women's Clinic  
Central Division event will be held at  
**CASCADE MOUNTAIN!!**

We are excited to bring this event to Cascade Mountain in the Central Division! Tentative plans are being put in place for the following dates:

**January 27-29, 2023**

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this amazing event and celebrate all that the Women's Program has done to develop leaders, increase skills, and encourage confidence for our patrollers!

Each Region has been expanding their Women's Programs each year! For the upcoming season we will be hosting one Division Women's Program and sending the Division Staff to all the Region Women's Programs to help promote women in leadership! We are excited to get to your Region and meet you!

Thank you to the Women's Program staff: Linda Murphy-Jacobs, Chris Moe-Herlick, Linda Barthel, Amy Arnold, Erika Krol, Anne Blaedow, Cheryl Raudebaugh, Kathy Brennan, Kris Leibau, Lauren Wroblewski, Sue Brann, Darcy Hanley, and Loretta Cobble – I could not be successful without you all! To our Region hosts: Nancy Trout, Cricket Nickolaou, Lianna Miller, Brett Hamlin, and Trudy Olsen – thank you for all your hospitality and support!! To all who were involved thank you for an amazing season! Can't wait to see you again!



# Senior Program



**Jeff Jurcak**  
**Senior Supervisor**

Hello to Central Division,

I would like you to know that your Senior Program Team (myself, Aron (Sean) Bennet and Jamie Roell) are working along side some of the most seasoned and experienced patrollers in the Division to help shape the Quality Assurance form/report. This form/report allows us to monitor and adjust the training techniques to shape the success of the Central Division Senior Candidates. We are reaching out to some recent unsuccessful candidates to get their input on the program and any thoughts that they may have to create a more successful event. The success and growth of the candidates is paramount to us, so we are spending these late spring early summer months discussing ways to make that happen. As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call or email the team.

Please read Jackie Bottomley's article to hear about the exciting news about the new December event!

## OEC Update



**Kim Zambole**  
**OEC Supervisor**

How do you cope with *CHANGE*? Do you welcome the opportunities to learn something new? Do you cautiously walk forward, hoping you will not get knocked over? Do you resist it at all costs? Most changes are out of our control. Still, there are ways to navigate through that you may find helpful.

1. **Plan ahead.** If you know change is on the horizon, do some prep work. Change is less stressful when you have a contingency plan in place.
2. **Reframe your thinking.** Once you become aware of negative thoughts, you're better equipped to shift them to emphasize the positive.
3. **Take time to reflect.** Mark what is being lost in the change and talk it through with a trusted friend.

Why am I writing about change? Well, it is inevitable. Change happens! In the world of OEC, the newest change will be with our next OEC Refresher. This year the information typically found in the workbook will be delivered online only. Successful completion of this AND the online course will be part of the fall refresher. NO MORE PAPER!

The next change, while not specific to OEC, is significant. NSP has launched the NSP Center for Learning. This is BIG! While still growing, this new learning management system will allow members to access learning opportunities more fluidly. Put your seatbelt on as we all experience this learning curve. If you have any questions about the new LMS, don't hesitate to get in touch with [nspcenterforlearning@nsp.org](mailto:nspcenterforlearning@nsp.org).

Finally, if you wonder what you can do to keep current with your OEC skills, reach out to your local OEC instructors. Oodles of basic courses throughout the division welcome extra patroller assistance as we train new patrollers.

Sources: [henryford.com](http://henryford.com), NSP Center for Learning



# OET LMS Update and Toboggan Pro Tip #1



This spring has been a pretty busy time for the National OET group! We began with a face to face following Powderfall which allowed us to discuss the various toboggan programs in our individual Divisions, gain an understanding of how OET fits into the new Learning Management System (LMS), and shooting various footage to be used in future programming. Our overall course objective for the OET courses that will be housed in the LMS system, which goes live on June 15th, is to prepare candidates and patrollers to proficiently demonstrate toboggan handling skills. We will be rolling them out a few at a time with our initial focus being falling leaf and side slip. I would love to hear feedback from any of you that choose to take the courses!

**Tracy Buchanan**  
**Toboggan**  
**Supervisor**

Just for fun, I will be adding a Toboggan Pro Tip in future articles!

So....my Pro Tip #1 is: Engage the Fin

The secret to holding a strong edge on a traverse or to eliminate the 'fishtail' effect while running the toboggan is to Engage the Fin! Yes, Fin! Not runner, not skeg, not long metal thing on the bottom of the toboggan. It is called the Fin and there are two of them. On the typical Cascade model 100 (The Legend), there are two different types; long and shallow (groomers) or short and deep (powder).

The question then becomes how and why.. Let's start with the traverse.

As the lead, we are setting our edges into the hill (to the uphill side) to move across the slope creating two distinct lines, (if you're on skis), in the snow. In order to set our edges effectively we are also rolling our ankles and knees into the hill, have slight counter and our uphill shoulder, hand and hip are slightly forward.

Fortunately we have a patroller on tail rope to aid in holding the toboggan from slipping but what can we do to aid in the toboggan tracking behind us?? As you move across the hill, lighten the pressure on the uphill toboggan handle as you pressure the downhill handle, this will also direct pressure to your downhill ski. This simple movement engages not only your downhill ski but also the downhill fin of the toboggan and allows the toboggan to track directly behind you as you traverse the hill.

The same theory holds true to eliminate the 'fishtail' effect while running the toboggan unloaded alone. It is a different feel since the handles are unlocked but it can still be a great tool for your toolbox. When running unloaded, simply pressure or 'twist' the downhill handle of the toboggan to engage the fin to eliminate any fishtailing that may occur. Another way to think about engaging the downhill fin would be to visualize the toboggan being full of water and you are trying to dump the water out ....gently! Just don't try this with a patient while your learning this technique.

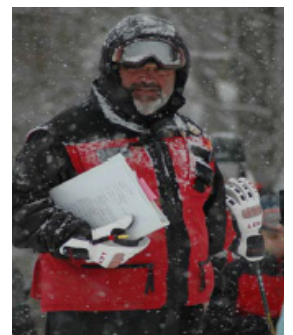
As with any new technique, it will take practice, practice, practice. This coming season I encourage you to sign up for a TES or local training if available!

## Applications for Dan Somalski Memorial Fund

The application window for the season Daniel Somalski Memorial Fund is open until December 1st. The fund is an educational grant for any Central Division patroller with membership in good standing. Activities for potential fund reimbursement include:

- Any National Ski Patrol Education
- PSIA/AASI Certification

Applications can be located on the Central Division Website via the following link  
<http://www.nspcentral.org/docs/somalski/SomalskiApplication.pdf>.



# 2021/22 Central Division Certified Program



**Ron Gerdes**

## **Certified**

I was a bit unsure how things would play out this season. Many questions surrounding the event were being tossed around, and frankly, we collectively had no idea how things would go... In the end, we came back with a roar! The event was held 3/10-11 at Lutsen Mt in Minnesota and it was the largest attended in event history with over 102 guests in attendance. Through the course of the event, a total of 9 candidates participating in 43 separate evaluations with 28 successful evaluations for an overall 65% pass rate. Congrats to Matt Stordahl (Western) completed his requirements, earning Certified #851.

Certified Lifetime Awards were received by Chris Moe Herlick, Linda Murphy Jacobs, Tim Weinand, JT Thomas, Mike Longfellow Jones.

would like to extend a HUGE thanks to Johanna Hislop, and her Western Region crew, Cheryl Raudabaugh, Doc Werner, and countless others for their participation in the success of this event! This event is a monumental task that requires dedicated and passionate folks to make everything a success. I genuinely thank you for your support of this program!

## 2022/23 Certified Evaluation

The 2022/23 Certified Evaluation is scheduled for Nubs Nob/Highlands of Harbor Springs, March 2-4, 2023. If you are interested in participating as either a candidate or just want to see what were up to, Im happy to answer any questions and get you going down the right path.

## Division Program Inclusion

This season, the Certified Program started working with the Division Avalanche Program. Michael Walenta (CD Avy Advisor) was present for the event and has offered his assistance at future events. The goal in the next couple seasons is to work with other division in a symbiotic pathway to develop all programs across the spectrum.

2021 Recertification/Qualification Events were held at  
Perfect North Slopes  
Nubs Nob  
Welch Village

2022/23 recertification/qualification events are TBD based upon area needs. The region certified advisors will be meeting to discuss adding Crystal Mt in Thompsonville MI to the recertification/qualification location list in hopes of increasing the growth of the program within Western MI region.

## Training Equipment Upgrades

The Division Program has purchased 2 SKED devices (portable, collapsible rescue litter) one for each side of the division. These devices will be used to compliment the LAR and Rope rescue training within the certified program as well as division MTR programs with the goal of giving all of the division training access to the most current rescue equipment and training methods.

## Summer Training Session - Certified/MTR Campout

In response to decreasing success rates on several modules, we are looking at holding a summer training event in central Wisconsin. Dates and locations are TBD. The goal of this session is to assist several regions on their LAR/rope rescue and avalanche training opportunities for their candidates. I will be working

with Western Region, North Central, several current staff members, Avalanche, and will be reaching out to the MTR program, to develop this plan. I will report to division leadership as soon as dates and locations are determined.

## Telecommunications



**Paul Botnen**  
**Telecommunications**

Greetings fellow Central Division patrollers,

My name is Paul Botnen, I serve the Central Division patrollers as the Telecommunications adviser.

In that role, I work with local patrols on issues related to the radio communications systems that are used by the patrols during the season.

While things have been quiet on the radio front, there are changes out there. This past winter I worked with a patrol to make the switch to DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) technology. A couple minor hiccups that were solved have led to a radio system that will function better than what the patrol had available to them, and allow new features to be used as experience with the system grows.

If you have questions about how that could benefit your patrol, please contact me directly.

In closing, I would like to thank John Thomas (JT) for providing me with the opportunity to be a source of information to the patrols. I look forward to seeing JT on the slopes again soon.

As the division moves forward, I hope to be able to bring other new technology into the conversation with local patrols.



**Guy Day**  
**ADD**

Happy Summer to all! I hope that you are all enjoying your summertime activities with your friends and family. Before you know it, we will planning for the refreshers and snow will be on the horizon. Now is the time to start the exercise routine to get our bodies back into ski shape. Spend 20 to 30 minutes taking the dog out or have a conversation with your significant other as you walk around the neighborhood. If you want or need your "Me Time" then get out and be active, go for a run/walk. I am saying this as these last two years of the pandemic has hit all of us. Some folks got away without too much of an issue or side effects. While others were hit extremely hard and even worse, we lost friends and family who made the final sweep. I say this as I look in the mirror and realize that it will take time to see the difference and get to a point where we want to be.

As you read through this edition of the RPN, please pay close attention the changes that are happening in our Division, specifically in the area programs. Without getting to in-depth, the Skills Development Team is adding additional opportunities for Division Events. Women's, Senior and Certified Programs have some awesome events planned. Take advantage of the MTR and Avi classes that are posted. If you ever wondered what it would be like to become an instructor for OEC, OET or any of the other programs, the time is now. The Division has another contest that you can read about here in the RPN.

Please take a look at your calendar as the Fall 2022 Division Meeting and Awards Banquet is scheduled for 9/9-9/11 in Midland Michigan. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate our fellow patrollers on their Region, Division and hopefully some National Awards. There are lots of great activities that are planned. There is a general session on Saturday morning that is open to everyone. The Region Award Advisors are getting together for a face to face meeting. Dick Jacques, National Awards Advisor, will be presenting an awards writing class. This is an excellent opportunity for patrols to send folks to learn and understand the process to improve the chances of winning an award.

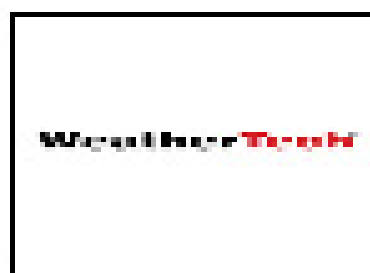
I hope everyone has an awesome summer!



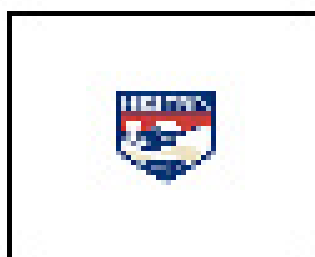
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# Central Division Staff Roster

## Administrative Staff



### DIVISION DIRECTOR

**Mike Schons**

(H) 248-683-0465

[schonsm@gmail.com](mailto:schonsm@gmail.com)



### MSAA/NSAA

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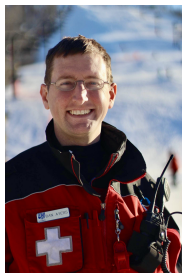


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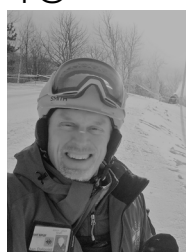
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