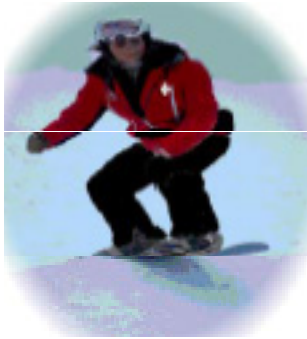




# Rusty Parka News



**Vol. 56 Issue 3**

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

**Summer 2018**

## Division Director's Report



**John Thomas**  
**Division Director**

Hello Fellow Patrollers, summer is always a busy part of Patrolling as we get ready for the next season. Thank you to all the people that are starting the process of teaching an OEC class or in the planning stage. The new candidates are very important to the future of the NSP organization. The OEC refresher guide has been released by the National office and I would like to thank all the people that will be in the process of organizing your areas Refresher.

At the MSAA meeting there will be a session reviewing the new Chair Evacuation Manual that was released from the NSAA organization. If you are a PR or the person in charge of the Chair Evacuation training at your area, please talk to your area manager about attending this session. Registration for this event has to be an invite from your area manager.

Awards are the only way we as Patrollers have to say thank you for a great job accomplished. You don't need to wait until spring time to write awards for a deserving person. If the award doesn't qualify for a National, Divisional, or Regional award it still can be awarded at the local level. Please help your PR say thanks to a deserving person

South Central region is hosting the Fall Division Meeting in the Wisconsin Dells area. Please review the event information and sign up and I hope to see you there. It is a great feeling to see old Patrol friends and make new friends.

Have a fantastic and safe summer.

## Parka Picks

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# National Ski Patrol Central Division Meeting • 2018



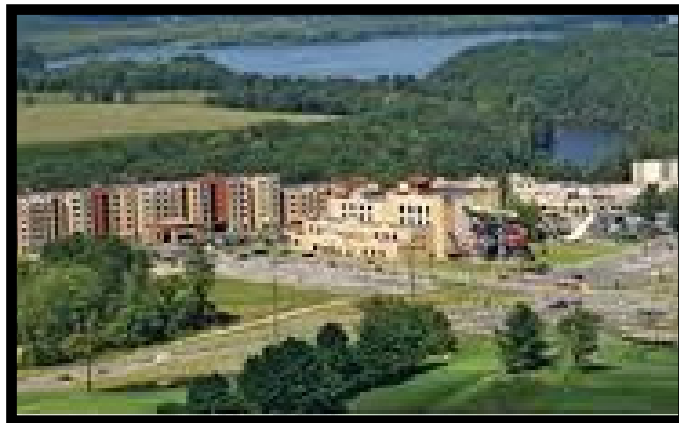
## Wisconsin Dells

The 2018 Central Division Meeting at the Chula Vista in the Wisconsin Dells, is just months away. The events, classes and seminars are picked. You may register at 2018 Division Meeting Registration Link or cut and paste following link to your browser:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054fadad2ea0f58-2018>

Please read the instructions carefully. The on line “Registration” also has the phone number to call to make room reservations. Each room will have up to six water park passes available. Additional passes can be purchased. There is also a number to call if you wish to play golf, while you are there. If you wish to attend the Friday night River Boat Cruise, please register early. Due to federal regulations, only 150 people will be allowed on the boat.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Hope to see you at the Division Meeting.



# Kasten's Korner



Come on Steve a couple of runs and you'll forget all about your Montana vacation

## Are we Having Fun Yet?



**Chris Raudabaugh**  
**ADD**

Hope everyone had a great and snowy winter. In some parts of our division, the season was extended into late March and early April. Many spring meetings and banquets did not have some patrollers in attendance because had their duty shifts to cover. Unusual season, but many enjoyed the extra to time make some turns.

As I write this, I just finished up attending a regular study group for attaining PSIA certification that goes thru the summer. With this in mind, I wanted to re-enforce to our instructorship about the Central Division Snowsports school and its programs. First, and foremost, membership to the snowsports school is free regardless of your membership with PSIA/AASI. Secondly, there is a limited fund set aside for those Central Division Snowsports School Members who plan to take an Instructor Certification exam. Registration deadline is December 1st. If you plan to take the exam before the deadline, then you need to sign up for the award before you take the exam. The Application will be available by the end of October. Visit the Snowsports site often for the latest information as we get closer to the fall season.

Look for other opportunities to keep your patroller skills fresh. There are mud races, Concerts, Arts and Crafts sales, Summer OEC Classes, Certified Bootcamps, Biking, etc being held at many areas, and your ski area may be hosting any one of these events. Get involved and keep your patrolling skills active. It is a great way to keep in touch with your patrolling peeps during the off season.

## So...who did you bring to the hill this past season?



**Tom Anderson**  
**ADD**

Back about mid-January I had a request from a friend to help out his girlfriend with some ski lessons. I said I would be happy to. Now most instructors know that it is almost impossible to teach a wife, a husband, or a significant other how to ski or ride.

For one reason or another the compassion and or patience from either side may not be as prevalent from someone that each other may not know. Now I am not saying that my friend who made the request, who by the way just so happens to be a Senior Alpine Patroller and snowboard instructor could not handle the situation, but I fully understood. Our first few sessions were spent on the lower hills and I really could not see how this was going to be that difficult. She was extremely eager to learn. She was also very frustrated on not getting a skill and drill right on the very first try. Once we got to the almost perfect I mentioned the "Chair." Not good. I now discovered what the issue was. It's a good thing we veteran chair riders started out when we were very young. Young enough to even imagine what getting on a moving target was like, how high they go and the occasional sudden stop. The sudden stop was it. I now know the real issue. The inconvenience of a start and stop or the delay in between is something we have kind of gotten used to, sometimes not even noticing, our conversations go on and we enjoy the view. This was definitely not the case with my student. I am sure there are a couple of chairs at my local hill with grip marks in the uprights!

So not only was I giving a lesson I was getting one myself. One that what we Patrollers and instructors may take for granted. Sitting on an open chair, which for the majority of lifts we are on have no real way of holding one in. That the height of the journey up is only known when it is to late to get off.

Lessons learned....

Student: Progressed beyond belief, both directions. I cant wait for the next session.

Instructor: Its not always about getting down the slopes.

Lets hear your stories on who you brought to the hill.

## Region Reports

### Eastern Michigan Region



**Mike Schons**  
**E MI Region**  
**Director**

We finally had a good snow season in Eastern Michigan. All three Sections held their Basic Alpine Patroller evaluation with 100% success! Congratulations to all the new patrollers from all the resorts.

We held another successful, and very large, Senior on and off-hill evaluations with three new Senior Patrollers and four new Senior Alpine Patrollers!

On a very short notice, Ricki Gheller and Marge Loula took on a monumental task with one of our industry partners, Boyne Mountain. Boyne this year constructed a Learn to Ski hill in downtown Detroit and we had the privilege of showcasing the NSP to folks who knew nothing about our sport or organization. This was quite an experience patrolling amid the skyscrapers of Detroit!





Cheryl "Cricket" Nickolaou reached across region lines and held a very successful YAP event combining Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan Regions. All the participants had a great time!

## South Central Region



**Steve Paladini**  
South Central  
Region Director

The Region was able to accomplish its annual programs along with others. Both the Senior On-Hill and OEC Clinics and Evaluations, two Toboggan Trainers Workshops, a Skiing and Toboggan Enhancement Seminar and the Women's Clinic. The Region held one Low Angle Rescue class. I want to thank the Region Board of Directors and the Region Staff for all they did during the past season. It takes a lot of work and time to put on classes, seminars, clinics and evaluations.

The South-Central Region Awards Banquet was held on May 5, 2018 at the Devils Head. The Region had a very nice turnout. The Region handed out five "Outstanding's", two "Patroller Crosses", two "Yellow Merit Stars", four "Division Critical Care Awards", nine "Blue Merit Stars", two "Purple Merit Stars", three "Distinguished Service Awards" and finally, one "Leadership Commendation Appointment". Thank you to all that wrote awards and congratulations to all the award winners.

## Northern Michigan Region



**Richard Jacques**  
N MI Region  
Director

First and foremost, I have to say what a privilege it has been to serve as Northern Michigan Region Director for the past six years. Thanks to the dedication of everyone who has served in Region Positions, Instructed Region Programs, Planned Region and Division Events. It has been a great ride.

The 2018 Northern Michigan Region Season was a real roller coaster ride. Many of our resorts were open with two or three runs on or before Thanksgiving weekend. Mother Nature allowed this operational level for most of December. Then came the Christmas present with cold for snow making and tons of natural snow. We started New Years weekend with up to 18 inches of the lightest, fluffiest powder anyone could remember skiing east of the Mississippi River. After a couple weeks of soft base we were blessed with two inches or more of rain and the return of more typical mid-west hard groomed base for the rest of the season.

NMR had a full season of training and evaluations culminating with the Senior On-hill and OEC MSP evaluations. The Senior On-hill was held in brutal sub-zero temps and high winds. After 30 toboggan runs, the groomed surface looked the same as it did for the first run. All 10 members completing the evaluation successfully completed both toboggan and ride events. Two weeks later seven members took the OEC MSP in bright sun and 50-degree temps. Five of seven members successfully completed this evaluation.

The season culminated in the annual Awards Banquet April 28th at Treetops Resort. Over 120 members, family and friends gathered to recognize the 2018 award recipients.

Senior Plaques were awarded to three members:

Kendal Mulder – Schuss Mountain  
Cobie Bland– Boyne Mountain  
Danielle Wright – Boyne Mountain

Blue Merit Stars

Meg Costello Lambert  
Joe Rossi.

Outstanding Awards

Large Patrol – Nubs Nob  
Young Adult Patroller – Maxx Nichols, Nubs Nob  
Alpine Patroller – Mary Gaffney, Otsego Ski Club  
Patrol Director – Pete Toundaian, Otsego Ski Club  
Paid Patroller – Tom Murton, Schuss Mountain  
Instructor (non-OEC) – Doug Cary, Schuss Mountain

Park Willis Everyday Patroller

Vern McCardell  
Jackie McCardell

Distinguished Service Awards

Susan Reed  
Dave Germond

National Appointments

Rick Clark, Otsego Ski Patrol Number 12002  
Kirk Swarbrick, Otsego Ski Patrol Number 12004  
Don Smith, Boyne Highlands and Canonsburg Ski Patrols Number 12032

Certificates of Appreciation for Northern Michigan Region Service:

Pat Throop - ARD  
Bob Anderson – On-hill Proficiency Supervisor  
Dave Hartman - Avalanche  
Galen Fairchild - Legal  
Don Smith - ROA  
Rod Kivell - ROA  
Lynne Smetzer - OEC Refresher Registration  
Chris Sutton - Senior Program Advisor  
Mike Longfellow-Jones - Certified Advisor  
Carl Woodcock - Certified Advisor  
Adam Sinkus - Facebook  
Michael Buczek - WEB Master

### Yellow Merit Stars for Region Service

Sharon Crockett - Instructor Development Advisor  
Charlon Hibbard - Women's Program Advisor  
Bryan Holcomb - Ski School Advisor  
Jerry Rodeman - Awards Advisor  
Virginia Rodeman - ARD

### Meritorious Service Award

John Wiley - ARD  
Don Desautels - ARD  
Annaka Norris – Proficiency Advisor  
Michael Malanga – Region OEC Advisor  
Douglas Cary – Snowboard Advisor  
Dan Dryden – Toboggan Advisor  
Kirk Swarbrick - Treasurer

Congratulations to all Northern Michigan Region Awards Recipients!

As my term as Region Director is coming to an end I want to thank those that I have served with in Central Division. We have not always seen eye-to-eye, but we have always come to agreement on moving the Division ahead. It's been a privilege to be part of this team.

Finally, Thanks to John Wiley for taking the helm of Northern Michigan Region. I look forward to working with John, the Region and Division Boards and Staff in the future.

## North Central Region



**Les Robinson**  
**NC Region Director**

We in North Central have had a great season, most area's all opened in November and closed in late March with some of our area's making it to the 6th of May. I myself was fortunate to have been able to patrol just one week short of six months. I also want to congratulate the award winners at the region level, we had a great banquet with many winners this year in NC. Thanks to all that have earned these awards by serving the rest of us, that all serve the skiing public. We are always looking for others to step forward to instruct, serve at the region, division and national level. To volunteer for this the very best way is to start by working on your senior level then step forward with your region folks to assist. I say this because this will be my last article for the Rusty Parka News as James Hughes has stepped forward to take the NC Region directors spot, welcome aboard James. I will be assisting in the region for

some time with James and the other great staff that make up our region. I am glad to have served my region as RD for the last six years in the best way that I could, I thank those that helped me along the way.

Welcome to the summer, don't forget to work on your skills this summer by training your core, as core strength is needed for keeping the "center of mass over the base of support" which leads to great skiing/boarding skill. Be sure and attend the division awards at Chula Vista in Wis. Dells, this September to celebrate the division award winners, take in some great sessions, and hang with great people.



Eric enough talking already lets GO!

# Western Michigan Region



**John Donnelly**  
**Western MI Region**  
**Director**

As I write this, we are moving through spring into summer heat and activities. It seems like just yesterday we wrapped up our season. Overall, last winter was a good but not great season in Western Michigan. Some areas opened earlier than normal (one just after Thanksgiving). Despite some warm-ups in January and February and some unwanted rain in February, most areas were open into March (one closed in late February). Our two northern resorts were open until April 1. The warm-ups in January and February were not kind to our Nordic patrollers (West Michigan Nordic patrol) as a number of training and evaluations were cancelled due to poor snow conditions - they were able to patrol their two key races (White Pine and VASA Nordic races).

Western Michigan had a very successful year with our Senior program. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our instructors, evaluators and candidates, both the OEC MSP program and our senior hill program achieved 100% pass rates on their respective final tests. The Region Senior Hill examination was held at Crystal Mountain in late February and, despite very difficult icing and wind conditions, all seven candidates were successful. Four Alpine, two Snowboard and one Telemark patrollers passed the hill final. For OEC MSP, seven candidates passed on a final which was held in March at Bittersweet Ski Area – the event took place on snow despite late date and the shortened season for many other areas in the Region. A Senior Patrol Room evaluation was also held for the first time in several years and the one candidate passed the examination which was held on the same day as the OEC MSP final. There seems to be renewed interest in the Senior Patrol Room program and we hope to expand this next year.

Our Region Women's Clinic was once again well attended with fourteen participants who worked through both an SES and a TES during their weekend event at Crystal Mountain (MI). The Region also hosted several SES and TES events throughout the season. Combined, there were twenty-four participants at SES events (not counting the Women's Clinic). For the three TES events and our Region Toboggan Trainer Workshop (TTW), there were thirty-seven participants. The Region had three patrollers pass PSIA Level 1 (Alpine) and two pass PSIA Level 2 (both Telemark). Our Region MTR Advisor conducted a Low Angle Rescue (LAR) program in our northern section, with twelve participants who attended the event at Caberfae Peaks.

Western Michigan is about ready to register the first Bike Patrol in the Region (the registration may already be completed by press time). Crystal Mountain will be forming a volunteer bike patrol using NSP members to patrol major bike events at the area. We are looking forward to more activity in this area as NSP's new relationship with the IMBA plays out.

The Western Michigan Awards Banquet was held on May 5, 2018 at Timber Ridge Ski Area. In addition to four "Outstanding" awards and numerous "Service" awards, two recipients of National Appointments were recognized at the event. There were also a significant number of Merit Stars (1-Purple, 5-Blue, 8 Yellow), Division Critical Care Awards (14), a Patroller's Cross (injury on "duty") and several certificates of appreciation awarded that evening.





# NSP-C Snowsports News



**Marty Blaszkowski**  
NSP-C Snowsports  
School

It's summer time. Time to take to the lakes and golf course. This season was one on the longest on record. At the ski school we are busy working this summer planning a January ses. I'd Like to also extend an invitation to the membership that if you'd like a Division Instructor to come out and help with your team don't hesitate to contact me. Have a great summer.



## Awards Update



**Martin Fahje**  
Awards Supervisor

**I have 2 significant announcements concerning Awards for next season.**

First, my email address will be changing June 1st.

After that date my email address will be: [martin@think-snow.com](mailto:martin@think-snow.com)

The reason for this change is because I'll be retiring from Mayo and the former email address will no longer be responsive. I understand it'll still be active to send Out of Office notes, but I will not be able to access it or respond to any of those messages.

This means that while many of you were accustomed to an immediate response during normal working hours, that will no longer happen. I'll most likely only be checking emails once or twice a day. I am looking forward to every day being a Friday afternoon!!

The second change will probably have a more significant impact on awards submissions. This season I processed approximately 110 nominations during the month of March. These were not including the Outstanding nominations. **This will not happen next year.** Why? Because I will not have access to a computer for 2 or 3 weeks in March. I will be riding a bicycle in New Mexico and Arizona and not be carrying a laptop. You will need to submit your other nominations before this time or after.

Remember National is requesting 45 days to process a nomination once it is received by the National Awards Advisor. Submitting a nomination in early April and expecting to receive the completed award in late April or early May is not going to be a good plan. National has implemented a form of electronic submissions recently however they still request the 45 day processing timeline. This time is primarily for National to create, package and ship the awards. You will need to plan accordingly for your Spring banquets.

## Award Nomination Guideline Documents

The Division Web site has Guideline documents listed and downloadable under the Awards Section. If you are new to writing award nominations I advise you to read these documents. I recently received 2 nominations which were denied because the nominations submitted did not satisfy the criteria for which they were submitted. These guidelines were written to help you submit nominations correctly and prevent the possibility of having the nomination denied because the nomination is incomplete or improperly done.

# Avalanche Education 2018-2019



We will continue teaching Level 1, Module 1 throughout the Central Division. The avalanche group will visit most if not all the regions this next season. There will again be a Level 1, Module 1 (L1M1) available at Boyne Highlands at the S&T clinics.

This season we will be offering a composite course that will include the remaining two modules of the Level 1 course but will also include the entire Level 2 course. The course will be held in Utah and is 10 days long. In order to qualify you must have completed a L1M1 course within the last 3 years and taken FEMA Incident Command System courses 100, 200 and 700 online. We anticipate giving this course in February or March of 2019. The course schedule will generally be as follows:

**Dale Mihuta**  
**Avalanche**  
**Supervisor**

Arrive Friday afternoon or early evening in Salt Lake.

**Saturday** 8 am to 5 pm Level 2 Avalanche classroom session.

**Sunday** 8 am to 5 pm Level 2 Avalanche classroom session.

**Monday** at Brighton Mt.

- \*Advanced snow pit and snowpack analysis
- \*Stratigraphy
- \*Snow tests
- \*Scuff pits

**Tuesday** at the Canyons

- \*Transceiver work
- \*Transceiver Park
- \*Recognizing avalanche terrain

**Wednesday** at Powder Mountain

- \*Guided backcountry trip showing planning, contingencies, outcome alternatives and snow shelter construction.

**Thursday** at Wolf Creek Mt. or Beaver Mt.

- \*Student planned and executed backcountry trip.

**Friday** at Snowbasin

- \*Small group rescue and the essentials of organized rescue.

**Saturday** at Powder Mt. or Park City

- \*A fully simulated avalanche recovery and rescue with participants from multiple areas in coordination with the Intermountain Division.

**Sunday**----Go Home

This is a sample curriculum similar to our past experiences. The cost will be about \$800 per student which will cover the condominium. We cook in the condo and the food cost will run about \$75 per person. The travel to and from Salt Lake City is up to the candidate based on the choice of transportation. You will graduate with both the complete Level 1 course and the Level 2 course. Usually, I have been able to obtain complimentary tickets from all of these areas. For more information please contact me at dmihuta@fuse.net. If you are interested email me and title the correspondence avalanche level 2.

# OEC Update



**Susan Hayes**  
**OEC**  
**Supervisor**

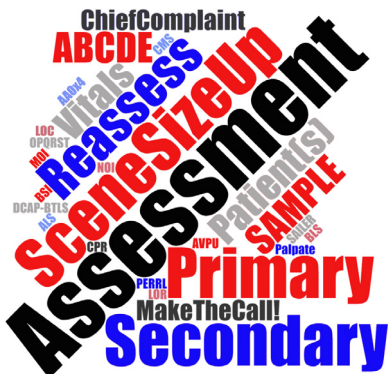
With a little help from Kim Zambole (ROA Southern Region) and Kim Durrum (ROA Ohio Region)

Hello, Friends!

First...the business 'stuff': By now you have seen the OEC Cycle B Refresher workbook (if not, visit [nsp.org](http://nsp.org) to download your copy). There it clarifies backboard procedures. Notice the change in language from spinal immobilization to the more accurate spinal protection. Please be sure to spend some time in the workbook. OEC instructors and refresher teams are planning to dedicate time to this on your refresher day.

There's a procedure for that! When it comes to questions or concerns about OEC related items, the answer can most often be provided by your patrol representative or your region OEC administrator. Please be sure to contact them before reaching out to the national office. If the team at the national level need to be notified, we will certainly do that right away.

Now...something a little more personal. Those that are instructors chose the job. We are training year round between basic OEC classes, OEC refreshers (and countless make-up refreshers), training for the OEC and aid room modules of the senior program and even enhancement seminars. It is often said that being an instructor is a thankless role. That may be true that much of the work of an instructor is met with little gratitude. This week, that changed.



I received a note from a patroller who shared his experience that evening as he was riding home on the subway from a baseball game. He entered the train to find a "man slumped in the corner of the car clearly in distress. Eyes open but rolled back. Irregular breaths." He describes how he immediately went into 'patrol mode'. He shared his assessment findings and how it led him to swiftly take control of the emergency to get him to the next level of care. He said that he was able to do this because of the training provided by "Best OEC trainers in the country if you ask me!!!" Yes, the OEC trainers in the central division are the best in the country. Please thank them for all of their dedication to you and advancing your OEC skills.

From Sue:

The ROAs had a very productive meeting during the snowstorm of April. We've decided the focus of the OEC 2018-2019 season will be the OEC-MSP (OEC Module of the Senior Program).

Sign up now for the Fall Central Division Meeting in the Wisconsin Dells. We will be putting on a Trainer/Evaluator Course for the OEC-MSP to recalibrate our evaluators. We are also putting on an OEC Update- and there are some things to update! Attendance at one of these will fulfill the requirement for OEC Instructor Recerfication for those that need to recert.

Dates to take note: OEC 6th Edition is being worked on. The expected date will be May 2020.

Have a wonderful summer! I hope to see you all at the Fall Meeting in the Wisconsin Dells!!!

Sue Hayes, Central Division OEC Supervisor

# Young Adult Program (YAP) Update



**Jane Bickerstaff**  
YAP Advisor

Below is an update on what has been happening around our division with the Young Adult Program.

Jay Van Zeeland of Pine Mt in North Central region put on a 1 day event with skiing and tobogganing enhancement and medical skills practice for participants. Jay put a lot of effort and planning into to event. Everyone that participated enjoyed their time and valued the event.

Cricket Nickolaou of Pine Knob Ski Resort in Eastern Michigan region also put on a one day event with 12 students attending and Mike Taylor instructing. Maddie Dodson-Garrett, the Western Michigan YAP supervisor, was in attendance too. The YAPs learned about skiing dynamically and how that applied to handling a toboggan. Mike filmed the participant's skiing before and after, and reviewed the results with them over a pizza lunch. It was a great day and the responses were very enthusiastic.

Wendy Eckman of Alpine Valley in Eastern Michigan region reached out and hosted a Teen Immersion Clinic in January 2018. Wendy worked closely with her patrol director and management to present teens with a look at what ski patrol is all about in order to expose youth to patrolling and to gauge the level of participant's interest and desire for more involvement in patrol. Wendy's 3 hour program included NSP video, patrol testimonials, a scenario demonstration, and hands-on medical demos. The response to Wendy's clinic was very positive, encouraging her to plan more events for the upcoming season.



Eugene Branigan of Tree Tops resort has started a T-Jam program of first aid and skiing skills for younger students at his ski hill. Eugene's program combines first aid skills in a way that helps Boy Scouts acquire badges for the skills that they have learned.



Mt Brighton had 5 members of the Jr Patrol became Mt Hosts this year. By involving the students in a higher level of Jr patrolling the hope was that the students would be motivated to take the OEC course in the upcoming session. The 5 that participated in the Mt Host program became CPR and Outdoor First Care (OFC) certified. Three of the participants attended Cricket's YAP region event and their positive comments have motivated others within the Jr patrol. Those 3 students are now currently enrolled in the OEC course at Mt Brighton.

A huge thank you to Cricket, Jay, Wendy, and Eugene for trying something new! I encourage all of you to think outside of the box and find ways to involve youth and grow your programs. It is very rewarding to see these students become excited about patrolling. I am hopeful that all regions will have events scheduled for our young adults in the 2018-19 ski season.



# Nuts and Bolts of Tobogganing.



**Troy Southwick  
Toboggan  
Supervisor**

This past weekend I had the pleasure of exploring the nuts and bolts of toboggan handling with many patrollers from the Pacific North West Division, and most of the other Division OET Supervisors from across the country. The Central Division was well represented by those known mostly as the Michigan guys.

When the OET Supervisors got together, we shot some training video and discussed different techniques that exist between the Divisions. I pleaded my case for snowboarders to be allowed to utilize their toe edge while running in the handles. Which is not allowed in the Northern Division.



**National and Division Toboggan  
Supervisors**

One of the topics discussed at length was the use of the tail rope, (no pun intended) this topic differs somewhat from Division to Division. Some ropes are 50 feet long and allowed to drag behind the tail rope operator. Some have loops at the end and some do not. For all Divisions the Stance was similar, hand positions were similar, except for us in the Central Division. The difference being that we manage the rope out in front of us. The rest of the country puts the hand, that is not the control hand, over the thigh or behind the hip in a belay technique while they are advancing down the hill. We utilize this same technique as a static belay only.

Naturally I consulted the Transportation guide which reads:

*Hold the rope in both hands; never tie the rope to your body. Hold the rope in front of your body most of the time for adequate control. Occasionally, as when encountering a steep pitch, you may need to use a belay position (particularly if you are on a snowboard).*

And, of course if you look at the pictures in the manual they reflect the style used by the other Divisions which is the belay position.

I can't say I know the whole history of our policy, I was surprised to know that at one time the trainers wanted a little slack in the rope to demonstrate that the rear operator was not hindering the progress of the lead handler. We eased in the thought of "functional tension" as a policy change and now we have a useful tool for instant feedback of the speed changes of the toboggan. This will allow the rear operator to react to a problem or help smooth out the ride for the patient.

Is another policy change in order? On steep terrain should we have our non-control hand in belay position to be ready for heavy breaking if necessary like the rest of the country? Would this shorten reaction time in the event a rear operator needs to take control of a toboggan? Could we react fast enough to get into belay position from a non-belay position in an emergency situation?



Please email opinions to the address: [Tsouthwick@lb.com](mailto:Tsouthwick@lb.com) I will be discussing this at length with Division staff members to determine if a policy change makes sense.

Have a great summer!!!

# Senior Evaluations – Don't Be Intimidated



**Rob Carpenter**  
**Senior Supervisor**

Patrollers may be hesitant to pursue further personal enhancement and certification through the senior program because they are intimidated by the evaluations. The intimidation may come from the unknown, what they have heard from others in the past, or their previous experiences. The purpose of this article is to provide some brief information and anecdotes about why you should not be intimidated by the senior evaluations.

The region and division staffs work together to continuously improve the senior program and evaluations. Ultimately, the goal of the staffs is to enable senior candidates to demonstrate skills that meet the defined senior standards. To this end, it is their mission to help train the candidates and to facilitate appropriate, fair evaluations. As an example, the overall pass rate for the senior on-hill evaluations within Central Division increased from 74% in 2017 to 93% in 2018. Additionally, in 2018 over half of the region on-hill evaluations had a 100% pass rate. This speaks to the evaluation process and the preparedness of the candidates.

A Quality Assurance process is used to ensure that the evaluations are appropriate and fair. Observations from the quality assurance process are often used to suggest potential incremental, future improvements. Sometimes the quality assurance process results in immediate adaptations of the evaluation at hand to ensure it meets the desired objectives. As an example, at a recent region senior OEC evaluation there was initially a very low success rate. The region and division staff reviewed the results and determined that the low success rate was driven by one particular problematic scenario. The candidates were then offered the opportunity to complete an alternate scenario, that also met the evaluation objectives, and the success rate improved dramatically. The general consensus from both evaluators and especially the candidates was that when there is a problem in the exam agenda, whatever it may be, we have a workable checks and balances system in place to effectively and fairly deal with it in a timely fashion.

Feedback from the evaluations is generally favorable. Following is example feedback from some recent senior evaluations:

“The Ohio Region should be extremely proud of their evaluation this year! The candidates were extremely prepared; the OEC Team was incredibly organized; the evaluators, patients and patrol helpers were very ready for the event; the resort went above and beyond in getting the area ready for the test....”

“Thanks for staying on schedule and keeping the event positive and upbeat”

“The test was very well organized”

“The Test was very stressful, but at the end of the day it was highly rewarding. I had a highly knowledgeable Assigned Evaluator.”

“It was extremely well planned.”

“I liked that the Evaluators had to do the scenarios prior to evaluating”

The staffs strive to keep the evaluations as relaxed as possible in order to facilitate the candidates adequately demonstrating their skills. Just look at this fun group!



Ultimately, there are many happy senior candidates who successfully complete the evaluations. You could be one, too!



Don't be intimidated.

# NSP Central Division PSIA Liaison



**Dan Moss**  
**PSIA / AASI**  
**Liaison**

In my second year of patrolling, I pursued my Level I credential with PSIA for one reason. I wanted to be a better Toboggan Instructor. I loved teaching toboggan, yet I knew that if I could ski better, acquire a more accurate language to describe movements, and develop various teaching methods, I would be a better toboggan Instructor.

Is there an important reason for you to pursue a deeper understanding of your ski/ride skills? Our obvious answer is that we want to be the best patroller that we can be; provide the best on site care, transport safely and efficiently, and ski/ride the mountain with confidence. Yet is there a deeper motive for you?

Here are some standard benefits to membership in addition to learning how to ski/ride better.

## **Membership Deepens Your Knowledge and Credibility Through:**

- Nationally recognized certifications for adaptive, alpine, cross country, snowboard, and telemark disciplines, as well as specialist certificates for children's and freestyle instruction.
- Thousands of educational clinics and exams available across the country from each member's division, which will improve your skiing, riding, and teaching
- Industry-leading division events, as well as PSIA-AASI National Academy and PSIA-AASI National Adaptive Academy

## **Membership Pays for Itself With:**

- Hundreds of members-only discounted products from PSIA-AASI Official Suppliers and the PSIA-AASI *Accessories Catalog*
- Free online teaching resources to aid your learning and your teaching
- Access to 29 different teaching resources and technical manuals that help you hone your craft
- Free subscription to *32 Degrees: The Journal of Professional Snowsports Instruction*, featuring the latest teaching tactics and industry trends

## **Membership Keeps You Connected To:**

- More than 32,000 instructors through The Community, a social networking resource specifically for PSIA-AASI members
- Other instructors in your area and local benefits through nine geographic divisions
- Other organizations that strengthen the industry as a whole:
  - National Ski Areas Association (NSAA)
  - National Ski Patrol (NSP)
  - SnowSports Industries America (SIA)
- Leadership and volunteer opportunities

## **Membership Promotes Your Passion By:**

- Providing platforms to market yourself and make powerful connections with other instructors and the public through Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and other social media channels
- Educating the public on the benefits of instruction through such programs as Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month and the Bring a Friend Challenge

## **Membership Can Advance Your Career**

- Many instructors become members of PSIA-AASI to become a better teacher or advance at their ski/ride school.



- Instructors that are better teachers provide more value to their employer.
- A level III instructor is considered an expert in their craft; this certification can open doors that expand outside of the snowsports industry.
- You can travel the world teaching people to ski and snowboard with this transferable and highly marketable credential.

Check out the "Guide to Membership" at <http://www.thesnowpros.org>  
Please contact me if I can help in anyway.

## Are You Social?



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

So, this season we are shooting for 500 new Facebook member "likes" so we can get to 1500+. How are we going to do that? By inviting every single candidate to **Like** us, by asking every patroller on your patrol who has social media to like us! **Why?** It is **great** communication, a **great way** to spread the news about what CD patrollers are doing, and a **great way** to catch highlights of other patrols as well as finding out what is going on in the snowsports industry. <https://www.facebook.com/skinsp/> Have you put this link on your patrol website, published in your newsletters or invited your friends to like? Since this is the year of Powderfall what a great way to share memories of this event with others in our Division. Thanks to those who publish on our Facebook page! Let's continue to make it grow.



## Instructor Development



**Virginia Rodeman**  
**Instructor Development**

As I sit to write this article, the temperatures have zoomed to the 90's. What a change from a month ago—some were still skiing and golf was a hope for the future. Many will say that this is the OFF-season for patrol, but it really is the ramp up season. Instructor Development classes, OEC classes, OFC classes, and Bike Patrol abound.

Think about getting involved. To be an instructor in any NSP Discipline, patrollers need to first take an Instructor Development Class. There are two delivery methods for this class. One method is to take an 8hr class. This method is often one day or two evenings. The other method is two part--one part to use the on-line hybrid course and part two is to take the certificate to the face-to-face class. In either class the participants will write a six pack and present it. It is important to remember that the hybrid on-line is NOT a stand-alone course and it is only completed once the face-to-face part is completed. The second part of becoming an Instructor is Mentoring. The Mentoring Process is meant to help get that background in the discipline. This process usually takes at least one full season

and most often two seasons to complete. As an Instructor remember that CE is also important. Once every three years a CE class and an observation by an IT are needed for the re-certification process.

If you have trouble finding and Instructor class or finding or understanding Mentoring, please do not hesitate to contact me (rodewoman@yahoo.com) or your Region Instructor Development Administrator.

# Greetings Central Division Women Patrollers!



**Kerstin Hammarberg**  
**Women Seminar**

Greetings Central Division Women Patrollers!

First, a tremendous THANK YOU to the crew from Western Region who hosted us for the 2018 Women's Clinic at Lutsen Mountains Resort! The management of Lutsen extended great hospitality to us, the Patrol Leadership with Jim Ruzika made sure we had all we needed in space and equipment along with amazing terrain. Lutsen is such a great place to ski and train!

We had guest instructors (Nicole Werts, Heidi Jo Karlsson, and Kathy Schmidt) who helped to make sure we had a great staff to participant ratio. We cheered for Kris Liebau as she trained for Certified and found her groove in the moguls with the toboggan. We helped, supported, and encouraged one another. We tried something new with inviting the Nordic Women to join us. What a great time we all had! Looking at the mission of the Women's Program, we really had this working!

The mission of the Central Division Women's Program staff is:

- To share their passion with the purpose of encouraging and supporting other NSP women in a nurturing environment.
- To build participants' confidence to accept the challenges of leadership roles and improve their personal skill set.
- To encourage active recruiting of women in the NSP.

Mark your calendars for January 25-27, 2019 as we explore an area in the Ohio Region – Perfect North Slopes!! If you are working on your foundation building skills as an Alpine Patroller, seeking skills for your Senior journey or considering a Certified journey – this is a great opportunity to check out the terrain and work with some of the best women in the Division!

Also check out our FaceBook page and thank Darcy Hanley for managing it! More event modules and information will be published later in the fall. Registration will be on-line later in the fall! We can't wait to have you be a part of the fun!

## Nordic News



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

This past ski season was a hit or miss snow year depending on where you live. Then, just when it looked like the season was over, the northern areas got another 20+ inches of snow. I hope you all had a good ski season and got enjoy the snow.

I want to congratulate all of this season's award winners. Thank you for all you do!!

I would like to challenge you this season. Think about what you can do next season to improve your skills and abilities. It might be time to start working on your Nordic Senior. If you are already a senior, then I would like you to take a look at the new Nordic Masters program. (This is the Nordic version of the Certified Program.) You can check out info on the National website or drop me a note and I can get you information on both programs.

If neither one of those options interest you, maybe look into a Mountaineering or Avalanche class. Both programs have some really cool programs. There are so

many exciting options the NSP has to offer, check them out.

But it's summer and we can focus on warm weather activities and family time.

Have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you next season!

## Telecommunications Update



Well, spring has come and gone. We are already into summer with the first weeks of June.

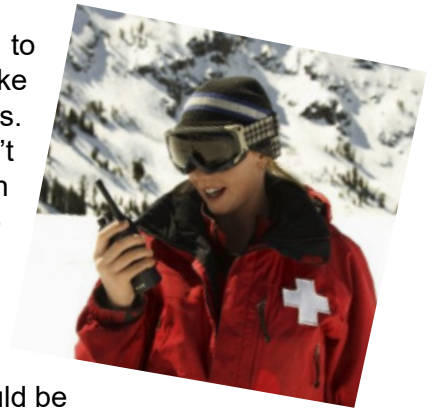
What do you do with all that radio equipment to prepare for the summer? Well first off, charge up all the batteries. Batteries like to be fully charged before being put in storage. If you are not going to use the radios for a period longer than 60 days, try create a reminder to turn the radios on and just let them sit in a corner for the day. Then put them back on the charger overnight. Like most mechanical items, radios and batteries like to be used and not sitting idle in the corner. Use and exercise your electronics, they like it.

### Paul Botnen Telecommunications

The end of the ski season is also a good time to identify problem radios and accessories and make plans for the repair or replacement of those items.

Do you have a planned cycle for the replacement of equipment? If you don't have a plan, please think about establishing one. It will save headaches in the future. Talk with area management, do they replace their radio equipment on a planned basis? See if you can piggyback on to the cycle they use for replacement of their equipment.

Your radio is your lifeline to your fellow patrollers. Like all equipment, if it is abused, it will not last. Provide some TLC and your radio system should be trouble free and last for several years before replacement.



## Central Division Elections for 2017-2018



### Ken Meldahl CD Elections

The 2017-18 elections in Central Division were held for the Region Director position in Northern Michigan, North Central and Southern regions. In Northern Michigan and North Central Regions, there was only one nominated candidate for each region. Each candidate was "Vetted" and met the qualifications set by the Policies and Procedures of Central Division. Following the Division Policies and Procedures as well as Bylaws, in the event that there is only one validated candidate, that candidate shall be declared the winner by the Division Election Coordinator after confirmation by the Election Review Committee and ballots were not to be sent out. I am pleased to announce that John Wiley, member of the Boyne Highlands Ski Patrol, will be the Northern Michigan Region Director replacing Dick Jacques. I am also pleased to announce that James Hughes, member of Big Powderhorn Mountain Ski Patrol will be the Region Director for North Central Region replacing Les Robinson. Congratulations to you both and thank you Dick and Les for your service to your respective regions, Central Division and the National Ski Patrol.

In Southern Region, with 2 qualified nominations, an election was held. With a 96% return of ballots, Mike Vaerewyck, Swiss Valley Ski Patrol received a majority

of the votes cast. With confirmation from the Election Review Committee, Mike was declared the successful candidate and will step in as Region Director of Southern Region replacing Don Steen. Congratulations Mike and thank you Don for your service to Southern Region, Central Division and the National Ski Patrol.

Next year, 2018-19, Region Director elections will be held in Eastern Michigan and South Central. There will also be a Division Director election. The Election Review Committee will consist of the Region Directors from Northern Michigan, South Central and Southern Regions. Section Chief elections will be held for Sections 2 and 5. Section Chief elections are managed by the individual regions.



John Wiley  
Northern Michigan



John Donnelly  
Western Michigan



Mike Vaerewyck  
Southern



Jim Hughes  
North Central

## Skills Development Program



**Cheryl Raudabaugh**  
Skills Development

While many are working on their biking, fishing or other outdoor sports, the Skills Team is spending at least some of our time this summer developing this year's Alpine Skills Development Workshops (ASDW)s. Our goal this year will be Taking It Forward as we focus on not just our train the trainer skill sets, but refining our feedback techniques since this is such a key part of continued progress in learning.

We will again be offering two ASDW weekends: Dec 8-9 and 15-16 on the East side and West side respectfully. Emphasis is on initial certifications and re-certifications for the top region Senior evaluators and Instructor Trainers for snowsports and toboggan functions as well as those pursuing advanced PSIA/AASI certifications. At a later date there will also be some additional offerings for those that are being prepared to move into these leading advisor roles.

Information on both sessions will be released in September to allow everyone plenty of time to finalize attendee selections and for registrations. We'll look forward to planning with the regions this fall to insure that we cover the region needs with instruction and testing by our fantastic Division Instructor Team! Reminder that you can find good reference information on snowsports, toboggan, senior program, and alpine workshops anytime on our skills website. You can go directly to [www.centraldivision.org](http://www.centraldivision.org), or link from the [NSPCentral.org](http://NSPCentral.org) website via the Skills Development program link.



# Announcing New Directions for the Alumni Program



**Mark Holtan**  
**ALUMNI**

In our Winter RPN Newsletter edition, I referenced an article “FORTY YEARS and **COUNTING!**” Article written by Marty Huebner, NSP National Alumni Advisor, in the Winter 2018 issue of Ski Patrol, page 72-73. If you haven’t already done so, I encourage **all** patrollers to read or re-read this excellent article summarizing the birth, growth and development of the Alumni Program whether you are a current alumnus, considering continuing as an alumnus, or a patroller interested in learning more about the NSP program.

Marty Huebner, NSP National Alumni Advisor, retired effective February 15, 2018, after serving 5 full years as National Alumni Advisor. He continued as interim advisor until his successor, Tim Viall, was appointed in May, as our new National Alumni Advisor. Marty will assist with a smooth transition and available as a resource as Tim leads us forward.

Tim has been a patroller for 35 years with the NSP; serving 10 years with Mt. Spokane NSP (Spokane, Washington) in the Pacific Northwest Division and 25 years with Dodge Ridge NSP in the Far West Division. He has most recently been the Far West Division Alumni Advisor for the past three years, in addition

to the Communications/Newsletter Advisor for about 10 years; Tim has held several regional positions and served as a patrol director.

Professionally Tim worked as a newspaper advertising/marketing director and non-profit executive director. In five years of retirement, Tim and his spouse have traveled considerably, and as a result has become the travel writer for the Stockton Record, CA newspaper. Tim and his spouse currently live in Stockton, California, however they are moving to Rancho Cordova (adjacent to Sacramento) in two months.

Marty has served the alumni program very well and know there will be a seamless transition; we are all very excited and look forward working with Tim. Tim sent out a proposed outline of goals and objectives for the NSP Alumni Program which is ambitious and dynamic. At the time of this writing, I am also preparing for our first teleconference when we will be discussing our plans, etc. This teleconference will have been held by the time you read this article. I expect to have more information at the Central Division Fall Meeting.

We have a great group of Region Alumni Advisors, however, if any RDs are aware of personnel changes, or if you do not have an Alumni Advisor, please plan to have this position filled as we move forward with our new direction. Please advise if you have any questions or need assistance in fulfilling these positions. I will have more resources at the Fall meeting.

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 Directors 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.



# Thank You to Our Sponsors



## 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>

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