



# Rusty Parka News



**Vol. 55 Issue 2**

**www.nspcentral.org**

**Winter 2017**

## Division Director's Report



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

I hope everyone is having a great season. We had a slow start and now it seems winter is in full swing. We had two Division ski and toboggan events in December. The Boyne event created a lot of excitement and inconvenience for the people that attended the event and stayed in the lodge.

For those that haven't heard; Boyne Highlands lodge/hotel had a fire. Tom Worley, Dale Mihuta, and Matt Kim received minor injuries from exiting the building because of the fire. With some quick maneuvering and shopping, we were able to put on the event at Cascade the following weekend and it went very well.

The Winter National Board Meeting in Denver was a successful one. Thank you for your support by voting for your National Board Members. We talked about change that you (the members) would like to see. The following committees were formed: An Election committee to figure out a way to make the National Board Election to get representation for the entire organization. The education committee was broken up into an Education and Marketing committee. The Education committee will focus on the Curriculum-based programs and the Marketing committee will focus on retention and recruiting. The OEC 6 committee will start the process of defining the parameters and definition of the OEC 6 program. After skiing a day with the Winter Park Ski Patrol (both the volunteers and the Professional staff) it becomes more apparent to me that we need a National Board that makes sure all decisions that are made are relevant for all Patrols: the small Mom and Pops to the large corporations. I had a chance to do my toboggan refresher with the Winter Park patrol. The snow conditions and the terrain create different issues than my ski area. Jim Woodrum is our New Board Chairman and has created the committees I stated above to

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try and change the culture of the Board operation to be more focused on all the needs of the organization. You helped to make this change in operation and I will say thank you again.

The people that are training for Senior and Certified classifications: I hope that you are successful and that you are able to get the training you need to be successful. I will be supporting you as you make those changes.

## 426 Fund

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

The fund committee is currently seeking applications from interested patrollers that could use financial assistance in their quest for further credentialing advancement. Applications can also be submitted on behalf of another patroller.

Eligibility - Any patroller, who is a member in good standing of the National Ski Patrol and the Central Division, may apply for an educational grant. The intended activities include (a) any National Ski Patrol education or other programs or activities, including but not limited to educational events such as the NSP Patroller Education Conferences, and (b) PSIA/AASI certification.

Application forms are available online. [www.nspcentral.org](http://www.nspcentral.org) (Look for Dan's picture.)

The completed application form should be sent by email or fax to Assistant Division Director Tom Anderson.

Tom Anderson  
Assistant Division Director  
E: [tpanderson@charter.net](mailto:tpanderson@charter.net)  
P: 906-361-7609



## Kasten's Korner

So why'd you  
dump Megan



She was too high maintenance for me, wait for her to take her board off, wait for her to put her board on, my screws are loose, my binding is broken again. She was driving me crazy.

Gary Kasten 2017



# Are we Having Fun Yet?

The question of this title is important to all of us as we dedicate our time, money, families, and many other resources to this crazy thing called ski patrolling. Usually when someone is investigating the possibility of becoming a volunteer ski patroller, one of the many questions is one word: Why?

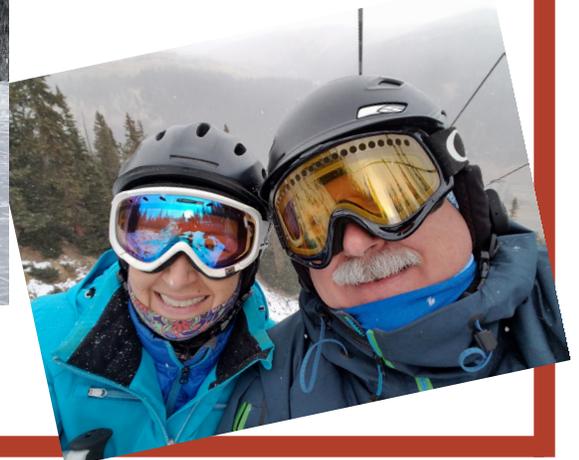
The answers are plentiful, and usually don't boil down to getting anything free. It is usually the friendships that are developed, and the fun we have with each other while participating in ski patrol activities. The bonds we develop with others keeps us motivated and attached to this activity.

## Chris Raudabaugh ADD

A great example of the strong relationships we have with each other showed during the incident at Boyne Highlands. During this tragic event, we had fellow patrollers frantically searching, calling, and texting each other to make sure everyone was ok. For those that needed help, we had an instant support structure where other patrollers brought us items we needed in the aftermath. That was a heck of feeling knowing we had our backs covered (and in my case, bottoms covered).

Even with this kind of event, the Division staff were back the next weekend delivering another skills workshop with smiles on everyone's faces. Why?

We developed a strong dedication to our ski patrolling thru our NSP Family and we have great time doing these activities because of this relationship. I encourage you to develop as many close bonds with your patroller friends as you can and have fun. These are important factors that keep us patrolling, having fun, and making skiing a safe sport for the rest of the skiers/riders.



# Are You Finding What You Are Looking For?



**Tom Anderson**  
ADD

Aside from your membership cards and what not from the National office, are you finding what you are looking for? Are you seeking out new opportunities in the patrol world? How about jumping into the various instructor programs. Whether it is helping with your own patrol or expanding your horizon in getting involved with Region and Division programs I can assure you that there is a spot for you. All Region and Division program advisors and supervisors are being charged with finding interested patrollers to be mentored, trained and groomed for eventual replacement of our instructor corps. Only half kidding when a new Division Supervisor is tapped the first task they must fulfill is finding a replacement for themselves. The first place they look is where they came from. Ski/ Ride training, Toboggan handling, Avalanche modules and many more on the mountain side of things. OEC, Alumni and Awards for the off hill programs are just a couple of the other programs. Check out the Division Staff roster in this edition for all the options. I can see some of your names in those boxes already!

Oh yea... I finally got my membership cards, now I just need to find the laminator.



## Region Reports

### E Michigan Region

#### Quality Assurance in NSP Programs



**Mike Schons**  
E MI Region  
Director

A lot of folks speak about quality. Quality Assurance or Quality Control so what does these terms mean and are they the same thing? The answer is no! Quality Control is a set of activities for ensuring quality in products or services. The activities focus on identifying defects in the actual products produced or delivered this activity is performed internally by the organization directly involved in delivering the products or services. Quality Assurance aims to prevent defects with a focus on the process used to make the product or service. It is a proactive quality process. This process ensures all activities from planning and training instructors thru delivery, and is randomly audited both internally and externally.

In the NSP, we deliver a quality product, which are our educational courses. We train Instructors first in the process of teaching. This includes, a style of organizing instructional material meeting the different ways adults learn. The Instructor Candidate then continues to learn their educational curriculum by mentoring in their specialization program under the direction of an Instructor Trainer. It is these Instructor

Trainers that are the true backbone of how we deliver a quality educational program.

Since Quality Assurance is a proactive process, Instructor Trainers are an integral part of that process within our organization. I/T's assist in training, planning, documenting, monitoring, providing feedback and ensuring that the quality process for the discipline is stable and in control. Let's take a simplistic look at that process. Instructor Trainers teach the local area Instructors how to document and prepare their upcoming courses. This includes course registration, course organizational tips and what educational requirements must be met. They assist in course closure and when requested, monitor the instructor as an external set of eyes, providing feedback for continuous improvement until an Instructor has completed their mentorship and is ready to instruct classes on their own.

So how is this different from Quality Control? The Quality Control activity is (in another simplistic view) provided by the Instructor conducting the course. The Instructor focuses on course feedback to identify any defects in the delivery of the educational required material. This is accomplished by the feedback forms utilized at the end of each course. The Instructor reviews the forms and makes corrections to ensure a quality course is delivered to our membership.

One other quality differentiation that should be recognized is the Internal and external processes that are involved. The Quality Control process is internally driven. This means, in our scenario, that the local patrol Instructor and/or Instructor Trainer sets up the course, registers and closes the course and monitors the requirements via the feedback form, making necessary corrections to improve the course for the next local offering. The Quality Assurance, proactive process, relies on a total quality process involving the Instructor and/or Instructor Trainer in the entire preparation process which includes instructor training and mentoring. An additional step is added that an outside Auditor, which would be an Instructor Trainer, occasionally monitors the course to ensure that the entire process for delivery of the course is being met to the specified requirements. This step would be external to the patrol and/or region and looks at more than the course feedback but again the entire process.

I know that now this is as clear as mud, but I hope I have given you some insight to the Quality processes and how each may impact our educational products.

## NC Region



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

Well the winter is here as I am writing this it is -9 here in central WI. I looked at the article I wrote last year for the winter edition and I'll be: it was -9 that night also. I was fortunate enough to attend a SES in CO. on the day after opening at Loveland Nov 12. Thanks Dan Moss, Jay Zedak and the rest of your awesome instructors. As I returned back to WI at the end of the week I was assuming it would be a while as our temps here were not what was needed to make snow. Then it changed the day I got home and been skiing ever since. We held the division ASDW's did a lot of "Back to the Basics, pass it on" have brought it back to our region when we held our own TTW.

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

The next thing we know our banquet will be here, so let's get the awards written so we can have a great banquet.

# Southern Region



**Don Steen**  
**Southern Region**  
**Director**

The season started out with quite the excitement. I'm glad that the region patrollers are all safe and the division patrollers are healing. Possessions can be replaced, but our most valuable asset, our people are thankfully safe.

The Cubbies put a dent in this year's ski swap attendance, but overall it was a success. 141 patrollers put in 1499 hours. Monies raised from this event helps defray the cost of programs throughout our region.

Welcome new Southern Region Medical Advisors Jim Katz & Stefan Hamelin and Young Adult Patroller Advisor Kirk Larsen. Thank you to those who voted in the most recent National Ski Patrol elections. Southern Region had an impressive voter turnout. 54% voted this year. Once again three of our four candidates were elected. Congratulations to Jay Zedak, the newest Central Division patroller to represent us on the national board and to Jim Woodrum the new Chairman of the Board.

Sections Chief elections for Sections 3 & 6 will take place this year. If you are interested in running, nominations should be sent to Ken Meldahl Southern Region Election Advisor.

The region ASDW was held January 7 & 8, 2017 at Sundown. Thank you Sundown for hosting this event. The SES/TES will be held January 28 & 29, 2017 at Chestnut while the Central Division Women's Clinic will be held at Sundown. The Region Awards Meeting will be Saturday night January 28th. This year's senior proficiency and OEC will be held on the same weekend this year at Chestnut. Proficiency will be Saturday February 25, 2017 and OEC on Sunday February 26, 2017.

**SAVE THE DATE!** – Section 3 will be hosting the Southern Region Awards Banquet on April 28, 2017 at the Hilton Inn 3003 Corporate W. Drive Lisle, IL 60532. Mark you calendars and come join me for a week-end of learning and camaraderie.

Please think about awards. This is the only way you can recognize the hard work of your fellow patrollers. Now is the time to nominate the person you feel has continually proven themselves an asset to your section, region or division.

Hope everyone has a safe and successful Ski Season!!!!

# South Central Region



**Steve Paladini**  
**South Central**  
**Region Director**

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Mother nature has cooperated this season. With two snow storms prior to Christmas, they added to the areas bases, allowing most to open as usual. Cold temperatures then set in, allowing areas to continue with snowmaking and good conditions are being reported.

Patrols have completed their On-Hill and chair evacuation refreshers. On-Hill refreshers were registered on National's web site, with patrollers having to go on-line and "sign up" for their areas refresher. The process, being the same as the OEC refreshers, appeared to go smoothly.

The South-Central Region hosted one of Central Division's ASDW's at Cascade Mountain on December 17th and 18th. Thank you to Cascade Mountain's man-

agement, along with ARD Eric Gesteland and his staff to make it a success. Since then, South-Central has held two *Toboggan Train the Trainers*, to pass on the information.

During the first few weeks of January, the region has held both the Senior On-Hill and Senior OEC clinics. The evaluations are scheduled for February 26th and March 11th, respectively. Wishing ours and all of Central Division's candidates, good luck in their journey.

The region will be holding a *Fundamentals of MTR and Rope Rescue* class at Mt LaCrosse on March 18th. Keep an eye for it on National's Course Schedule and maybe you can join us.

In other news, our Section Chief III is up for re-election this year. We are also holding our region *Women's Seminar* at Nordic Mountain in February.

Finally, as I have been involved with all aspects of the South-Central Region, it has become obvious that my staff and program advisers, are a dedicated and talented group of individuals. Each of them spend a lot of time in pre-planning and preparation, to bring the region their specific program, form of communication, etc. I'm sure the same can be said for each of the Region Director's staffs, throughout Central Division. During the season, if you are patrolling with any of them or decide to get involved in one of their programs, please take the time to thank them.

## N Michigan Region



**Richard Jacques**  
**N MI Region**  
**Director**

Following a slow start Mother Nature lowered the temperature and turned on the snow. For the first time in four or five years all NMR resorts were 100% open for Christmas.

The Region received bad news just as the snow started to fall. Long time patroller and multi-term Mt. Holiday Patrol Director Matt Lyons passed away peacefully in his sleep. Matt was a fruit grower by profession but ski patrolling was his avocation and passion. He worked with former area owner Warren Brosch to design and build the Mt Holiday Ski Patrol room during a lodge expansion. He designed and built many tools and aids to help the Mt Holiday Patrol be more effective and to improve patient care. Matt never sought patrol office however, he stepped up to lead the patrol as Patrol Director on several occasions. Mt. Holiday Resort recognized his many accomplishments and dedication to the resort by naming the resorts patrol facility, the "Matt Lyons Ski Patrol Center".

On another sad note, former NMR patroller Stu Hull passed away January 6th. Stu served over 35 years at Mt. Mancelona and Schuss Mountain. He had retired from patrolling in 2008. Stu taught Red Cross First Aid classes and later OEC classes in Eastern Michigan Region until his retirement in the 1990's when he and wife Pat moved to Bellaire.

NMR's first event of the season was a OEC SEM Clinic in mid-December. Eight candidates participated in multiple scenarios to begin preparation for the upcoming OEC SEM Evaluation. The Otsego Ski Club hosted the event even though they were over a week from opening for the season. The candidates participated in eight senior level practice scenarios during the day. Thanks to all the OEC Instructors and helpers that took a Saturday away from Christmas shopping to help our candidates.

Sunday December 18 (the day after the Senior Clinic) many of the same OEC Instructors gathered at Hickory Hills in Traverse City to assist with an OEC Class Final Practical Evaluation. This evaluation be-

came much more realistic than planned thanks to great snowmaking and lots of mother nature's finest allowing the resort to open several days early. As a result, candidates had groomers, snowmobiles and riders around them to make scenarios very realistic.

The weekend of January 7 & 8 was the Region's Annual Ski/Toboggan Instructor Calibration and Candidate Clinics. On Saturday 30 Instructor and Instructor Candidates learned about all the updates from the Division December ASDW. I'm happy to announce that six Instructor Candidates completed the mentoring process and were promoted to Alpine Patroller Toboggan Trainers following the event. On Sunday, these new instructors and updated Senior Alpine Instructors conducted a clinic for Alpine Patroller and Senior Alpine Patroller candidates. As part of this weekend Region ASE instructors conducted a Recertification Clinic for several NMR Accredited Senior Evaluators. At the same time two region instructors completed the new ASE Evaluation at Pine Knob. Congratulations to all our new and renewed Instructors and Evaluators.

**Upcoming Events:**

- 1/21/2017 NMR SES @ Nub's Nob
- 1/22/2017 NMR TES @ Boyne Highlands
- 2/19/2017 Section 2/3 Alpine Patroller Evaluation @ Otsego
- 2/25/2017 NMR Women's Event @ Boyne Highlands
- 2/26/2017 NMR Senior On-hill Evaluation @ Boyne Mountain
- 3/5/2017 OEC MSP Evaluation @ Boyne Highlands
- 3/11/2017 Section 1 Alpine Patroller Evaluation @ Nub's



# Fall 2017 Central Division Meeting

 <p>Central Division is coming, Central Division is coming to Northern Michigan!</p>	 <p>When?</p>	 <p>September 8, 9 and 10, 2017.</p>
 <p>Why? We don't have snow in September!</p>	 <p>To refresh friendships, enhance patrol skills and explore new ideas.</p>	 <p>OK, See you there!</p>

No! There won't be snow. But there should be a hint of cooler temperatures and the start of fall color! September 8, 9 and 10, 2017 will be a great time to visit Northern Michigan. Tour historic M119 and the Tunnel of Trees on your motorcycle or by car. Cycle hundreds of miles of bike trails, canoe a tranquil river through pristine natural areas or climb a sand dune, there is so much to do.

How could things get better? Join us at Boyne Mountain to Refresh and Enhance Patrol skills and knowledge and to explore new ideas and skills. NMR is planning a full meeting including a tour of Shaggy's Copper Country Skis, the annual Division Awards Banquet and multiple tracks with programs for patrollers,

patrol management, risk management and educational programs. All of this plus a lot of good old Northern Michigan Region Hospitality!

Make your plans now to attend the 2017 Central Division Fall Meeting at Boyne Mountain Resort and watch the Spring RPN for registration and housing information.

## YAP News



**Jane Bickerstaff**  
**YAP Advisor**

Congratulations to Christina Busche of Central Division for earning the National Outstanding Young Patroller Award. Christina was awarded a scholarship from National to assist in the costs of attending the upcoming Powderfall 2017. We couldn't be happier for her accomplishments as a Central Division patroller and look forward to hearing about her future successes.

Samantha Buchanan of Southern Region was also awarded a scholarship to Powderfall. Samantha is from Hidden Valley Ski Patrol.

The NSP YAP webpage continues to be under construction. If you click on the drop down, there is nothing to be viewed. The old site had the YAP start-up manual on it and little else. In developing a new YAP page there are more things to consider. If it is a YAP page, then why shouldn't it be more interesting and accessible to the YAP's themselves? What would motivate YAP's to want to view the web page? What info would YAP's want to read about or share? Where could YAP's post photos of their patrol activities? Paul Tourangeau and Melanie Hood

hosted a conference call where division YAP supervisors discussed these ideas. The consensus was that we need to be current with what teens use for social media. We discussed Twitter, FB, Snapchat, and Instagram. The idea was to connect kids from across the country and let them show off their skills and programs. Melanie had some cool rewards ideas to encourage YAP posts and use of social media to promote their patrol activities. Your input is needed and can be forwarded to me at [janebic@yahoo.com](mailto:janebic@yahoo.com) for future discussions.

Welcome region YAP supervisors Mike Hare from South Central Region, Cricket Nickolaou from Eastern Michigan Region, and Les Fischer from Ohio Region. We are excited to have local support for growing the YAP programs across our division.



# OEC Update



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

I hope everyone is having a swell ski/snow boarding season. On December 16, I fell and broke my wrist- I'm hoping to get back on my skis in February. Fingers crossed. I'm gaining an understanding of what winter is like for nonskiers.

We've started up with the new NSP website, and things are going pretty much as expected. I've been hearing feedback that you've liked the new OEC basic exam this year. I've also received all the feedback about the Refresher C season, and will be taking that feedback to the National OEC committee in April.

Please remember that if at any point you've forgotten how to use the Instructor tools, there are some fabulous videos on the customer care portion of the NSP website. Start there and then contact your Region OEC Administrator.

With the new system has a few changes: All attendees, in order to get credit, must enroll in the NSP course. The IOR can edit information about the course at any time.

For the OEC course, remember that you have two weeks after the closing date to close the course. So it would be helpful for the office to know when to send the final exam. If it's different from your closing date, please let your ROA and the NSP office know that. It is not necessary to put a false date on your OEC course to "buy" time. That practice resulted in a lot of confusion and stress in trying to get the final exam to the IT in time. As a group the ROAs will discuss a better method for getting the test to you.

As the IOR, your attendees will not get credit for attending the course, unless they are enrolled and the final step is you need to close the course.

The IT doing QA can not be from the same patrol as the test or refresher. Mike Schons is putting together a short article on why this is important to keep the integrity of the OEC program.

Finally, Best wishes to all the candidates at all levels : Basic, Senior, and Certified!

## *Life is a Mystery ...*



**Dr. Julie Stone**  
**ADD**

Any way you look, our stories unfold in different ways than any of us could have possibly expected. Who would have figured? I have always said "we knew we'd get challenges, but we didn't see *that* coming, did we?"

I am especially grateful to the NSP, my colleagues and friends, and our corporate partners – in particular Patagonia and Hestra – for getting a bunch of us back to business as usual after a challenging start to our season. Many of you know that our division's first ASDW was cut short; and that health and belongings of patrollers and their loved ones (as well as that of other hotel guests and staff) were casualties of a fire. So many reached out with assistance and prayers and hugs. Thank you so much.

But this got me thinking of what all of us face on a regular basis, often without knowing what challenges others are facing. These last few months have been challenging to many in my life – my patrol family, my real family, and my circle of friends family. They, and all of you, are my family and I keep you in my heart at

all times. One friend is on her last radiation treatment today as I write, another (a patroller) has recently started both chemo and radiation, my father is in rehab after a life threat, the nearly 99 year-old lady with whom I spend Tuesday nights so she can stay in her own home can barely walk, a division advisor is off skis from a broken bone, and on and on. May they continue with courage and know I care for them! May you and yours continue with courage too, and with comfort in your hearts.

I do not share the fire and these stories for your sympathy but rather so that we can each take a moment, or a ski season, to celebrate the mystery of life and choose, yes *CHOOSE*, to live our lives fully and generously. Each of these persons I referred to would want nothing less from us. So, remember those goals you set this fall? Are you working towards them? What can I, or someone else do to help you on your path? By working hard and continuing life's journey to the best of one's ability you honor those who struggle, refuse to give in to those who would send you sprawling, and live the unfolding mystery of life to its fullest.

My hat is off to all of you who work so hard. The program advisors I work most closely with – Sue, Jane, Steve, Brian, Russ, and Michael – are excellent. I admire their dedication and unfailing energy. Thank you for all your work.

As each of you continues this 2016-17 season, please know I keep you in my heart, and send each of you a big hug full of caring. Life's mysteries may be strange and confusing but should be welcomed nonetheless. As we accept that these events are part of life, difficult as they can be, we can be happy with the great good that is happening around us. Be joyful my friends, be safe, be at peace, and embrace *Life's Mystery*.

## Let's get "Fired" up!



**Troy Southwick  
Toboggan  
Supervisor**

The season is well underway for the year and we had a smokin' hot time at the Division ASDW's! Thanks, to Randy at Boyne Highlands and Eric at Cascade Mountain for helping to make the two weekends successful as possible.

Now that the ASDW's are behind us, it is time to look to our Regions for enhancement seminars. Ski/Ride and Toboggan enhancement seminars are a great way to improve the efficiency of what we do. So take some time and check out your region calendars for an enhancement seminar near you.

The work on the web site is looking very good, however our data is not quite up to date. I appreciate your patients in toboggan trainer and Instructor Trainer Status updates. Your Region supervisors and I have been working with the National office to correct the problems, as we are aware of them.

Thanks to all who are working hard to pass on the pure message of Back to Basics!



# Have Fun on Your Senior Trip!



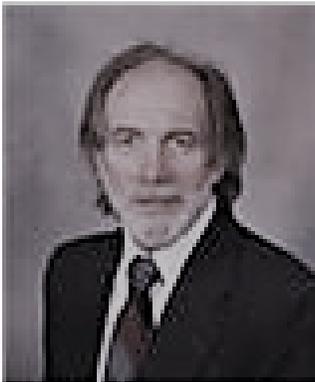
**Rob Carpenter**  
**Senior Supervisor**

What a great turnout! We now have several busloads of patrollers who have set off on their senior trip. We hope you all have a safe and successful journey. Some may chose to make this a longer trip than others, but most importantly be sure to have fun along the way. Also, be sure to take advantage of all of the help available to you. There are more people than you know who are available and committed to help. You may just need to speak up and ask.

The division, region, and patrol training staffs have been busy preparing to act as tour guides. We do this by clearly defining and calibrating on senior toboggan, ski/ride, and OEC skills. This way we make sure we are all on the same page and can provide consistent, focused senior training and evaluations. We also organize and prepare for the senior evaluations. These evaluations typically involve a significantly greater number of administrators, support staff, and evaluators than candidates.

Good luck to all of the senior candidates on your journey and thanks to all of you who have committed to help!

## Awards Update



**Martin Fahje**  
**Awards Supervisor**

Outstanding nominations are due to Region Awards advisors soon. Each Region has its own individual timelines, however each Region must submit their Region Outstanding nominations to Division by March 24th.

Last season Central Division was well represented on the National level in the Outstanding categories below. Congratulations again to these National award winners.

Boyne Highlands Ski Patrol, National First Runner up Large Alpine Ski Patrol

Daren Lukes of Granite Peak Ski Patrol, National First Runner up Outstanding Administrative Patroller

West Michigan Nordic Ski Patrol, National Outstanding Nordic Ski Patrol

Linda Barthel of Mt Brighton Ski Patrol, National Outstanding Instructor

Christina Busche of Powder Ridge Ski Patrol, National Outstanding Young Adult Patroller

Central Division has, and I hope continues to have, a significant impact on the National level. We have a terrific group of advisors who work hard to insure that the submitted nominations are the best they can be by time they are passed on to National.

Patrol Representatives; please take the effort to submit Outstanding nominations for the deserving members of your patrol. Award recognition is one of the few things we can give back to the rank and file patrolers who serve you and the skiing public.

Outstanding nominations in the following categories are accepted.

1. Outstanding Alpine Patroller.
2. Outstanding Nordic Patroller.
3. Outstanding Patroller.
4. Outstanding Paid Patroller. (Professional)
5. Outstanding Young Patroller (age 15 – 19).
6. Outstanding Administrative Patroller.
7. Outstanding Instructor – OEC.
8. Outstanding Instructor.
9. Outstanding Alpine Patrol Representative.
10. Outstanding Nordic Patrol Representative.
11. Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol (greater than 40 members).
12. Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol (1 – 40 members).
13. Outstanding Large Nordic Patrol (greater than 40 members).
14. Outstanding Small Nordic Patrol (1 – 40 members).



## Instructor Development



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

First does anyone have comments on the Hybrid Class? Have you taken the Hybrid class? If you do and did not include them when you took the course, please let me know. [rodewoman@yahoo.com](mailto:rodewoman@yahoo.com)

It is all for you, the patroller. The Instructor Development Hybrid Class was overhauled and is available as part of the requirement for an Instructor Development Class. Along with the on-line portion there is a face to face component. In this section patrollers can review the on line portion, clear up questions, and present their six pack lesson. This is the first part of becoming an instructor in an NSP discipline. The next part matches every instructor candidate with a mentor. In the mentoring process, the instructor candidate works with his/her mentor to view current instructors, plan lessons, and teach in courses. For some instructor candidates and courses, this can be a year, two years or more adventure. Once the instructor candidate feels confident with the course materials and teaching, an IT will come to class to verify. The best part is a new instructor joins the ranks!!

For current instructors, mentors, and IT's (any discipline). There is a new mentoring form available. It is a little streamlined compared to the old one. The mentoring form has always stayed in the Region/Division. It is still the Instructor Application which needs to be sent to National for Instructor certifications. All NSP Instructors thanks for all you do.

# Teaching Methods



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

Many of us have grown up on “technical” education methods. Courses like OEC, ski/ride, chair evacuation, transportation, and many more, often have this technical method in common.

Recognizing that we certainly need a foundational amount of technical knowledge to advance our learning and skill base, the question of ‘how’ we disseminate that information makes all the difference for retention of learning.

We’ve all had that teacher, professor or coach, who lectured us ad-nauseam. None of us want to be found among that group!

But think with me for a moment; how do we help others move from one place to another in their learning? And what about our own learning; can we learn and retain information longer if we arrive at outcomes through our own exploration or

experimentation?

We are exploring within the PSIA “guided discovery,” so I thought I’d share a comparison from our recent 32 Degrees magazine.

Guided Discovery, under the umbrella of experiential learning, is a methodology that recognizes that when the learner arrives at the outcomes through their own experience, learning is deeper and more long lasting.

Guided Discovery was popularized by Dr. Charles Wales in the early 90s. “The instructor devises a series of statements or questions that guide the learner, step by logical step, making a series of discoveries that lead to a single predetermined goal.”

Maybe the single greatest difference between the Technique vs Experience centered method is the change in role of the instructor/coach/facilitator. As you may have surmised from the definition, it’s a lot more work; it takes more creativity, energy and patience from the instructor. Consider this comparison:

## Technique Centered Teaching

1. Responsibility for learning on the teacher.
2. Relies predominantly on the knowledge/input of the instructor.
3. Often inhibits or excludes elements from the experience-centered list.

## Experience Centered Teaching

1. Shares the responsibility of learning between the teacher and student.
2. Relies on the knowledge and participation of the teacher and learner.
3. Often includes or is enhanced by elements from the technique-centers list.

Though it require more energy, I hope you’ll remain motivated by your students. We will be making deeper deposits that will pay greater dividends in the long run!

So, here’s to great learners and teachers!

# Greetings Central Division Women Patrollers!



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

On Friday, January 27, 2017 the Central Division Women's Clinic will be held at Sundown Resort in Dubuque, IA. Thirty women from the Central Division will converge on the town of Dubuque, IA for laughter, fun, and supported work on skiing, riding, and toboggan handling. The Southern Region will not be the same – in a good way!

A big THANK YOU to the following people for making it happen: Jennifer Ibata-Fetzer from the Southern Region, Jeff Hanley Patrol Director at Sundown, Mark Gordon General Manager at Sundown Mountain, and our host Jodie Bramel at Sundown Mountain. Thank you all for a great weekend!

The 30 women who have signed up for the clinic and our staff of instructors are very excited to be together! We have planned a full weekend of skiing, riding, and toboggan work. Sundown Resort has opened their doors to us and has made us feel wanted and welcomed!

The women's staff of the Central Division Women's Program thank everyone for their support and we look forward to having a blast at this year's event!

Begin planning ahead for 2018 at Lutsen Mountains of MN in the Western Region! Check out our Facebook page for more information and photos from our events!

## Nordic: A Pre-Fab Emergency Toboggan



**Peter Wollan**  
**Nordic**  
**Supervisor**

Our Central Division Nordic Workshop was held at Minocqua and Indianhead January 7-9, and was exceptional, as it always turns out to be. It was cold, below zero Saturday and Sunday, but warming up nicely for the tele session Monday. I go every year, and every year I learn lots. This year I learned a subtlety about poling on the skate V1 stroke that makes a huge difference, and will change how I teach it. With tele, I'm still a beginner even after several years, but I got better in the course of the day. And, of course, we all had lots of fun.

Next year will be the 30th consecutive CD Nordic Workshop (no, I wasn't around at the beginning). Let's plan on a big attendance to celebrate!

In addition to skiing, we did some Nordic Toboggan work. In particular, I showed off a pre-fabricated Mission Ridge emergency toboggan. The Mission Ridge, or Fager Flyer after its inventor, is the standard Nordic emergency toboggan. It's constructed out of a tarp, webbing, cord or rope, and is stiffened with the patient's skis. I've never carried all the stuff needed to build one on a tour; some people say they have, distributing parts across several skiers. It's not difficult to build, but requires some time, and frequent refreshing to remember the knots and how it goes together.

To address all these deficiencies, I developed a version that can be simply taken out and used. It starts with a 6'x8' tarp; the main haul loop is 30' of webbing, duct-taped down the center the full length of the tarp. The webbing is left longer at the head end so it can be used directly for pulling; the tail end is a short loop that could be clipped into for a tail rope. Chest and leg straps are 10' lengths, duct-taped at the center; the side-haul loops are another 30' length, duct-taped at the center. The side-haul loops would pull out easily if the tape were the only attachment; they need to be tied to the patient's skis, so the force gets distributed. The original Mission Ridge also ties the straps to the skis, using clove hitches. However, to avoid pulling up the

duct tape, the clove hitch would need to be tied upside down, which turns out to be very difficult indeed. I used overhand knots instead, and they work fine.

A foam pad, and possibly a sleeping bag, goes on top of the skis for patient comfort. The tarp is closed up at each end and across the top using mini-carabiners through the grommets the tarp comes with. For the webbing I used 3/4" polypropylene strap, from [Strap-Works.com](http://Strap-Works.com). It's much, much cheaper than nylon tubular webbing, and seems to be plenty strong. Total cost is about \$30, with about 1 1/2 hours needed to stick it all together.

The end result is light, compact, easy to carry, quick to apply, and still allows the tarp to be used as an emergency shelter. The only disadvantage I've found so far is that the chest and leg straps are fixed in position, so a small patient may be hard to fit. There may be a better choice of position, to allow a wider range of patient size. If you build one, let me know what dimensions you choose (and any other variations) and how it works. I'll bring this one to the Birkie, along with the "Eskimo Sled" from [Brooks-Range.com](http://Brooks-Range.com), which inspired the approach. If there is interest, I'll write up more complete directions, with many pictures, to put on the Central Division web site sometime soon.

Get out and ski!



A pre-fabricated version of the Mission Ridge emergency toboggan.

I'll bring this one to the Birkie, along with the "Eskimo Sled" from [Brooks-Range.com](http://Brooks-Range.com), which inspired the approach. If there is interest, I'll write up more complete directions, with many pictures, to put on the Central Division web site sometime soon.

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# 35th Anniversary of Certified in Central Division



**Patrick Perlman  
Certified**

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the program is welcome to attend the evaluation at Marquette or any Certified event that is on the calendar.

The annual Certified evaluation will be held at Marquette Mountain March 2nd – 5th. This marks the 35th Anniversary of the certified program in the Central Division. The program has grown immensely in 35 years with staff representing all 8 regions and 27 different patrols.

We are pleased to welcome five new candidates into the program: Andrew French, Aaron Hislop, Peter Holdridge, Erick Jensen and Matt Stordahl. Please wish these members as well as our current candidates success as they start/continue their certified journey.



Photos Courtesy of Ron Gerdes & Bill McCullough

# Back to Basics, Pass it on.



**Marty Blaszowski**  
NSP-C Snowsports  
School

When we see a skier across the hill and say that person is good skier, what makes them good? Every good skier possess five fundamentals that make them good. They maintain consistent speed and control. You see connected and rounded turn shapes of varying sizes. Parallel turns with simultaneous foot tipping. This is what we see, but the fundamentals are what get us there.

The five fundamentals are:

- Control the center of mass to the base of support to direct pressure along the length of the ski.
- Control pressure ski to ski with the pressure directed toward outside ski.
- Control edge angles through inclination and angulation.
- Control rotary with the leg rotation separate from a stable upper body.
- Regulate the magnitude of pressure created through ski snow interaction.

Video of Robin Barnes explaining these fundamentals can be found on the home page at <http://www.centraldivision.org>

These fundamentals are being integrated into the senior training program, National OET Training, and many other NSP ski/ride training programs. As we train patrollers, we use this as a foundation of what we are looking at. It helps us break down the simple areas of opportunity in an individual's skiing by identifying their strengths and building on those to attain the desired outcome we are looking for. As we evaluate the skier/ rider, we are looking at the individual's ability to blend the 5 fundamentals together.

Using the five Fundamentals helps skier/riders understand their strengths. It will help them build on their blending of the skills to achieve their goals.

By joining the NSP-C snow sports school, we can help enhance your strengths, thereby blending the skills to achieve your goals. Take the opportunity to reach out to your staff and sign up. Register at <http://www.nsp-cskischool.com/application14.php>.

If you need any assistance with your training goals or want to enrich your training staff feel free to contact me at: [mjb8804@yahoo.com](mailto:mjb8804@yahoo.com).

## Avalanche Education Opportunities



**Dale Mihuta**  
Avalanche  
Supervisor

If you are planning adventuring into the backcountry or ski area sidecountry then you should be planning to take a NSP Level 1 or AAIRE Level 1. If you are investing money in touring equipment why not invest in the most important part, you! Here are the dates, locations and contacts:

NSP Level 1 March 10th thru 12th.

Location: Houghton, MI.

Cost: \$100 (includes book Snow Sense)

Contact: Dale R. Mihuta, Central Division Avalanche Supervisor, [dmihuta@fuse.net](mailto:dmihuta@fuse.net)

AIARE Level 1 March 16th thru March 19th

Location: Mt. Bohemia, MI.

Cost: From \$599 (includes course materials, hostel lodging, breakfast and dinner,

lift tickets and 1 day free skiing)

Contact: [mtbohemia.com](http://mtbohemia.com).

NSP Level 1 March 17th thru March 19th

Location: Mt. Washington, NH.

Cost: TBD

Contact: Chuck Boyd [chucklin2@gmail.com](mailto:chucklin2@gmail.com).

NSP Level 2 March 9th thru March 12th

Location: Whiteface Mt. Adirondacks, NY.

Cost: TBD

Contact: Chuck Boyd, Eastern Division Avalanche Supervisor, [chucklin2@gmail.com](mailto:chucklin2@gmail.com).

If you have any questions you can contact me at:

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513-919-3129 ©

## Skills Development Program



**Cheryl Raudabaugh**  
**Skills Development**

What a whirlwind December was as the Skills Team and Division Instructors hit the road! Our Alpine Skills Development Workshops (ASDW) were held at Boyne Highlands Resort, Harbor Springs, MI and at Cascade Mountain, Portage Wisc. Top trainers/advisors from all of the regions were present to kick off the Central Division Ski Season with a focus on “Back to Basics, Pass It On!” The skills team emphasized the Five Fundamentals of good technical skiing, those key elements that we can come back to as the core components that ground us – whether in skiing, riding, or tobogganing.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Fundamentals, stop by our skills website [www.centraldivision.org](http://www.centraldivision.org) and watch the video that is available right on the home page. While you are there, you can download a Skills Summary card to print that the Skills Team created and handed out to participants at the event on Skiing, Snowboard, and Toboggan essentials. In addition you can find important reference docs on the senior program, and training tips for Alpine Skiing and Tobogganing. The skills website can also be linked to from the Central Division website by selecting Skills Development from the programs menu on

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

The participants at these ASDW events will be bringing key information from the programs back to you via region STWs and TTWs, as well as through to your local training. Our division staff is also supporting an ASE Exam held in January for those hoping to attain Accredited Senior Examiner credentials in order to become part of the division Senior Alpine Evaluator staff. We offer an enormous thank you to our Division Instructor staff for the work that they do not only in these events, but by continuous movement analysis and improvement of their own skills in order to provide you the best that the Central Division can offer.

Have a great season whether at your own hill, traveling other areas within the Central Division, or heading out west to the big mountains, and I encourage you to keep looking for ways to improve your own skill set by going Back to Basics, then Pass It On!

# Facebook

Submitted by: Darcy Hanley, Division Tip of the Week Contact

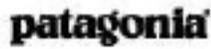
Happy New Year and it is nice to be back on the white slippery stuff. Facebook once again supported the initiative for the board election that closed in December. Congratulations to those board members who were elected. Especially those from the CD as I know they will represent the membership! I thought you may want to know some stats from a 30 day Facebook page view. The page reaches 8,053 people (means they viewed), there were 1989 posts by members, the page had 11 New Likes and the total page likes is 852. Pretty powerful stuff! A final thought for the New Year....so thankful that our patrol family that were volunteering and participating in the Division event at Boyne came home safely. An incredible thank you to those volunteer firemen who responded quickly and made sure everyone was out of the building. Have a great season!



## 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>

# Thank You to Our Sponsors



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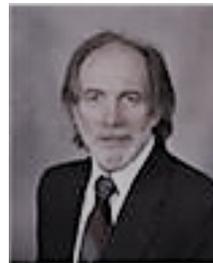
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rustyparka1@gmail.com*

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