

*This report did not make it into the latest Norwester because my computer refused to talk to Rod's computer. My apologies! Deb (Garcia) Whittaker*

## **Mt. Hood Region Report**

<http://www.mthoodskipatrol.org/>

**Feb 2006**



The Mt. Hood Region experienced the wettest January in three decades and has been having an outstanding ski year. All downhill and Nordic ski areas are in full operation and have been experiencing large crowds of happy skiers. For example, Cooper Spur Patrol Director, John Gass, reports "bottom-line, it has been a great season for us to date ... good weather and plentiful snow. CSS A has experienced record numbers of guests this season and the patrol has risen to the occasion."

As the snow conditions have improved and the volume of skiers increased so has work load and the number of incidents on Mt. Hood. Members of the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol were instrumental in the successful rescue of a 13 year-old ski racer at Ski Bowl on January 29 & 30. I would like to extend special thanks for the extraordinary effort put forth by the volunteers from of the Mount Hood Ski Patrol who participated in the rescue.

After successful OEC, chair evac, and hill captain sessions in September & October numerous changes are in process to maintain the high quality service the patrols are providing the ski areas within the region. For example, in an effort to improve staffing levels a new approach to recruiting has led to multiple seminars in the greater Portland area to add candidates to training programs on an ongoing basis throughout the ski season. A mountain host program managed by the Mount Hood Ski Patrol has also been added to increase the level of service provided at Timberline. Enhancements to the Mount Hood Ski Patrol's web-based dispatch system have improved the patrol's ability to optimize coverage at the ski areas and to quickly respond to staffing issues using electronic tools including bulletin boards and targeted email distribution lists. A new corporate sponsor, Jelly Belly Candy Company, has agreed to support the Mount Hood Ski Patrol and will conduct joint activities

in mid-February to provide free samples to the skiing public. Patrol members will talk to the public about the ski patrol and volunteer opportunities during the "sampling event". Other changes include new membership levels and benefit programs for Mount Hood Ski Patrol. Further details are on page 8 of the October 2005 "Sno Job" monthly newsletter which can be accessed from the Mount Hood Ski Patrol web site at <http://www.mthoodskipatrol.org/>.

Meanwhile skills enhancement and advanced training are continuing with the Senior Program in anticipation of the cross region ski & toboggan test at Hoodoo on April 9. In the interim, multiple "on the hill" training sessions have been held and joint skier enhancement sessions have been scheduled for February 5 in the Oregon Region and February 11 at Mt. Hood. Other advanced training includes mountain travel & rescue and avalanche. Further details about the dates and times of the courses can be found in the Sno Job.

As the hard work by our dedicated patrollers and associates continues on the hill essential administrative activities are continuing within the region. An election committee has been selected by the Mount Hood Ski Patrol and is in the process of assembling a slate of new candidates for patrol office elections in April. The year-end banquet is scheduled for May 6 at Timberline. The golf committee is already making plans for the John Keyes Memorial tournament in the fall of 2006 and all of us are optimistically looking forward to good snow conditions again next year.

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