



ALUMNI NEWS



AUGUST 2020

Our NSP alumni members are the heart and soul of the organization - now over 5,000 strong!



With our alumni ranks growing to over 5,000 members, here are capsules of several alumni making a positive difference for their patrols, the NSP and our country. Long-term NSP members populate our ranks; some use the program to bridge a gap in active NSP service when “life gets in the way”, while many alumni remain “super achievers”! Here are several examples:

Celebrate!

NSP alumni members: 5,000 strong



Rosemary and David Flynn, Eastern Division: Since Rosemary and David became NSP alumni, they have received many questions about what alumni are. They chose to become alumni after mounting injuries made it the most sensible way to continue to serve the NSP, still skiing often with the patrol that trained them, and maintain many friendships. Here is an overview of their experience of continuing to

contribute to the goals of the NSP.

“Remain active NSP Alumni - train, retrain and fundraise”, suggest the Flynns. Notes David, “We decided to keep our OEC credentials current, including CPR and FEMA. When the patrol needs added volunteers for a fundraiser, we attend. Especially when my wife is running in a race where the patrol is doing the medical race support; she runs and I volunteer as part of the first aid team. Medical race support can be a long day for half marathons and longer races.”

Jim Swirczynski, Pacific Northwest Division: An



NSP member since 1989, Jim has served as Patrol Director and a dozen patrol to division positions, and received his National Appointment #8612. He garnered the Outstanding Nordic Patroller Award (Oregon Region, PNWD, and National); Silver Merit Star, Yellow Merit Star, Gold Merit Star and added Lifetime NSP Membership in 2011. His expertise keeps the patrol's generator and electrical systems humming for radios and our cabin.

Notes Jim, "As an NSP Alumni I appreciate still having access to most of the Pro Deals, and the NSP Catalog. I'm pretty sure that the money that I've saved has more than paid for my Lifetime Membership. The Ski Patrol Magazine, PNWD Northwester, and Alumni newsletters help keep me up to date with what's going on with many of the people and patrols that I am friends with and have continued to stay in contact with over the years. I'm happy that I chose to stay in touch with my many Ski Patrol friends by becoming an Alumni with my patrol, and with the NSP".



Dr. Jim Margolis, Far West Division: Not content to be **only** an active alumni with Tahoe's Homewood Ski Patrol and the division's alumni advisor, Doc Jim was one of the founding fathers of the newest NSP bike patrol, with members acting as trail ambassadors and first-aiders along the 32-mile American River Parkway multi-use trail in Sacramento, California. He heads up Outdoor First Care training for the new bike patrol.

Over 50 bike patrollers were trained, as the patrol pioneered on-line trail training and OFC delivery and physically-distanced hands-on training in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the ARBP debuted in July, its members have been credited with saving a life by administering CPR on the trail, provided first aid to injured park users, repaired flat tires, guided parkway users back to their cars, and removed safety hazards along the parkway. Dr. Jim exhibits the highest energy and dedication to the new bike patrol.

For more great alumni stories, visit the Alumni program page at NSP.org. There are alumni highlighted in each issue of the Alumni News, which you will find on the right side of the page.

Now you can also download a PDF of all of these profiles under the "Celebrate our Alumni" header.

Seeking NSP involvement opportunities?

With the COVID-19 pandemic, both patrols and alumni may be contemplating new roads to advance their missions. Sometimes, it's best to be the "squeaky wheel"; if your patrol, or region has reason to use your talents – volunteer! Your old patrol or region likely has a need for veterans with special talents (they might be training, administrative, marketing skills, organizational and the like). Since alumni talents are sometimes overlooked, seek opportunities out if you have that interest. Also, check out growing NSP bike patrols and mountain host programs for renewed involvement opportunities for alumni. For future alumni options to get more involved, consider:

Special events involving your old patrol or region/division: Check with your patrol and regional leadership, and...volunteer. Or, consider a few larger events, including the Sea Otter Bike Classic in October, or Alumni Celebration week this spring in Whitefish, MT. You can find information about both of these events on the Alumni program page at NSP.org.

Promoting the NSP Alumni Program

If you know of a patroller who is considering either retiring from active patrolling or in need of a temporary break, please suggest they speak with either their Patrol Representative/Patrol Director or local Patrol Alumni Representative about the opportunities and benefits of the Alumni Program. For a link to the "Become a Member Today" form, click button below or go to the Alumni page in Member Resources at nsp.org. Also, feel free to forward this copy of Alumni News to others who may benefit from it.



[Download the "Become An Alumni Member" form](#)

Enjoy the summer season, shelter in place and remain resolute! If you have ideas for future issues of the Alumni News, contact your National Alumni Advisor, Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com.

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