



# NOR'WESTER

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVISION—NATIONAL SKI PATROL

June 2023

## DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT

By Shelley Urban, PNWD Director

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### Division Director Nor'Wester June 2023

This has been quite the ski season for those of us in the PNWD. The snow came in hard and furious in the spring, leaving most of our areas with near or above 100 inches. Many areas stayed open days and even weeks longer than the norm. We also had what seemed to be a significant number of severe, traumatic injuries and quite a few deaths. I encourage all of us to reach out to each other, lend an ear and a helping hand, and continue our work on creating a culture of security and stress awareness.

Some new information to share with all of you:

#### 1. NSP Board Chair and National Executive Director

The National Board Chair, Rick Boyce, continues to work diligently with the board and the newly hired Executive Director, Stephanie Cox. Stephanie has developed a focused set of goals for the organization for the next few years, with the initial phase created around recovery. She and Rick are steadfast in their vision for the NSP and need our support as we move forward.

#### 2. LMS (Learning Management System) and MMS (Member Management System)

- The new LMS rolled out last summer with some successes and some struggles. Maddie Miller in the National Office, along with Abigale Johnson, have been spending numerous hours creating a better user experience for this year's OEC refresher. I am hopeful that their expertise will develop a refresher that meets the needs of our members in a productive and successful way.
- The new MMS is targeted to go live sometime this summer. Watch for more information to come out at a later date. When it does come out, we know there will be issues to fix. When you notice something, I encourage you to send that feedback to me and let me reach out to the office. This first round with the new MMS is a replica of what we currently have, so please be patient. You will not see that many changes until phase two rolls out later this fall.
- Please be aware that the current glitches in the system are mostly a result of a disconnect between the LMS and the existing MMS. The office is aware of these issues and they are taking time to work through these and fix them to the best of their ability until the new MMS goes live.

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## DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT—continued

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### 3. NSP Face to Face in Denver

I will be heading to Denver the first week of June for the annual June face to face meeting. I look forward to meeting new board members, new division directors, office staff and other NSP leadership members, old and new. I will have the opportunity to spend a full day just with the division director team and participate in some hands-on training and strategic planning with everyone in attendance, along with needed face time with various committees.

### 4. PNWD Convention 2023

Inland Empire has been putting together what promises to be a very successful convention for our division this coming August in Spokane. The theme of the convention continues to revolve around Service and Safety, the primary mantra of the NSP. We look forward to numerous dynamic keynote speakers and workshops. I'm also looking forward, as always, to the awards banquet on Saturday night. I hope to see you there.

### 5. Youth Protection Training

Remember, those of us in any NSP leadership position or who are instructors where youth are present, are required to take and remain up-to-date on Youth Protective Training. If you aren't sure when you expire or if you need to take it, please contact Kay Seidel or me. Specifics about this requirement can be found under the Youth tab on the website.

### 6. Region Director Elections

Congratulations to Dan Becker who won the RD position for Inland Empire for his second term, and Thad Murata who is the new RD for Southern Idaho. Many thanks go to Dave Campbell for his many years of service as the previous Southern Idaho RD. I look forward to working with Dan for his second term, and Thad for his first.

## Other Information:

### 1. PNWD Monthly Workshops

The PNWD continues to host monthly patroller safety workshops. These workshops are for all of our members and are currently set around working together to keep each other safe on and off the mountain both physically and emotionally. These workshops are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, in the evening, from 6:30pm to about 8:00pm Pacific Time. Division program supervisors discuss safety in their area of expertise and we discuss psychological care (PFA) for ourselves and each other. We are promoting the use of PFA for all patrols, which is a resource being used nation-wide by a growing number of first-responders and has been utilized for years by the military. To find more information, including the log-in for the zoom calls, go to the SafetyCulture4All tab on the PNWD website.

### 2. PNWD Website

When you get a chance take a look at the PNWD website at [www.nsp-pnwd.org](http://www.nsp-pnwd.org). Jodie Jeffers continues to work diligently to update pages and make the site more relevant. If you notice any information that needs to be updated, added or changed, please email Jodie at [jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org).

As always, please feel free to reach out to me any time.

Yours in service,

Shelley Urban  
PNWD Division Director

# SOUTHERN IDAHO REGION REPORT

By Thad Murata, Southern Idaho Region Director

tmurata3@yahoo.com

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Hello from Southern Idaho Region.

Ski seasons have wrapped up with Bogus Basin being the last resort to close in May. The Southern Idaho Region is taking on new leadership both at the region and local patrols.

I am honored with the opportunity to serve the Southern Idaho Region as the new Director. I would like to say "Thank you" to Dave Campbell for his years of service as the Southern Idaho Region Director.

Local patrols have had their elections and the following have elected new Patrol Directors/Representatives:

Anthony Lakes - Aaron Varela

Payette Lakes - Mike Wissenbach

Payette Lakes Nordic - Don Sanda

Soldier Mountain - Karen Jensen

Looking forward at upcoming events, I strongly encourage patrollers to participate in the Pacific Northwest Division Conference in Spokane, WA this August. Information can be found at the following website, <https://www.pnwdcon.org/>

In addition, a couple changes to note for Southern Idaho Region events. The Region Meeting in October will be an in person event. I am working with Ferguson Ridge to host the event and will have more details to share. This is a change from previous years where we utilized Zoom to conduct the meeting.

This coming season's Senior Evaluation will be hosted by Payette Lakes. Planning is already underway. Typically, the Southern Idaho Region Senior Evaluation is the last weekend of February, but this season the Senior Evaluation will be the first weekend in March. Please mark March 1-3 on your calendars and plan to attend the Southern Idaho Region Eddie Orbea Senior Evaluation hosted by Payette Lakes.

With the end of the ski season and the change in Region Director, I will be reaching out to the Region Advisors. I already know we will be looking for multiple advisor positions. If you are interested please contact me. Being a region advisor is a great opportunity to take on a leadership role in the region, learn from and meet other patrollers in the region.

Please have a great summer, be safe, and thank you for your dedication and service!

Thad Murata  
Southern Idaho Region Director

# NW REGION REPORT

By Dale Wolfe, NW Region Director

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Nor'Wester report for the Northwest Region

Bringing this season to a close, it has been a busy one.

We completed a revision of the Northwest Region Bylaws. Thank you Mia Waters for all your work on this project. The driver for this project was to bring our bylaws into agreement with the Division Bylaws as revised last year. The revision was completed by the end of March, and the document was approved and signed on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The newly revised Bylaws will be posted on the Region Website for all to have access.

Over this past season, we have filled all Region positions that were open when I took office. I believe we now have a complete staff, though I am open to adding positions as a need arises.

This year in February we held our first annual Nordic Rendezvous. Rick King, Northwest Region Nordic Advisor put it on at Snoqualmie Central on the weekend of February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We had participants from Snoqualmie Central, Snoqualmie East (Hyak), Crystal Mountain, as well as Matt Strauser, Division Nordic Co-Advisor from Santiam Pass, OR. Saturday we worked on Backcountry skills, i.e. improvised toboggans, rope skills (belaying and raising toboggans), improvised shelters and beacon searches. Sunday there were lessons in Nordic Classic in the morning and Telemark Skiing in the afternoon. Reviews from the attendees were positive and we intend to run this again next season with an emphasis on expanding the attendance and bringing in patrollers from other parts of our region and division.

The Region Senior Final was held at Mt. Baker on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. For the Senior OEC, held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, we had 9 candidates, 6 of which completed successfully and received their certificate for the OEC Senior module. Saturday evening, Krister Fast, Mt. Baker Patrol Director, hosted a dinner at his cabin in Glacier. Those attending brought salads, sides and desserts. Thank you to Krister's wife, Kim, who served enough pizza for all. It was a great time to socialize and get to know some of the folks from around the region. On Sunday, for the OET side, we started out with 10 candidates. 7 of those candidates went on to the toboggans and 6 of those met the requirements and received their certificate for the ski and OET module of the Senior program.

The weekend of March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> saw the Advanced Terrain Clinic. This is a Region event hosted by Crystal Mountain and extended to all patrols in the Division. This year we had 51 participants registered. Of those attending we had representation from all 5 regions within the division. A huge thank you goes out to Evan Wang, Crystal Mountain Patroller for organizing the event as well as Crystal Mountain and Alterra for supporting with lift tickets and dinner for all attendees. This was a great opportunity to share ideas and learn new skills related to toboggan handling. Thank you, Toby Wiley for bringing three of his new Edge sleds along so we all had an opportunity to play with the new gear.

The Northwest Region will welcome three new Patrol Director/Reps for next season:

- Hurricane Ridge – Gary Holmquist leaving, Wendel Raymond incoming
- Snoqualmie East (Hyak) John Coulon leaving, Stewart Harmon incoming
- Snoqualmie West (Summit) Aaron Stavens leaving, Chris Andes incoming.

I want to extend a huge thank you to Gary, John and Aaron for all the time and effort they have put into those positions over the past few years. Thank you gentlemen, it has been a pleasure.

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## NW REGION REPORT—continued

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This year's Miller Award Recipient for the Northwest Region – Nicole Seager (Dodge). Nicole has made significant contributions to her local patrol as well as the Region and Division. For years she has been a strong voice to the Seniors program holding advisor positions at both the Region and Division levels. Nicole is an instructor in both OEC and OET, has been awarded a Silver Merit Star in 2012, a Meritorius Service Award in 2016, and carries National Appointment number 11930. Congratulations Nicole.

That's about it for the Northwest Region Report

Dale Wolfe  
Northwest Region Director  
425-591-8803

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## INLAND EMPIRE REGION REPORT

*By Dan Becker, Inland Empire Region Director*

*20502djb@gmail.com*

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The Inland Empire Region at this time has closed down all Ski Operations.

Hiawatha Bike is off to a good Memorial Day Weekend start.

The Hiawatha Bike Patrol Refresher will be at Lookout Pass June 3rd, 2023.  
Those of you attending, I will see you there.

Our lead IER Mt Host & IER Treasurer plus other helpers are deep into 2023 PNWD Convention planning. They are confirming donations for the Silent Action, guest speakers for breakout sessions, hotel arrangements and coordinating web page presentation on the convention website with PNWD Convention planners.

<https://www.pnwdcon.org/#/>

49North is in the beginning of forming a Bike Patrol (keep your fingers crossed).

49North is going to be adding more Snow Making abilities in addition to what they already have.

Mt Spokane is adding a new Bump Shack for Chair 6 (the current one is in the chair 6 motor room & is too loud).

Okay that is it for now.

See you at 2023 PNWD Convention,

Dan Becker  
IER RD

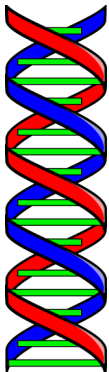


Hosted  
by  
Inland Empire Region



# **REGISTER FOR THE PNWD CONVENTION**

**Spokane WA August 11-13, 2023**



**Registration Form on page 7 of this Nor'Wester issue**



**2023 PNWD Convention Registration**  
**August 11, 12 & 13, 2023**  
**Spokane Washington**



Paying with Credit Card please  
go to PNWD site online:  
[www.pnwdcon.org](http://www.pnwdcon.org)

Paying with a Check please  
mail this form and check to:  
PNWD C/O Kelli Piper  
311 E Garland Ave Spokane  
WA 99207

Event location at Ruby  
Hotel, 700 N Division St,  
Spokane WA 99205. For  
Reservations call Ruby Hotel  
directly at 509-326-5577.

**Deadline for discounted  
room rate of \$169/night is  
July 11, 2023 (must call to  
reserve discounted room)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Patrol# \_\_\_\_\_ National# \_\_\_\_\_  
Patrol \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest's name \_\_\_\_\_

	Number		Cost	Amount
Registration	_____	X	\$65.00/per person	= _____
Late Registration after 7/20/2023	_____	X	\$85.00/per person	= _____
Friday class PD 101	_____			
Friday class Train the Trainer	_____			
Friday Night Dinner	_____	X	\$24.00/per person	= _____
Saturday Hot Breakfast	_____	X	\$20.00/per person	= _____
Saturday Lunch	_____	X	\$26.00/per person	= _____
Saturday Dinner	_____	X	\$33.00/per person	= _____
(Beef___ Chicken___ Veggie___)				
Sunday Hot Breakfast	_____	X	\$20.00/per person	= _____
Total				= _____

**\*Make your hotel reservations early to get the ski patrol discount \$169.00/room per night, deadline July 11, 2023**

Program Questions please contact Ken Essig 509-435-1673 or [kenneth.essig@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.essig@gmail.com)

Registration Question please contact Kelli Piper 509-290-4452 or [piper@zagmail.gonzga.edu](mailto:piper@zagmail.gonzga.edu)



# WY'EAST REGION REPORT

By Joel Stevens, Wy'East Region Director

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Patrol Operations within the Wy'East Region were fairly normal this year with most pandemic restrictions behind us. This spring, Oregon lifted the mask requirement in health care settings and just lifted the vaccination requirement and for health care workers. The ski areas were all staffed with NSP patrollers at about 75% of a normal compliment and there were generally somewhat fewer cases. In all the areas, FA cases were screened on the hill, and again at the FA rooms. Access to the FA rooms was limited. Like most of the NW, we got off to a slow start and then had decent snow coverage in December and January. In February and March, we had huge snow falls with one of the deepest snowpacks in many years. Skibowl closed in late April with plenty of snow. Meadows closed in early May. Teacup and Cooper Spur are closed. Timberline has started their summer operations. Cooper Spur has had staffing issues mostly because they are a small ski area very close to larger areas, and they are also the furthest from Portland of all the Mt. Hood areas. The MHSP is trying to assist in staffing Cooper Spur.

There is now a Bike Patrol unit in the Wy'East Region that has one bike Patroller as Primary and about 20 as their secondary patrol. Bike Patrolling at Timberline will begin later this summer as the snow melts off the lower slopes. Skibowl does not plan to have bike trails open this year.

MHSP continued a robust SPY program with a good group of young adults. Two of last year's SPYs finished candidate training this year.

Wy'East had one Patroller complete Seniors this year.

MHSP had one National Appointment this year, just in time for the Awards Banquet.

MHSP had Level 1 Class this season, as well as multiple Avalanche Refreshers. Classrooms were via Zoom with Field sessions at Timberline Ski area. The MHSP Avalanche crew set up a beacon basin at Mt. Hood Skibowl this winter, but unfortunately the control unit failed shortly after the basin was set up. They are working with BCA to get the problem resolved for next season.

Wy'East had a MTR I and MTR II class this year with two students completing the MTR II course. Classroom sessions were via Zoom and field sessions in Government Camp and Teacup Nordic area.

MHSP had Candidate ski tryouts on March 18<sup>th</sup> and had a large turnout of potential candidates.

MHSP has returned to in person quarterly Alumni Luncheons instead of Zoom Luncheons. Hopefully, this can continue in the future.

The Mt. Hood Ski Patrol ad hoc DEI committee did a survey of the MHSP Patrollers to better understand what issues the Patrol and Patrollers might face. The committee is now a standing committee and will continue to address DEI issues.

The Wy'East Region Nuts and Bolts Clinic is being held at Timberline June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. It is a week later than usual. See the full Wy'East Nuts and Bolts flyer on the PNWD Website: click [HERE](#).

Goals for next season:

Assist Cooper Spur with staffing.

Work towards incorporating MHSP Hosts into the NSP system.



# AWARDS ADVISOR REPORT

By Sue Baker , Awards Advisor  
Pam Carson, Awards Advisor

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[mamachinsk@hotmail.com](mailto:mamachinsk@hotmail.com)

Since taking on this role Feb. 13, we have been running to catch up. We have 3 National Awards Committee Meetings and 3 Division Meetings behind us, and are busy with:

1. Prepping the 2022 Division Outstanding Award Nominees. A huge thank you to those Award's advisors and team who worked extremely hard to update all the nominations including transferring the information onto the new 2022 form! It takes a lot of time and effort, and we really appreciate all you did. The deadline for submission for National consideration is June 1.
2. Collecting new 2023 Division Outstanding Award Nominations. Due date May 27. Obviously, by this publication, the deadline to submit new nominations has passed. If you are still working on one, please send it off immediately.
3. Collecting Division Perpetual Plaques from 2022 Award Winners. We think we have them all, but if you still have one, please send it to Pam right away. Again, another thanks to those who gathered them up and got them back to us.
4. Anticipating and ordering enough plaques for 2023
5. Prepping the awards breakout for convention
6. Receiving and answering questions about awards
7. Receiving and processing Merit Stars, National Appointments, Meritorious Service Awards and Distinguished Service Awards (9 total so far)
8. Receiving and storing awards cache from Peter/Shelley—stink bugs are HUGE from the West side. (Ask Sue about this!)
9. Prepping the awards part of the 2023 Convention Dinner—some surprises and changes TBD
10. Final-Last Sweep Memorial. If you have lost someone with ties to the NSP this year, please let us know. We would like a photo or two plus either their obituary or a short story for our convention In Memoriam presentation.

Please continue to send us your award nominations and questions. If we don't know the answers, we will find them.

Send Region Outstanding Nominations for Southern Idaho, Oregon, and Mt. Hood Regions to Pam Carson at [mamachinsk@gmail.com](mailto:mamachinsk@gmail.com).

Send Region Outstanding Nominations for Inland Empire and Northwest Regions to Sue Baker, at [susanbaker7780@gmail.com](mailto:susanbaker7780@gmail.com).

Send DSA/MSA and NA Nominations also to Sue Baker.



# INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT REPORT

By Kathy Alexander, ID Advisor

[katalexander911@mail.com](mailto:katalexander911@mail.com)

This report is being written to **ALL Patrollers**, whether you already are an Instructor in a discipline or in multiple disciplines, or you *WANT TO BECOME AN NSP INSTRUCTOR*. *With the ski season winding now, please think "Outside the Box" and spend some time getting ready for the 2023-24 Season!*

**TO ALL:** The PNWD 44 ID Instructors and the 16 ID-ITs have had a busy year; and we now have 3 newly appointed ID Instructors:

Welcome **Reba Sharp** from the Wy'East Region (thank you Kathy Lee), **Stephanie Durbin** from the Northwest Region (thank you Liz Dodge and Barb Lierson), and **Chase Hausman** from the Inland Empire Region (thank you Daniel Baker).

There have been 8 ID eCourses completed, 2 ID-ICE courses for ID Instructors' Continuing Education, and 2 ID-Skills Review courses taught this season. In mid-May, 1 more ID-eCourse will be led by Jim Benton in the Northwest Region.

## **WANT TO BECOME AN NSP INSTRUCTOR?**

1. Go to the NSP website: read the 2018 **ROADMAP TO BECOMING AN INSTRUCTOR**;
2. Take the **OnLine Instructor Development eCourse** (NO course registration required);
3. **Print Certificate**;
4. Contact your Patrol or Region ID Advisor for scheduling the **Face-to-Face meeting**;
5. Start the **Mentoring Program**.

**ALREADY AN INSTRUCTOR AND YOU WANT TO BE CERTIFIED IN ANOTHER DISCIPLINE?** Contact your Patrol or Region Advisor so you can begin the Mentoring Program for this discipline.

## **NEED TO RECERTIFY BEFORE Dec. 31, 2023?**

1. Go to the NSP website & check your **Member Profile**;
2. Check when your Instructor recertification **expires**;
3. Check what you **need to do** before your certification runs out;
4. Set up a **plan** for what you need to do to stay certified.
5. Contact a local Instructor and/or Region advisor if you need help with this process.

And you can contact me for additional information: cell 541-325-3827 or email [katalexander911@mail.com](mailto:katalexander911@mail.com)

Stay safe - Stay well,

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Alexander, PNWD ID Advisor



# OET/TRANSPORTATION REPORT

By Jack Ramsey, OET/Transportation Advisor

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This was a very successful season for the Division OET discipline. So, rather than just me rambling on I'm mixing in the season end comments by a few of the region OET Advisors.

Southern Idaho was my first stop on the Senior tour and as in the past they put on a fine event. Soldier Mountain is shy on Senior level terrain, with the area we used being a little short on length and just meeting the pitch minimum. We ended up using two separate sections and threw in some trees to up the challenge. Not wanting to be singled out as too easy, the mountain itself added to the challenge with some difficult snow conditions. The short story is that two people passed both OET modules and I felt they both could have passed anywhere in the division. Here is what the new OET Advisor for Southern Idaho had to say about the season:

The S. ID Region is in the process of submitting six OET instructors for Division approval. Three are for the Ferguson Ridge Ski Patrol; Paul Arentsen, Jessica Baker and Rob Madsen. Bogus Basin Ski Patrol is submitting OET instructor applications for Michael Chenowith, Mark Judway and Randy Forster. Bogus Basin has three additional OET instructors in the pipeline who will complete their mentorship next year. Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol has one instructor candidate who is starting the OET instructor process, Russ West.

During the course of the 2022/23 ski season, SIR conducted Senior clinics at Anthony Lakes and Bogus Basin Ski Areas. Our Senior Test was held the last weekend in February 2023. All of the OEC candidates passed their scenarios and two candidates passed Senior OET and Ski Evaluations: Sarah Mello from Anthony Lakes and Cody Reese from Payette Lakes Ski Patrols. Erik Antink and Eric Makabe, from Bogus Basin Ski Patrol, passed their OEC testing modules. So, they are now seniors which means SIR gained four new Senior patrollers during the 2022/23 ski season.

Ferguson Ridge hosted a Toboggan Trainer's Workshop (TTW) on 19 Feb 2023. We had 14 candidates for the toboggan trainer trainees to practice their skills on. We are planning another workshop there in Jan 2024. A TTW will be held at Magic Mountain and Anthony Lakes Ski Area in the 2024 season as well.

Thanks,  
Kelley

My next stop was Inland Empire at Mount Spokane. Not lacking on terrain challenge or distance the mountain again added to the challenge with low visibility, low temperatures and wind. Here is how George White and Dan Becker summed up the season:

This past season was an exciting year in the Inland Empire with a few changes to our Senior Program and a lot of hard work put in by all. We had the privilege of working with PSIA Northwest examiners Dave Rowe and Marc Shanfarber for a third year in a row. They attended all of this year's clinics as well as our Instructor Calibration and have really brought our skiing and teaching skills to a new level. Quentin Smith is now an IT at Bald Mountain. Bill Welch from Silver Mt. and Dave Devoe, from 49N, are new instructors.

Kameron Smith and Chase Hausman of Mt. Spokane finished Senior OET and are now Senior Alpine Patrollers. Kameron will be a new instructor starting next year. Dan Edwards, also of Mt. Spokane passed the ski portion of Senior OET.

We worked hard at calibrating with Jack early in the season in an effort to help standardize testing across the Division. Our Senior Candidates and instructors did an outstanding job working on new skills and criteria. Special thanks to Justin Banning, Kevin Voss, Janelle Rodes, Chris White and Jeff Dieckman for all of their teaching efforts this year. Finally, we capped off the season bringing nine Inland Empire patrollers to the Crystal Mountain Advanced Terrain Clinic where they took their skills to the steeps.

George White

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## OET/TRANSPORTATION REPORT—continued

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Mount Ashland was the last Senior event I was able to attend. On Saturday we had planned on scouting the area and choosing our evaluation runs. Weather reports started coming in and it looked like we might lose upper mountain access on Sunday. With all the candidates on the hill we made the decision to run them through the final early. Everyone was game and we all made it happen. Karic Roberge and Kacy Carlson passed both modules and one passed the Skiing module. Here is how Joe Harwood summed up the season:

In the Oregon Region, two Mt. Ashland patrollers passed both the skiing and toboggan modules for OET Senior. Congratulations to Kacy Carlson and Karic Roberge. Kacy has been a longtime OET instructor and IT. Karic is an OET instructor. Thanks to trainer-evaluators Jack Ramsey, Larry Davis, Andrew Bechdolt and Joe Harwood for making the trip to Ashland. In other Region news, Larry Davis of Santiam Pass Ski Patrol earned his OET IT spurs in February. Finally, congratulations to Shelley Urban, also of Santiam Pass, who became an OET instructor.

Northwest Region held their Senior final at Mount Baker. I was unable to attend, but had several eyes on the event. John Coulon and Bruce Jahnke provided these details about the season.

Hyak Patrol has three new Senior OET patrollers, Micheal Marler, Joseph Tonnemaker, and Jim Hirshfield all who passed their senior OET & Ski final this season at Mt. Baker. We also acquired two new IT's Joe Malak and Erich Mietenkorte; both senior level OET instructors that have helped out with senior mid-terms and finals in the past two years. We added one new OET instructor this year, Mike Rohan and have two more, Ben Whalen and Robert Murphy, who have now completed their Instructor Development course and plan to begin the mentoring process next season.

John

Wy'East-Mt Hood did not hold a Senior OET final this season. But Heather Van Houton wanted to add these comments about their season:

We did not have any Senior candidates this year, but expecting some next season. I have 4 OET mentees that should be getting signed off as instructors this summer after Nuts & Bolts, so I will need to hold off until everything is complete.

We have 66 people already signed up for Nuts and Bolts so far. I was out of town this past weekend so sitting down to go through all the registrations to make sure I have all the info from everyone. N&B will be June 9, 10, 11, 2023. Spots are running out. So, if Patrollers want to participate they should register sooner rather than later.

Heather

I am planning to be at Nuts and Bolts this year. It's a great event with a great bunch of fun people. There is a flier in this issue of the Nor'Wester.

I was very impressed with the standards and execution of the Senior Evaluations. Every region in the PNW Division is very close to administering the same Senior Final Evaluation. This was a primary goal for me when I took on this position. I do believe next season will be as close as possible to the continuity we have been working towards. The most improvement I have noticed in the Senior Finals is the Skiing Module. Several regions have hired PSIA level 3 instructors to improve the candidates skiing. Good tobogganing starts with good skiing skills. A broader base and blending of the basic skiing skills is quite noticeable in those regions. I have and will continue to advocate this valuable option to everyone, not just Senior Candidates.

(continued p.13)

## OET ADVISOR REPORT—continued

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For those of you who missed the invitation, the Advanced Terrain Clinic was held this year on March 25-26. Crystal Mountain, Northwest Region and PNW Division hosted around 50 attendees and it was great getting to talk to folks from every region in the division. We ran the alphabet of courses including SES, TES, TES/Women, TTW, STW, and even an ICE-OET. Thanks go out to everyone who participated and especially those who helped with instructing and toboggan shuttling. George White, Heather Van Houten, Joe Harwood, Bruce Jahnke, Jeff Dieckmen, Craig Wolfe, Eric Dodgen, Amy Mertin and Elenor Bradley. I hope I didn't miss anyone, let me know if I did. My special thanks to Toby Wiley for bringing some extra Edge Rescue Toboggans and for teaching a TES.

The ATC happened this year due to the hard work and dedication to the PNWD by Evan Wang. Evan took on the nitty-gritty of this event and did it with style and grace. I can't possible thank him enough. So, if you are at the Division Convention in Spokane August 11-13, 2023 (you should really attend it will be fun) you should buy Evan a glass of something, maybe at the hospitality suite?

Next season I will be assisted by George White from Mount Spokane/Inland Empire. I have enjoyed working with George for the past couple of years and it is time to move him up to the division level. We will also be adding a snowboarder to our mix at the division level. Assisting George and I will be Jeff Doughty from White Pass/Northwest Region.

The PNW Division OET team and I will continue to work on improving the OET skills next season. Our attendance of events will include: PNWD Convention, Nuts and Bolts at Mount Hood, Mount Bachelor Mini Nuts and Bolts, as well as more Senior clinics in the Division. I look forward to seeing more of you in the months to come.

Thank you all again for all you do,

Jack Ramsey  
PNW Division OET Supervisor  
and the PNWD OET Team





# NORDIC/BC PROGRAM REPORT

By Eric Geisler, Nordic/BC Program Advisor  
Matt Strauser, Asst. Nordic/BC Program Advisor

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February 4, 2023: Joseph Calbreath and Dan Miller lead a Nordic skills and ski enhancement clinic at Hoodoo, Santiam Pass, OR. It was a fine day of instruction in snow shoe and classic ski skills with a helpful session on setting up a Sked.



Joseph Calbreath demonstrates the Sked to the group. Photo 2023 Matt Strauser.

February 25-26, 2023: Rick King organized a Nordic/Backcountry Rendezvous to refresh Nordic skills and provide ski enhancement sessions at Summit Central, Snoqualmie Pass, WA. Saturday we practiced improvised toboggan and shelters, low-angle rope rescue systems, and avalanche beacon searches. Sunday we enjoyed PSIA instruction in classic and telemark. The nice weather added to the camaraderie of the enthusiastic group.



Rick King, in the background, takes a look at our impoverished shelters. Photo 2023 Matt Strauser.

(continued p.15)

# NORDIC/BC PROGRAM REPORT –continued

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Everyone appreciates the skill, experience and organizational expertise that is brought by each instructor to these events.

Nordic/Backcountry Clinics planned for 2023 at Mt Spokane (Inland Empire) and Anthony Lakes (Southern Idaho) were postponed to 2024 due to lack of registration. Looking ahead we will plan to conduct Nordic/Backcountry Clinics at White Pass (Northwest) and Willamette Backcountry (Oregon) in 2024 as well. For all clinics we invite Nordic/Backcountry, Alpine patrollers and interested public to attend.

This year was refresher Cycle C for the Nordic/Backcountry program and many patrols worked through the materials over the course of the season. Next Year will be Cycle A (same as OEC) and patrols should plan on how they will accomplish the necessary training.

All Nordic/Backcountry patrols are in need of additional members and any suggestions for recruitment are welcome across the Division. The program is also in need of additional instructors for most patrols and we would appreciate patrollers who are willing to share their skills with others stepping up to become instructors.

The program successfully mentored 6 new Nordic instructors this year in the Southern Idaho Region. Congratulations to those who completed this new certification.

After conducting a midnight search and sheltering “injured patients” for the remainder of the night, two patrollers from the Southern Idaho Region successfully evacuated their patients to the Trailhead. The Oral Boards of Review which followed touched on past patrol experience and discussions of future program needs in order to verify that these patrollers were indeed Masters of the Nordic Program. A big shout out to Joe Mabbutt (#17) and Eric Geisler (#18) for completing the Nordic Master certifications this spring.

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509-220-4712





# MTR ADVISOR REPORT

By Steve Potter, MTR Advisor

Spotter67@frontier.com

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We are at the end of our 2022-2023 ski season. I hope that you have all had an enjoyable and productive season doing what you enjoy, serving others and our ski patrol community.

We have completed at least one MTR Level 1 class and one MTR Level 2 class this season in our division. I have reports of a couple of other MTR Classes from our Regional Advisors.

Please plan to attend our PNWD Division Convention in Spokane this August; it's just around the corner. MTR is planning a panel discussion exploring searching out-of-bounds for lost skiers and boarders. This topic also relates to a variety of operational plans for Nordic patrols that operate for organized ski areas which rely upon local sheriffs for Search and Rescue operations. Please plan to attend.

I have invited each of our Regional Advisors to participate in this panel. If you would like to participate, please contact me or Mark Stambaugh, of course everyone is welcome to attend.

PNWD MTR Advisor  
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Silverton, Or 97381  
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From the Editor:  
What's wrong  
with this picture?



# ALUMNI ADVISOR REPORT

By Josie Elting, Alumni Advisor

*imaginejosie@yahoo.com*



Josie Elting Alumni Advisor  
June 2023 Nor'Wester  
*Imaginejosie@yahoo.com*

## IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP – RENEWAL:

Please check your profile on the [nsp.org](http://nsp.org) website. Make sure all your information is up to date and entered correctly. A number of you **HAVE NOT** paid your dues for 2023 it's time to renew – Please do not let your membership laps and lose your benefits.

## HERE'S HOW TO RENEW:

Current Alumni can pay their 2023 dues of \$50 online. If you wish to mail in your dues, send a \$50 check to the National Ski Patrol, 133 South Van Gordon Street, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO with your **NSP Member ID** on the memo line.

## BENEFITS:

If you have maintained your membership for **50+** years, you are eligible for a **Free Lifetime Membership** with no more National dues. The PNWD also does not require additional dues. With NSP continued membership of **30+** years there is a reduced fee for Lifetime Membership. Let me know if you fit into this category.

## WHAT IS A PFA?

Psychological First Aid (PFA) is a monthly zoom workshop to promote psychological health. The Pacific Northwest Division sponsors **workshops for all** across patrols and divisions of the National Ski Patrol. Check out Psychological First Aid Care (PFA) [at nsp-pnwd.org](http://atnsp-pnwd.org) for the link to join on the third Tuesday of the month zoom. This provides information you will want to know whether you are on the hill, in town or enjoying your family! Please join us. If you cannot join us, check out the website for recorded past workshops.

**INVITATION:** You are invited to join me and other Alumni at the 2023 PNWD Convention in Spokane Washington on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:** Please let me know if you have any questions or need any information on the NSP Alumni Program or Membership. This is the time of year to acknowledge our outstanding Alumni. Let me know if your patrol has awarded an outstanding Alumni and we can get them the acknowledgement they deserve in the Nor'Wester!

# SAFETY ADVISOR REPORT

By Jodie Jeffers, Safety Advisor

[jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org)

## How do we build and sustain a culture of safety in our patrols, regions & division?

Several years ago, a group of patrollers from the PNWD had gotten together and shared their insight and vision on bringing "Safety" back to the PNWD with the focus on all the patrollers. Utilizing the above mission statement, the wheel(s) were set in motion slowly and surely Safety4All became a major center focus and created SafetyCulture4All Workshop Series. While Safety has been stated in the past in the NSP Creed, Service and Safety since 1938, its focus has seemed to be more public based. The PNWD has taken the Safety focus to be Patroller based and since have included in all that we do- Conventions, Workshops, AM/PM briefings, etc. to bringing back safety in our everyday conversations and mindset.

**Note: This concept is far from being new** and has been a major focus for so many areas, organizations, groups for many, many years. The military has been one of the main initiators of PFA, well over 40 -50 yrs ago, as well as others with many different names, but all have the same mission. While PNWD was setting the wheels into motion, it felt like squares initially, the slow process of rounding has continued including bringing forth the [SafetyCulture4All](#) Workshop Series that has been and still going every month on the 3rd Tuesday!

**One thing became clear** through our difficulties with covid, it did bring us together in some positive ways including gathering monthly via zoom as a norm vs exception. It has been so invaluable to networking with other patrols across three states real time! Also, the areas have felt the amazing steady climb of visits by the public, but also first timers to the sport, and in need of guidance with safety! Unfortunately, with this, there have been many other difficult situations and hardships for many patrols these past few years and we owe it to ourselves and our teams to support one another and know what resources are available. That is what we are trying to do with the workshop series. It has been nice to connect with others and share as well as learn possible new things that may aid us and our patrols. If you haven't been to the workshops, please watch some of the past sessions that we recorded for all as well as other resources to learn from.

**August brings exciting things**, the 2022-23 season to a close for both winter and summer activities while we also actively look how to expand for the next year! Please help us with making the wheels continue in gathering great traction by giving us feedback and suggestions on how to help you and/or your patrol the best! We are continuing forward and want to hear from you! [safetycommittee@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:safetycommittee@nsp-pnwd.org). We hope to see you at the PNWD convention in Spokane where we will continue with various safety themes. Any thoughts / suggestions let me know so I can forward it on. Want to help, let me know. Remember Safety affects us all.... the public, patrollers, other employees, and for all seasons.

**Let us move forward, remembering that Out of sight = Out of mind.** While most patrols have had their seasons end due to their areas closed, some moved into summer operations. Please know there are still things we can do to be ready to hit the ground running in the fall. Many patrols have had some serious accidents from collisions, snow immersion, avalanches, etc. the past several years. Safety4All is very important for everyone, including the public.

**A few patrols were noted to have a more active public safety message**, but most patrols do not. Why is that? We need more assistance and support from all regions/patrols to embrace and support the Safety Message ALL SEASON, ALL YEAR! Let's continue to work on this all the time whether in person, on websites, on social media, on YouTube, in a podcast, on signs, on the chair lift, etc. Granted this process doesn't happen overnight. If we can have all patrols focus on having a 1-day Public Safety Event for next season, that would be a wonderful step in the right direction. More is better obviously. Let's look to joining up with larger area events to help start that now that we are not restricted by COVID. Some examples will include Snowvana in November- (Portland), Subaru Winterfest in April-(Mt Bachelor), and Lookout Pass's Major Safety Event. Are there others in our Division? Please, let us tout your achievements and let us know!

Jodie Jeffers, PNWD Safety Advisor  
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(continued p.19)

# SAFETY ADVISOR REPORT –continued

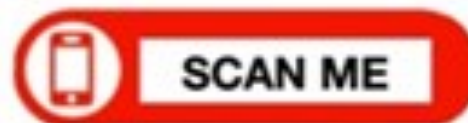


## SafetyCulture4All 2022 - 23 Season

2022-23 Season		Discipline	PFA
<u>October</u>	<u>18th</u>	PFA Workshop	PFA Workshop
<u>November</u>	<u>15th</u>	Avi/MTR/Nordic BC	PFA Workshop
<u>December</u>	<u>20th</u>	PFA Workshop	PFA Workshop
<u>January</u>	<u>17th</u>	Legal ORM Case Studies	Legal ORM Case Studies
<u>February</u>	<u>21st</u>	Avi/MTR/Nordic BC Revisited	PFA Workshop Hands On
<u>March</u>	<u>21st</u>	Unified Patrol	Unifying PD & Vol
<u>April</u>	<u>18th</u>	Guest Speaker	Guest Speaker
<u>May</u>	<u>16th</u>	History / Alumni	PFA Workshop Hands On
<u>June</u>	<u>20th</u>	PFA Workshop	PFA Workshop Hands On
<u>July</u>	<u>18th</u>	OEC/Medical/Bike	OEC/Medical/Bike
<u>August</u>	<u>15th</u>	Womens/Spy/Mt Host	Womens/Spy/Mt Host



<https://www.nsp-pnwd.org/safety4all.html>



## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY CODE

- 1 Always stay in control. You must be able to stop or avoid people or objects.
- 2 People ahead or downhill of you have the right-of-way. You must avoid them.
- 3 Stop only where you are visible from above and do not restrict traffic.
- 4 Look uphill and avoid others before starting downhill or entering a trail.
- 5 You must prevent runaway equipment.
- 6 Read and obey all signs, warnings and hazard markings.
- 7 Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
- 8 You must know how and be able to load, ride and unload lifts safely. If you need assistance, ask the lift attendant.
- 9 Do not use lifts or terrain when impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- 10 If you are involved in a collision or incident, share your contact information with each other and a ski area employee.

**Know and Obey the Code.  
It's Your Responsibility.**

*If you need help understanding the Code, please ask an employee.*

# HISTORIAN/SPECIAL PROJECTS

By Shirley Cummings

shirleycu@msn.com

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## NSP History Quiz

June 2023

1. The largest chairlifts have seating for
  - a. 4 people
  - b. 6 people
  - c. 8 people
2. What is the name of the person credited with starting the National Ski Patrol System?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The National Ski Patrol
  - a. Is also part of Ski Instructors of America
  - b. Was originally organized by the American Red Cross
  - c. Is the largest volunteer organization in the world
4. What is/are the current official color(s) of the NSP? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Originally, chairlifts were designed to carry
  - a. Bananas
  - b. Logs
  - c. Auto Parts
6. In what year was the NSP started?
  - a. 1925
  - b. 1938
  - c. 1945
7. Development of the first fiberglass sled is credited to
  - a. Vic Bradley of Stevens Pass
  - b. Dana Jordan of Mt. Spokane
  - c. Mike Gooderham of Anthony Lakes
8. Which Merit Star is awarded to a patroller for winning the National Outstanding category for which they were nominated? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The four-handle sled was invented by
  - a. John Hight from Snoqualmie Summit
  - b. Don Countryman from Bogus basin
  - c. Paul Talbot from Crystal Mountain
10. The name for the types of sleds which were usually made from hickory and carried a stokes liter is  
\_\_\_\_\_

See page 21 for History Quiz Answers



## History Quiz Answers June 2023

1. 8 people
2. Minnie Dole
3. Is the largest volunteer organization in the world
4. Red & Black
5. Bananas
6. 1938
7. Vic Bradley of Stevens Pass
8. Gold Merit Star
9. Paul Talbot from Crystal Mountain
10. Akija (also known as akja and akia)

### WANTED

**Can you add to the treasure trove of memorabilia for the Pacific Northwest Division? Do you have:**

- **PNWD Rosters from the 1990's? 1980's? 1970's? 1960's? 1950's 1940's?**  
**Are you willing to share or copy information you might have?**
- **Do you have old photos from the early years?**  
**Are you willing to share or copy information you might have?**
- **Do you have any early ski patrol memorabilia?**  
**Are you willing to share or copy information you might have?**
- **Do you have any suggestions of sources for rosters? For photos? For memorabilia?**

**Thank-you**

**Please contact Shirley Cummings,  
PNWD Historian  
shirleycu@msn.com**

# WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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**Social Media, Website, MS Teams & MORE!** [Webmaster@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:Webmaster@nsp-pnwd.org)

**The PNWD is making a Youtube channel and needs your help!** It is at its *INFANCY stage*, crawling and trying to walk! I am always looking for additional help whether finding and sending videos to giving ideas and suggestions! Needed: lots of videos, short and long whether training, educational, fun, showing your area, people, etc. Again, I am learning while doing, but I need content to post. I have pulled from public social media, but it is so much better when it comes to me and I can give credit to them when submitting, include your name, location, etc. Thankyou Santiam Pass Social Media for some of your great material. Who else??

**Creating a Podcast for the PNWD...** hopefully, starting before the convention in August and expanding during it. Want to be on it? Have ideas? Want to help? Let us know! *But, we need a name? Let us know by July 1<sup>st</sup>!*

**[PNWD](#) & [PNWDCON](#) Websites, ever heard of it??** Who is working on the websites? Currently, I primarily do the front end design, content while Richard Murphy, the webmaster wizard, does the backend, registration guru, consultant, etc. If you haven't been there, please GO THERE, explore. *SHARE THIS INFORMATION* with your patrol. Please remember it is always a work in progress, we welcome suggestions, needs, etc. Want to help? Contact us!

<https://www.nsp-pnwd.org> & <https://www.pnwdcon.org>

**Microsoft Teams:** Richard Murphy is primary guru and your main go to guy.

**PNWD's Social Media Guidelines Fall 2022:** Did you know NSP has social media guidelines? Do you follow it with yours? These are possible additions to our PNWD P&P. Do you have thoughts, ideas, please pass them on.

**HELP IS Needed:** Are you're a graphic designer/illustrators, etc. Contact us!!

**FYI: (Facebook, Youtube, Instagram)**

1. Facebook: @skipatrolPNWD

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@pnwdsafetyculture4all>

1. Instagram: @nspnwdssafetyteam

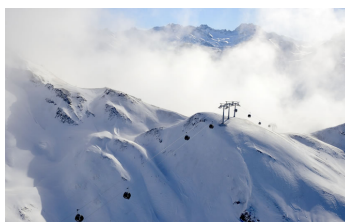
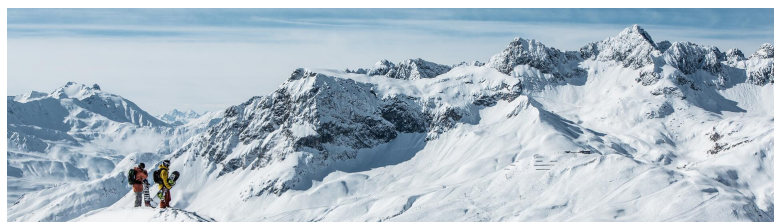
Podcast: ?? Name ??

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[Richard.murphy@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:Richard.murphy@nsp-pnwd.org)







# Zurs, Austria and Florence, Italy

## March 1, 2024 - March 12, 2024

### \$TBD

Zurs is connected via gondola/lift to Lech, Stuben, St Christoph, St Anton, Warth and Schroecken. Along with Klosterle's Sonnenkopf (just a bus ride away), these collectively form the huge Arlberg ski domain, where there is plenty enough in terms of lifts and slopes to keep skiers of all abilities happy.

Advanced skiers have plenty of runs to choose from, some of which are quite rightly classified as Extreme. And for those who prefer off-piste skiing, there is plenty of that as well - including one of the Alps' most famous itineraries, "Off the back of the Valuga."

Of course, there is also the draw and thrill of cruising around on the immaculate groomers.

Zurs ski resort originates right in the village center, making for excellent and easy lift access.

Zurs inhabits one of the most consistent snowfall areas in all of Europe, let alone Austria. The base altitude at Zurs is the highest (1,716m) in the Ski Arlberg region so has better snow quality for longer.



After a great week's work of skiing, we will travel to Florence, Italy. Explore on your own, or take advantage of the local tour options such as a day visiting the wineries of Tuscany. Or a day at Cinque Terre. Even a Vespa tour of Florence and the Tuscan hillside. So many options!

*\*\*Waiting on final pricing from SnowTours.*

Contact Sally Seelye at [sallyseelye@gmail.com](mailto:sallyseelye@gmail.com), or 253-468-0725 for more information.

## 1. Registration Summary for 2022-23:

Since the summary presented in the last Nor'Wester, approximately 80 additional members have been added to PNWD registrations, primarily new Candidates and a few Transfers. As well, Affiliate Unit members have been submitted to the Division Treasurer.

## 2. What About 2023-24 as Opt-Out vs Opt-In as a Division:

At this point we are still awaiting the new MMS update to the 'Patrol Formation & Registration', (PF&R), system from National. Few, if any, details are known at this time, but I have been advised that it will essentially follow the final report of the National NSP Business Process Committee's subcommittee on Roster Formation and Registration.

Having served on the subcommittee and the writing of its report, I would expect significant improvements to the system. However the subcommittee was presented with a limited and fixed set of questions to address which means that there were other issues of importance that we were unable to address. Thus, when the new system is presented, it means there will likely be related issues that will need to be fixed, added or improved over time.

We expect the new system will be revealed soon, and go live so as to apply to the 2023-24 season. One good thing about the new system is that it is designed so that it can be updated or revised easily, and for little expense if problems are found. But as we have learned, doing needed fixes and updates can take time.

Since we have not seen it in action in a manner that we can reliably be sure it works as intended, and that inevitable bugs have been worked out, I am recommending that PNWD should remain as Opt-Out for 2023-24 so we control the situation and dues collection for our patrols in the PNWD and its Regions. At the Spring E-Board meeting in April the Region Directors voted to do so pending approval of the Full Board at the August PNWD Convention in Spokane.

## 3. Convention and 2023 Training for Roster Formation & Registration:

At such point that I see details on the new system, I intend to begin revising the annual training materials and Zoom training presentation to prepare new PNWD PD/PRs and Registration Reps. Depending on the extent of those changes, it is very likely that existing PD/PRs and Registration Reps will need to be retrained on use of the system as well.

So, as we have done the prior three years, it is my intent to do so in an on line Zoom training session about three weeks after the August Division Convention in Spokane. Given the amount of detail that is required, it takes about 2 1/2 hours to reliably cover the subject. Holding the session after the convention weekend allows participants to fully participate in the Convention so as to learn and meet people, then do the PF&R seminar later.

I will do a short session as part of PD 101 on Friday morning, but only as a high level overview of what is to come. It won't substitute for the actual Zoom training session.

(continued p.25)



## PNWD REGISTRAR REPORT—continued

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Attending PD 101 is considered vital for anyone newly taking on the leadership role of PD/PR for their patrol. It's particularly important for new PD/PRs, so I can ensure they quickly obtain needed access to NSP systems necessary to carry out that new role for their patrol.

#### 4. Division Directory:

As a reminder to PD/PRs and RDs, I maintain and print the Division Directory for Division and Region leadership, including Reg/Div Staff and Advisors. If there are new PD/PRs selected, as well as new Reg/Div staff and advisors, I need to be informed ASAP to get them in the directory, as well as on distribution lists for communications from the PNWD or its Regions. Get me their position, name, ID#, address, phone and email.

As usual, if you have questions or problems, do not hesitate to contact me.

Blaine Price, PNWD Registrar  
bcprice58@msn.com  
206-954-4908

**Don't Forget To**  
**REGISTER**  
**FOR THE**  
**PNWD**  
**CONVENTION**

**Registration Form on page 7 of this Nor'Wester issue**

This past fall was a busy time for me as I was involved in the OEC Senior Module Program (OEC SMP) Beta development. I was on a committee to help write documents for this program and on several calls weekly, either on the National Committee or our Division.

Our Division, at the beginning of December, had a Zoom meeting for Training for Regional OEC Advisors and Training Evaluators for the Beta program, focusing on Leadership, Decision Making and Problem Management (LDP), when evaluating our Senior Candidates. There were also several other OEC Supervisors, OEC Region Advisors and T/E's outside of our Division present at this training session. Doing this via a Zoom call was challenging, as it was a large group. Overall, it was a success. Our one drawback was the quality of our videos. Each different video presented was to focus on Leadership, Decision Making and Problem Management for the Evaluators to focus on and score their evaluation card. Many in the group were still focusing on OEC skills. The focus of LDP is being brought back into our Senior program and not focusing as much on OEC skills. OEC skills need to be a high level before the candidates start training. Due to this new concept, it gives the Evaluators more script and objective measures to give feedback to the Senior Candidates for their overall success and competency.

Several of our Regions tried the OEC SMP Beta testing this year. The feedback I have gotten has been very positive. It has taken stress off of the candidates as they realize they are able to retest if they do not pass one scenario. They need to pass 2 out of 3 scenarios. The evaluators like our new score card as they believe it is more objective and able to give more concrete feedback to the candidates.

Goals for the upcoming year:

- Have Zoom meetings with Region OEC Advisors on a routine basis for continual communication, updating of information and support.

- Continue to develop the Beta OEC SMP program:

  - Training the Trainers

  - Train the Station Managers

  - Developing a script and messaging to Senior candidates who do not pass the Senior final

  - How to prepare a Senior final for success.

  - Develop training documents for OEC SMP.

- Be an approachable leader and make sure everyone is working as a Team.

- Calibrate OEC Instructors and make sure they are proficient in their skills.

Recently, I went to Denver to the National office. It was an interesting trip.

I enjoyed meeting other Division OEC Supervisors in person and also meeting office staff. Currently, we are working on updating information on the LMS system and working on test questions for OEC.

We are also continuing to develop and update the OEC MSP manual.

All the best,

Marianne Becker, PNWD OEC Supervisor



**THE NOR'WESTER  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVISION,  
NATIONAL SKI PATROL  
960 SUNMIST CT SE  
SALEM, OR 97306**

**SERVICE  
and  
SAFETY**

The National Ski Patrol (NSP) is a Federally Chartered non-profit membership association dedicated to serving the public and the mountain recreation industry by providing education services about emergency care and safety.

NSP also reaches members through nationally funded education materials and programs, division newsletters, and local clinics. Through its divisions, NSP conducts training events to supplement training provided by the ski areas. This cooperative effort ensures that members are serving the needs of area management while staying in tune with a nationally standardized system.

*Vision Statement: The Pacific Northwest Division is the foremost ski patroller association comprised of volunteer and paid patrollers in the host ski areas, dedicated to maintaining performance standards in the ski patrol environment. The main purpose of the ski patroller is to deliver up-dated first aid and rescue services to the skiing and outdoor-recreation public. The Pacific Northwest Division is an integral part of the National Ski Patrol Systems, Inc.*



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

[www.nsp-pnwd.org](http://www.nsp-pnwd.org)

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**Article deadline for the next Nor'Wester is Aug. 21, 2023**