



## DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT

By Liz Dodge, PNWD Director

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This season has been one of constant involvement for me with regards to NSP happenings at the Division and National levels, in addition to my regular patrolling duties. The snow has been great this season for most of our areas and thus patrol and patroller training has been moving fast and steady. I have not yet heard how many members from 2016 decided to hang it up and not return to active patrolling for 2017. If you know of individuals in this situation, please tell them about the alumni program and encourage them to remain members of the NSP through that program. Reports are that we have a good number of new members across the division which is great, keep that recruiting going. By now all members should have managed their way thru the new NSP system and paid their national level dues. And of course, paid their region and division dues through their local patrol (just like they have been doing for years).

I have heard lots of complaints about the new 'print your own' NSP membership cards. All I can say is I don't like them either. I have heard of ski areas and ski shops not accepting them in relation to discounting tickets or sales on goods. Other comments that I've heard include 'they do not look professional, and thus make the NSP look less than professional'. Feel free to voice your concerns or comments to the national level by sending them to [customercare@nsp.org](mailto:customercare@nsp.org). The national board has formed a committee to review the decision on the 'self-printed' cards. One way to impact decisions is to voice your concerns.

Congratulations and thank you to all the patrols that did public training and information events during 'Safety Month' in January. I heard of things like: Ski safety talks with ski schoolers, public service announcements or posters at chair bases or on electronic signage, CPR training for the public at the ski area, Snow Immersion posters and discussions, and Avalanche Transceiver events in 'Beacon Parks', etc... These are all great ways to not only provide good public education but also to get patrollers and the public interacting in non-medical ways. I also know that these types of interactions are great ways to open conversations about joining the ski patrol. Think Education and Recruiting. Keep up the great work. (continued on page 2)

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IT system - As you all know we at the national ski patrol have a new data management system. We are still working through some 'issues' and working on both 'fixes', and planning 'enhancements'. The IT committee was meeting every week to hash out where we were and what was happening, but as the snow started to fly etc... we cut back to meeting once a month unless there was determined to be a burning need to meet sooner. This does not mean that we are not still working very hard on the system, we are, we just are working without weekly meetings to discuss issues and progress. With that you will only see monthly IT system updates coming from that committee. If you have concerns, or find issues, please, please, get those to me as soon as you can so that I can fix or report the issue. Thank you to all who have already been making these reports. Through those we have been able to fix quite a bit, even if it doesn't really look like it when you go to the website. I am hoping for some significant improvements in the months to come and before next fall.

## Educational course closures and course completion credit.

Yes, there were some issues this fall with getting courses properly closed and the appropriate course credit onto peoples profiles. That said; Thank you to all the Instructors of Record (IOR) and IT's who worked hard to make sure that they got their rosters as clean as possible before submitting. And to those who took the extra time to help others with the on-line process. I am available and willing to help any IOR who may be having trouble with closing a course, do not be afraid to reach out for assistance.

## OEC Refresher Credit

If you completed your refresher last fall and it is not showing on your profile, please do not wait two-three years to start asking about it. Ask now. Go to the IOR of your refresher and ask them to help resolve why you don't have your credit. On the other hand, if you really did not do a refresher and you mysteriously have credit on your profile please be honest and contact your PD or myself (Liz Dodge) and let us know so that we can a) clean up your profile and b) determine what went wrong. We very likely will be doing a Quality Assurance review between the NSP system and the paper 'course completion rosters' that all IOR's were asked to send to their Region or Division program supervisor; we hope that this review does not show any big problems.

## Note to IOR's

Please make sure that you have copies of your course enrollment and completion rosters, the result status (Pass - Fail - Incomplete - No Show) for each enrollee and of course a detailed list of who the assisting instructors were and what they taught. You were all asked to create a CCR (Course Completion Roster) in the old style for this year (thru at least next summer) so that we have a good backup to the on-line system. A copy of those should be sent to your division program supervisor. Remember at present once a course is closed we cannot get any kind of report of the attendees etc.. out of the new data management system. This is one of the enhancement projects that the IT committee has on our list.

## Convention

Don't forget there is a division convention coming up in August 11-13. It will be in the greater Portland area and is being coordinated by the Wy'East region. Save the date and plan on attending. More information and a registration flyer will be coming out this spring so watch for it in an email or on the division or your region websites.

## NSP National Board

I know we just completed an election, but this all takes time and it is about time for the call for applicants/self-nominations for members who want to step up to working for the organization on the national board. Start thinking about this now. We really need some well-rounded, experienced, and global thinkers on the board to help lead this organization in the coming years.

In this past year's election 19.33% of the NSP voting members voted, with PNWD representing 10.5% of the votes cast. Looking more closely this means that 8.6% of the PNWD membership voted. Not as good as in 2015 but better than in some other years. We'll all need to work on getting our membership to vote next fall as this is one way that we can state our feelings and impact the future of the organization. Thank you to all who voted.

Speaking of the Board of Directors, you likely have already heard (I hope so) that we have a new Chairman of the National Board. Jim Woodrum was elected in January and has hit the ground running. His Assistant National Chair is Bill Sinykin. Both names and faces should be familiar to you as I brought them both out to our division convention in 2015 as guest speakers etc.... They were both very impressed with the PNWD system and look forward to working with and visiting with us. Preliminary work has started on OEC-6, and several other programs are working on enhancing or tweaking their program materials as well. The organization is not stagnant, that is for sure. Under Jim's leadership I don't see much chance of any moss growing under our feet.

## **Powderfall 2017 – Aspen/Snowmass is coming up fast.**

Registrations are closed and there will be approximately 750 people in attendance. I believe that there are about 40 attendees from PNWD. It should be a fun and educational conference.

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As well as participating in weekly or monthly conference calls for national committee and project work, immediately before Powderfall I will be attending national level meetings. If you have a message you want me to convey or an issue you want brought up, or if you have an idea for a change or even a new program, please let me know. I represent you. Your questions, concerns, or ideas about anything related to this division or the NSP in general are important to me. Please contact me so we can discuss them. Email at [LizPNWD@gmail.com](mailto:LizPNWD@gmail.com) or phone at 206-300-7711 and let's work together.

Collaborative Teamwork is essential to the organization at all levels. The skills, energy, and enthusiasm that all of us bring to the organization are what make it fun and rewarding to be a ski patroller.

T.E.A.M. - Together Everyone Accomplishes More.

I wish you all the best this spring. I'm working on your behalf and will help you in any way I can, just let me know.

Yours in Service,  
Liz Dodge

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## OEC REPORT

*By Janie SanRomani, OEC Advisor*

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Spring time is a rather slow time for formal OEC training but unfortunately a big time for actual OEC responses on our hills. I am hoping that none of us are having to deal with many serious or critical situations, but I feel confident that everyone is quite capable of handling anything that comes their way. Keep up the good care!

Kathy Lee and I will be attending the national OEC Supervisor Meeting this April. This is where much planning and developing of OEC programs occur. I am on a committee to develop next season's OEC written final. I do hope that all you IOR's fill out the form in this year's OEC final that lists which questions were missed by candidates. This is a good way for us to determine which questions work well and which do not work well. We really strive to make a good final and one that actually shows if the candidate understands the OEC course and training. No one wants to trick people or make anyone fail and consequently, we honestly do want feedback. I have not received any of these surveys from the final so please take a moment to complete them and send them my way. If you have any concerns that you would like us to share with NSP, please let Kathy and me know and we will take the concerns to our meeting. Also, please remember to send in your OEC fees to the PNWD controller so that we can fund instructor courses in the future.

Kathy and I will be attending the various Region Senior OEC Evaluations again this year. It is a great program and everyone's hard work is greatly appreciated. It does take many people to put on this wonderful training and evaluating so please try to help out whenever you can. There are many different roles that need to be filled so everyone can help out in one way or another if they are willing.

As in the past, at the summer PNWD convention, some sort of Division wide course is put on the Friday of the convention. We have put on Instructor Continuing Education Courses and also Senior Training and Evaluating Courses. Both of these take up most of the day so it would be impossible for them to both be presented on the same day. We would really like some input from you instructors as to which course you would like to see presented this coming summer. Both courses are required for instructors and both have a lot of information in them and take much preparation for us so we need a "heads-up" from you instructors as to which course is needed the most.

I hope that you are all making your way through the new NSP website. Liz has been a huge help in trying to make things work and getting the kinks out. It has been an almost overwhelming effort and a giant thank you needs to go her way! Hopefully everything will start to smooth out soon. We thank you for your efforts and patience.

Please get back to me about any of your concerns or requests. We can only deal with problems and issues if we know about them.

Have a wonderful spring season—there should be enough snow everywhere to keep us going as long as the areas want!

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## Anatomy of Skiing Injuries - Part 6, Fracture Healing

How does your body heal a fracture? When you load an object and exceed its physical strength, it breaks. What makes bones different is that they can repair themselves after a break. At some point everyone has taken a coat hanger and bent it back-and-forth, eventually breaking it. That action causes minute disruptions in the coat hanger's structure until the number of disruptions causes a total failure of the structure.

In everyday life you are loading the bones in your body causing micro fractures. At the micro-fractures sites, the blood supply to the bone is damaged and a very small area of bone dies. The body senses those areas of stress and damage from the micro-fractures and attempts to strengthen it by depositing new bone. Unfortunately the dead bone has to be removed prior to depositing the new bone and this process requires anywhere from weeks to months to complete. If the repetitive stress is continued at a high enough level for a prolonged period of time, the new reinforcing bone cannot be deposited quickly enough and a stress fracture occurs. The classic stress fracture example is the Army inductee who during strenuous physical training suffers a stress fracture of the metatarsal of the foot.

On the ski patrol we are more likely to see the catastrophic failure of a bone from severe overloading causing a fracture with total loss of continuity. How does the body repair that? When a bone breaks its central canal is opened and there is significant soft tissue damage in the area. This results in bleeding and the formation of a hematoma that contains stem cells. The stem cells differentiate into osteoblasts and begin to deposit callous. This begins as a soft cartilage like material that then becomes ossified and transformed into bone. At the fracture site the callous is formed in the external hematoma which results in new bone surrounding the fracture. This process could be compared to fixing a broken broom handle by wrapping tape around the outside of the broom handle. It is very important that the fracture is held still during this period of healing because the callous cannot ossify correctly with motion and a non-union will result. Commonly immobilization is achieved by use of a cast for six weeks but the fracture can also be stabilized using of a surgical implant (plates, screws, rods). It must be noted that even with a surgical implant, care must be taken to allow the bone to completely heal. If the implant is loaded and the bone has not repaired itself, the result is an expensive coat hanger that will fail from a fatigue fracture. The usual fracture implant is not meant to replace the bone's strength but only to adequately stabilize the fracture until the bone heals. Dependent on the implant's location it is commonly removed after the fracture has healed (i.e. ankle fracture screws and plates that are superficial and cause irritation from shoe wear.)

Once stability has been achieved by the external callous, the damaged bone is removed and replaced by specific cells in the body. When the damaged bone regains its structural strength, these cells slowly remove the callous that is no longer needed in a process called remodeling. This process can take up to a year to complete.

The length of time it takes to heal a fracture depends on several factors including the size of the disruption, the damage to the blood supply, forces acting on the bone and whether the fracture was open and infected. As a general statement, most fractures require 6 weeks of rigid immobilization, followed by 3 months of slowly increasing activity, followed by full, unrestricted activity at 6 months. Return to normal function will also require significant rehabilitation of the surrounding muscles that have atrophied due to disuse while the fracture healed. This rehabilitation may be prolonged and complicated if there was extensive muscle damage from the original injury.

Dr. Jim Hamilton

# OREGON REGION REPORT

By Anne Greenwood, Oregon Region Director

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All the ski areas in the Oregon Region are open and having a very successful season with excellent snow.

**Sarah Aitken**, OR OEC Administrator, **reports** she will be conducting an OEC Instructor Continuing Education (ICE) Course March 7<sup>th</sup>, in Eugene. Willamette Pass completed an OEC Course, passing 13 students.

A mid-winter OEC Senior Clinic was held in January at Hoodoo Ski Area. This was a joint training with the Wy'East Region. A very successful day of testing, training and learning was held on an extremely wet, snowy day. Everyone's outerwear was tested to the max. The final OEC Exam will be held April 22<sup>nd</sup> at a Mt. Hood location, yet to be decided.

**Dan Bolduc**, OR Region OET Advisor, **reports** our region OET program has had a great start. He says that the region has a new Asst. OET Advisor: Joe Harwood, [joeharwood6@gmail.com](mailto:joeharwood6@gmail.com). For more contact info see the Oregon Region website: <http://www.nsp-oregon.org/>. An OET ICE clinic was held at Mt. Bachelor on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, with 13 participants. Dan and Joe have held co-region Senior OET clinics at Mt. Hood Meadows, Mt. Ashland, Willamette Pass and at Hoodoo. In addition, Dan & Joe conducted another OET ICE Course at Mt. Ashland.

Dan further announces OR Region had its 2nd annual Nuts and Bolts clinic on February 25th-26th at Mt. Bachelor -- which graciously agreed to host it again this season. There were several clinics over the course of the weekend including SES, TES and Sr. OET.

Lastly, Dan informs us the OR Region OET Senior finals will be hosted by the Wy'East region this season and held at Mt Hood Meadows on March 12<sup>th</sup>, where we are expecting as many as 10 candidates. We have been blessed this season with lots of snow and our training days have been fantastic. Looking forward to a stellar final evaluation this season!

Avalanche and MTR courses are progressing with plenty of snow to enhance the experiences.

**Robert Walters**, Oregon Region Mountain Travel and Rescue Advisor, **reports** there will be a Mountain Travel and Rescue Level 1 Course at Crater Lake National Park, March 17-19. Go to the OR Region website for complete information concerning this course including: What it is about, when it will take place, where it will take place, times involved, prerequisites, completed pre course work with certificate of completion, logistics and agenda. The flyer for this course is on both the home page as well as the MTR page of the Oregon Region website. <http://www.nsp-oregon.org/> This event is hosted by the Oregon Region and the Crater Lake National Park Backcountry Ski Patrol. For further questions contact: Robert Walters [mcwalts@charter.net](mailto:mcwalts@charter.net), 541-499-4769.

**Kathy Alexander**, Oregon Region Instructor Development (ID) Advisor, **reports** "the new on-line Instructor Development Hybrid eCourse is now available for use. By now, ID Instructors and ITs should have received the information which I have forwarded from NSP on how to access the on-line learning program. I have just completed the eCourse and found it to be very user friendly. I encourage each of you to take this course before you register a new ID course so you will be familiar with what the students are learning." In the Oregon Region "there have been 2 ID Hybrid eCourses since the end of October 2016; both of them have been at Mt. Bachelor: thank you to Howard Jordan for making this happen and we welcome a few Patrollers to the Mentoring Program. If you have any comments or questions about the Hybrid eCourse, please contact me at [katalexander911@mail.com](mailto:katalexander911@mail.com). Have a great snow season."

**Awards:** Oregon Region is pleased to announce that **Cyndy Meno**, a member of the Willamette Pass Ski Patrol, received her National Appointment on February 2, 2017. L-R: Cyndy Meno, Rob Scherer.

Anne Greenwood



Photo taken by Jim Hutchison

# NORTHWEST REGION

By Dave May, Northwest Region Director

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What a great season it's turned out to be! All hills have had great snow fall, too much in some areas. Snoqualmie Pass has been closed several times for avalanche danger and the Mt. Baker highway was shut down for four days due to trees falling across the highway and snow removal equipment being diverted to the low lands to help clear the roads.

## OEC

Makeup Refreshers

- Cycle A and Cycle B Makeup Refreshers have been completed with positive results.

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OEC Courses

- White Pass: Currently there are 2 paid and 7 volunteer candidates enrolled in their course. The written and practical finals are scheduled for the March 4/5 weekend.
- Hurricane Ridge: This class was split into two sections. Second half of the class is in progress with classroom hands on sessions happening every Saturday. The written final was given on Jan. 14. Practical Final will be given on March 18.
- Snoqualmie Central: Both the Written and Practical Finals were conducted Jan. 7 with mixed results.

OEC Instructor Recertification's

- The NW Region currently has 70 active OEC Instructors
- 27 OEC instructors were recertified this season and 10 retired.

## MTR:

Cascade Backcountry has registered a MTR 1 course. Classroom: Mar. 4, 5, 19 Location: Seattle  
Field: Mar. 24 (8PM) – 26 (noon) Smithbrook Road, Stevens Pass.

## CPR:

The region is losing CPR instructors. There will be an Instructor Class held around the Seattle area in June or July for anyone interested in becoming a CPR instructor.

## Senior

There are currently five (5) OEC and six (6) OET candidates in training.

Calendar of Dates:

- ⇒ OEC Midterm: Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> – Alpental
- ⇒ OET Clinic: Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – Alpental
- ⇒ OET Clinic: Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – Crystal
- ⇒ OEC Final: Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> – Crystal
- ⇒ OET Final: Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> - Crystal

Stay safe out there!

Sincerely,  
Dave May  
NW Region Director  
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# WY'EAST REGION REPORT

By Doug Stanton, Region Director

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## What's up in Wy'east Region?

The big winter just keeps on rolling in the Wy'east Region. Since Thanksgiving weekend we have been under a constant barrage of winter storms that has built our snowpack to 100% of average with 34.3" of water content. You'd think we'd have a lot more but what's unusual about this snowpack is the quality of the snow. We've had more "blower" powder days that I can remember. Cold temps combined with feet of snow each week has made very happy skiers but not so much if you're a water guy. All the dry snow hasn't added a ton to our water content. Only a handful of rain events have spiced up the water content recently. With two to three months more remaining in the season and those strong March and April storms ahead, we should have some beautiful conditions for Nuts & Bolts in June 2nd, 3rd and 4th with an epic snowpack for everyone attending.

Training is in full swing with both Senior S&T and Senior OEC readying candidates for finals. Oregon Region will join Wy'east hosting finals for both groups on Mt Hood this year. Senior S&T finals will be held at Mt Hood Meadows Sunday March 12th. Senior OEC finals will be held at Summit Ski Area in Government Camp on Saturday April 22nd. Congratulations to all of the region candidates for their hard work. Good luck with your finals.

Convention planning is heating up. Sites have been selected and contracts are being proposed to the division for approval. Staffing is underway so that by August Portland will be ready to host everyone from across the division in our wonderful city. Stay tuned for updates. Registration will be announced shortly. In the meantime, mark your calendars for August 11th, 12th and 13th.

There was an excellent rope rescue by two MHSP patrollers that is posted on YouTube. Eric Pool and Alix Henry pulled two snowboarders from a 40 foot deep creek hole in the Heather Canyon area at Mt Hood Meadows. Two snowboarders were soaked, standing in waist deep water. Assistance from others skiers and snowboarders that were on scene helped make a difficult rescue go a little faster, but it still took 20 minutes to extricate both snowboarders. Transportation by toboggan was down a 1 1/2 mile trail runout to a parking lot and waiting suburban for transport to the Mt Hood Meadows/Providence Medical Clinic increased the time before both could be re-warmed. Fortunately conditions were favorable with sunny skies and light winds or things could have turned much worse for everyone involved. Check out the video on Youtube: Meadows Creek Rescue Part One 1/14/17 and Meadows Creek Rescue Part Two 1/14/17.

Don't Forget to Mark your Calendars for the 2017 PNWD Convention in Portland:

- ⇒ August 11th, 12th and 13th
- ⇒ Always a great event in a really great city with lots of really great people.
- ⇒ Location to be announced. Registration to begin shortly.
- ⇒ Need more information? [doug.stanton@icloud.com](mailto:doug.stanton@icloud.com)

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# AVALANCHE ADVISOR

By Patrick Stanton, Avalanche Advisor

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Wow, it has been a real yo yo of a season so far in the Northwest. We have had some big dumps, we had a long stretch of cold weather that kept the snow in great conditions, and lately we have been getting hit with some very warm precipitation (freezing rain in some places). But the season is only near mid-point and across the Northwest snow depths look around 100% of normal, see <http://data.nwac.us/CLISNO/CLISNO.TXT> for more details. To date at least in the area covered by NWAC, there has been two avalanche fatalities (one at White Pass and one at Crystal Mountain) – details can be found at <http://www.nwac.us/accidents/accident-reports/>

## 2016 – 2017 Division Avalanche Courses

A good slate of courses has been registered this year and some are complete, some are in progress and some are still to start. A recent pull of the Division courses looks like: (continued on next page)

Patrol	Course Title	Status	Begin Date	End Date
705 Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	C	1/11/2017	1/25/2017
705 Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	2/17/2017	2/20/2017
Alumni/Wy'east	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	12/1/2016	1/16/2017
Bogus Basin	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	2/4/2017	2/5/2017
Cascade Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	2/4/2017	2/18/2017
Cascade Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	2/12/2017	4/10/2017
Mt Bachelor	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	2/27/2017	3/31/2017
Mt Baker	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	11/11/2016	12/2/2016
Santiam Pass	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	1/10/2017	2/14/2017
Willamette Pass	Avalanche Level 1 Module 1 - Classroom	A	1/10/2017	2/20/2017
705 Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	1/14/2017	1/16/2017
705 Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	2/18/2017	2/19/2017
Alumni/Wy'east	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	1/1/2017	5/1/2017
Bogus Basin	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	2/19/2017	2/19/2017
Cascade Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	2/4/2017	2/18/2017
Cascade Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	2/12/2017	4/10/2017
Mt Bachelor	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	3/4/2017	3/31/2017
Mt Baker	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	1/7/2017	3/19/2017
Santiam Pass	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	2/4/2017	4/2/2017
Willamette Pass	Avalanche Level 1 Module 2 - Field	A	2/1/2017	2/12/2017
Alumni/Wy'east	Avalanche Level 1 Module 3 - Organized Avalanche Rescue	A	2/1/2017	5/1/2017
Bogus Basin	Avalanche Level 1 Module 3 - Organized Avalanche Rescue	A	2/18/2017	2/18/2017
Cascade Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 3 - Organized Avalanche Rescue	A	2/4/2017	2/18/2017
Cascade Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 3 - Organized Avalanche Rescue	A	2/12/2017	4/10/2017
Mt Baker	Avalanche Level 1 Module 3 - Organized Avalanche Rescue	A	12/3/2016	2/5/2017
Santiam Pass	Avalanche Level 1 Module 3 - Organized Avalanche Rescue	A	2/4/2017	4/2/2017
Willamette Pass	Avalanche Level 1 Module 3 - Organized Avalanche Rescue	A	2/1/2017	2/12/2017
705 Backcountry Ski Patrol	Avalanche Level 1 Module 4 - Level 1 Modules 1 and 2 Refresh	C	12/16/2016	12/17/2016
Alumni/Wy'east	Avalanche Level 1 Module 5 - Level 1 Module 3 Refresher	A	1/1/2017	6/1/2017
Alpentel	Avalanche Level 2 for Rescue Personnel	C	10/29/2016	1/1/2017
Alpentel	Instructor Continuing Education Clinic - Avalanche	C	10/23/2016	10/23/2016

# AVALANCHE CONTINUED

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## Avalanche Instructors

The NSP Avalanche Program serves a unique role in the overall avalanche education paradigm, which is offering NSP members top notch avalanche education through the NSP education system. NSP Avalanche courses are rooted in the curriculum from the American Avalanche association and adapted to meet the needs of NSP members. In 2014, the latest Avalanche Instructor Manual (AIM) was published and offers an excellent program wide set of materials to offer NSP members a premier avalanche education. In addition to the AIM the NSP BCA joint publication "Avalanche Rescue Fundamentals 2nd edition" is another excellent resource. One more important piece is the critical link, which is great instructors. And like all NSP education programs, volunteer instructors are the critical piece to being able to deliver effective education. There are two main threads for having a great instructor core:

- New Instructors
  - Every year instructors, instructor trainers, patrol and regional advisors should be on the lookout for students that have the aptitude and interest to become avalanche instructors. I look at my Level II class every year critically to engage those students to start teaching. We can ease them into trying to teach a session in upcoming courses, either classroom or field, and if they find it rewarding get them started with an instructor application and beginning the mentoring program. New instructors are critical to the long-term health of the program.
- Current Instructors
  - Frankly I find keeping current instructors at the same level of enthusiasm and aptitude as when they first became instructors to be challenging. It goes beyond staying active teaching courses to being a continual student in the field yourself and seeking out opportunities to improve in your trade.

## Additional Avalanche Training

- AAA is kicking off a professional avalanche worker school this spring – this will be a great opportunity to work with other professionals and elevate your game <http://www.americanavalancheassociation.org/pro-training/>
- 2017 National Avalanche School returns – this year at Breckenridge, CO. <http://www.avalancheschool.org/>

Hope everyone has had a great start to the season and is looking forward to a great second half.

-Patrick

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## YAP

*By Dave Brown, YAP Advisor*

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NSP is still working on the YAP website, but they have some higher things to do first. So if you are considering starting a program at your area there used to be information on the old website to help. That resource is still under development. BUT if you want help is starting a program I have nearly all of those resources.

I would be glad to help with any of those tools you want to look at.

Just call or e-mail me.

Dave Brown  
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Dbrown7090@gmail.com

# AWARDS—RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO SERVE

By Rich Maris, Awards Advisor

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## Awards – Recognizing Those Who Serve

This has been a fantastic snow season for many of our resorts. It may be that you have had some equally significant incidents for which patrol members have provided equally memorable and crucial response services. As we move toward spring, time is also moving toward your careful and diligent drafting, editing, and refining the nominations for both incidents and recognition of Outstanding Awards of all types. My repeated request and reminder is that I would like each nominating and writing team to take in the careful writing and vetting of all nominations for completeness and accuracy before they are signed at the patrol level and sent upwards. For multiple responders' incidents you need to not only include the overall matrix of who did what, when, and to or with whom, but an individual written letter of nomination for each of the providers.

As I wrote previously the individual letter needs to focus upon each nominee's specific services and then secondarily upon how they assisted other patrollers. A generalized template letter for the entire incident with only the name of an individual responder does not highlight that nominee or serve the nomination process. A generalized letter or description may be turned back to the sponsor for more precise information which is a waste of time and effort when it could have been correctly written the first time through. I can't emphasize enough the necessity to write these early, review and revise them several times, and not rush a weak and poorly written and documented nomination in the last few days or weeks.

When are these finalized nominations for the set of Outstanding Awards due? As in prior years I need to receive them in the middle of June; June 17th to be precise for them to have cleared the patrol, section, and region review and award processes, and on or before the 17th to arrive in my mailbox or computer inbox.

Again, pdf draft submissions within the nominating team and to your Region Awards Advisor are very much recommended for a "cold reader's" impression and reaction/suggestions.

Lastly, thank you for sending me your members who passed away this year for presentation in the Sunday General Meeting "Last Sweep" roster. Our thanks and memories go with their services and support. It is a roster that we don't like to see expand. Please continue to send information to me as you may lose members from your present or former patrol. They should not be forgotten and their presence with us provides models and inspiration to members who may not have known them.

Rich Maris  
PNWD Awards Advisor  
541-345-4566

# INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

*By Kathy Alexander*

*katalexander911@mail.com*

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Yeah, the new on-line Instructor Development Hybrid eCourse is now available for use. By now, Region ID Advisors and ID ITs should have received this information which I have forwarded from NSP on how to access the on-line learning program; these Advisors and ITs have been asked to pass this info to the ID Instructors in their regions. If you as an ID Instructor have not yet received this info, please contact me directly and I will forward it to you. I have just completed the eCourse and have found it to be very user friendly. I encourage every ID Instructor to take this course before you register a new ID course so you become familiar with what the students are learning. There have been 8 ID Hybrid eCourses and 1 IDICE course since the end of October 2016: thank you to the many ID Instructors and ITs who made this happen: again, we welcome many patrollers to the Mentoring Program. And, eventually, we'll welcome many new Instructors to various disciplines in the future. If you have any comments or questions about the Hybrid eCourse or IDICE program, please contact me at [katalexander911@mail.com](mailto:katalexander911@mail.com).

Enjoying great snow in the state of Oregon,

Kathy Alexander, PNWD ID Advisor

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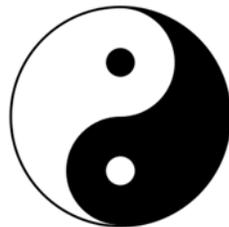
## NORDIC AND BACKCOUNTRY REPORT

*Joe Mabbutt, Nordic Advisor*

*joe.mabbutt@supervalu.com*

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Skis are the equivalent to human wings. Soar, Dive, Traverse, Climb.  
Feel the texture change with elevation and terrain.  
Swoop down the mountain, feel the wind. Escape to the trees with precision movement.  
Glide through pure powder, smell the winter.



Boot up, transceiver check, radio check, gear check, check food, check water, check weather, check avalanche report, morning briefing, shovel snow, check toboggans, check signs, check rope, check boo, dig pits, transport bombs, build bombs, throw bombs, respond, stabilize, transport, SOAP note, forms, transfer patient.

Stay Safe

Joe Mabbutt

Division Nordic Program Supervisor

208-342-6929

Free Your Heels and Your Mind Will Follow

# OET REPORT

By Jeffrey Weitz, OET Advisor

[jw@northrimpx.com](mailto:jw@northrimpx.com)

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## Division:

Thanks to all who have done a superb job of doing their snow dancing this season. It is paying off handsomely! The resorts around the PNWD are enjoying a banner year of snow, terrain and conditions. Thank you to all the IT's and instructors around the division for making great strides in getting your instructor updates completed and your refreshers done. If you are having any issues with course registration or course closures let me know and I will make sure we resolve your issues first hand. The new NSP Online system has its challenges but the bugs are getting worked out so thank you for your patience during this season of transition.

The final version of our Division Senior Manual should be available in the next few weeks for all those who instruct & evaluate at the Senior OET level and those candidates who are attending the various senior programs around the Division. The senior program is in full swing with the various region final evaluations coming up in the coming weeks. The senior finals dates and locations are as follows:

- ⇒ Sothern Idaho Region – Anthony Lakes – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>-26
- ⇒ Inland Empire Region – Mt Spokane – March 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
- ⇒ WyEast/Oregon Region – Mt Hood Meadows – March 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
- ⇒ Northwest Region – Crystal Mountain – March 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

## NSP:

The National OET Committee will be selecting a new National Director soon to replace Jay Zedak who was elected to the Board of Directors this past December. I am working with the selection committee to assist in sorting through the applications and choosing the next director.

The Transportation Committee will be conducting various multi-day face to face meetings the week prior to Powderfall in Aspen, Co this year. We will be discussing next moves on our agenda, course descriptions and many other key OET subjects. If you have any issues or concerns about the NSP OET program let me know and I will represent your thoughts at those meetings on behalf of the PNWD.

Hope to see many of you at Powderfall this year as it proves to be our largest attended multi-day educational event to date. With over 650 participants already signed up to attend from across the country and more courses than I can list, there is sure to be something for everyone to learn from. Powderfall will be at Aspen/Snowmass Colorado, April 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. We are offering over 20 OET courses alone. See you on the slopes of Aspen in April!

## Regions:

The NW Region The NW Region will not be conducting a multi- day skills and drills this season, but look for that awesome clinic to resume in 2018.

### The Oregon & Wy'East Regions

The Oregon region hosted their 2 day clinic at Mt Bachelor this season on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> . Mt Bachelors snowpack is just awesome this season.

The WyEast/Oregon Regions will be hosting their annual Nuts and Bolts Clinics on June 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> at Timberline again this year. Plan on attending the premier division training event of the season with over 15 courses offered over the 3 days with over 100 attendees last season hailing from the Midwest, Rockies, California, Utah, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. This year clinics and comradery should be amazing! By the way, Timberline was just confirmed to be the premier summer training location for the 2018 Winter Olympic Training! Contact David Atkinson @ [David@northrimpx.com](mailto:David@northrimpx.com) for specific details and look for the flyer coming out in March for sign ups.

### The Inland Empire Region

Inland Empire will be holding their 2 day Nuts and Bolts clinic again this season at Silver Mountain on March 25-26<sup>th</sup>, as well as various TES and SES clinics for all to attend. Contact George White @ [gharvardwhite@gmail.com](mailto:gharvardwhite@gmail.com) for more details.

### The Southern Idaho Region

The region will be holding various 1 day TES and SES clinics at Brundage, Soldier Mtn, Bogus Basin and Anthony lakes this year. Contact Thad Murata for more info @ [tmurata3@yahoo.com](mailto:tmurata3@yahoo.com)

I would like to extend my thanks to all amazing and dedicated instructors, IT's and patrollers in our division who continue to strive for excellence out on the mountains of the PNWD each and every day of the year.

## Cheers!

Jeffrey Weitz, 2017 PNWD Outdoor Emergency Transportation Supervisor

# POWDERFALL

By Shirley Cummings

shirleycu@msn.com

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Powderfall 2017  
*Shirley Cummings*

With the high elevation and April weather, skiing in Aspen-Snowmass for Powderfall 2017 should be great. Be sure to pack your sunscreen AND your patience. It is going to be crowded. The registration count is now up to 750 people! When we started planning Powderfall 17, the goal was to fill one hotel and have 300 people. Now registration is closed, capped at 750...we cannot handle any more. We have completely filled one hotel and we now using 4 other hotels and some extra houses!

Currently over 800 classes are being offered (a few classes are still open). Additional instructors have been added in many cases but if you are wait-listed on a class and it has not yet been confirmed, do not count on it.

If you plan to demo NSP partner equipment, make sure you enter your correct DIN setting/boot length on the Powderfall registration site and be sure you answered "yes" in the space planning to demo. Remember that demo gear can be used for one hour only—then it is time to give someone else a turn.

If you plan to rent equipment, be aware that there is special 30% discount offer available from one of the local ski shops. Contact on line "Christy Sports"; to get the discount you must book on line 24 hours in advance. Make sure that the "Snowmass Village" is the location selected and that you enter the coupon code "National Ski Patrol 17".

Check the NSP Powderfall web site for information on transportation from the airports. There are some car rental deals that have been negotiated and bus tickets are also available. Check the web site. Also, if you need to cancel your reservation, a full refund will be given until February 24<sup>th</sup>. No refunds will be given after March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

With 800+ classes and 750 attendees, it will be the biggest ski patrol event most of us have ever attended. There will be lots to see, lots to do and hopefully lots to learn. Hope to see you there.

Shirley Cummings

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## PNWD OEC FUND

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### PNWD OEC Fund ---

If you are an OEC instructor and have been teaching full/challenge courses, please make sure, that you remember to submit your PNWD OEC Course Enrollment Fees to the division.

The fee is \$10 per student enrolled in any full or challenge OEC course. There is a form on the division website which will help you with submittal. If you taught a class in recent years go back and make sure that you / your patrol paid these fees. If you are teaching a course this season, don't forget about this in your course planning.





Montafan Schruns \* St. Anton \* Ischgl \* SilvaPark

Ski Flight 2017 is fresh back from a great trip skiing the Silvretta Arena in Tyrol Austria! The majority of our time was spent in Ischgl, where we never ran out of new territory—on piste or off—to explore.

Visibility was questionable one day, so about half the group went to Germany to see the Neuschwanstein Castle. Others spent the day shopping downtown Ischgl. Even on a non-ski day there's always something to do and see ~

Our 4-star hotels (with expansive all-you-can-eat breakfasts) were sure enjoyed, too, after our full days on the mountain. Most dinners were provided as well. The others were available in the hotel, or just across the street.

We were also thankful for our private bus taking us from Zurich to Feldkirch, then to Galtur, and back.

**\*\*What's next for Ski Flight?** While nothing has been set in stone for 2018 yet, you might think about brushing up on your French. **Back by popular demand** ... Meribel, France—from where you have many ski options, including Courcheval, Meribel, Les Menuires, and Val Thorens.

Jack Melill  
Ski Flight Advisor  
jack.melill@juno.com



Ski Flight is designed for patrollers and auxiliary, and is open to family and friends. Tell them we like to ski ... a lot.  
Ski Flight is a fundraiser for the Pacific Northwest Division but is not sponsored by the division or the National Ski Patrol.





**THE NOR'WESTER  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVISION,  
NATIONAL SKI PATROL  
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BEAVERCREEK, OR 97004**

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Portland, OR

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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