



NOR'WESTER

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVISION—NATIONAL SKI PATROL

March 2021

DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT

By *Shelley Urben, PNWD Director*

shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe that we will soon start to wrap up the 2020-2021 ski season. The snow finally hit most of our ski areas with a bang, and we have enjoyed skiing some incredible powder. Hopefully, that great snow will continue through March. And, wouldn't it be nice if April will bless us with several days, if not weeks, of spring skiing.

The season started out with multiple unknowns and some trial and error as we all sorted through Covid 19 guidelines and changes. I'm hopeful that most of your patrols were able to work in conjunction with your areas to make appropriate adjustments as seamlessly as possible. The season has been a challenge, and all of us are more than ready for life in general to get back to whatever our new normal is going to look like.

This season I have had the opportunity to hold virtual, informal meetings with all of the Division Region Directors and the Division Staff and Advisors. These monthly meetings have allowed us to share ideas and struggles around Covid-19, and to discuss program updates and goals with each of the attendees. If you have a concern, idea, etc. that you would like us to discuss, please reach out to one of the Division Advisors or to your RD. They will make sure to bring it to our attention.

Division News

Region Director Elections

- The Division hosted two Region Director Elections this winter – Inland Empire and Southern Idaho. Dan Becker was the sole nominee for Inland Empire and will be taking office at the spring board meeting. Dave Campbell will be remaining the Region Director for Southern Idaho. Congratulations to both.

Spring Board Meeting

- The annual PNWD Spring Board Meeting will be held virtually on Saturday, April 24th. This meeting includes the Region Directors, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar and other staff and advisors as needed.

Division Zoom Licenses

- The Division now holds seven Zoom licenses. We have one for each Region plus two extra. These licenses can be used by anyone within the Division who is conducting National Ski Patrol business. If you are hosting a class or a patrol related meeting and need to use a license, please check with your Region Director

(continued p.2)

Inside this issue:

Division Director	1-3
Inland Empire Region	4-5
Southern Idaho Region	6
Oregon Region	6-7
Wy'East Region & Instructor Development	8
NW Region	9
Medical	10
Registrar	11-12
Avalanche	13
OET	14
MTR & Nordic	15
Alumni	16-18
Region Election Results	18
Outdoor Risk Management	19
OEC & Social Media	20
2021 PNWD Convention	21
Safety & Awards	22
Guest Article	23
Women's Program & Ski Flight	24
Historian	25-26

DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT—continued

first. If your region license is being used at the time you need one, please contact me at shelley.urben@nsp-pwnd.org for use of one of our extra licenses.

Senior OET

- With Covid 19 it has been difficult to run our required trainings, let alone run any Senior training. We do have two Divisions who have been able to successfully work with a small group of patrollers on their Senior OET. Both groups will be testing in March, and I am hoping to attend both finals. I want to wish the best of luck to all of them. Seniors is challenging in any given year, and I'm sure has been especially challenging this season.

Division Programs and Region Directors

- In January I asked each of your Division Leadership – Staff, Advisors and Region Directors - to complete a brief survey. One of the primary queries I had was to find out high interest topics/issues. Not surprisingly, safety was the topic that ranked highest among all groups. This was followed by Leadership/Mentoring, Outdoor Risk Management, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and Critical Incident Stress Management. All are topics or issues that encompass every aspect of patrolling and there is always much to be learned in each area. We plan to incorporate all, plus others, in our 2021 Division Convention.
- Because Safety is such an important topic, we decided to gather a small task force to focus on patroller safety immediately, and to begin putting together patroller and patrol accessible resources. We are currently in the process of assembling those resources and hope to have them on the PNWD Website for your use soon. Stay tuned.

PNWD Website

- Please check out the updated PNWD website if you haven't yet. I will be working with Richard Murphy, our web/tech master, to add and update information over the next few weeks. The address is www.nsp-pnwd.org. The goal is for this site to be easy to use and to provide all PNWD members relevant and accessible information.

Convention 2021

- Your 2021 PNWD Convention is being hosted this year by Southern Idaho. The committee has been meeting regular to discuss logistics and to determine how to hold this year's convention in the midst of ongoing Covid 19 concerns. The ultimate goal is to hold the convention in hybrid form, with some people attending face to face and others attending virtually. That being said, it might end up being a 100% virtual convention, it's really too early to know right now. Either way, we are making plans, have some great ideas for how to improve virtual presentations, and hope to get more information out to you soon. The online option should allow more of you to attend and participate.
- The convention will also host special sessions on Registration, PD101, and Instructor Re-Certifications for all programs.
- You should have received a link to a brief convention survey. If you missed it, the link can be found in this issue of the Nor'Wester. (see Convention article, page ???). We would like to hear from as many of our folks as possible. Your voice is important!

Bike Patrols and Bike Hosts

- If you have a Bike Patrol or Bike Host Unit, or plan to develop one this spring, please contact me at : shelley.urben@nsp-pwnd.org. Bike is a National Program and I'd like to work more closely with all of you to make sure you have what you need for registration, courses, and so on.

Wanted for PNWD

- We are currently looking for a patroller who works in a safety capacity at an industrial (continued p.3)

DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT—continued

worksites to be the Assistant Safety Advisor. If you or someone you know has that background and is interested, please have them contact Jodie Jeffers at tailwaggin@gmail.com, or me at shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org.

Wanted for PNWD—continued

- Our Division is seeking an eager patroller who is interested in taking on the Division Youth Program Advisor position. If you or someone you know is interested, have them contact me at shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org.

National News

National Education Director

- The most recent National Education Director, Nodin LaSalle, is no longer working for the NSP. Please be patient with the office as they continue to work through staffing changes and hiring new people. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that have to do with the National Office.

DEI Committee

- The NSP Board of Directors has created a committee to work with NSP on increasing the awareness of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our organization. Liz Dodge, National Board Member and member of our Division, and I are on that committee. The committee is made up of four board members, three division directors, two NSP staff members, and two members-at-large. Feel free to reach out to Liz or me at lizpnwd@gmail.com or shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org, or any other member, if you have questions..

Dues and Personal Profiles

- If you haven't yet, please make sure to pay your National dues. If you have not paid, but are active on a patrol, you should not be patrolling. According to National you are suspended if your dues aren't paid. Please get this corrected right away. This includes Alumni who have not paid. Unpaid Alumni are also currently marked suspended and therefore should not be actively teaching, etc until you have paid your dues.
- I'd encourage everyone to go into your personal profiles on the National website and make sure your gender and your birthdates are entered and entered accurately. This is information we need on the DEI Committee, and it would be great to get ahead of the game now.

Thank you all for your continued service to each other, your patrols, your areas, and to the National Ski Patrol organization. These are difficult times, but we will get through them by communicating and collaborating together.

As always, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Happy Skiing!

Shelley Urben
PNWD Director, 503-805-8513
shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org



INLAND EMPIRE REGION REPORT

By Kelli Piper, Inland Empire Region Director

piper@zagmail.gonzaga.edu

Hope you are all making it through the ski season staying healthy and safe. Patrolling has been interesting and challenging this year. Patrols in the Inland Empire are trying to do the best they can. Many are short staffed, dealing with the virus or exposure to and skier visits are way above normal. With more individuals skiing, we've seen a lot more accidents and requests for ski patrols help this season. Whether its finding missing kids, assisting public who locked their keys in the car, disputes between customers or just helping skiers get their gear on, patrollers are the people who do everything on the ski hill! Ski patrol might just be able to solve the world's problems, well maybe.



One good thing that has come out of this strange patrol season is the public's awareness of what ski patrol does and how much they give back to the community. There is a new level of gratitude and respect from the public for Ski Patrol, customers are constantly saying thank you! My hope is this will encourage more skiers and boarders to consider volunteering and joining the NSP. Get ready instructors, your OEC class sizes might increase.

The Inland Empire Region just finished two OEC classes and two more classes are currently going. These courses were done through virtual channels, combined with in person classes outside, taking precautions with masks and social distancing. Instructors in our Region were also able to offer virtual courses in Instructor Development and partial virtual/outside classes in Avalanche and Mountain Travel and Rescue. Our instructors have done an outstanding job this year, their creativity and hard work as instructors is extraordinary.

Please remember to nominate those deserving patrollers for awards. This year has upped the bar for what ski patrollers can achieve. Many have worked endless hours to ensure the safety of the skiing public, while following covid guidelines and precautions. Instructors have been amazing in their teaching skills using virtual channels. Patrol Directors have worked extra hard this year too, introducing many procedural changes to compile with covid and should be recognized for their time and hard work. So many this year have stepped up and done incredible things for ski patrol on the hill or from home.

Congratulations to a couple of patrollers who finished the Senior Program last season. I would like to recognize these patrollers and the hard work they do! They could not have completed the Senior Program without the help and support of their families and patrols. I would like to give a huge thank you to all the family members of patrollers and the Patrol Directors in the Inland Empire Region who encourage their patrollers to go through the Senior Program. This program inspires patrollers to give back by helping, educating and training other patrollers. Congratulations to Henry Seipp and Joseph Ferraro! And a big thank you to Patrol Director Eric Ewing for his support of the Senior Program.

L to R: Joseph Ferraro,
Eric Ewing,
and Henry Seipp



(continued p.5)

INLAND EMPIRE REGION REPORT—continued



Joseph and Mary Ferraro



Jenn and Henry Seipp

The Region would also like to extend a huge thank you all those Patrol Directors through the years who support their patrollers furthering their training and education by attending Region Clinics or enrolling in the Senior Program.

This season's Region calibration clinic was canceled. If possible, we will reschedule later this season when it is safe to do so. I'll keep you all posted on the Region Facebook page and through email. In May, we will have a Spring Region meeting in Spokane and available through Zoom. If your patrols need any support, please let me know and we can accommodate most requests through online learning and instructors in your area.

Important dates:

Spring Region Meeting outside or a partially covered location and through Zoom/teams in Spokane – May 2nd
Deadline for submitting Region award nominations to Sue Baker (susanbaker7780@gmail.com) April 11th
2021 PNWD Ski Patrol Convention – August 2021

Stay safe and healthy, Kelli Piper Region Director Inland Empire

Zoom Meetings Available

PNWD now has 7 Zoom licenses that are available for patrol business in our division.

- **2 for Division and 1 for each region. Region directors need to send Shelley an email and password. Some Regions have set up a region password. Kay Seidel (Division Secretary) will be the keeper of emails and passwords**
- **Patrols, instructors, advisors, regions, etc may use these as needed.**

**Contact Shelley Urben for information on use:
shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org**

SOUTHERN IDAHO REGION REPORT

By David Campbell, Southern Idaho Region Director

dcampbell@eoni.com

Hello from Southern Idaho Region, covering, Magic Mountain, Bogus Basin, Payette Lakes, Soldier Mountain, Anthony Lakes, Ferguson Ridge, 705 Backcountry, and Spout Springs.

Snow is on the ground and in the air. All areas in the Southern Idaho Region have snow and are having a good, if not strange season, with lots of different and new protocols. Some of these have taken a little of the fun out of patrolling. Try to make the best of it and remember why you became a patroller. For me it's helping people and being out on the snow. Always try to look at the bright side, and remember this will not last forever. (I hope). In true ski patrol fashion be flexible and be ready to deal with whatever comes our way.

We are still hoping to have a Senior OEC final this season. As of this writing, it looks like we are trying for mid-April after most areas have closed. This year's test will be only for the great candidates from last year.

Southern Idaho will be hosting the Division Convention August 13-15 in Boise. We are meeting monthly to work out plans. Look for a report from our convention coordinator, Pam Carson in this Nor'Wester.

Be safe, Stay Positive, Be adaptable to change, Enjoy the snow.
Dave Campbell

OREGON REGION REPORT

By Andy Bechdolt, Oregon Region Director

fiver49@gmail.com

Hello from the Oregon Region –

I debated on what to write for this edition of the Nor'Wester. A few different ideas came to mind:

- All of the great snow that we have received over the past couple of weeks
- The COVID struggles that we have all been dealing with on our individual patrols
- The importance of training in light of the COVID struggles
- Camaraderie within the Ski Patrol Family
- The importance of emphasizing safety to patrollers, customers and mountain management
- An old Akja toboggan that I came across in someone's backyard recently.

While all of those topics are worthy of their own entire article, instead I thought I would share with the rest of the Division a tragic event that occurred in January at one of the most popular resorts in our Region. I share this because I wanted to emphasize the importance of taking care of yourselves when tragedy strikes.

The following is a statement from Mt. Bachelor management regarding the incident (shared with permission of the Patrol Director):

“At approximately 2:20 p.m. on Saturday, January 16, Mt. Bachelor Ski Patrol responded to a skier injury. Upon assessing the skier's injuries, Ski Patrol contacted 911 to dispatch an AirLink helicopter. The skier, an 8-year-old-male wearing a helmet, was transported by patrollers to Mt. Bachelor's First Aid Clinic where further lifesaving care was administered by an onsite doctor and paramedics. Care was then transferred to AirLink helicopter, who transported the injured skier to St. Charles Hospital.

(continued p.7)

OREGON REGION REPORT—continued

“Today, we learned that the young skier passed away. Our entire team at Mt. Bachelor is deeply saddened by our guest’s tragic passing and offers our deepest condolences and support to his family and friends.”

Additionally, here is a news article about the incident:

<https://centraloregondaily.com/tacoma-boy-dies-from-injuries-after-mt-bachelor-ski-crash/>

Clearly, this is a tragic event. I cannot overemphasize the importance of taking care of yourself if you are involved in an incident such as this. As to what and how to do that, again... this is worthy of its own article. While I am not by any means a counselor or trained in peer support (not officially anyway), here are a few things that I have found that have helped me cope with trauma that I have experienced:

- Minimize your exposure to media
- Eat healthy
- Get adequate sleep
- Continue with physical exercise
- Share your experiences with a trusted friend or family member
- Seek professional help
- Do something you enjoy daily



Oregon Region Logo

I also found it very helpful to understand that any feelings or symptoms that you are having are completely normal reactions to a very abnormal situation. The feelings and symptoms will subside, with the appropriate care.

If your patrol or employer has a peer support program, I cannot speak loudly enough about the value of them. The members of the peer support team are trained, trusted individuals and are a fantastic outlet to help you through tough times.

Seek help if you are experiencing any symptoms of traumatic stress, it is the first step. It’s important to understand that the traumatic event is something that happened to you – not who you are.

I could go on for pages with this type of information, but I’ll save that for perhaps another time. For now, go out and get some turns in!

Andy Bechdolt
Oregon Region Director

Janie San Romani’s Final Sweep at Hoodoo Ski Area Saturday, April 10, 2021

Arrive by 3:30 and **prepare to load the lift by 4pm**. All the standard COVID rules apply: masks and social distancing.

Some light snacks and refreshments will be available following Janie’s Final Sweep. Please **RSVP**. Come raise a toast to Janie and visit. Depending upon the weather, the after sweep event may be outside or in a large indoor space or both.

Questions? and RSVP to: patroldirector@santiampassskipatrol.org

WY' EAST REGION REPORT

By Joel Stevens, Wy'East Region Director

Joel@SDELtd.com

Like most of the country, or at least the PNW, this has been a strange year. We started out with pretty low snow which improved, and then exploded. Timberline is likely to break 200" by March 1st, which is an above average snow pack. The snow slides off my cabin roof were spectacular last weekend. Instead of dropping close to the cabin the snow blocks were 10 to 15 ft away. The ice and snow storms in mid-February caused some real disruption in the area, but mostly down below the ski area elevations.

Many, if not most, of the Wy' east Patrollers who live in Oregon have gotten or are on track to get their Covid-19 Vaccinations. The vaccination site at the Convention Center has been amazing, after the first couple of days. I wish I could say the same for the sign up process which has been a PITA.

The Mt Hood Patrol has been staffing all their areas and patrolling is going on, though with a lot less social interaction. We have had a couple of on the hill Avalanche refreshers and Toboggan clinics. The on the hill portion of the Avy I class is scheduled for the 1st weekend in March. MHSP's OEC Class has suspended the hands on classes until they think it is safe to hold in person instruction again. There is an MTR Class planned for the Spring.

Like all of you, we are looking forward to being able to return to some semblance of normal. Skiers are a pretty tough bunch. I was surprised and pleased to see a lot of people sitting around picnic tables outside of Charlies a few weeks ago, but it is still a long way from our normal social evenings gathered around wood stoves and fire places.

A little side note, which is mostly preaching to the choir, but last weekend I saw a further demonstration that Snow Tires are more important than AWD/4WD. I saw one 6 car pileup, a 2 car pileup, and several 4WD/ AWD vehicles having trouble negotiating the snow covered roads, while my Suburban with Blizzaks never kicked into 4WD, even on a road that I had trouble standing up on in Vibram soled shoes.

Slainte

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT REPORT

By Kathy Alexander, ID Advisor

katalexander911@mail.com

As winter continues to bring more snow to resorts, I hope you are all well and enjoying the skiing.

I have not been notified of any ID courses being conducted; if you are planning on a course, please let me know. Students can take the online learning ID course, save and send a copy of their Course Completion certificate to you. If you cannot have a face-to-face session with students due to COVID-19 concerns, please plan on a ZOOM meeting or other platform format so they can complete the ID program. If you need help in this planning, please let me know. Thank you for all you do for the ID program and your patrol, region, and division.

Kathy Alexander, PNWD ID

Program Advisor

katalexander911@mail.com

541-325-3827

NW REGION REPORT

By Michael James, NW Region Director

marinecare@msn.com

What a winter so far! I am so proud of all of you who have worked so hard, adapted to the changing climate of patrolling and made personal sacrifices so your ski areas can open and thrive. So Proud. We have had record snowfall in many ski areas and are having an amazing time!

At every turn I see patrollers from all areas continuing to give their free time to help those in need. Our use of PPE has changed a bit and we are making the best of the situation. We all have different comfort levels and different personal situations, but all in all, we have all come together in the face of adversity to MAKE IT HAPPEN. Thank you to all of you.

Since the fall, the PD's have been meeting every month to learn from each other and take ideas back to our individual Patrols, making the adaptation to this new climate as easy and seamless as possible. Ideas were shared, discussions took place, we did not all agree, but we did not all disagree either. Then came vaccines! Many thanks to our Medical Director Dr. Ferguson and the PD's who never gave up to find a way for our patrollers to gain access to the 1A round of shots. Many of us have now completed both rounds of either Pfizer or Moderna and were in the first 2% of those vaccinated. Nice Job.

Training: OEC recerts were adapted so we could participate safely as well as with CPR. OTH recerts were also abbreviated for safety. OET recerts are ongoing depending on your ski area and are moving ahead without much delay or issue. Senior training has taken a hit. The OEC program did not get off the ground this year due to a lack of candidates. Understandable. We do have 5 Senior OET candidates and we have already completed a clinic at Crystal Mtn for their benefit while simultaneously maintaining a high level of social distancing and personal protection. I am very excited to watch these candidates grow in the next month before their final.

Happy riding to all!

Michael James
NSP - NW Region Director
(206) 407-5770

Helpful Road & Weather Condition Links

Idaho <https://511.idaho.gov/>

Oregon <https://www.tripcheck.com/>

Washington <https://www.wsdot.com/traffic/>

Covid-19 + Vaccine = Future?

It has been about a year since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen almost 500,000 individuals, family members and friends lose their lives to this virus and over 27 million infections. With only 4.25% of the world's population, the U.S. has over 25% of the cases world-wide and 20% of the reported deaths world-wide. This is more American deaths than the total American loss in World War I. In spite of deaths from Covid-19 occurring in every town and village in the U.S., there are still people who claim "Covid-19 is a hoax" or "no worse than the flu", or that "since they are young or healthy they do not have to worry about catching it". I am aware of an elderly patient who even as she was dying in the hospital from Covid-19, was still adamant that Covid-19 didn't exist. I am aware of a 16 y/o girl who recently died from Covid-19. While 80% of deaths do occur in individuals older than 65, evidence demonstrates that younger people can have serious, permanent damage to their systems that will be problematic for the rest of their lives. Recently, evidence is surfacing that a Covid-19 infection can result in diabetes. In spite of health experts urging the wearing of masks, individuals are stating it is their right to NOT wear a mask.

Modern science tackled this virus by producing vaccines that are 98% effective in an historically short time, but the problem is not solved! About 41 million doses of the vaccine have been administered. People are stating that once they get the vaccine, they will be safe. **WRONG!** For vaccines to stop the pandemic, we have to reach "herd immunity" levels of about 85% of people having been vaccinated or having recovered from the infection. Making the assumption that the manufacturing system can provide sufficient vaccine, needles, syringes and PPE to administer the vaccine, even if we inoculate a million people a day, it will still take almost a year to reach the level required for herd immunity in the U.S.! To really control this pandemic, however, herd immunity has to be achieved world-wide and vaccines are not yet readily available to most of Africa and some remote areas.

Meanwhile, the virus is undergoing the natural process of mutation. We already have UK and South African variants that seem to be even more infectious than the current strain. While the current vaccines are very effective against the current virus strain, exactly how effective they will be against these new strains and future variants is unknown. Even though you may have been fortunate to receive these vaccines, it does not ensure you will be protected against the current or future variants. To compound the situation, it is estimated that 40% of the U.S. population is refusing to get vaccinated. Until we drain the pool of susceptible individual to less than 15%, it is anticipated that this infection will continue to mutate producing new strains.

The pandemic has been a stressful and trying time. Many people are tired of restrictions on being with loved ones and friends, dining out, attending parties or concerts and going to sporting events. Celebrations surrounding the Super-Bowl and the NC basketball victory saw huge numbers of people crowded together without masks. It is well documented that asymptomatic people are able to spread this virus to others. Because many infected people could have been at these gatherings, it could result in thousands of new infections. Those newly infected individuals then go home to their families and spread the infection further.

So what should we do? I strongly urge all of you to do the following:

1. It is imperative that you continue with your safety precautions of always wearing a mask in public, frequent washing of hands and social distancing perhaps for as long as the next year
2. Get vaccinated as soon as you can with whatever vaccine is available
3. Avoid group gatherings and contact with others outside of your immediate household
4. If you are exposed to an infected individual, self-quarantine for at least 12 days
5. Recognize that this infection is mutating and until it is controlled world-wide you are still at risk
6. Recognize that individual responses to this infection can range from death to life-long problems even in the young and healthy.

Be Smart, Stay Safe and Healthy

PNWD REGISTRAR REPORT

By Blaine Price, Registrar

bcprice58@msn.com

Registrations for PNWD patrols and their members are now complete for other than expected spring new member Candidates and Transfers.

2020-21 counts are as follows:

PNWD Totals: 1,993 Returning
 31 Transfers
 120 New Members
 2,144 Total

<u>Total Counts by Region:</u>	Returning	Transfers	New	Total
IE Region	452	7	35	494
NW Region	747	10	27	773
OR Region	269	5	9	283
S ID Region	348	9	32	385
W'E Region	175	0	17	192
PNWD Admin	2			2
	<u>1,993</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>2,140</u>

This compares to 2019-20:

Returning 1,967
Transfers 41
New 184
Total 2,192

And to 2018-19:

Returning 1,925
Transfers 28
New 236
Total 2,189

There are several patrols bringing on new spring Candidates likely totaling 20 or so, but haven't been submitted yet, which would then total about 2,160.00. As such, the PNWD will likely be down by approximately 30 people. Overall, returning members are up, and new Candidates are down, plus there is a lower count in Wy'East Region.

Considering that NSP membership Nationally has been somewhat negatively impacted by COVID-19, our numbers for PNWD are better than might have been anticipated.

Patrol Totals by Region

Inland Empire Region

49 Deg N 75
Cottonwood B 14
Loup Loup 48
Mission R 59
Mt Spokane 157
Silver Mtn 40
Lookout 69
Lookout Bike All Secondary
Ski Bluewood 4
Snowhaven 28

Northwest Region

Alpental 100
CBSP 45
Crystal M 103
Hurricane R 29
Hyak 48
Mt Baker 110
Mt Rainier 58
Snoq. West 61
Snoq Central 94
White Pass 136

(continued p.12)

REGISTRAR REPORT —continued

Oregon Region

Mt Ashland	57
Mt Bachelor	95
Santiam P	36
Warner Canyon	3
Willamette BC	17
Willamette Pass	75

Wy 'East

MH Timberline	2
MH Ski Bowl	3
MH Meadows	3
MH Nordic	9
Cooper Spur	4
MH Summit	2
Mt Hood SP	169

Southern Idaho Region

705 BC	9
Anthony Lakes	45
Magic Mtn	21
Bogus Basin	102
Ferguson Ridge	19
Payette Lakes	96
Soldier Mtn	26
Spout Springs	4
Bogus Pro	59
Soldier Pro	8

One change that is in the works is that Payette Lakes patrol will be smaller next year since their area management is forming a new patrol in the Pro Division called Brundage Mtn Pro, Q168, and their paid staff will be moving to that new patrol.

In addition, there are a total of 17 active Secondaries with paid dues, likely an undercount due to a minimally functional Secondary system at NSP, and PD/PRs paying minimal attention to Secondary's.

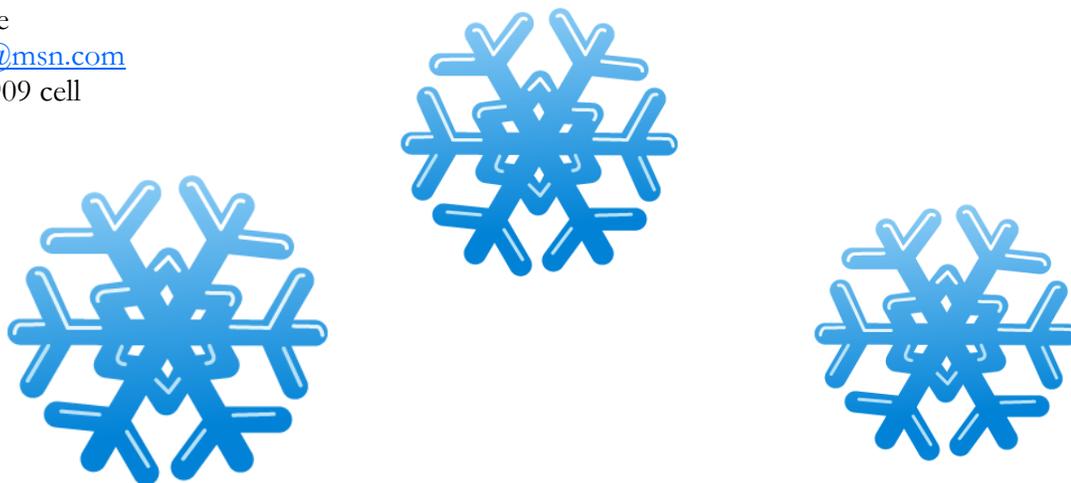
Plus, there are many patrols that have Secondary Alumni on their roster that don't pay Region/Division dues. But, the PNWD does receive \$10.00 per registered PNWD Alumni out of their \$35.00 annual dues.

Total dues processed for the PNWD as of today, not including Affiliates and Alumni, is \$17,050.00. Depending on spring candidates coming on, this amount may increase by approximately \$150.00.

There are also Affiliate Canadian Unit members using our OEC program in BC for which the PNWD will receive an approximate additional \$2,500.00 at \$10.00 per person to administer that program.

As always, if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Blaine Price
bcprice58@msn.com
206-954-4909 cell



AVALANCHE REPORT

By Brad Acker, Avalanche Advisor

ackerbrad@hotmail.com

Keep an eye out for change; you won't need to look far.

Back in 2015, the now Patrol Director of the 705 Backcountry Patrol, Steven Meyer, started teaching what he called, "Backcountry Experience" classes at Tamarack Resort. This was in response to the backcountry turns that wait just outside the resort bamboo and rope boundaries. As patrollers we strive to touch that bamboo every day, knock the rime off, and hopefully adjust the rope a little in the upward direction after the last storm. The general public however, sees something completely different. Unfortunately, consequences are not often on the list of reasons they want to venture out the gates. As patrollers, we know the list pretty well:

- Avalanche mitigation on this side vs. deep persistent slabs on that side
- Free toboggan rides and arriving at the aid room before the inflammation even starts vs. the sheriff is in charge - SAR units called out- and at the discretion of the sheriff, the subjects are paying for the whole affair.

At the same time, as avalanche educators we have been seeing more people showing up for a level one avalanche class not knowing the difference between climbing skins and climbing blocks. For whatever the reason, partner to partner backcountry mentorship is lacking, as in - fallen off a cliff - lacking. Enter Steven and his "Backcountry Experience" class. Think of it as avalanche awareness with a field session. Meeting the public where they are. In a manufacturing plant it would be called just in time product delivery. Whatever you want to call it, word has gotten out in Southern Idaho. Two other resorts have shown interest in the concept. I hope these types of classes are marketed as preparation for a full Level One, as opposed to, "you are now ready to go". At the very least these classes should open the eyes of folks to realizing the other side of that rope – IS BACKCOUNTRY. Keep an eye open for this type of class coming to your ski area.

Another item I've had to keep an eye on this season is the thermometer. COVID-19 is not the only reason we have had a strange season so far. Idaho is in the transitional zone between the deep, close-to-freezing maritime snowpack and the cold, thinner, continental snowpack. So far this winter, our snowpack has been mostly maritime. I have not enjoyed saying it, but I have several times: this season is the winter of spring. The cat tracks on the first day of winter (Dec. 21st) looked like the last day of spring! The heavy rain which fell the day before is still a marker in our snow pits. What this has all come down to in practical terms is that the snowpack has been very different in rather small, 50-100 mile differences in location. For folks that rely heavily on avalanche center reports, they should pay more attention to the forecasted area of coverage. In addition we all have been hearing about the relatively new term, atmospheric river. These systems not only bring a lot of moisture, but often very focused moisture. Southern Idaho just experienced an atmospheric river in which 30-40" of snow fell in a band which was less than 50 miles wide.

In summary, we need to keep our eyes wide open, to changes in education and to local weather patterns. The pressure on the backcountry is increasing, and to me it looks like the variability in the snowpack is as well.

Brad Acker
PNW Avalanche Advisor



Avalanche Forecasting Websites the Nor'Wester Editor found available:

<https://www.tetongravity.com/story/news/full-list-of-north-american-avalanche-forecasting-centers>

<https://nwac.us/>

<https://www.coavalanche.org/>

<https://www.idahopanhandleavalanche.org/>

<https://avalanche.org/>

OET/TRANSPORTATION REPORT

By Jack Ramsey, Transportation Advisor

ramco@localaccess.com

My last article mentioned the challenges I found with my virtual presentation at the PNW Division Convention. I had no idea that many of those same challenges would affect teaching in person when everyone is wearing a mask. Wearing masks has revealed at least two things I hadn't realized before. First, I have lost way more of my hearing than I thought and two I can read lips pretty well.

Many of the innumerable ways we humans communicate in person are blocked and/or muted by our masks. Combine that with goggles or glasses and we are left with the spoken word, a few gestures and the occasional nod or shake of the head. Our Instructor Development (ID) courses tell us there are three learning styles: Audial, Visual and Kinesthetic. We all use varying levels of these styles to gather information and store it for future application. Teaching a physical activity such as OET, we tell (Audial) our students what and why we are doing a movement. We then demonstrate (Visual) the movement. And, finally we have them do (Kinesthetic) the movement. We then check for understanding and offer feedback. Finding the right combination for each student can be challenging. I often comment to new instructors the art of teaching is finding different ways to say the same thing. It is not a matter of just combining or arranging different words to get your point across, but rather combining and arranging all three of the learning styles.

These challenges were ever so prevalent as our instructor cadre at Crystal Mountain worked with our new candidate class this year. This group was as proficient skiers as we have had in the past, yet it seemed to take more time for them to dial in the details of running the toboggans. One of the instructors (not me) noticed people grasping the concepts better with more instructor demonstration. Sure enough when we started doing more demonstrations the improvement accelerated. We also upped the amount of instructor student combinations on the sleds. This added additional "feel" (feel would be Kinesthetic) to the equation. Learning what it feels like when the other person is doing it correctly, also built confidence that they didn't have to do all the work all the time.

We all use varying combinations of the learning styles. I rely prevalently on Visual. I tend to teach from that style. Even when I am speaking I am trying to paint pictures with words. Now that I've had some time to ponder these points, I would like to offer this postulation. Just as people with sensory impairments improve their other sensory inputs, we as students can rely on other learning styles when our preferred style is limited. We as instructors should adapt, improvise and overcome by using as many teaching techniques/styles as possible. It's something to think about.

Now for a few announcements: Michael James, of Summit Central in the Northwest Region, has been appointed as an Instructor Trainer; Bruce Jahnke, of Alpental, has also been appointed Instructor Trainer for the Northwest Region; and Gina Hackett, of Mount Hood Ski Patrol, is now an Instructor Trainer for Wy'East/Mt. Hood Region.

We have several new OET Instructors as well: Torry Taylor, Kevin Havre, Courtney Walsh, and Dave Winterling, Mount Hood Ski Patrol in Wy'East/Mt. Hood Region; and Ted Spencer of Bogus Basin in Southern Idaho Region.

I hope I didn't miss anyone. I'm sure our Region Advisors will let me know. I welcome you all to the Instructor/IT ranks and look forward to working with you all sooner than later.

Have fun and be well,

Jack Ramsey



MTR REPORT

By Dick Willy, MTR Advisor

rdwmcw@comcast.net

The Division has three MTR level 1 courses and 1 MTR Level 2 course in progress:

MTR 1: Mt. Baker, Kyle Breakey – IOR
Willamette Pass, Laurie Monico – IOR
Cascade Backcountry. Mark Langley – IOR

MTR 2: Cascade Backcountry. Mark Langley – IOR

In addition, Mark Stambaugh will be conducting an Enhancement Seminar for Lookout Pass patrollers in March.

Finally, the MTR Program has a program-specific patch. I'm looking into availability.

Dick Willy, MTR Supervisor

NORDIC PROGRAM REPORT

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

ericSgeisler@yahoo.com
syntereo@gmail.com

Nordic Notes March 2021

Eric Geisler – ericSgeisler@yahoo.com

Matt Strauser – syntereo@gmail.com

The skinny is that this comes from the backcountry this season. The Nordic / Backcountry program has had a busy season. The PNWD now has an Assistant Nordic / Backcountry program person in Matt Strauser from Santiam Pass at Hoodoo – Welcome Matt.

Most patrols are active and seeing increased use this year.

Equipment is hard to find this season if you did not already own it and were slow to think about it. With the COVID restrictions, many people have chosen to recreate outside this winter, so we are seeing increased use in all Nordic and backcountry areas. Many of the new-comers have little experience or concept of consequences that face them. Nordic backcountry patrollers have been there to help them get off on the right foot.

Most patrols have spread at least part of the annual refresher out over several sessions throughout the year in order to allow for physical distancing and smaller groups for activities. Several patrols have had classes open to the public by doing lectures on-line and small groups in the field.

There has also been increased interest in Nordic patrolling with several new candidates around the division this year.

At the national level, Mike Balk from Eastern Division has taken over the program supervisor role from Rich Shandler (also Eastern Division). This will likely lead to more on-line resources available to patrols in the next few years. Nordic manuals, which have been in Beta versions, are currently being reviewed and your input is welcome. The plan is to convert these to active program documents by the end of the season. We are also trying to codify what skills should be required to be a Nordic / Backcountry Instructor – if you have suggestions please send them to Matt or myself.

Stay safe in this crazy snow pack and the COVID pandemic.

MARCH 2021 ALUMNI PROFILE



Donna Short

Donna Short, longtime Nordic Patroller, now active Alumni Member

Five of my Forest Service colleagues were some of the first Nordic patrollers at Crater Lake National Park. Over many lunch time conversations, they convinced me that I should give it a try. It wasn't hard, as the park is one of my favorite places in the whole world. It is even more magical in winter, but also challenging. I started as a volunteer patroller for the 1988-89 season and I was hooked. Becoming an NSP patroller was the next step, but I also moved from Glide to Sweet Home during this time. I took WEC (now OEC) with the aspiring patrollers from the Santiam Pass Ski Patrol. My Nordic skills test was quite memorable as I had to set up the Z pulley system inside the rim of the crater! I passed all my tests in time to be a full NSP patroller for the 1992-93 season.

In 1996, Crater Lake NP decided it was too difficult to maintain the patrol under NSP so the Willamette Backcountry Patrol graciously allowed several of us to register with their patrol while doing all our patrol days at Crater Lake NP. A highlight from this period was traveling to Washington, D.C. when the Crater Lake Ski Patrol was recognized as National Volunteer Organization of the Year for the National Park Service in 2003.

In 2006, my partner and I decided that driving past Willamette Pass on our way to patrol at Crater Lake no longer made sense for us. We have been patrolling out of Gold Lake Snopark with Willamette Backcountry Patrol, another amazing group of volunteers, since that time. I learned all about Ski Swap, eventually

(continued p.17)

ALUMNI ADVISOR REPORT—continued

becoming a team leader, a role I have continued since I became an Alumni patroller in 2019.

Donna notes: I have also continued to help publish the patrol's newsletter, and help out at the patrol cabin when I can. Patrolling has been such a big and positive part of my life that just stopping did not appeal to me. Being Alumni keeps me connected to my ski patrol friends, new and old, and allows me to still share my skills and serve our visitors. Throw in continuing access to NSP training, education, magazines/newsletters and pro deals and it is quite the deal!

Info from Josie Elting, PNWD Alumni Advisor: Alumni Membership

The National Ski Patrol Office informed me that there are several Alumni who did not renew their membership for the 2021-2022 year. Memberships at all NSP levels are from January 1st until December 31st. Please remember to **renew** your Alumni Membership even if you are late. Failure to pay by April 1st will result in your account being suspended. You can still register now.

RENEW * RENEW *** RENEW *** RENEW*** RENEW**

HOW TO RENEW YOUR ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

To pay online:

Log in to www.nsp.org.

Click on **"Hi (Your Name)"** in upper right-hand corner, then click the highlighted "Renew Now" box on the left side of the screen on your Member Profile page.

Follow the instructions to enter your credit card information and click "Submit".

You will receive an email confirmation of your payment right away, and a new 2021 membership card via email within 2 business days.

If the "Renew Now" button is not highlighted, you may have already added the dues to your cart. If so, you will see a number 1 next to your cart in the upper right corner. Please double click on your cart to complete the payment.

2. To pay by check:

Put your NSP ID on the memo line of your check and send \$35.00 to:

National Ski Patrol
133 South Van Gordon Street, Suite 100
Lakewood, CO 80228

Failure to pay by April 1, 2021 will result in your account being suspended.

If you need help or have any questions please let me know.

To Become An Alumni Member Today - Log onto nsp.org as a member. You can find additional information at Programs/Alumni click on Become An Alumni. There is no time limit to make the decision to go

(continued p.18)

ALUMNI ADVISOR REPORT—continued

from active patroller to an Alumni member. This decision can be made at any time during the season or if you have been away from NSP for a number of years you can still become an Alumni. Be sure to let your friends know they can **ALWAYS** rejoin the National Ski Patrol as an Alumni and enjoy the benefits!

As you consider your Ski Patrol options... remember, changing your status to Alumni membership does not remove any of your NSP accomplishments. Please see the current *National Ski Patrol Policies and Procedures* (available online). It specifically states, "Awards and honorary appointments, e.g., merit stars, National Appointments, will continue to be recognized..." Yes, you may continue to wear your National Appointment pin, and any other pins and patches to show your accomplishments.

AWARDS

Alumni Awards and Merit Stars: Keep in mind the Alumni in your patrol who deserve recognition.

Outstanding Alumni in the PNWD

Alumni members serve in a variety of ways such as instructors, recruiters, advisors and many others. The alumni members can be found in advisory capacities at local, region, division, and national levels of the NSP. We would like to appreciate the outstanding alumni in our division. **Thank you to all our contributors!!**

Enjoy the snow and stay safe,

Josie Elting
PNWD Alumni Advisor
imaginejosie@yahoo.com

Region Election Results: Inland Empire & Southern Idaho

The February 15th deadline has passed for receipt of nominations for Region Directors for Inland Empire and Southern Idaho:

Daniel Becker was nominated by Kelli Piper for Inland Empire Region Director.
Dave Campbell self-nominated for Southern Idaho Region Director.

In accordance with PNWD By-Laws 4.2, when nominations close and there is only one nominee for the position, that nominee will be deemed elected by acclamation.

Congratulations and thank you to both of these nominees for stepping up to serve the PNWD.

Shirley Cummings
PNWD Elections Coordinator

OUTDOOR RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

By Joe Ferraro, ORM Advisor

skygod01@live.com

The NSP ORM Team is busy building new the ORM program.

Below are some ORM General Concepts:

1. Define “risk management”: Risk management is the process of identifying potential risks (in advance of their occurrence), analyzing them and identifying and applying precautionary steps to reduce, eliminate or transfer the risk
2. Understand the concepts of:
 - a. Pre-Loss goals, objectives and activities – BEFORE the loss occurs
 - b. Post-Loss goals, objectives and activities – AFTER the loss occurs
3. Define “inherent risk(s)” with respect to skiing/snowboarding: Inherent risks are those that due to the nature of the activity and the environment in which it is performed cannot be eliminated. Should also understand the inherent risks involved in boarding, riding and unloading lifts
4. Define the concept of the assumption/acceptance of inherent risk: May be statutory and/or common law (in various states it differs), and is the concept that a person’s voluntary participation in an activity that contains inherent risks, does so under the premise that by that voluntary participation, those risks which inhere to (are an integral part of) that activity are and must be assumed/accepted by the participant
5. Define “safe”: The (complete) absence of, being protected from, or not exposed to danger or risk
6. Define “reasonably safe”: Given the inherent risks involved in participating in the sport of skiing/snowboarding (nature of the activity and environment in which it is performed), some level of exposure to danger or risk is and must remain a component of participation
7. Understand the concept of “reasonably safe”, as opposed to (simply) safe, as it applies to the sport of skiing/snowboarding: As a ski area operator, the legal duty placed upon it is to provide a reasonably safe operation and premises.

We all are risk managers in our everyday life.

Joseph Ferraro

*Purchase with purpose. Amazon donates to Pacific Northwest
Division National Ski Patrol when you shop at*

smile.amazon.com.

*Go to Amazon Smile and select PNWD as your designated
charity.*



OEC REPORT

By Karen Jensen, OEC Supervisor

karenannjensen@icloud.com

Greetings from Southern Idaho where we are having a great ski season. OEC training is occurring across the Division with 11 active OEC courses currently that should be finishing up in the next few months. Areas have found inventive ways to train new patrollers in Covid safe ways with masks, good hand hygiene and small groups with plenty of space. I would love to hear about ways that patrols are making OEC training work so that new patrollers are coming on board. Another way patrols could work on improving OEC skills is through the use of the OEC Enhancement seminars utilizing small groups with appropriate precautions.

Senior OEC is primarily on hold this season, with only the Southern Idaho region holding a Senior test. This test will be for candidates needing to retest on the OEC portion of the program. This test will be held late March/early April when there will still be snow, but when the ski area will be close to being closed in order to meet safety requirements.

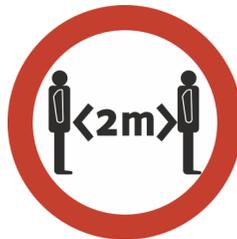
Congratulations to the Pacific Northwest's newest OEC IT's – Larry Davis from Oregon Region and Patrick Arnold from Southern Idaho Region.

Congratulations to the Division's newest OEC instructors: James Tuchs Schmidt, Christy Webster, John Stansbury, Keenan Hoar, Howard Davis, Elizabeth Manley and Susan Hawke!

On the second Monday of each month, the Division OEC supervisors have a Zoom meeting to discuss the OEC program and the progress on various portions of the program. 2021 OEC Refresher planning is in full swing and materials will be available online late spring/early summer. The material should be easier to utilize with plans for imbedded links to the additional resource material from the instructor guides. Work is being done to update the OEC Instructor Manual and I am part of a group that will be updating the OEC Enhancement Seminars.

Thank you to Kathy Lee for all of her help and guidance in my transition to this new role and all that she does for the Pacific Northwest Division.

Karen



SOCIAL MEDIA – STILL NEEDS YOU!!!

For more information contact both:

Richard Murphy: richard.murphy@nsp-pnwd.org **and** Jodie Jeffers: jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org

2021 PNWD Convention Report

By Pam Carson, 2021 PNWD Convention Chair

mamachinsk@hotmail.com

In conjunction with our local public health officials, we will continually assess, based on future conditions, whether to hold our convention in-person or go forward virtually for another year. Idaho moved into Stage 3 reopening (see link below) on Feb 2 which is a start but not enough for us to confidently move forward with getting together in person. Some folks, and understandably so, are genuinely concerned about meeting face to face and do not want our convention to be another super-spreader event and therefore will not be attending. Others are holding onto the fact that many people will have been vaccinated by mid-August and with necessary modifications, feel we could meet safely in person.

<https://rebound.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/stage3-stay-healthy-guidelines-020221.pdf>

This is where we need your help! If members would kindly respond ASAP to the following questions which were released in a [SURVEY](#) via email (the survey was emailed 2/20/2021). Your answers to this survey will help guide us as we move forward with planning. Deadline to respond is March 14. If you do not have google, please send your answers to my email address below.

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

- 1. Would you attend our 2021 PNWD convention if it were held in-person? Yes or No**
- 2. Would you attend our 2021 PNWD convention if it were held virtually? Yes or No**

Comments:

Thank you all!
Pam Carson, 2021 Convention Chair
mamachinsk@hotmail.com
Sarah Mello, Co-Chair



SAFETY REPORT

By Jodie Jeffers, Patroller and Safety Advisor

jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org

Safety, what does it mean to you, your patrol, area, & guests?

We all have been through so much with COVID and at times it probably seems like that is the only topic at hand when it comes to safety. It's important for us to remember pre-Covid concepts regarding safety both for us as patrollers and for the guests.

We would like your help and input regarding safety. The PNWD is unique in that several patrols/areas run beyond the winter months. Please get back to me on the following and other things as well:

- Is your area doing other things besides Covid this season in regards to safety?
- Are you having cautions and reminders for the things we do every patrol shift?
- Do you debrief calls afterwards, or have follow-up with patrollers who have been with a difficult case?
- Awesome snow fall, but also the need for avalanche awareness and tree well dangers. Are there reviews happening?
- Do morning meetings include having some stretching and other practice situations to keep your safe and awareness up?

There are so many things to go over and consider. So, we are asking for your input from the patroller standpoint and what we can do to help? Are you interested in doing more with safety or are you feeling resistance from your patrol or leadership? Let us help and you help us.

We have been getting together a group of patrollers from all different backgrounds with the focus of SAFETY for the PATROLLER. Are you interested, want more information?

FYI: Safety kits still available from last year. If interested, there are still some available to order from the NSP store -Total \$50 that includes SH. Or \$25 if we don't need to go through the mail.

Contact me at: jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org

AWARDS

By Peter Schwartz, Awards Advisor

peteskiis@aol.com

It's hard to believe that we are well over half-way through the ski season. If your ski area has been open, I'm sure you have had a challenging year. So, it's a great time to draft NSP Outstanding award nominations for your respective patrol, region and PNWD levels. Please remember, Region Awards Advisors, that the deadline for submitting your region's Outstanding award nominations to the Division is June 1, 2021.

In addition, Patrol Award Advisors, it would also be great for you to send to your Region Awards Advisor your award nominations for Merit Stars, Patroller Crosses, Distinguished Service Awards, and National Appointments/Leadership Commendation Appointments as soon as possible. Upon approval, those awards are forwarded to me (Peter Schwartz) and after being reviewed & approved, will be ready for your respective patrol's awards presentation this coming spring. You can find the qualification criteria for NSP awards in Chapter 12 of the current NSP Policies and Procedures which is available on the NSP website. Keep in mind that it usually takes approximately 30 to 45 days to process NSP awards through the system upon my receiving the award nominations.

NSP awards are a great way to recognize and appreciate patrollers for their extraordinary efforts. In addition, such recognition and appreciation is particularly valuable to keeping the culture of each patrol strong and connected during this pandemic. Please let me know if you have any questions about NSP awards and thank you for all your efforts in writing and submitting NSP award nominations!

Best regards,

Peter Schwartz

Guest article - to all ski patrollers

By: Paul Mandel

mandel@ykwc.net

Happy 1 year Anniversary COVID-19, I give you the gift of paper...

I didn't know it at the time, but the end of my shift on March 14th was the last day of the 2020 ski season. We had all heard rumors about COVID-19, but really didn't give it too much attention until we received an email the following morning that the mountain had closed until further notice.

The word "pandemic" now had my attention; the Mount Bachelor ski season ended with a flip of a switch. Other ski resorts were closing too. Mt. Bachelor liquidated its food and beverage, and gave 10 Barrel gift cards to their employees the following week. Thank You John McLeod for the generosity to those Mt. B employees and volunteers who did an outstanding job. Then we waited to see what happened next.

The COVID-19 pandemic had morphed into its own type of mountain, to include curves, graphs, and forecasts; similar to a snow report. Over the next year, we learned about social distancing, N-95 masks, the all hated ZOOM meeting, ZOOM fatigue, bars closed, food carts opened, food shortages, toilet paper was rationed, restaurants went out of business, friends lost jobs, home schooling was in vogue, parents become teachers, and people died.

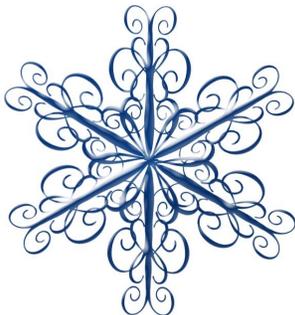
Today, how we patrol has changed; COVID questions, N-95 masks, Assessments from 6' away, one patroller to enter the HOT zone, decontaminate everything you touch, avoid your fellow patrollers, 2 to a chair, the list is endless.

As we celebrate this new year together, I'm thankful for my COVID shot, arranged by Mt. Bachelor. While our patrol perks have been reduced, the skiing has been epic and our patrol bond is still strong.

Hopefully by fall 2021 (TBD), we can kick COVID-19 to the curb and look forward to the OEC mountain refresher BBQ, enjoying our mid-winter party in the warmth of a heated building, and celebrating our good health at the 2022 spring banquet, masks optional.

Happy Anniversary COVID-19 you suck!

Paul Mandel



WOMEN'S PROGRAM

By Sally Seelye, Womens Program Advisor

sallyseelye@gmail.com



2021 is off to an exciting start for the Women's Program. Not only are we seeing some great growth, we are getting visibility as well.

A couple good reads:

- <http://bit.ly/surgeofwomeninskipatrol>
- <http://bit.ly/AvonColorado>
-

Women's Parka Update: Patagonia has several sample women's patrol parkas out in the field being put through their paces. At this time it looks like things are still on track for production in 2022. Great news, and certainly long-awaited.

Have pictures, information, or events you'd like to share? Use the hashtag **#NSPwomen** on Instagram and Facebook, or contact me directly to put it on the PNWD Women's Program Facebook page.

Speaking of events, while clinics are not encouraged at this time, did you know there is an amazing toolkit to help organize your efforts? Check it out on the NSP site under Programs/Women's Program.

Mission: The NSP Women's Program mission is to empower patrollers by advancing skills and developing leadership in a women-focused program.

SKI FLIGHT

By Sally Seelye

sallyseelye@gmail.com



Aguille du Midi, Chamonix Mont-Blanc
from Ski Flight 2020

The question in my inbox these days is *"will there be a Ski Flight trip for 2021?"*

Once it became clear our traditional February trip would not be happening, plans were tentatively made for an August trip to Chile.

While I would love to say that the Chile trip is on, travel quarantines remain in place that make it unlikely. Some Chilean regions are still in lockdown as well, not to mention the risk that requirements/restrictions could change while overseas.

So now plans for a February 2022 trip are underway. Hopefully, travel will have opened up enough by then to make that one doable! And if not, well, perhaps Chile in August of 2022.

Another possibility is a domestic trip in February! Let me know via email/text/call if that would be of potential interest.

History of Ski Lifts—Part I, The Rope Tow

Does your ski area have an in-use rope tow? Did it ever have one?

Who remembers when? What can you include about it in your patrol history?

By the mid 1930's, skiing had finally taken off as a sport all over the world. It was "hike up, ski down, hike up, ski down, hike up, ski down--go home". The sport was gradually growing, but even more than innovations in skis and ski boots, the largest increase in the sport occurred because of innovations to get skiers up the hill, not down.

Not much is written about the early development of ski lifts. Many were an adaptation of lifts used in mining or other industries. It seems that in North America, Canada led the way for inventions to get people up the ski hill. The first reported lift was in 1920 at Baungarten's Ski Hill at Sainte-Agathe in Quebec, Canada. The lift was built by Moise Paquette who collected antique cars and put one of the cars he collected up on a block, coiled a rope around one of its two rear wheel rims and put another end around a pulley that was up on the top of the mountain.

In 1933, a young Swiss engineer got the first patent on a workable rope tow in which he used a one-inch diameter hemp rope along with old motorcycle parts. The following year a 2,400 foot "endless rope" was installed at Stowbridge, Quebec; the rope passed through blocks at the top and bottom of its span of two-thirds of the hill and around a special hub on the rear axle of an old car. Canadian skiers flocked to the location and for 50 cents a ride or \$5.00 a day they could ride instead of walking up the hill. Also, in 1933 the first rope tow in the United States appeared when three New Yorkers who had heard of a rope tow in Quebec, Canada, convinced a resort owner in Woodstock, Vermont to "install a rope tow contraption" (and financed him to the tune of \$225).

By definition, the rope tow is a surface lift that transports skiers while their skis remain on the ground. With a rope running through a "bull wheel" at top and bottom, rope tows are powered by a gas or electrical motor at one end. Rope tows still exist at many resorts today. They are economical, they usually allow riders to exit the rope anywhere along the route and they often can run in high winds that would prevent some chairlifts from operating. They are also less expensive to install and to maintain.



Not all skiers, however, were totally satisfied with rope tows. Ropes were very hard on gloves and mittens and required a certain amount of strength to grab and hold on while being pulled up the hill. Beginners often had a hard time grabbing the rope and when they did, they sometimes fell on the rope causing rope burns to clothes or skin. Long hair or scarves were sometimes snagged in the rope and caused serious problems (bad rope burns, chokings and even scalp amputations (when hair got caught in the rope).

For patrollers, rope tows presented a different set of challenges. In the pre-Thiokol/Bombardier days, we would need to ride the rope tow uphill sideways to smooth and pack the route before the hill was opened to the public. Then patrollers would divide up across the hill and slide slip down the slope to pack the hill.

(continued p.26)

HISTORIAN/SPECIAL PROJECTS—continued

The rope tow is credited with allowing skiers to spend more time skiing down the hill than hiking uphill; thus, many say rope tows marked the beginning of the ski industry. Had the rope tows survived to a greater degree, the cost savings for both skiers and the resort might have allowed more people of different economic levels to enjoy the sport.

Patrol Yarns?

*by
Shirley Cummings*

War stories? Funny stories? Booby prize/bedpan stories? Do your patrol members or alumni have any tall tales to tell? Small tales? Any tales? Many of these tales are the priceless anecdotes which feed the camaraderie that so many patrols enjoy.

I'm on the prowl to search for these gems of patrol yarns which contribute so much to our patrol fellowship. These stories need to be saved! They can be any length, written by one person or as a group, can be tall tales or small tales on any topic, true or partially true, signed or anonymous-- toboggan adventures, booby prize scenarios, OEC war stories-- they can be about you, about someone you know or something you've heard. Best format for me is for you to send me an attachment with an email (shirleycu@msn.com). Think of things that are repeated in your breakrooms, mountain huts, training sessions or patrol parties.

Your patrol yarns will soon be lost if we all don't do our part to record them as part of our collective patrol lore. What you decide to do with them once they're recorded is your choice. I hope you will choose to send them to me, and I'll share them in a notebook at the division convention. That way we can all enjoy these (non-official) memories that are part of our collective history. Try to include recollections from some of your alumni as well as first impressions from some of your new candidates. What's your story?





**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

www.nsp-pnwd.org

Anne M Greenwood
960 Sunmist Ct SE
Salem, OR 97306

Email: greenwoods@centurylink.net

Article deadline for the next Nor'Wester is May 15, 2021