



NOR'WESTER

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVISION—NATIONAL SKI PATROL

December 2021

DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT

By *Shelley Urben, PNWD Director*

shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org

As we head into a new ski season and the year 2022, I can't help but reflect on the past year and a half. The journey has been difficult, for many, life changing. Most of us have family members, friends, co-workers, and/or other acquaintances who experienced the trauma brought on through Covid 19. Some of you were even affected personally. And throughout it all, we experienced the struggles of every day life and death, along with the various repercussions of living through a pandemic. And now here we are as ski patrollers, refreshed in OEC and on our mountain protocols, and anxiously waiting for the snowfall to build and our areas to open. Now looking forward, there is hope of an excellent ski season with the confidence that we have the skills and experience to tackle our goals of safety and first aid care to the outdoor adventuring public in this ever-changing environment.

The Pacific Northwest is fortunate to have so many talented and open-minded Division and Region Advisors, staff members, and discipline specific instructors. Our patrollers, you all, have embraced the changes forced on us these past several months with creatively building courses in Zoom and altering in-person learning in even more engaging ways than in the past. These changes have improved the quality of education we are providing. I'm looking forward to this season, patrolling with all of you, and enjoying hearing about and even experiencing the various classes that will be delivered throughout the season.

National Updates

National Election – The National Election is now concluded and the winners announced. I want to congratulate our new board members, and thank all of you from the PNWD who voted. This was an important election as we bring in new board members and begin, at the National level, to make significant and positive changes moving forward. I look forward to sharing this with all of you as the New Year gets underway.

NSP Office Staff – The office continues to add new positions and is working to create a member-centric culture. Please be patient as they work with the new CEO, Chris Castillon, the National Board, and the Division Directors. Hard work and collaboration will pay off. If you have questions, or need to get in touch with the office, I encourage you to contact me first and I will either contact them myself, or help facilitate that conversation.

Learning Management System (LMS) – The new LMS remains on track as Rick Boyce and David Hemindinger lead the organization through implementation. This has been a well-organized and thought out process, and should result in an up and running LMS this summer (2022) that brings the members a more user-friendly educational system.

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DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT—continued

January Face to Face – In January the National Board of Directors, the Division Directors and the National Staff will meet face to face for the first time in two years. The meeting will be held in Denver from January 26th – 29th. This strong leadership group is facing a robust agenda with much to discuss and collaborate over as we all work to move the NSP forward. I'm excited to be attending this meeting, talk in person with my colleagues, and roll up my sleeves with them to do some of the hard work of the NSP.

PowderFall – Many of you within our Division will be joining me at PowderFall 2022 in Breckenridge, Colorado. PowderFall takes place April 6th – 9th. If you are interested in attending, go to the website at <https://www.powderfall.com/>.

PNWD Updates

PNWD Workshops – This year the PNWD is hosting a series of monthly Safety Culture 4 All workshops. Each workshop is held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The first 30 minutes (6:30 to 7:00) are delivered by various Division Supervisors and the second 30 minutes are devoted to discussion and support to any patrol or patroller interested in running a Psychological First Aid Care program. So far the workshops have been well attended and I'm excited to talk with the various PDs/PRs in our Division about pieces of the program that they are working on. Please see the flyer included in this newsletter to find information on upcoming topics and for the login.

Safety Advisors - We need to have a Safety Advisor for each Region and Patrol. Be thinking of who, get them appointed, and then hook your Region Safety Advisors up with Jodie, and your Patrol Safety Advisors up with your Region Advisors.

Website - Murphy has done a great job redesigning our website. We now need to fill it with information. We are currently seeking 1 or 2 individuals who are willing to take on the task of maintaining our Division website. Please contact me at shelley.urben@nsp-pwnd.org if you are interested or know of someone who might be interested.

ICS 100 and Youth Safety

- ICS 100 is a requirement for all NSP patrollers. If you have not yet completed this course, please get it done. I will work with instructors from each region this fall to get courses registered so that you can get this listed on your profile if it isn't already.
- All NSP leadership are required to complete and document training in a recognized youth safety program. This includes National leadership, PDs/PRs, RDs, DDs, (and their assistants), Region admin or advisors in any discipline where youth participate in courses or events in the region. This change also includes information and guidance in reporting misconduct. If you need to complete this training, log into the NSP site, go to Youth Protection, and follow the directions.

Dues – All patrollers! Alumni, Active, Inactive, Paid/Volunteer, Host, Bike.... Make sure you remember to pay your dues before January 1st. You don't want late fees, and you really don't want to lose your years of service. If you are having trouble figuring out how to pay, please contact me at shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org, or Blaine Price at bcprice58@msn.com.

Stay healthy and safe, pray for snow, and enjoy the upcoming Holiday Season. As always, it is my pleasure to serve you as your Division Director. Please contact me anytime.

Shelley Urben
Shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org

INLAND EMPIRE REGION REPORT

By Dan Becker, Inland Empire Region Director

20502djb@gmail.com

As of today (11/7/2021) all the IER's refreshers are done except a late refresher, scheduled some time in December of 2021.

Area Ski Patrols are starting new candidate classes or are ongoing at this time.

Snow is beginning to fall at IER's ski areas after the last batch of storms that passed through, pray it keeps up.

IER's resorts are busy organizing recruiting for new patrol candidates.

In unison with the new patrol candidates, recruiting IER's is promoting advanced/senior patrol training by attending the clinics. **Dates** posted on IER's 2021/22 calendar are below.

Instructor Calibration for EMM & OET/PSIA Clinics & Senior Clinics

Jan 8, 2022 Silver MT (COVID-19 protocol @ Silver for IER's Clinic, Mask required inside when 6ft social distancing cannot be achieved)

Open Region EMM & OET/PSIA Clinics & Senior Clinics

- Jan 22, 2022 Loup Loup
- Jan 23, 2022 Loup Loup
- Feb 5, 2022 Mission Ridge
- Feb 6, 2022 Mission Ridge
- Feb 19, 2022 Mt Spokane
- Feb 20, 2022 Mt Spokane

Senior EMM & OET Evaluation

- March 5, 2022 Lookout Pass

An ongoing threat at IER's resorts is Avalanche concerns.

This is from previous history and new expansions.

The Avalanche & MTR Advisors have developed a training program to address this issue.

The **Avalanche** training schedule is below.

WEEKEND FIELD sessions:

Saturday Jan 29 at Silver Mtn

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

- Modern avalanche beacon (457 kHz digital beacon. A 3-antenna design is highly recommended)
- Avalanche shovel and probe
- Headlamp and appropriate clothing to work outside during mid-week sessions in Post Falls.
- Alpine ski gear for the day at Silver Mtn. No significant uphill travel.

Snowshoes or Backcountry Skis with skins for the day at Lookout Pass.

This course covers avalanche hazard assessment, decision-making, tools you can use to make decisions about when to go/not go, how to conduct yourself in and around avalanche terrain, and companion and organized rescue skills. A Level 1 course is essential for anyone intending to go out of bounds off Eagle Peak, and highly recommended for all patrollers.

The NSP Level 1 class is composed of 3 courses: indoor, field, and organized rescue.

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INLAND EMPIRE REGION REPORT—continued

You'll need to register for all 3 to take the class:

P009220003 - indoor classes

P009220004 – field

P009220005 – organized avalanche rescue

Sunday Jan 30 at Lookout Pass

As many know, there are other skills needed to mitigate Avalanche skills that MTR trains for.

The region is sponsoring MTR classes this year. Two classes are being offered simultaneously:

- Mountain Travel and Rescue Fundamentals (MTR-F) **OR**
Mountain Travel and Rescue Level 1 (MTR-1)

MTR-F: This class is for ski patrollers who seek awareness of and proficiency in skills needed to be assets in search-and-rescue (SAR) operations, especially those conducted in the winter or in mountainous terrain. This course covers basic techniques of wilderness navigation, mountain travel, and survival, including emergency shelters, fire, ICS, group dynamics, and SAR. MTR F does not include an overnight campout.

MTR-1: same as MTR-F, but MTR-1 adds an overnight camp to develop your ability to hunker down for the night with a patient.

Tuition is free, but you'll need to order two books costing around \$85. You will probably spend some additional money on equipment that you can also use in your recreational outdoor life. The MTR schedule is below.

Dates:

INDOOR sessions in Post Falls, 6 – 10 PM:

Monday March 7

Thurs March 10

Monday March 14

Thurs March 17

OUTDOOR weekend at Lookout Pass

March 19 – required for both MTR-F and MTR-1 students

March 20 – required for MTR-1 students, but not for MTR-F.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

Both MTR-F and MTR-1 require appropriate equipment to travel in the backcountry. Snowshoes or backcountry skis with skins will likely be needed depending on the snowpack during the outdoor session. We will be discussing clothing and equipment on the first day of class to give you plenty of time to buy or borrow what you'll need.

Sign up for **ONLY ONE** (or none) of these courses:

P009220001 – MTR-Fundamentals

P009220002 – MTR-1 Level 1

IER is getting many new improvements to their resorts, with chair lift improvements and snow making machines. 49N is getting a new main chair. Lookout pass is getting an update from a double chair to a triple chair. Lookout Pass is in the process of adding 640 acres and going to offer cat rides to Eagle Peak.

Looking for good snow in the future,

Dan Becker

IER RD

509 280 4009

NW REGION REPORT

By Michael James, NW Region Director

marinecare@msn.com

Patrollers,

We survived last year and now off to a new season with similar challenges! Sorry. We survived the most interesting season in a very long time, maybe ever. I am especially proud of all of you who, with your leadership, developed a plan and drove the ship home all the way to the end of the season. Now, let's do it again, now vaxed, and have the best season ever!

This past year we met at the Region level and the Division level monthly. This enabled us to maintain direct contact with each other and help out where ever we could, as a team. When one Patrol needed help or advice, we were all there right away to collaborate and facilitate a solution because we were all going through the same thing: How to operate Patrol functions in a safe way for all. All-in-all we made it happen as we always do when the most ideal conditions and best laid plans are tossed to the side and we start over. We plan on more of the same this season with modified safety structures in mind.

The Senior program: We anticipate a good-sized class in both OEC and OET. I am super proud of the new involvement we have in OEC and OET leadership; the year looks great. Senior is a stepping stone to your National Appointment, so don't delay. Come on out and have a good time, learn some new skills and gain some confidence. Oftentimes, the Senior program is a 2-year cycle so don't be shocked if you don't move on after the first year...be patient. Have fun.

This past year's safety program was amazing at all the Patrols in the Region. Exposures were kept to a minimum, plans were in place to deal with a possible exposure and as a result, I am super proud of you. Because of all the protocols put into place for Covid last year, this next season we will continue to focus on the health of our Patrols and our guests by establishing updated protocols to keep us all safe during mountain operations. This is ever-evolving! I am excited to see where the Division led Safety Program will take us this season and I will lead the way in our Region to keep our most valuable asset, the Patrollers, safe from the hazards we accept in our daily operations. This means Mask-Up and lead by example.

See you on the slopes!!

Ride Safe!

Michael James
NSP - NW Region
Director



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.

amazon

The graphic features the Amazon logo in the center, with a yellow arrow pointing from the 'a' to the 'z'. Below the logo is a decorative red ribbon with three red poinsettias and green holly leaves. The entire graphic is enclosed in a blue border and has small Christmas-themed icons in the top corners.

WY'EAST REGION REPORT

By Joel Stevens, Wy'East Region Director

Joel@SDELtd.com

The Wy'east Region Patrols have completed the OEC Refreshers and Chair Evac Refreshers for the 2021-22 season. None of the areas are open at this time, though they are still hopeful for the first weekend in December. Mother nature is not being very cooperative, mixing days of rain with the snow and washing away the snow pack.

Most, if not all, of the areas in Wy'east are requiring vaccinations for all Patrollers, both paid and volunteer. Nearly all of the patrollers are vaccinated at this point.

MHSP is planning on a full schedule of Avalanche and MTR Classes this year.

On September 19th, the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol had a celebration for our longest serving Patroller, Buzz Bowman. Buzz started Patrolling in 1946, 9 years after our founding in 1937, and was still active in the 2018-19 season. This year is the 75th anniversary of Buzz joining the MHSP. Buzz has served as President and Patrol Chief of the MHSP, as well as having many other leadership roles. He has led day to day operations, mentored many patrollers, and is respected by all. On September 19th, MHSP named our patrol Building, **The Buzz Bowman Mt. Hood Ski Patrol Center**. There is a new sign over the door, and a Bronze Plaque inside the building. Senator Wyden requested a Flag to fly over the US Capital in Honor of Buzz's service both to the Ski Patrol and also to His Country (Buzz was a Colonel in the US Army).

Mt Hood Patrollers from California, Washington and Oregon attended the Event.



WY' EAST REGION REPORT—continued

Buzz Bowman



Matthew Rea

OREGON REGION REPORT

By **Andy Bechdolt**, Oregon Region Director

fiver49@gmail.com

Greetings from the Oregon Region! It's been a very busy fall. OEC Refreshers – which turned out to be a special treat this year with the requirement to do double the skills. On-Hill refreshers are all but finished, candidate OEC classes are wrapping up, or have already been closed.

Now all we need is snow! Do your snow dances or sacrifice some skis to Ullr, or whatever you have to do to make the white stuff fall!

As you may very well have seen from various emails and social media posts, the NSP ballots recently closed. Not only were we voting for new National Board members, but there was a very significant By-Law change on the ballot this year. Those of you that have been around a while understand the significance of this.

The membership (YOU!) were voting whether or not to make our Mt. Hosts (and Bike Hosts) traditional members. What does this mean? Well, it means that it brings them under umbrella of traditional membership. It does not mean that they are patrollers. It does not mean that they will have to take and pass an OEC course (they will have to take and pass an Outdoor First Care course – a very very condensed first aid course). What it does do, is allow Mt. Hosts to VOTE in National Elections and receive expanded NSP membership benefits. Imagine a world where you were not allowed to vote because of the job that you do. It might be a stretch, but all that you have to do is look back in the history of this great country to see what that looks like. And you don't have to look very far back into history.

Within the NSP, the Mt. Host program has been in place since 2007. So, it's not a new program for NSP. While it might be a new program for your ski area, it's been around for quite a while. At my home mountain, we have had Mt. Hosts for several years. They play an integral role in our daily operations plan, they are a part of our training and they provide an amazing service to the customers (they also help Patrollers out a LOT). We've even recruited some former Hosts that are now Patrollers – we've also had some Patrollers that are now Hosts.

As I write this, NSP is carefully counting all of your ballots – with any luck we'll have the results very soon!

Andy Bechdolt
Oregon Region Director

AWARDS

By Peter Schwartz, Division Awards Advisor

peteskiis@aol.com

Please congratulate the patrollers listed below. The following awards were presented this past August at the 2021 PNWD Convention:

2021 PNWD Division Director's Outstanding Administrator Award

Kathy Lee – OEC Assistant OEC Supervisor - Mt. Hood Ski Patrol – WyEast Region

2021 PNWD Division Director's Distinguished Service Award

John Nelson – PNWD Legal Advisor – Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol - Inland Empire Region

2021 Angel Pin Award

Linda Hamilton (Wife of Dr. James Hamilton) – Mt. Hood Ski Patrol – WyEast Region

NSP Patroller Cross Awards

Joel Timmerman – Santiam Pass Ski Patrol – Oregon Region

Janna Allen – Payette Lakes Ski Patrol – Southern Idaho Region

Jordan Messner - Payette Lakes Ski Patrol – Southern Idaho Region

Leif Haslund – Hyak Ski Patrol – NW Region

Kari Sicheloff – White Pass Ski Patrol – NW Region

2021 PNWD Outstanding Awards

Young Adult Patroller – Molly Fuller – Bogus Basin Ski Patrol – Southern Idaho Region

Administrator – Anne Greenwood – PNWD Nor'Wester Editor, Santiam Pass - Oregon Region

Instructor – Todd Wendle – Lookout Pass Ski Patrol – Inland Empire Region

OEC Instructor – Sarah Newman – 49 Degrees North – Inland Empire Region

Patroller – Mary Lou Robinson – Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol – NW Region

Nordic Patroller – Steven Potter – Mt. Hood Ski Patrol – WyEast Region

Alpine Patroller – Becky Schoonmaker – Lookout Pass – Inland Empire Region

Patrol Director – Aaron Stavens – Summit West – NW Region

Large Alpine Ski Patrol – Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol – NW Region

NSP Leadership Commendation Appointment

Steven Potter – Mt. Hood Ski Patrol – WyEast Region

NSP National Appointment

Heather Van Houten – Mt. Hood Ski Patrol – WyEast Region

Andy Porter – Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol – Inland Empire Region

Kerry Metlen – Mt. Ashland Ski Patrol – Oregon Region

Andy Bechdolt – Willamette Pass Ski Patrol

2021 NSP Outstanding Awards

Young Adult Patroller – Devon Newman – 49 Degrees North – Silver Merit Star

Alumni – Joseph Calbreath – Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol – Gold Merit Star

Administrator – Richard Murphy – PNWD Webmaster - Summit Central – Yellow Merit Star

OEC Instructor – Patrick Arnold – Bogus Basin Ski Patrol – Yellow Merit Star

Instructor – Jack Ramsey – Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol – Gold Merit Star

Paid Patroller – Toji Sakamoto – Bogus Basin Ski Patrol – Yellow Merit Star

Patroller – Dennis Comfort – Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol – Yellow Merit Star

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AWARDS—continued

Alpine Patroller – Ian Doremus – Willamette Pass Ski Patrol – Silver Merit Star
Bike Patrol Director – Denny Burt – Lookout Pass/Hiawatha Trail – Yellow Merit Star
Patrol Director – Eric Ewing – Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol – Yellow Merit Star
Nordic Patroller – Matt Strauser – Santiam Pass Ski Patrol – Gold Merit Star
Paid Patrol Director – Albert (Doug) Volk – Mt. Ashland Ski Patrol – Silver Merit Star
Small Alpine Ski Patrol – Magic Mountain – Unit Citation
Large Alpine Ski Patrol – Hyak Ski Patrol – Unit Citation
Bike Patrol -- Lookout Pass/Hiawatha Trail – Gold Unit Citation
Nordic Patrol – Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol – Gold Unit Citation

Congratulations again to everyone listed above!!!



Peter Schwartz
presenting
awards at the
2021 PNWD
Convention in
Boise, ID

Photo by Jodie Jeffers



REGION DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS ARE HEREBY REQUESTED for NW, OR & WY

The schedule of elections in the PNWD is staggered so that only a portion of the PNWD Executive Board is replaced in any given year. In 2022 elections for **Region Director will be held in Northwest & Oregon & Wy'East**. Any registered patroller in good standing may submit nominations for their respective region; an eligible candidate may also announce his or her own candidacy.

A nomination or announcement of candidacy must be accompanied by a one-page resume of the candidate's membership in NSP which demonstrates the candidate's eligibility for office and may be accompanied by a one-page statement of the candidate's platform. **A nomination must be accompanied by a written acceptance of the nomination signed by the Nominee.**

A summary of Eligibility Requirements for Region Director (PNWD Policies and Procedures 2.1.2.1)

Must be registered NSP primary member with a patrol registered within the region and PNW Division

Must have been a registered member of the NSP within said region for at least five years

Must have held a leadership NSP patrol office or served as a region, division, or national advisory committee chairperson for at least two years

Must be familiar with national policies and procedures as defined in the current NSP Policies and Procedures manual

Must be familiar with division and region policies and procedures as applicable

See Region Director Qualifications P&P 2.1.2.1 for further recommended requirements.

Newly elected Region Directors are expected to attend the PNWD Annual Spring Board Meeting. This will be held on the last Saturday in April in Molalla, Oregon.

The Region Director for each region shall be elected by a majority vote of the Patrol Directors/Unit Representatives or other authorized representative of each patrol within the Region who are in good standing. Each patrol within the region is entitled to one vote.

ELECTION TIMETABLE

February 15th, 2020 Receipt of all nominations for Region Director by election coordinator.

Mail or in-person to: Shirley Cummings
PNW Division Election Coordinator
3005 Webster Point Road NE
Seattle, WA 98105

E-Mail: shirleycu@msn.com

February 20th, 2020 Confirmation of eligible candidates by election coordinator with Division Director

February 23rd, 2020 Candidates informed of eligibility

March 15, 2020 Election ballots sent out via email

March 31, 202 All ballots must be received by Election Coordinator

Ballots may be returned in person, by mail or by e-mail

April 03, 2020 Election results announced.

A sole nominee will automatically be elected

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**NOMINATIONS ARE HEREBY REQUESTED
FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVISION DIRECTOR**

Nomination deadline is January 28, 2022

Eligible candidates for the office of **DIVISION DIRECTOR** may be nominated by any active member in good standing. Nominations need not be seconded. Further, any eligible candidate may announce his/her own candidacy. All individuals interested in running for the Division Director position must be registered and in good standing with the PNWD prior to being nominated.

Qualifications (NSP P&P 2.2.4.1)

- Must be a registered NSP member for at least five years
- Must be registered in the division
- Must have served in a leadership position in NSP
- Must be familiar with national policies and procedures as defined in the current NSP Policies and Procedures manual
- Must be familiar with the division's policies and procedures, as applicable
- May serve for no more than two consecutive three-year terms (PNWD By-Laws Article IV 4.2).

The following are suggested minimum recommended (not mandatory) eligibility requirements for Division Director (NSP P&P 2.2.4.2)

- Should be currently registered as a Senior Patroller or Certified volunteer patroller
- Should have logged at least 80 days of active patrolling (excluding refreshers, tests, etc.), with one third of these days at a ski area(s) in the division
- Should have experience working with management at a ski area in the Division
- Should have the endorsement of an area management representative in the Division
- Should have participated in national-level activities.

Pacific Northwest Division Policy and Procedures: “.....A candidate shall submit a one-page resume of the candidate’s membership in NSP, which demonstrates the candidate’s eligibility for the office and may be accompanied by a one-page statement of the candidates’ platform. **A nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of the nomination signed by the nominee.**”

The Division Director shall be elected by a vote of the ballots cast for the Division Director. The eligible voters are the members of the PNWD Board, that being the Region Directors and the Patrol Directors/Unit Representative that are in good standing.

Election Time Line

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| January 15, 2022 | Nominations are open |
| January 28, 2022 | Nominations are closed and due to the Election Coordinator |
| February 20, 2022 | Announcement of eligible (and ineligible) nominees/announcements; If need be, there is an appeal process for nominees deemed ineligible, see PNW P&P 2.1.1.1 Election Procedures. |
| March 15, 2016 | Ballots will be emailed to voting members |
| March 31, 2016 | Ballots due back to the Election Coordinator (the “Election Date”) |
| April 3, 2016 | Announcement of election results |

The Election Coordinator must receive nominations no later than January 28, 2022.

The Election Coordinator must receive ballots no later than March 31, 2016.

(continued p.?)

PNWD ELECTIONS—continued

Nominations and ballots may be returned in person, by mail, or email to Shirley Cummings:

By E-mail: shirleycu@msn.com

By mail or in person: Shirley Cummings. 3005 Webster Point Road. NE, Seattle, WA 98105

If there is only one candidate, that nominee will be deemed elected by acclamation.

In case of a tie, the election results shall be determined by a drawing of the name by the Election Coordinator at the Spring Board Meeting as the first order of business.

The newly elected Division Director will be expected to attend the PNWD Meeting the last Saturday in April of 2022.

Shirley Cummings

PNWD Elections Coordinator

SKI FLIGHT

By Sally Seelye,

sallyseelye@gmail.com



Ski Switzerland!

Zermatt, Switzerland & Interlaken, Switzerland

February 4th—15th, 2022

Ski Flight 2022 is **SOLD OUT!**

That being said, all efforts will gladly be made to procure space (space is hotel dependent and not within our control, unfortunately) for you and your favorite ski buddies if you were delayed in signing up

*Hotel, ski resort, and additional information can be found at: <http://bit.ly/SkiFlight>.

Sally Seelye, Ski Flight
sallyseelye@gmail.com
253-468-0725

Monica Voltz, Snow Tours
monicavoltz@yahoo.com
509-936-0157, or 800-222-1170, ext. 221

**Please note all payments and registration are to be made out to—and go to—Snow Tours.

With 2022 sold out, it is now time to start planning for the 2023 trip—location to be announced in the next Nor'Wester.

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

By Sally Seelye, Womens Program Advisor

sallyseelye@gmail.com



The Women's Program PNWD is thrilled to announce the following team member additions:

- Britt Bachtel-Browning—Inland Empire Regional Advisor
- Michelle Taft—Northwest Regional Advisor
- Heather Van Houten—Wy'East Regional Advisor

These ladies deserve a huge **Thank You** as they have already added immense value along with momentum to the program.

Upcoming Event Information:

- Wy'East Region (open to the Division)

Saturday, March 5th = Come celebrate International Women's Day with the opportunity to enhance your toboggan and ski skills. Whether you're wanting to improve a specific skill or you're wanting to get out and experience the power of networking with other women patrollers like yourself, this is always a fantastic event with great leaders who're willing to share.

Contact me, Sally Seelye, at sallyseelye@gmail.com or 253-468-0725 to be placed on the list of participants and receive updates for this event as they come available.

- Several other events are still in the earlier planning stages, and not quite yet ready for publication.

The Women's Program at the national level is spending the two days prior to Powderfall in face-to-face meetings. During this time we will be revamping the current NSP Women's Program mission statement, making changes to the event toolkit, and evaluating other ways to change/improve the program—among other topics.

As our season progresses, please use #NSPWomen on your social media to share your amazing photos with other patrollers across the nation.

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

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT REPORT

By Kathy Alexander, ID Advisor

katalexander911@mail.com

Happy Ski Season:

Thanks for all your help & support of the ID program this past year. I look forward to a new snow season as I continue to work with you.

The ZOOM meetings and the Face-to-Face sessions were very professional & informative in '20-21' and I hope I can be of help during '21-22'.

Please continue to include me in the emails for registering & closing your courses.

Stay well...stay safe...and maybe someday soon I can travel & visit courses.

Kathy Alexander
PNWD ID Advisor

BIKE REPORT

By Denny Burt,, Bike Advisor

Denny-HiawathaPatrol@tds.net

Stay tuned until early Spring for exciting Bike Patrol News and Updates!

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

PNWD MEDICAL ADVISOR REPORT

By James Hamilton, Medical Advisor

jhamilton0231@comcast.net

Time to Get Ready for a New Season!

James J. Hamilton M.D.
PNWD Medical Advisor

It is that time of year again when we are looking forward to a new season of skiing and winter sports. Unfortunately for many of us, the COVID pandemic has decreased our summer activity levels, resulting in losing our physical conditioning. So, let's look at what we need to be doing to prepare for an enjoyable ski season.

Conditioning.

You would be wise to start a muscle condition/exercise program to get your legs and lungs back into shape. Exercises such as lengthy runs, deep knee bends, lunges, leg lifts and push-ups are all good starters. Start slow and work up to more intense and longer exercise sessions. You should start this program right away to give yourself as much time to get into condition. It is embarrassing to see a person in a ski patrol jacket being take off the hill in a toboggan!

Complete your COVID Vaccination series, including the booster.

If you want to patrol this season, many areas and municipalities/states are mandating vaccinations for health care workers – which includes ski patrollers. You also want to do this to help prevent your bringing this infection home to your family because you assisted an injured infected person. Literally hundreds of millions of doses of these vaccines have been administered with remarkably few adverse events. Your chance of having a significant health problem is higher from catching COVID than from receiving the COVID Vaccine.

Be aware of the risk COVID is to your children.

With the start of the school year, we are seeing many cases of children bringing this infection home. In general, children seem to have a less severe illness when infected, but at present 25% of hospitalized COVID patients are children! Fortunately, we have now received approval to vaccinate children 5 years old and older. Again, we are not seeing any significant problems with children receiving this vaccine. If you have children in school, now is the time to get them vaccinated.

Recognize that it is highly likely we will see another resurgence of infection in coming months.

While countries with low vaccination rates are experiencing extremely high rates of infection (Romania with only 33% of its population vaccinated), even countries with a good history of addressing this pandemic, such as England, are beginning to also see a very significant rise in cases. These trends make it likely that eventually we will see another significant variant. In spite of falling case rates in the US, you cannot become lax in your personal safety practices of hand washing, social distancing and mask wearing.

Hopefully with the steps outlined above, you can have a safe and enjoyable ski season this year!

Stay Safe and Healthy!

James Hamilton, M.D.
PNWD Medical Advisor

OEC REPORT

By Karen Jensen, OEC Supervisor

karenannjensen@icloud.com

OEC Advisor Report December 2021

Refresher season is winding down across the Division with ski season right around the corner.

If you are an OEC technician, make sure that you registered in a course and received credit for it after completing all necessary requirements. I encourage everyone to check their profile on the national website at least yearly to assure they have received the appropriate credit and to review and update their contact information.

If you are the IOR for the refresher, make sure that all the patrollers who attended the course are signed up for it. After the refreshers are completed, **please make sure that the course is closed on the national website including changing the end date to the last date of your refresher!** There are multiple courses registered with dates extending into the spring, if the end date is not put in properly, your patrol risks having patrollers that are out of compliance.

Stay tuned for more on the new LMS (Learning Management System) over the upcoming months – it will streamline some of the processes of record keeping.

OEC courses continue to be going strong at various stages in progress across the division. Several things to keep in mind:

All courses need to be taught with 6th edition materials.

Remember to submit the \$10 per student fee to the division for instructor Continuing Education; this includes all the students who enrolled in the course. There has been some confusion on how to do this - Please fill out the appropriate form from the division website (if you are unsure of where to find this, I or your region administrator would be happy to help). **The form and the monies need to be submitted to the division controller/treasurer together.** Currently, this is Walt Seidel and contact information can be located on the division website.

Plans are in the works for an all-division instructor continuing education clinic in the spring of 2022. Stay tuned this winter for further details. There may also be some region-specific ICE courses via Zoom over the upcoming months. This will allow me to get to know more of the division's instructors and make sure that everyone is up to date on administrative processes. The expectation moving forward will be that to be signed off as an instructor, an individual will need to have all the knowledge of an Instructor of Record.

Congratulations to the division's newest OEC instructors: David Deveau, Theolene Bakken, Devon Newman, Gary Tubbs, Drew Mahan, Nick Fabbiano, and John Howard.

I wish you all a happy Holiday season and an early and fun-filled ski season.

Karen

PNWD REGISTRAR REPORT

By Blaine Price, Registrar

bcprice58@msn.com

It is now Nov 28th, and as of this date records show 25 out of 43 PNWD patrols have 'Notified' their roster to NSP, enabling their members to go in and pay their \$60.00 national dues. Hopefully, the rest will be "Notified" within the coming week.

By this time, PD/PRs should have completed making any 'Adds' or 'Removals' to their roster in their PD/PR access to 'Roster Management Home/Roster Management/Roster Reports & Manage Rosters' on line. And, should have completed, or nearly so, collection of Region and Division dues of the patrols members.

By the time this Nor'Wester is published, hopefully all patrols will have completed their registration process.

Remember, a PNW Division late fee of \$5.00 is payable per member for any submissions to me after December 31st. And, a National Late Fee of \$10.00 is assessed for anyone not paying National dues prior to Feb. 1st.

A dues submission for Region and Division requires two checks, one to Region and one to Division, along with completion of the 'PNWD Registration Reconciliation' Form specific to your Region supplied to PD/PRs and Registration Reps earlier. Plus, I need an alphabetical Roster with Name, ID#, Member Type and Billing Code from you of those being submitted. This information is necessary for me to audit your submission before sending checks on to the Region and Division treasurers.

PDs should note if they have 'Notified National' and haven't seen their personal 'Pay Dues' button activated within 2 to 3 business days after 'Notifying National' they likely didn't check the little box next to the 'Notify National' button. If so, go back and do again with the little box checked.

PDs should also note that the PNW Division Treasurer is now Walter Seidel, 5211 W Staley, Deer Park, WA 99006. Remit to Walt PNWD OEC Fund fee checks from IORs for OEC class students, and contact him if there are questions about PNWD and patrol tax status or filings as a 501c3 entity.

Again, if you have any problems or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. We will solve your problem.

Blaine Price, PNWD Registrar
206-954-4909
bcprice58@msn.com



NORDIC PROGRAM REPORT

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

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Nor'Wester Notes from the Backcountry December 2021

Division Advisor – Eric Geisler – ericSgeisler@yahoo.com

Assistant Advisor - Matt Strauser - syntereo@gmail.com

The Nordic/Backcountry (N/BC) program in the Pacific Northwest Division has an exciting season ahead. Southern Idaho Region has filled the N/BC Program Advisor slot with Eugene Smith from Payette Lakes Ski Patrol and he will be mentored from the Division. Oregon Region is still in need of a Region Advisor so please consider stepping in. There is a mentor available within the Oregon Region.

First, we welcome a new N/BC patrol in McCall Idaho as the Payette Lakes Patrol is expanding to cover the Bear Basin Nordic area. They will have their initial training on Dec 4-5 at Bear Basin, just out of McCall in conjunction with the N/BC cycle B refresher for 705 Backcountry Patrol. Anyone else interested in attending should contact Eric Geisler (509-220-4712).

There are two N/BC clinics planned for 2022. Each N/BC Clinic will offer a Senior Student Training Clinic on Saturday and a Nordic Ski Enhancement Clinic on Sunday. While the courses are registered as senior clinics, they are open to all patrollers who are interested in the N/BC program. The January 8-9 clinic will be held at Magic Mountain, south of Twin Falls, Idaho, beginning at 9:00 AM each day at the day lodge. This will be a joint clinic with the Intermountain Division. Sunday morning will be a discussion with the Magic Mountain Ski Patrol to determine how the N/BC program could be implemented at their area (could this be of interest to other areas also?). The March 5-6 program will be hosted by Mt. Rainier Nordic Patrol and will begin at 8:00 in the Longmire Community Hall. Those interested in Nordic Senior Test this year should plan to attend at least one of these clinics. Please contact Eric Geisler (509-220-4712) if you are from outside of the host area and are interested in attending any of these training opportunities. Courses will be posted on the NSP website by December.

The PNWD N/BC program will be hosting a Nordic Senior Evaluation this spring jointly with the Intermountain Division. This evaluation will be held in conjunction with a Level 1 Mountain Travel and Rescue class. The venue will be at Bear Basin in McCall, Idaho on March 26-27, 2022. Those interested in participating should complete the Nordic Senior Application (NSP.org website under the member-programs-senior tab) and get their patrol director's approval. The N/BC Senior program may be found on the NSP.org website under the member-programs-Nordic/Backcountry tab, as the March 2016 Beta Version. The N/BC portion may be taken either before or after the OEC Senior evaluation. Interested patrollers need to contact Eric Geisler to confirm their participation.

At the National level, the N/BC program is continuing to work on revising the 1998 Nordic Manual to update some of the information and to show how the Nordic and Backcountry program can be separated or combined to serve the needs of the various venues NSP serves throughout the country.

There will be a final evaluation for those in the Nordic Master's program on April 4, 5, 6 at Breckenridge, just prior to PowderFall. Experienced Senior N/BC patrollers are encouraged to participate in this evaluation as it may be several years before there is another opportunity. The information and forms are found on the NSP- programs- N/BC website. Completed applications should be reviewed by Eric before going to the National N/BC Master's coordinator, Rick Shandler. Application should to be submitted by January 1.

Have a safe winter and contact Eric or Matt if you have any needs in your Region.



Alumni Frequently Asked Questions

Tim Viall

National Ski Patrol Alumni Advisor

E-mail: alumni@nsperves.org

As the NSP National Alumni Advisor, I am charged to educate and recruit alumni. This also means educating the area patrol directors, region, and division administrators on the roll or the potential roll of the NSP alumni. The alumni roll is diversified and not easily compartmentalized. This program should be dynamic and allow each person to design their program, as well as fulfill the needs within the area.

Finally, I am a proponent of the theory that “the squeaky wheel gets the grease”; if you seek to continue to be active with your patrol (or region or division), either as an interested, active party or as an active, involved alumni with patrol (or region or division) responsibilities, make sure you let the patrol representative/director and/or region or division director know your interest.

1. Question: Who is eligible?

Answer: Alumni membership is available to anyone who has been registered with the NSP as an active patroller for a minimum of one season. This does not include the candidate season. There is no time limit to make the decision to go from active patroller to an alumni member.

2. Question: What is an alumni?

Answer: Alumni is a special NSP registration category for people who no longer want to provide emergency care or rescue services, but wish to be involved with the National Ski Patrol. NSP created the alumni category in 1977. Currently, there over 4,500 alumni members of the NSP.

3. Question: What is the cost to be an alumni?

Answer: Alumni dues are \$35 annually. Active NSP patrollers who are lifetime members automatically retain their lifetime status after becoming alumni members. New and continuing alumni members who wish to become lifetime alumni members can do so for a one-time fee that helps support the NSP Endowment Fund. Alumni members with 50 years of continuous service are eligible for a free lifetime membership. This must be verified with the national office.

4. Question: Why should I become an alumni?

Answer: As Alumni, you can maintain your involvement with the NSP after you have hung up your skis. You will not be required to maintain skill or educational requirements, but you can maintain your status as an instructor, and also become a valued part of ski area and patrol operations.

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ALUMNI ADVISOR REPORT—continued

Alumni receive a subscription to *Ski Patrol Magazine*, access to the member side of the NSP website, can shop the *NSP Fall Ski Patrol Catalog* and *NSP Summer Ski Patrol Catalog*, participate in NSP-sponsored events, can be listed on the secondary roster of their home patrol with area's permission, vote in NSP Board elections, and even have their dues be tax deductible.

5. Question: How do I become an alumni?

Answer: Fill out the "Become an Alumni Member" on the alumni page of the member website and send it in with your membership dues.

6. Question: Upon receiving my initial alumni registration card, I noticed that all my previous accomplishments are no longer shown.

Answer: Alumni cards do not show your information at this time. However, you still have everything listed online. Go to your printer friendly profile to view.

7. Question: The alumni membership card indicates continuous years of membership. If this adds both active and alumni years (e.g. 40 + 5), would the alumni have 45 cumulative years of service and therefore qualify for a 45-year service award? Does the same thought hold true for cumulative years of service as an instructor?

Answer: NSP does not track instructor years of service. You may want to check with your region or division for that information. You may recall that as an instructor, you have certain obligations to fulfill. The person you had to hand in your instructor information to should be the one who tracks years of service for that discipline. Your years of NSP membership will be combined.

8. Question: If an alumni is currently an instructor that requires him/her to perform on-hill instruction at various ski areas (i.e. Toboggan Instructor, Senior OET TE, Toboggan IT, etc.), can that/those instructorships also be retained? Keep in mind that Toboggan instructors routinely train candidates and "local" patrollers at their home areas, and the season-long training/recertification is not necessarily part of a registered NSP course such as a Toboggan Enhancement course or a Senior OET clinic.

Answer: If you continue to keep up the requirements to retain your instructorship(s) with NSP and the local area wants you instruct, there is no reason why you can't. An alumni membership does not limit what you can do with the local area's permission. Again, your local patrol and area management are the deciding factor here on what you can and can't do.

9. Question: What are the limitations regarding the types and levels of instructors, ITs, TEs, which an alumni member can become or retain?

Answer: I don't believe that NSP has limitations. You are welcome to attend NSP classes and other NSP functions as a member of the National Ski Patrol. You paid dues to do so. Any limitations, I believe, may come from your patrol or the patrol hosting the functions. Sometimes there are limits on the number of participants, etc.

10. Question: The *NSP Policies and Procedures* states that alumni are authorized to wear sweater pin #126; it does not state the authorization of National Appointment Alumni to wear pin #136. Was this an oversight?

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ALUMNI ADVISOR REPORT—continued

Answer: Changing your status to alumni membership does not remove any of your NSP accomplishments. Please see section 5.7.4.5 of the *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.

11. Question: The *NSP Policies and Procedures* states that alumni are not authorized to wear the official NSP uniform. Am I correct to assume that the term UNIFORM means duty parka/vest (whether it is the NSP -approved red in its various iterations, or whatever style/color a particular ski area/patrol has authorized), and an approved aid belt or pack? If this is correct, I must also assume that the term UNIFORM does not apply to other items which may carry the NSP logo, such as sweaters, turtlenecks, gloves, caps and hats, luggage, decals, sunglasses, and any of a number of miscellaneous items found in the NSP catalog. May the alumni member in fact wear/use those types of items?

Answer: Alumni may not wear the "official NSP uniform" that your area uses to designate an active patroller. Any costume or form of dress that may confuse the public and make them think you are an active patroller is not allowed. As far as the NSP shield on miscellaneous items goes, yes you may wear that as a National Ski Patrol member.

12. Question: A number of NSP-registered events that require on-hill participation (e.g. Toboggan Enhancement Clinic) mandate that both participants and instructors wear their patrol parkas and packs. This is for two reasons: a) running inside the handles of a toboggan with a bulky pack or belt adds more reality to the actual discipline; and b) wearing the patrol parka is often a method used to get a patroller on the hill for the clinic without the necessity of buying a lift ticket and having to go through the lift line. Any thoughts on how an alumni member can overcome this potential obstacle (i.e. wearing an alumni chest patch)?

Answer: Check with your area and patrol to find out if there might be an alternate jacket color for alumni members (perhaps black or yellow if you area wears black to patrol then red) with an alumni patch. Some mountains have Mountain Hosts, greeters, and basic patrollers that have a different color jacket and appropriate designations that make them identifiable and invaluable. Instead of the NSP, they can wear the logo for the mountain and the alumni patch. I suggest you discuss these possibilities with the appropriate person for your area.

13. Question: I have heard talk of the possibility of allowing alumni to maintain their registration with their former patrol. Personally, I like the idea. However, please be aware that some areas limit the number of members of their patrol. I doubt that they would prefer to use an available opening for an alumnus rather than for an active patroller. Are alternatives/options being addressed?

Answer: As an alumni member, you are not registered on the patrol roster as an active patroller and should not be included in the number of active NSP patrollers for the area. If you are interested in staying connected with your former patrol, this must be approved by the area and your patrol representative/director. He/she then registers you on their patrol electronically as an alumni on their secondary roster. Your primary and secondary registrations are as an alumni member. There are no additional NSP dues for a secondary registration. NSP alumni dues are **\$35, of which \$10 is sent back to your division**. There may be additional dues required within your region or division.

By joining as an NSP alumni member, you are certifying that you are not an active patroller with any NSP affiliated patrol.

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Question: How do I get added as a secondary to my patrol being an alumni?

Answer: You must first satisfy the requirement of being a patroller for a least one year. Then, you must be registered as alumni and have paid your \$35 to NSP. At that time, you may request to be added to the secondary roster. Only after the permission of the area and your patrol representative/director will you be added per registration directions listed online.

Comment/Question: Although this is my first season registered as alumni, I have been active with my patrol, my region, and my division for quite a few years. I have noticed that many retiring patrollers initially register as alumni. However, most (not all) have little to do, other than to attend “Alumni Days” at the various areas (usually held on weekdays when those who are retired or have extra time can attend). Few, if any, advisers, staff members, etc. seem to think of, or ask to utilize, the alumni’s knowledge, skills, and experience in their programs. Many do not even know that this type of assistance is available to them. Alumni are more often than not just "put out to pasture" like old thoroughbreds, once-great patrollers who aren't really thought about much anymore. You know — out of sight, out of mind. I haven't seen any methods developed to keep the names and expertise of these alumni exposed. Hopefully this can and will change.

Answer: NSP is aware of the value of these patrollers and has reinvested in the development of a program to educate and inform both the patroller and the patrols of how to utilize our members through the Alumni Program.

REMEMBER...Be sure to let your patroller friends know they can **ALWAYS** rejoin the National Ski Patrol as an Alumni and enjoy the benefits even if they have **NOT** been a member for several years! Contact me for more information.

Alumni Opportunities – And a good time!

Get your friends together and come join us- **All** NSP Members are included.

NSP Alumni Celebration Week at Whitefish Mountain, Whitefish, Montana, February 27-March 5, 2022



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ALUMNI ADVISOR REPORT—continued

Whitefish Mountain (formerly Big Mountain) is consistently rated in the top 30 US ski resorts, offering 3,000 skiable acres, almost 2,400 vertical, 11 chairlifts and presents an incredible skiing/snowboarding experience (see: skiwhitefish.com). In 2020, \$25 lift tickets for “super seniors” (age 70 & up) and robust discounts to seniors age 64 & up (hence, many alumni/spouses ski inexpensively) & attractive pricing for younger skiers.

Accommodations: Most attendees are stay at nearby highly-rated Grouse Mountain Lodge (glacierparkcollection.com), just minutes from the mountain, with free shuttle to the mountain, or to/from airport, **lovely rooms, double occupancy; just \$79/night**. To book, call the Lodge, 406-892-2525 or email to: glacierpark@pursuitcollection.com. Start on Sunday, Feb. 27, and stay for four days or the entire week. ID yourself as “**National Ski Patrol Alumni**”; also notify Tim, at tviall@msn.com of your arrival date.

You are invited to join fellow NSP Alumni, NSP members, family and friends for activities and fun...

Special nights out at local restaurants: 6:30 PM, for Latitude 48 on Monday;

Tuesday, Whitefish Lake Restaurant (our standard Tuesday choice);

Wednesday, Abruzzo Italian Kitchen. Thursday TBD.

Optional tour into **Glacier National Park** (no charge),

Horse-drawn sleigh rides (additional fee) or Dog Sled Adventures (additional fee) in nearby Montana State Forests.

Breakfasts most mornings: At Grouse Mountain Lodge, join your old and new NSP friends at 7 AM (so you can catch the 8:30 AM bus to the ski area)!

Hospitality Room at the Lodge: Tim Viall will host a hospitality room at Grouse Mountain Lodge, from 5-6:15 PM each evening – tviall@msn.com for the suite number (bring a snack to share and your own drinks).

Cross country skiing: The Lodge is adjacent to a nice cross-country ski course, with night lighting! We'll also arrange an XC outing in nearby Glacier National Park during the week.

“Old Knees Clinic(s)”: The Northern Division Alumni Advisor will offer a no-cost “Old Knees Clinics” during the week, so you can sharpen your ski skills on those well-worn knees and legs!

If interested, let Tim know for more detail. Shopping in downtown Whitefish: Plenty of time to shop each day; we'll organize car pools or use the hotel shuttle for those interested.

Air service: Kalispell Regional Airport has major carriers, and a shuttle from/to the hotel is available.

Advise National Alumni Advisor Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com, (209) 969-3875 of your planned arrival date, your old patrol/division, phone number and email; Tim will send you additional detail about optional tours and other planned week-long activities. Questions, contact Tim!



AVALANCHE REPORT

By Brad Acker, Avalanche Advisor

ackerbrad@hotmail.com

Well it's that time of year again. Put away the lawn mower, call the neighbor kid about shoveling the sidewalk, you have no time for that, it's almost ski season. But wait, before ski season is SAW season. Snow and Avalanche Workshops (SAW) are sponsored mostly by local avalanche centers or the "friends of" organizations which many of the bigger centers have. I'm sorry to say you missed them live, but many will be recorded so you should be able to watch them. The good part about that is you can ask your friends who were on the ball, which workshops were the best or what presentations they got the most out of. So get your fingers over to the events page for the American Avalanche Association or your favorite Forest Service Avalanche Center and try to find a recording. If you have trouble with the internet, just ask your kid, niece, or anyone currently making a TicTok video. The main point being it's time to get the avalanche eyeballs calibrated and the brain thinking about snow safety again.

I also know that you forgot to remove the batteries from your transceiver last season. So get them out, hope one did not blow up, and call a friend for beacon practice. A park with a good layer of leaves is a great location for beacon drills. It's a lot harder to cheat practicing in leaves vs. an untracked snow field! In addition, when the parking lot snow banks build up, make sure to do some shoveling and probing practice. Shoveling is often the most time consuming part of a rescue, so make sure to practice shoveling, it is often overlooked. I will share with you the technique I use when doing drills in parking lot snow banks. Start with shoveling. Put your probe in 1.5 meters which is the average depth of a North American avalanche burial. Have the team dig to the probe tip using conveyer shoveling techniques. Once you have this big hole, dig a small shelf in the side and place your probing target and beacon. You can now have the team approach from the other side to practice beacon pinpointing and probing.

Moving on, you may not be aware that the avalanche program has senior electives. I'm told some people did not want to sit in on a 24 hour class, climb a thousand vertical feet, and look at snow crystals in a freezing pit. Not sure why, but anyway the NSP has two possible senior electives. The first one is very flexible on the content. It could be a refresher for some and senior elective for others. The other option is a companion rescue class, which is basically all the companion rescue content from the Level 1 class. This class is only taught as a senior elective and not to the general public. The logic being that for the general public, rescue should not be taught without all the info about how not to get yourself in that situation. So, I know this was a bit vague, but if these classes sound like something your patrol can use, talk to one of your avalanche instructors or regional advisor.

Now onto my soap box! Words are very important. How we use them, what words we use or not use, and not correcting others if they use the wrong or inappropriate words in a situation, are all very important, even critical. I would love to have ten people in a room, have them read this first sentence and then ask them what I might be talking about next. So, without peeking, where do you think I'm going with this one? OK, long enough. The word I would like to strike from your ski area and the word which also could make for good teaching points directed to the person using it is... sidecountry. There is no such place as sidecountry. There is only the ski area and the backcountry. Allowing others to use this word can only further the misperception that it is safe if I can still see the boundary rope, or it is safe if there are tracks on the slope, or it is safe if I did it yesterday and I did not die, or it is safe if the ski area has a gate. Would you like me to go on? Just try me sometime. People often do, and I get on my soap box quicker than you can say "sastrugi". Actually, it can be kind of fun, so try it next time you hear someone use this nonsense of a word. So where is this side country you speak of? When does this sidecountry turn into backcountry? In what avalanche class did you learn about this great place? This last question is one I'm going to want to know the answer to, so please let me know. And it better not be an NSP class.

OUTDOOR RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

By Joe Ferraro, ORM Advisor

skygod01@live.com

A new NSP program called Outdoor Risk Management (ORM) is currently under development.

Program Goal: To create a program that introduces patrollers to outdoor risk management concepts that pertain to ski, snowboard, and bike areas, parks, and resorts.

Platform: online

Modules:

- General Concepts
- Ethic, Legal, Regulatory
- NSAA/NSP Joint Statement of Understanding
- Standards and Regulations
- US Forest Service
- Generally Accepted Industry Practices and Principles
- Internal Operating Plans
- Compliance and Consistency
- Personal Risk Management
- Safety Education Programs
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Snowmobile / Other Vehicle Operations
- Other Departments
- Incident Investigation
- Signage and Fencing

Each Module Includes:

- Introduction
- Key Terms
- Objectives
- Content
- Quiz
- Scenario / Real World Applications

Committee: Well versed risk management Representatives from across the country, are working on the program development.

Committee Chair: Mark Petrozzi mark@alpenrisk.com

PNWD ORM Advisor: Joseph Ferraro skygod01@live.com

Pacific Northwest Division Patroller Input: We are currently looking for more content, pictures, video, or diagrams. Please forward to share with the committee, contact:

Joseph Ferraro skygod01@live.com

In the Standards and Regulations Module, ANSI B77.1 is covered in-depth.

The following is the forward American National Standard ANSI B77.1-2017:

- This standard deals with passenger transportation systems that use cables, ropes, or other flexible elements for power transmission in the system. These systems include aerial tramways, detachable and fixed grip aerial lifts, surface lifts, tows, and conveyors.
- This standard is a revision of American National Standard for Passenger Ropeways - Aerial Tramways Aerial Lifts, Surface Lifts, Tows and Conveyors - Safety requirements.

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OUTDOOR RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT—continued

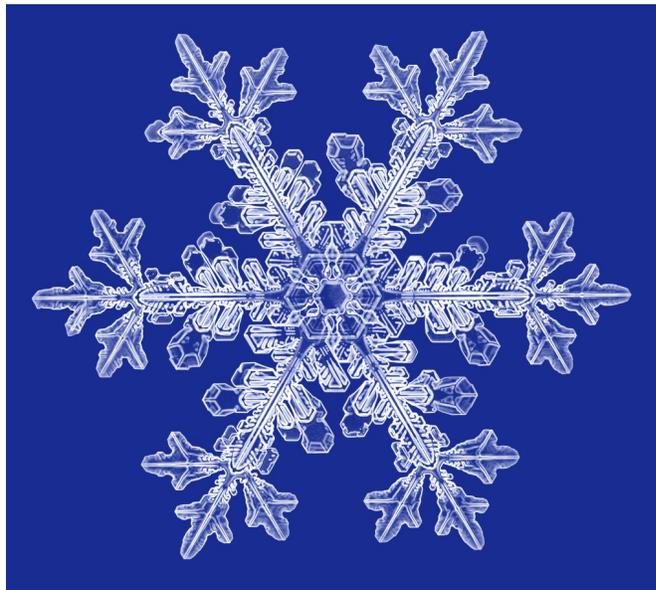
The B77 standard had its inception in 1956. At that time, the industry dealings with recreational passenger transportation had reached such proportions that safeguards were required for the protection of the public and progress of the industry. At the request of the Eastern Ski Area Operators Association, one of the original sponsors of the project, a general conference was held in New York City. As a result of that conference, the American National Standards Committee B77, composed of operators, users, authorities having jurisdiction, designers, and manufacturers of aerial passenger tramways, was established to develop safety requirements. The first standard was approved by ANSI on June 8, 1960, and revisions were developed and approved in 1970, 1973, 1976, 1982, 1990, 1992, 1999, 2006, and 2011.

Because of the diverse nature of the industries that may use this standard, it is recommended that authorities having jurisdiction consider an effective date of one year from the approval date of the standard. The “effective date” of this standard is a criterion selected by the committee and not by the American National Standards Institute.

Suggestions for the improvement of this standard will be welcome. They should be sent to the ASC B77, c/o National Ski Areas Association, 133 South Van Gordon Street, Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80228 or e-mailed to ascb77@nsaa.org.

This standard was approved for submittal to ANSI by the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) B77 on Aerial Passenger Ropeways.

Joseph Ferraro
PNWD ORM Advisor



OET/TRANSPORTATION REPORT

By Jack Ramsey, Transportation Advisor

ramco@localaccess.com

Now that we have those pesky OEC Refreshers out of the way, it's time to think about those pesky Toboggan Refreshers. I know it feels like we just finish one order of business and its time for four more. Well guess what, you are absolutely almost correct.

Yes, we need to get TREF Courses registered and everyone signed up. The good news is the course content is flexible as long as it meets the standards of your local area management. There are some areas that use the TREF as a means to check on the skills of everyone on the patrol. Those who are identified as in need some polish are scheduled for an appropriate clinic. There are others that use the TREF as a full day clinic to review and work on every aspect of running toboggans at their area. Most TREF clinics are somewhere in between.

Yes, we do need to start and/or continue recruiting Senior Candidates. Applications for Seniors are due January 1, 2022. That will sneak up before we know it and it should not be taken lightly. It is a huge commitment of time and energy, but a challenge well worth accepting. When you complete OET Seniors you may never ski better and you will never run toboggans better. Guaranteed or double no money back.

Yes, at some areas the new candidate classes need to be toboggan trained. There is a course for that and it too should be registered at National. Registering courses with NSP is important. It gives everyone who registered and completed the course credit on their NSP profile. Registration also shows we have gone through the necessary steps to provide quality instruction as per NSP Guidelines. We all know the importance of CYA (Cover Your Assets) in this litigious society we live in today.

Yes, we need to get our Instructor Continuing Education courses registered and finished by the end of the year. WRONG! National has seen fit to change the due date for instructor Re-certifications to April 30, 2022. All the rules remain the same, but the due date has been moved. This should be a big help in clearing the backlog of overdue re-certs from the last 2 seasons. So, if you are an instructor, check your profile for your last ICE- OET, Instructor Skills Review CE, or the Instructor Observation. They are all required every three years.

I do hope I am able to see as many of you as possible in the coming months.

Thank you all, for all you do,

Jack Ramsey
PNW Division OET Supervisor



SAFETY 7 PATROLLER REPORT

By Jodie Jeffers, Safety & Patroller Advisor

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There has been so much happening the past couple of seasons...

The Division has been very active in bringing to the forefront - [Safety 4 All](#) with the *Virtual Safety Workshop* that occurs monthly on the *3rd Tuesday of the month*. This is for ALL disciplines, all patrollers, areas, etc. The monthly session is a two part event with a variety of topics followed by incorporating psychological first aid for patrols and patrollers. Please check out the website for more information, resources, and recordings on all. www.nsp-pnwd.org/safety-culture-4-all.html

What is special about Patrollers & patrols - ongoing supporting group of people that have stepped up and are helping each other. A reminder - to not assume about others, including yourself. Take a good look, reach out, offer a zoom coffee or “other” beverage choice and catch up with patroller friends. Meet in a parking lot and use the distance of vehicles to chat briefly. Check in with each other & reach out!

Many have thought we would have had COVID and other issues behind us by now, but in reality this is and will still be going on. The take home message that is key is no matter what the issue, how to deal with it now and in moving forward. Reflect on how you and others are sounding, voicing, emailing. Focus on the things you have control over versus the things you cannot control.

Safety information, resources and how it applies to all, including the public, is something for all to be involved in. This helps with recruitment - general and specific information to be shared. What is your patrol doing or not doing? Let's network and support each other to make the momentum happen and share that spirit of community. Need some ideas to get started? Attend the monthly workshops is one option and I am happy to help with general or patrol ideas, including safety, doing things for the community, etc. Here are just a few items to consider.

- Using social media, do a “Ski Tip of the Day?” Week or Month?
- Recognize your patrollers and feature them on social media.....depending on the number, maybe have several per week??
- Offer safety education to schools/teachers.....we all are becoming very proficient at using webinars, zoom etc. Wear your patrol gear, talk for 5-10 minutes about so many possible things. Show how you wear a mask. Depending on how it goes, your patrol may be asked to come back for a weekly tip. Record or pre-record some topics and share. I am sure there are a-lot of teachers that would love to have you join them or be able to show your quick video tip.
- Reach out to your areas and coordinate additional things to share on their website, keeping the public engaged. Even if your area doesn't open, don't you want to showcase your patrol and patrollers?

Traditionally, January is the designated National Safety month utilized by patrols and areas nationwide. Our division is doing things to make this year/season round vs one month. If you have any thoughts, ideas, interest? Please let me know.

Please take care of yourselves. Be supportive of each other. Together we can help share with other patrols and the public! Hope to see you on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Virtual Safety Workshops. December is scheduled for Safety and Outdoor Risk Management.



Part IV

History of Ski Lifts: Aerial Trams

Part I	History of Ski Lifts	Rope Tows	Nor'Wester March 2021
Part II	History of Ski Lifts	J Lifts & T Bars	Nor'Wester June 2021
Part III	History of Ski Lifts	Chairlifts	Nor'Wester Sept 2021

Aerial Trams

Have you ever ridden an aerial tram in a ski area? Inside a tram, you're warm...you get to watch the lovely scenery, right? Well, sometimes. My first aerial tram ride was on the Klein Matterhorn which went up the mountain from the town of Zermatt, Switzerland. I had a preconceived notion that it would be a big warm car with benches and windows where skiers could sit down and watch the beautiful scenery while riding up. WRONG. I don't know what the maximum number of people for the Klein is, possibly 90, but if so, we had at least 100 in our car. Vertical sardines are what we were! With all the people squished together, it was not possible to even see out the windows. So, riding an aerial tram is not high up on my favorite type of ski lifts, at least not if skiing at Christmas time.



Klein Matterhorn, world's highest cable car—3883 meters

The first recorded use of an aerial tram was in 1644 in Poland. At that time, trams were used for transport carrying soil across a river to build defenses for military purposes. Horses provided the power to move the tram. However, it would be another 200-300 years before adaptations of this first known tram was revised to transport passengers. But long before they were used in skiing and tourism, other Industries made use of the tram design. Trams were used extensively in mining and logging and sometimes in the harvesting of sugar beets, coffee beans and tea.

In 1850, wire ropes first made their appearance and that led the way for the aerial trams that are used today. The first tram built to carry passengers was in 1893 in Hong Kong. In 1907, an aerial tram carrying passengers in a mountain setting was installed at Mount Ulia in Spain. The first known tram to carry skiers to high mountain terrain was in Lucerne, Switzerland; that was in 1928, and soon, more ski trams appeared on the high peaks of Austria and Germany. Ten years later, in 1938, the first tram system in North America was built at Cannon Mountain in New Hampshire. Surprisingly, this is about the same time rope tows were appearing at some ski areas, J and T-bars at other ski areas and chairlifts at even others. Ski lift inventions did not appear in progression, but all at the same time

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HISTORIAN/SPECIAL PROJECTS—continued



Trams Carrying City Siftbseers



Trams Ued to Carry Skiers

Aerial ski trams are also known as sky trams, cable cars, ropeways and tramways. Some people refer to them as gondolas, but that is not correct because of how they are suspended, how they are moved and the fact that they usually come in single pairs. Aerial trams are bigger carriages which carry lots of people in a single car. The aerial tram system uses one or two stationary ropes or cables for support while a third moving rope or cable provides propulsion. The grip of the tram cabin is fixed onto the propulsion rope and cannot be decoupled from it during operation. Even though trams have only two cars, each shuffle back and forth on their own individual rope, one on either side of the towers with one tram going uphill and the other going down. Gondolas, (next Nor'Wester) on the other hand have many cabins suspended on a single cable.



Switzerland's double-decker tram is the world's first car featuring a roofless upper deck.

Aerial trams are very popular especially in European ski resorts. They are used year-round to carry skiers and riders up the mountain to ski and at other times of the year to carry hikers. Moreover, aerial trams have become very popular in many commercial and urban settings in recent years. With increased environmental awareness, aerial trams are viewed today as a way of moving not only skiers, but also for moving tourists in an urban setting, and for transporting construction items and all kinds of goods over long stretches of land with minimal disturbance to wildlife and terrain. So, I guess if aerial trams are good for the environment, it is worth being a sardine for a little while on a ride up the mountain!

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Patrol Tales

I have been on the prowl to collect PNW Division stories (great deeds, bedpan deeds, tall tales, any tales)! To date I have heard responses only from those I hound the most, my own patrol—Hyak. So I'll start the telling of these “*Patrol Tales*” by bragging about two of my favorite Hyak patrollers –Leif Haslund and Chris Coulon.

On June 8, 2019 Hyak patroller, **Leif Haslund**, and his wife, Marlyn, attended a 20th anniversary showing of “10 things I Hate About You” with another couple, Chris Moyer-Davis and Jeff Davis, at the Stadium Bowl in Tacoma, WA. When they returned to their car, Jeff Davis started to have difficulty breathing and then stopped breathing. Leif checked Jeff's carotid pulse and found none. He told Marlyn and Chris to call 911. Leif immediately got out of the car and with help got the patient out of the car and onto the sidewalk. He immediately started CPR and continued for over 5 minutes until Tacoma Fire Department took over. Tacoma Fire performed 5 rounds of defibrillator shocks and medications before they were able to convert Jeff from V-fib. They transported the patient to Tacoma General where he lived for 26 days in the cardiac care unit before his passing. **Leif Haslund received a Purple Merit Star from the National Ski Patrol for this life saving attempt.**

Another Hyak patroller, **Chris Coulon** responded to a lifesaving emergency on January 22, 2020. Chris works in the heart of Seattle's business district. On that day, multiple shots rang out on 3rd & Pine. Eight victims had been shot, one of whom died at the scene. People were running, crying, screaming—trying to guess which direction to go to escape the mass shooting.

In the midst of all that chaos and danger, Chris ran to help an adult male who was bleeding profusely from a gunshot wound to the upper thigh. A bystander was unsuccessfully trying to stop the severe bleeding. Chris helped and then got a tourniquet from a passing police officer, applied it to the wound and stopped the bleeding.

One female victim died that day. Seven survived including the man Chris helped to save. For actions that were instrumental in saving that patient's life that day, **Chris Coulon received a Purple Merit Star from the National Ski Patrol.**

The oft-repeated tales that are told at our break times or at patrol get togethers are the priceless anecdotes which feed the camaraderie of our patrols. These stories need to be saved! Please send them to me. They can be tall tales or short tales, on any topic, true or partially true, signed or anonymous-- toboggan adventures, booby prize scenarios, OEC war stories, rescues, merit stars-- 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). Let's save these ski patrol memories!





REMINDER

Complete Your Youth Protection Training, if you haven't yet

Per NSP you are required to take the training if you are any of the following:

- Patrol representatives, directors or unit representatives in any patrol or unit where protected parties are members
- Assistant Region Directors/Section Chiefs
- Region Directors
- Region Program Administrators or Advisors in any discipline in which protected parties participate in courses or other events
- Region Legal Advisors
- Division Directors
- Division Program Supervisors in any discipline in which protected parties participate in courses or other events
- Division Legal Advisors
- National Program Directors and Advisors
- National Board Members
- National Legal Advisors
- National Safety Team
- Any instructors that will or could be working with youth
- YAP program advisors at the patrol, region, or division level, as well as any patrollers who will be training or working with youth need to take this training.

There are several training programs that will fulfill the requirement. These include:

- Armatus online training through Praesidium; required modules are: Duty to report; Preventing sexual activity among adolescents; Meet Sam (free – contact memberrecords@nsp.org with your name, member number and email address)
- [Safesport.org training](https://www.safesport.org/training) (available for a small fee)
- [BSA youth protection training \(free\)](https://www.bsa.org/youth-protection-training)

Other online trainings may complete the requirement; your Division Director or designee must approve any alternative online training. In-person trainings that are provided by other youth-serving organizations, like school districts and child care centers, will also fulfill the requirement if they are at least 2 hours in length and provide documentation of completion.

The link for submitting your training certificate is located at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r_IsXC5h4x1143Rua3bGMJx0_pzhcnN5QZV1MHkSx4Y/edit?usp=sharing

If you have any questions, please contact Kay Seidel at PNWDSecretary@gmail.com or Shelley Urben at shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org

Shelley Urben
PNWD

Remembering A Fellow Patroller

By Shirley Cummings

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This notice is an especially hard one for me to write but I have been asked to let patrollers and alumni know that our dear friend and Hyak patroller-alum, Gary Rehberg, died yesterday (10/18/2021). Gary held National number #7303, holds the Hyak record for most awards received (Outstanding National Alpine Patroller Gold Star, Distinguished Service Award, Inspirational Award, Outstanding Candidate...), the most injuries received while patrolling, most proficient in downhill skiing, and Nordic, and telemark...it is an endless list.

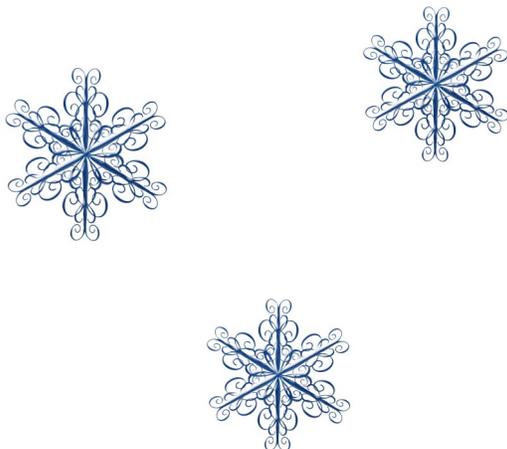
Despite having both an implanted defibrillator and an AED, Gary rarely missed a day of skiing--patrolling usually in both Alpine and Nordic and often doubling his required number of duty shifts. He is well known for his antics and for never slowing down (his arm casts were formed so that he could still hold a ski pole.) Yesterday, Gary & Dana were at their cabin clearing brush like they had done many times before and Gary fell and severely injured his head. He was airlifted to the hospital but died while in route.

I first met Gary in 1973 when I was in charge of Hyak Candidate Training, and he showed up (unprepared) for a first aid class I was teaching. That first night was almost his last—he was a joker, a “what if-er”, a continual questioner, a not-on-topic (unlikely to be invited back student!!) But after a warning, he became the very best student I ever had, and eventually became my teacher, my toboggan trainer and my OEC Instructor Trainer. In time, Gary also became my Patrol Director, director of the overall four Summit at Snoqualmie Patrols, Region Awards Chair and Northwest Region Section Chief.

My fondest memories of Gary are from 2003 on our week-long patrol ski trip to Val d’ Sere, France which my husband, Gary & I took with the Rehbergs (Gary & Dana), Rostads (Rocki & Bill) and Larsens (Bob & Donna). We skied all day, new runs every time but every afternoon Gary R. would talk Gary C. and I into skiing down the narrow 7-mile run to the base area. So many memories, such great fun.

Today my heart aches for Gary’s wife, Dana; daughter/patroller, Lindsey; son-in-law/patroller, Jeremy Kiniry and the Rehberg grandchildren -- Parker, Evie, and Ireland. The ski patrol thanks all of you Rehbergs for sharing Gary with us for over 30 years. Gary’s skills, enthusiasm and hard work improved patrolling, but more importantly, he inspired others to be their best selves...and always to have the best time doing whatever you choose to do. We will miss you, Gary. Go with God. Rest in peace.

Shirley Cummings



2022 PNWD Convention Report

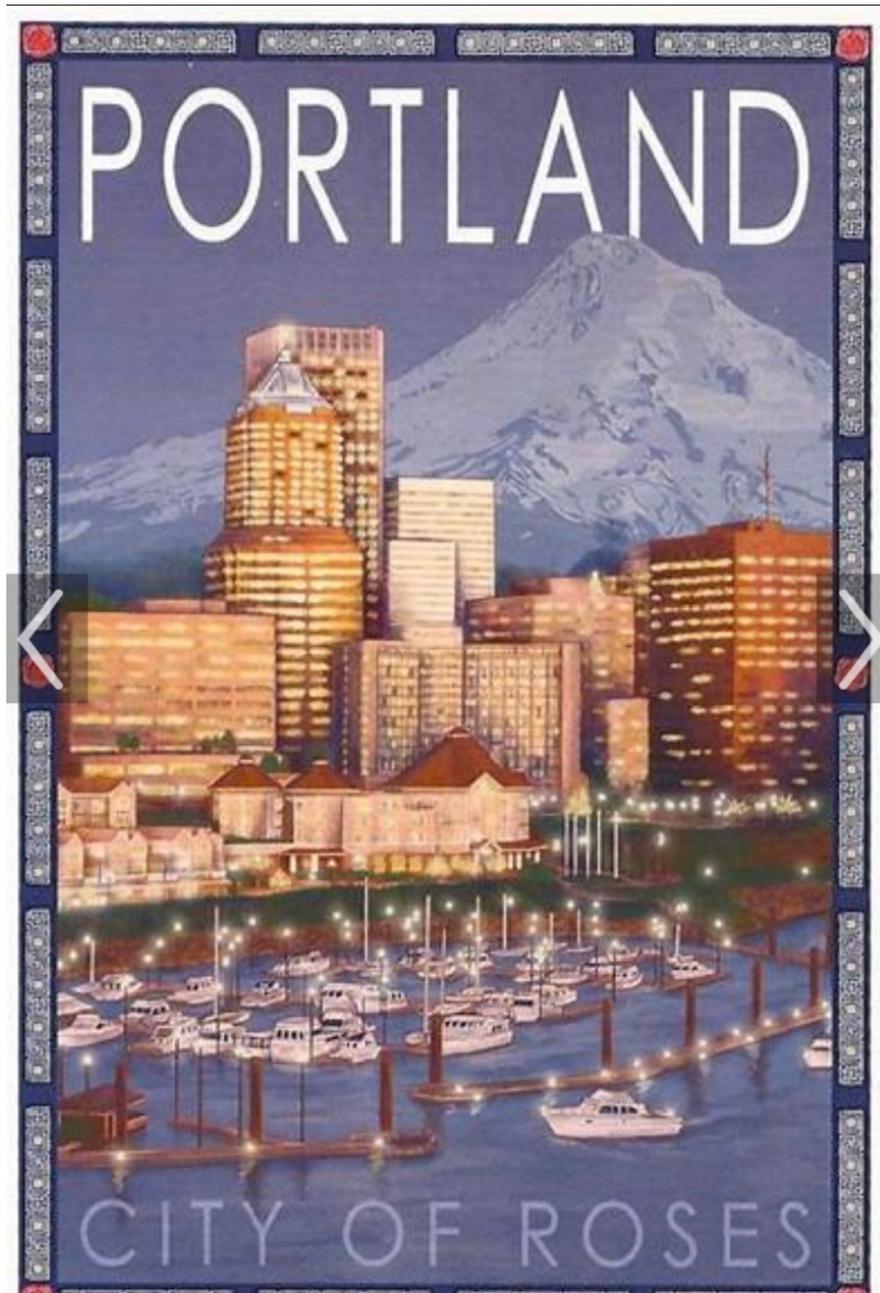
By Reba Sharp, PNWD Convention Coordinator

krsharp1@frontier.com

2022 PNWD Convention

August 12 to August 14

SAVE these dates to attend the
2022 PNWD Convention
that will be held in the
City of Roses





**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

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Article deadline for the next Nor'Wester is February 15, 2022