



# NOR'WESTER

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DIVISION—NATIONAL SKI PATROL

December 2023

## DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT

By Shelley Urban, PNWD Director

[shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org)

The snow has started to fall, and we are all prepping for another busy ski season. Make sure you double check your equipment, tune your skis, and continue the work of eating well and routine exercise. OEC Refreshers, CPR classes, and On-the-Hill Refreshers are finishing up and we are set to put on our gear and to do our best patrol work as we hit the slopes. As with every year, I am looking forward to getting up on the mountain, patrolling with my own patrol, and getting around to other areas to visit you.

### PNWD Updates

#### Assistant Division Director and other New Assistant Division Supervisors to PNWD

Please welcome the following to the PNWD Division Leadership team. These members have been brought in as assistants to help with succession planning, and to help distribute the workloads associated with these roles:

- Andy Becholdt – Assistant Division Director. Andy will be assisting me throughout this season by attending some of the events I am unable to attend, and by taking on some of the administrative pieces that come with the DD job.  
George White – Assistant OET Supervisor. George will be working with Jack Ramsey as we continue to build a robust and consistent OET program. Each will be visiting various events throughout the division and providing support where necessary.
- Jeff Doughty – Assistant OET Snowboard Supervisor. Jeff started this position last season, and is coming into this season ready to take on more responsibilities. As he builds traction, he will be reaching out to other boarders in our division to build a stronger support system in transportation education for our boarders.
- Matthew Otonicar – Assistant Alumni Advisor. Matthew is a relatively new alumni member. He is eager to work with Josie Elting and further enhance our alumni outreach in the PNWD.
- 

#### PNWD Patroller Advisor

Jodie Jeffers would like to step aside from this position in the PNWD as she has taken on the additional roles of Safety Advisor, Patroller Wellness Advisor, and Assistant to Richard Murphy, our technology person. If you or anyone you know is interested in this position, please contact me at [shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org).

### Inside this issue:

Division Director	1-3
Southern Idaho Region	4
Inland Empire Region	5
NW Region	6
Registrar	7
Awards	8
OEC	9
Patroller	9
Web & Social Media	10
Instructor Development	10
Outdoor Risk Management — ORM	10-13
Nordic//BC	14
Patroller Wellness	14
MTR	15-16
Alumni	17
Safety	18
Historian	19-20
Ski Flight	21

(continued p.2)

# **DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT—continued**

---

## PNWD SafetyCulture4All Workshops –

Please try to join any or all of our workshops this upcoming season. Workshops are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Workshops are built around patroller safety and Psychological First Aid Care. Please look at the PNWD website for information about the workshops including the schedule. And, watch your emails each month. We do our best to send a reminder and link to each workshop about 1 week ahead of time. Click [HERE](#) for detailed information.

## Dues –

All patrollers! Alumni, Active, Inactive, Paid/Volunteer, Host, Bike.... Make sure you remember to pay your dues before January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org), or Blaine Price at [bcprice58@msn.com](mailto:bcprice58@msn.com).

## Highlights from PNSAA Seminar

I was able to attend the Pacific NW National Ski Areas Association Seminar in October at Timberline. It is always interesting to visit with managers and paid patrollers from other ski areas within our division, and to hear what is going on in the management side of the outdoor sports industry. My impression – this year was more focused on patroller work and risk management where in the past the focus was on area management and risk management. Highlights:

1. Padding – know what your areas policy and/or philosophy is with regard to padding. Is it written down or just verbalized? Is it consistent?
2. Know your state statutes, look at the following:
  - a. NSAA website and Oregon Revised Statutes 30.970 to 30.990
  - b. 79A Public Recreation Lands; Ch 79A.45 Skiing and Commercial Ski Activity
3. Have an unseated passenger plan and know what it is.
4. Work with your area on signage for potential snow immersions/tree well safety.

## Region Director Votes

In 2024, we have three Region Directors positions up for election – Oregon, Wy'east and Northwest. Please look elsewhere in this issue of the Nor'Wester for details.

## Appropriate Meeting and Email Guidelines – Overview

When chairing/facilitating a video meeting:

1. Establish clear meeting guidelines
2. Use a meeting facilitator; this is usually the National, Division, or Region Advisor/Director
3. Consider implementing time limits for speakers
4. The facilitator can assign a time keeper and meeting manager
5. Mute participants when necessary
6. Enable waiting rooms
7. Disable screen sharing
8. Use chat moderation
9. Report disruptive behavior to the next level above you.

Remember, effective communication and clear expectations are key to avoiding disruptions in virtual board meetings. By implementing these strategies, you can create a productive and respectful meeting environment.

(continued p.3)

## **DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT—continued**

---

When participating in a video meeting:

1. Be courteous to other participants
2. Speak clearly
3. Keep body movements minimal
4. Move and gesture slowly and naturally
5. Maintain eye contact by looking into the camera
6. Dress appropriately
7. Make the session animated
8. Follow the expectations established by the facilitator
9. Be yourself and have fun!

### **Patrol Directors/Reps:**

Be careful to register your new candidates as candidates (C). They should not be moved to patroller status (Patroller, Alpine, Nordic) until they have completed OEC, completed ICS 100, and completed any additional requirements set forth by your mountain. ICS 100 certificates of completion should be emailed to Kay Seidel at [kaydeerpark@gmail.com](mailto:kaydeerpark@gmail.com), and she will track those and send them to national to be recorded on profiles.

### **National Updates**

#### **National Program Advisor Searches**

Two National Program Advisor positions are currently open – Avalanche and Instructor Development. So far, only avalanche has been advertised. If you are interested in applying:

#### **Application requirements**

1. One-page cover letter explaining why you are a strong candidate
2. Resume summarizing your patrol and professional experience
3. One-page vision statement for the Avalanche Program: Where do you see this program in three years? List up to three goals you have in mind for the program.
4. Two letters of recommendation (preferably one from a division leader), sent separately to the address below by your references.

#### **Deadline for submission of completed applications:**

Screening will begin December 10, 2023, with interviews beginning shortly afterward. Screening will continue until the position is filled.

#### **Application materials should be sent to:**

[NationalAVYSearch@nsp.org](mailto:NationalAVYSearch@nsp.org)

#### **NSP Board of Directors**

By the time you receive this, the National Board Elections will be closed and the new board members decided. Congratulations to those who are elected.

Stay healthy and safe as you start your patrol season and as we head into the holidays.

It is my pleasure to be of service to all of you, and I look forward to seeing you on the slopes.

Happy Patrolling

Shelley Urben

PNWD Director – [shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:shelley.urben@nsp-pnwd.org)

503-805-8513

# SOUTHERN IDAHO REGION REPORT

By Thad Murata, Southern Idaho Region Director

tmurata3@yahoo.com

---

Hello from the Southern Idaho Region!

I hope everyone is excited for the season to begin. This past month has been busy with patrol activities. The fall meeting was a great success, thank you 705 Backcountry for hosting a great event. The venue was great; the First Aid and Avalanche sessions were very informative. A big "Thank you!" to the Rustic Pig, for providing us a great BBQ lunch. Next year's Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 12th.

With OEC Refreshers being completed or happening soon, the patrols are preparing for the upcoming 2023-2024 season.

The following are key dates in the Southern Idaho Region:

Jan. 1st - Senior applications are due

Jan. 6th and 7th - Senior Clinic @ Anthony Lakes

Feb. 3rd and 4th - Senior Clinic @ Bogus Basin

Mar. 2nd and 3rd - Eddie Orbea Senior Evaluation hosted by Payette Lakes

In addition to Senior activities, look for announcements from your PDs/PRs for region training opportunities this season. We are working to schedule courses ranging from Avalanche and Nordic to Ski and Toboggan Enhancements this season.

Bogus Basin Pro Patrol is returning to the Southern Idaho Region and PNW Division this season. This is great news, Welcome Back!!!

I would like to welcome 2 new Patrol Directors:

Devon Haire - Bogus Basin Pro Patrol Director

Lane Daley - Magic Mountain Ski Patrol

I would also like to share that we have 2 new advisors in the Southern Idaho Region:

Alex Sosa - Legal Advisor

Ashley Sosa - Secretary

If anyone is interested in participating in the Senior Program, please contact your Patrol Dir/Rep or training officer. Applications need to be completed and delivered to Pam Carson by Jan. 1st.

Preparation for this season is moving smoothly across Southern Idaho Region. We are just waiting for snow and hopefully we will be skiing or riding soon.

Be Safe and Stay Healthy!!!

Thad Murata

Southern Idaho Region Director



# INLAND EMPIRE REGION REPORT

By Dan Becker, Inland Empire Region Director

20502djb@gmail.com

---

As I develop this article, Inland Empire Region (IER) is soon wrapping up their OEC Refreshers. Thanks to IER's OEC Advisor, all the OEC Refreshers were covered by IT's.

IER has posted the 2023/24 Season Calendar to the patrollers in the region and at the bottom of this article. The Advanced /Senior Training course along with Instructor Calibration Courses will be posted soon in the IER Calendar then sent out to patrollers.

49 degrees North has sent out emails to their patrollers to be ready to open November 11, for the 2023/24 season. They now have Snow Making Equipment.

Mission Ridge has received 6 inches of Snow as of November 1<sup>st</sup>. Providing the temperatures stay low, they can get their Snow Making Equipment producing Snow to open soon.

OET Instructors have posted their OET Refreshers Courses for their Patrols to register.

Ski you soon and Patrols in the Inland Empire Region, as you plan your 2023/24 Season, be aware of the IER Calendar.

Dan Becker  
IER RD

## **Inland Empire Region Ski Patrol Calendar 2023-2024**

### **Region Meeting – Fall**

- Sept 13, 2023 ZOOM MEETING

### **Instructor Calibration for OEC & OET/PSIA Clinics & Senior Clinics**

- Jan 6, 2024 Mt Spokane (Jack Ramsey & George White Instructing new OET techniques on Saturday)(Calibration is for OET Instructors & Evaluators)

### **Open Region OEC & OET/PSIA Clinics & Advanced Training/Senior Clinics**

- Jan 20, 2024 Loup Loup (1 PSIA Instructor on Saturday)
- Jan 21, 2024 Loup Loup
- Feb 3, 2024 49 Degree North(2 PSIA Instructor on Saturday)
- Feb 4, 2024 49 Degree North
- Feb 17, 2024 Mission Ridge (1 PSIA Instructor on Saturday)
- Feb 18, 2024 Mission Ridge

### **Senior OEC & OET Evaluation**

- Feb 24, 2024 Silver Mt, Saturday OEC & OET Course Calibration
- Feb 25, 2024 Silver Mt, Sunday OET Evaluations

### **Region Meeting-Spring**

- May 15, 2024 Zoom Meeting (approximate date confirmed will be posted after a google poll is sent out)

# NW REGION REPORT

By Dale Wolfe, NW Region Director

[dalepwolfe@gmail.com](mailto:dalepwolfe@gmail.com)

Here in the Northwest Region we are all getting psyched for another great season on the snow, doing what we love. Now the bad news, it's looking like a little bit of a slow start. As of this writing, most of our areas have seen a dusting of snow, but so far not sufficient to get the lifts spinning. Between those dustings, we have seen repeating periods of cold and dry, or warm and wet weather. Not ideal for our business. But, with that soon behind us, we will no doubt get the weather we need and be up on the hill before long.

All that said, here are a few things that are going on around here:

- All but one or two of our OEC Courses and Refreshers have completed, so that hectic part of the season is settling down.
- Alpentel has a new chair on-line for this season. The replacement for the old tired Sessel chair. Alpentel is also working on two additional chairs: the new International chair and a replacement for Chair 2. Both are due to come on-line for the 2024/2025 season.
- Crystal Mountain continues to make good progress on the new Mountain Commons Lodge. They expect the first floor with the Brew 62 café and the retail store to be up and running by the Holidays, with the second floor Cafeteria and additional seating to be ready sometime mid-season.
- Hurricane Ridge is recovering from the devastating fire that destroyed the lodge there last year. They plan to be ready to go as soon as the snow shows up, operating out of some temporary buildings and portable restrooms.
- Mt. Baker has added a new diesel generator that will provide power for one Lodge and 3 electric chair lifts, keeping the area up and running in the event of a power outage.
- The Northwest Region will, again this year, host a "Nordic Rendezvous" at the Snoqualmie Pass Nordic area. Plans are still in the works for this season's Rendezvous. But, I can say from experience that last year's first annual event, was a great success and provided an excellent opportunity to learn or brush up on your backcountry skills. Stay tuned for more information.

Other than the usual stuff, like new candidate training, continuing education, Senior Program, etc., that's about it from the Northwest Region.

Dale Wolfe  
Northwest Region Director  
[dale.wolfe@nsp-nwr.org](mailto:dale.wolfe@nsp-nwr.org)  
425-591-8803

## Cardboard Splints

For your fall planning I would expect that all the areas will take inventory of their supplies. If one of the items you are short of happens to be cardboard leg splints, don't despair.

We still have a supply of them available.

Contact Glen Dodge, the Splint Guy, by email or phone and we'll figure out the easiest way to get you more.

[glend@casadecolumbia.com](mailto:glend@casadecolumbia.com) or [dodger@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dodger@ix.netcom.com) or 425-743-3366 (H)



# PNWD REGISTRAR REPORT

By Blaine Price, Registrar

bcprice58@msn.com

It is now November 15<sup>th</sup>. As an Opt-Out Division, PNWD patrols should have completed collection of Region and Division dues, and then completed doing a 'Notify National' in order to trigger invoicing of \$80.00 National dues to their members. Doing so enables members to pay their National dues on a timely basis.

PD/PRs or their Registration Rep should now be submitting dues to me in separate checks for Region and Division dues, along with a completed PNWD Registration Reconciliation Form for their Region with each submission. The submission is to be accompanied by an alphabetical Roster of those being paid for, including at a minimum their Name, ID #, and specifying any that are Paid or Earned Lifetime members.

If data is correctly entered into the Reg Rec Form, it will calculate the amounts to be paid in the submission, breaking out Returning (including prior Candidates), New Members, Transfers and Secondaries. Follow the instructions on the form, and refer to earlier training materials for 'Patrol Formation & Registration' if you have questions. Copies are available on the PNWD website if you have questions. If you still encounter problems, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time by phone or email and we will solve your problem.

Remember PNWD Late Fees of \$5.00 apply for submission of Reg/Div dues submitted to me after January 1<sup>st</sup>. National Late fees of \$10.00 apply if a member does not pay National Dues prior to Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.

There is no such thing as 'Back Dues'. However, if a member didn't pay last season by June 30<sup>th</sup>, they have a last chance to still pay for 2023, but only through Dec 31<sup>st</sup> with a \$20.00 late fee. After that date they will start over again at Zero years of service with NSP.

Returning former members (I), Transfers or Host/Associate/Affiliate members joining a patrol never do a 'Create Account'. Once an NSP member ID # is issued, including for Associates/Hosts or Affiliates, IT NEVER CHANGES. If they do 'Create Account' again, they very likely will be locked out of the system with a duplicate new ID #, and the newer ID # will have to be deleted manually by the Office to proceed. Contact me at [blaine.price@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:blaine.price@nsp-pnwd.org) or [memberrecords@nsp.org](mailto:memberrecords@nsp.org), if a duplicate ID # is created. If former members aren't found in the system in the PD/PR's access to the Master Roster, contact [memberservices@nsp.org](mailto:memberservices@nsp.org) to reinstate the individual in the system. (Always provide a person's Name and ID # when contacting me or the Office.) Avoid contacting the Office by phone since the staff is limited and very busy.

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

Blaine Price, PNWD Registrar  
[blaine.price58@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:blaine.price58@nsp-pnwd.org)  
[Bcprice58@msn.com](mailto:Bcprice58@msn.com)  
206-954-4909 Cell



# AWARDS ADVISOR REPORT

By Sue Baker , Awards Advisor  
Pam Carson, Awards Advisor

[susanbaker7780@gmail.com](mailto:susanbaker7780@gmail.com)  
[mamachinsk@hotmail.com](mailto:mamachinsk@hotmail.com)

We wrote a very long report last issue that included all the amazing awards given to patrollers in our Division. This time we want to highlight service awards and notify everyone that all the Outstanding Nomination award forms have been recently revised. As PNWD Co-Advisors, we (Pam and Sue) are members of the National Awards Committee. The committee spent time in September and October working hard to edit and clarify the Outstanding award forms.

Because Mother Nature is being a little slower starting ski season this year, here's a suggestion: review awards criteria and start thinking about nominating some of the hardworking people on your patrols!

Service award nominations, which include the **Distinguished Service Award, National Appointment/Leadership Commendation Award** and **Meritorious Service Award**, can be made any time of year, and it can take time to collect and complete required information.

Outstanding award nominations for individuals and patrols won't be due until late winter or early spring, but it's never too early to start thinking about and preparing these as well. Regions won't accept them for review until near the deadlines, but patrol nominations, especially, can take a team weeks to gather information.

When you are ready to sit and write up the nominations, please make sure that you are **using the most recent form and instruction sheets**. There are two Outstanding Awards Nomination forms: the one for nominating individuals—"Outstanding Instructor, Patroller or Host" and the one for nominating your patrol--"Outstanding Patrol or Host Unit." Based on patroller feedback, the National Awards Committee **revised both of these forms in the last 2 months** and has posted the new forms on the website. Please go to the NSP website, Sign in, Click Resources, Document Library, Awards Forms and then click on the form you want to download. Please make sure that any Outstanding Award Nominations that you write and turn in are on the forms that state "revised in 2023" on the bottom. The new awards include updated instructions and examples in most sections; and "pro tips" listed at the end that can be very helpful.

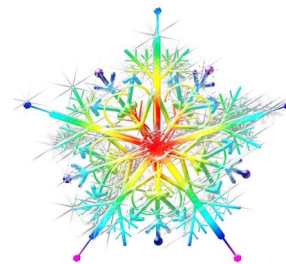
All the service award forms were revised in 2022, so please ensure that you are using the most recent forms if you are submitting these.

Descriptions and qualifications for these and even more awards, including "Hall of Fame," "Minnie Dole" and Purple, Blue, Green and Yellow Merit Star can all be found under the "Awards" chapter in the NSP Policy and Procedure.

It can be intimidating to write a nomination. Please reach out to first your Region Award Advisor, and then to either of us if you have any questions. We have a lot of well-written nominations from every category that we can share.

If you have written a nomination, or will write one, thank you!

Sue Baker at [Susanbaker7780@gmail.com](mailto:Susanbaker7780@gmail.com)  
Pam Carson at [mamachinsk@gmail.com](mailto:mamachinsk@gmail.com)





# OEC REPORT

*By Marianne Becker, OEC Supervisor*

*[oecadvisor@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:oecadvisor@nsp-pnwd.org)*

---

The weather is hinting at snow, but has not quite happened for our Region near Spokane. Snow predictions say this weekend we will get snow, hopefully soon.

Things are winding down with OEC courses and Refreshers in the PNWD. Several patrols have had larger OEC classes this year, which is great to hear there is so much interest in Ski Patrol. Instructors and IOR's are doing a good job training and keeping fellow patrollers, as well as our new candidates, learning their new skills. Keep up the good work. It does not go unnoticed.

I have been busy working on rewriting and updating scenarios for the scenario bank in the LMS system. The committee I am on is tasked with updating the scenario's to be compliant with OEC 6<sup>th</sup> edition, OPQRST and also to be non-gender specific. Once my group has updated the scenarios, they go to the NSP Medical Advisors and committee to be approved. As there are numerous scenarios in the LMS system, this is quite a daunting task, but hopefully we will get there a bit at a time.

I have also been tasked with writing new scenarios for the Senior Module for OEC. My team and I have been writing these scenarios, which will be used for the test this upcoming season for our Senior Finals. As NSP has adopted the Beta OEC Senior Module which was tested in our Division this past year, the scenarios need to be focused on Leadership, Decision Making and Problem Management and how the senior candidate will handle their role in these areas. I am looking forward to our season this year for Senior training and finals.

At our PNWD Convention, which was held in Spokane, Kathy Lee, Leisa Garrett and I developed a Program for the Senior OEC Module for the PNWD. After convention was completed, we updated the information and developed a manual, which has been posted on the PNWD website for Region OEC Supervisors and Senior T/E's to use for our Division. Hopefully, this will be a helpful document. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

I look forward to the upcoming season and seeing some of you in the future.

All the best.

**Marianne Becker**

PNWD OEC Supervisor

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

509 434-9191

---

# PATROLLER ADVISOR REPORT

*By Jodie Jeffers, Safety Advisor*

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

---

Please welcome Scott Chandler from Wy'east Region, Mt Hood Ski Patrol who is shadowing/helping with the Patroller Advisor position! He comes from an area rich in the wide progression of the Patroller role, on and off the slopes. Looking to do Senior Patroller this year? Have questions on the Senior Aid Room Module and/or planning a course, please let us know. Feel free to contact us and we look forward to reaching out more this season to various patrols.

Questions &/or Suggestions, let us know!

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

## WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

*Jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org*

*Richard.murphy@nsp-pnwd.org*

*webmaster@nsp-pnwd.org*

---

Let's see your videos and pictures promoting the great PNWD. Include name for photo credit and location please. Have you been promoting in your area? Let us know your website & social media addresses. Please know we are always looking for new ways to promote our areas and PNWD for social media & websites. Have any interest in helping or graphic design, please contact: [webmaster@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:webmaster@nsp-pnwd.org)

---

## INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT REPORT

*By Kathy Alexander, ID Advisor*

*katalexander911@mail.com*

---

REMINDER: To NSP Instructors of All Disciplines:

1. Please check "Your Profile" on the NSP website to see when your Instructor recertification(s) are due.
2. If your certification(s) expire this 12/31/2023, you should check if you have completed all the necessary requirements for recertification:
  - a) have been teaching your discipline within the past 3 years
  - b) have completed an on-line course: Instructor Skills Review
  - c) have completed an ICE course for your discipline
  - d) have been observed by an IT within the past 3 years
3. Contact your Region Advisor for your discipline if you have questions or need to complete a requirement for recertification

Stay safe...stay healthy...enjoy the ski season!

Kathy Alexander, PNWD ID Advisor

---

## OUTDOOR RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT (ORM)

*By Joe Ferraro, ORM Advisor*

*skygod01@live.com*

---

The NSAA fatality fact sheet for 2022-2023 season, is the ORM submission for the Nor-westerner this month. It's pretty sobering, especially since most of the fatalities were in the male 50-60 age group and were caused by collisions with trees and the snow surface. It also calls out the Rockies and the Pacific Northwest with record breaking snow falls in several states that led to an increase in deep snow immersion fatalities, including tree wells.

The next three pages are the NSAA fatality fact sheet for the 2022-2023 season.

(continued p.11-13)



# NATIONAL SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION

Updated September 2023

## Media Contact:

Adrienne Saia Isaac  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
National Ski Areas Association  
[aisaac@nsaa.org](mailto:aisaac@nsaa.org)

## 2022/23 U.S. Ski Season Fatality Fact Sheet

### Overview

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) reported 46 skier and snowboarder fatalities at U.S. ski areas during the 2022/23 season. The majority of these fatal incidents involved male skiers on more difficult (“intermediate”) terrain. Speed, loss of control, and collisions with objects continue to be the primary factors in fatal incidents on the slopes. This season’s record-breaking snowfall also contributed to an unusually high number of deep snow immersion fatalities.

### Methodology & Terms

NSAA collects, analyzes, and publicly reports fatality data received annually from U.S. ski areas, insurance providers, and multiple other sources. The association reports these incidents in aggregate nationally and does not report by state. NSAA compiles this data to provide information to the public and the media that accurately reflects the inherent risks to snowsports guests at U.S. ski areas. The data reflects fatalities that occur within a ski area’s operating boundary; backcountry fatalities are not included in these statistics because they do not reflect the risk of fatality at ski areas for the in-bounds skiing public.

Fatalities that occur during normal operating hours are reported by NSAA; after-hours deaths that occur while the ski area is closed are not included in this data. NSAA does not include guest fatalities that are related to a medical condition (such as a heart attack or stroke). This data does not include fatalities suffered by ski area employees while working, unless the fatality is akin to one that could occur to a guest. An industrial fatality (e.g., a lift mechanic fall from a chairlift tower) would not be included because that type of incident does not reflect the risk of fatality to the skiing public. An employee who died riding a chairlift during regular operating hours would be included; one such incident is included in this season’s fatality report.

Fatality: Death of skier/rider resulting from sport-related trauma. Eliminated from this statistic are health-related fatalities (e.g., heart attacks) and the majority of employee fatalities.

Skier visit: A skier visit represents one person visiting a ski area for all or any part of a day or night. This includes those visiting on full- and half-day, night, complimentary, adult, or child tickets; season passes; and all other lift access types.

### Historical Context

The total of 46 fatalities reported during the 2022/23 season is slightly higher than the 10-year industry average of 42 fatalities per season (see chart). The number of skier visits hit a record high this past season, totaling 65.4 million. Based on that number, the fatality rate converts to less than one fatality per 1 million skier visits.

### **Gender**

Of the people involved in fatal incidents in the 2022/23 season, 42 were male and four were female. For decades, male skiers and snowboarders make up on average 90% of fatalities, but this breakdown does not align with the proportion of male and female snowsports participants. In 2022/23, 60% of skiers and snowboarders identified as male and 40% identified as female.

### **Equipment**

Of the 46 fatalities last season, 37 individuals were skiing and nine were snowboarding. This is mostly aligned with the historical demographic split between skiers and snowboarders.

### **Helmets**

The majority of skiers and snowboarders wear helmets, totaling 88% in the 2022/23 season, with 96% adoption for participants under 18. Only six people involved in fatal incidents were **not** wearing helmets. Helmet use data was not available for three of the incidents.

### **Terrain**

Fatal incidents can occur on any type of terrain. The majority of fatal incidents – 19 – occurred on most difficult (“intermediate”) terrain. Only one fatal incident occurred on freestyle terrain (“terrain park”).

### **Age**

In the 2022/23 season, the most fatalities occurred in the 51-60 age group, followed by ages 21-40.

### **Cause**

The primary causes of fatal incidents are collisions with trees and the snow surface itself. This past season, record-breaking snowfall in several states led to an increase in deep snow immersion fatalities, including tree wells. Skiers and riders, especially in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific regions, should make themselves aware of the risks that come with heavy snowfall and skiing off-piste or in glades in any conditions. Learn more at [deepsnowsafety.org](https://deepsnowsafety.org).

While fatalities involving chairlifts are rare, there were two fatalities resulting from falls from lifts. One incident involved a guest who was attempting to brush snow from his chair, and the other was an employee who fell from a lift into unconsolidated snow.

### **NSAA Comments on Ski/Snowboard Fatalities**

“Safety continues to be NSAA’s and the ski industry’s guiding value. Providing resources and education opportunities to our member resorts in the interests of both guest and

employee safety is one of the most important things our association does,” said NSAA President Kelly Pawlak.

“One fatality is too many, and NSAA will continue to work with our member ski areas on slope safety. We ask our guests to familiarize themselves with [Your Responsibility Code](#) before taking their first runs of the year.”

#### **10-Year Fatal Incident Rate Per Million Participants**

<b>Season</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Skier Days (in millions)</b>	<b>Rate (per million)</b>
2022-23	46	65.4	0.70
2021-22	57	60.7	0.93
2020-21	48	59.0	0.81
2019-20	42	51.3	0.82
2018-19	42	59.3	0.71
2017-18	37	53.3	0.69
2016-17	43	54.8	0.78
2015-16	39	52.8	0.74
2014-15	35	53.6	0.65
2013-14	32	56.5	0.57
<b>10 season avg</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>0.74</b>

# # #

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) is a trade association representing the interests of ski area operators and industry suppliers. Formed in 1962, NSAA designs and supports ski industry initiatives and programs, including growth, safety and sustainability, from its Lakewood, Colo., headquarters. Learn more about NSAA’s mission and programs at [NSAA.org](https://www.nsaa.org).

# NORDIC/BC PROGRAM REPORT

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

Ericsg eisler@yahoo.com  
syntereo@gmail.com

---

## Notes from the Backcountry

The season is upon us. Most patrols have completed their OEC Cycle A Refreshers by now. However, there are very few **NORDIC CYCLE A REFESHERS** registered in the Center for Learning. Just like the Alpine toboggan refresher the current Nordic Cycle (A) refresher is required in order for patrollers to maintain their Nordic Patroller status. If you do not have an IOR or IT to register your refresher, please reach out to your region or division Advisors for assistance.

On another note, my broken record continues to play. PLEASE. PLEASE, if you have a Nordic element to your Patrol, please register them with National as a separate patrol so that we can communicate with the correct people and direct our attention to their needs.

Remember, there is the third Tuesday Safety call if there are any stressful issues you would like to discuss. Have a safe and fun filled season out there as soon as we get enough snow.



---

## PATROLLER WELLNESS ADVISOR REPORT

By Jodie Jeffers, Safety Advisor

jodie.jeffers@nsp-pnwd.org

---

Every Day is Patroller Wellness Day! Whether we are on/off the slopes, with family, at work, etc., all plays a factor on how life is affecting you and others. Often it is that we all have things happening and everyone is different on how their cup is potentially overflowing with things. It's the gradual build of things, as much as an isolated event. Our culture in the past was more of dealing with things in silence. Our culture now is checking in with each other, being there in the moment as well as down the road.

Please let us help you and your patrol in creating something that works for your patrol/area/etc. We want to share tools and resources as well as be a sounding board to help you either get started, restart, adapt and share with others. *Patrollers helping patrollers.* This carries well beyond the slopes.

The PNWD Website has many tools, resources, as well as the third Tuesday of the month SafetyCulture4All Workshops. Please go to the PNWD website and look around for more, possibly start at the "white box" at:

[www.nsp-pnwd.org/safety4all.html](http://www.nsp-pnwd.org/safety4all.html)

Have questions, needs, suggestions? Email us at <mailto:safetycommittee@nsp-pnwd.org>



# MTR ADVISOR REPORT

By Steve Potter, MTR Advisor

Spotter67@frontier.com

The National MTR Program Committee is in the process of updating the MTR Instructors' Manual. The revision has been submitted to NSP for approval. I will let everyone know when there is news concerning approval. The new MTR Instructors' Manual should be available shortly.

Our time to switch from the NSP Mountain Travel and Rescue second edition to **Mountaineering, The Freedom of the Hills 9th edition** and the **Introduction to Search and Rescue 2nd edition** has arrived. The NSP **Mountain Travel and Rescue 2nd edition** is still a valuable resource, and it covers the bulk of the questions in the MTR 1 suggested test.

Below are MTR Core topics covered by **Mountaineering, The Freedom of the Hills** and **Introduction to Search and Rescue**:

MTR Core Topic	Coverage in Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills	The Coverage in Introduction to Search and Rescue
1. <u>Body Temperature Regulation</u>	<u>Chapters 2, 3, 24</u>	
2. <u>Water and Hydration</u>	<u>Chapter 3</u>	
3. <u>Nutrition</u>	<u>Chapter 3</u>	
4. <u>Clothing</u>	<u>Chapter 2</u>	
5. <u>Sleeping Systems</u>	<u>Chapter 3</u>	
6. <u>Emergency Shelters</u>	<u>Chapter 3</u>	
7. <u>Essential and Group Equipment</u>	<u>Chapters 2, 21</u>	
8. <u>Travel Equipment</u>	<u>Chapter 16</u>	
9. <u>Navigation</u>	<u>Chapter 5</u>	<u>Chapter 3</u>
10. <u>Backcountry Hazards</u>	<u>Chapters 6, 17, 23</u>	
11. <u>Environmental Awareness and Camping</u>	<u>Chapter 3, 7, 8</u>	
12. <u>Weather</u>	<u>Chapters 27, 28</u>	
13. <u>Group Dynamics</u>	<u>Chapter 24</u>	
14. <u>Backcountry Medical Emergencies</u>	<u>Chapter 24</u>	
15. <u>Search and Rescue Basics</u>	<u>Chapter 25</u>	<u>All chapters</u>
16. <u>Emergency Rescue Techniques</u>	<u>Chapters 11, 18, 25</u>	

**Tube-Style belay devices:** Guidelines for the use of Tube-style belay devices are included in the guidelines for rescue rigging systems. Please watch for this new manual to be released, to prepare for your MTR classes this season. There are some videos available for this rigging option. I will send out some links when we get closer to release.

(continued p.16)

## MTR ADVISOR REPORT—continued

---



It is also time for renewal of our MTR Instructors (every three years) and MTR IT's (annual). I will be sending out a list of those who need to renew soon. If you are an Instructor or IT and do not see a requirement listed that you have met, please share your information so that I have a record.

PNWD MTR Advisor

Steve Potter

PO Box 481

Silverton, Or 97381

[Spotter67@frontier.com](mailto:Spotter67@frontier.com)

503-586-6724



# ALUMNI ADVISOR REPORT

By Josie Elting, Alumni Advisor

*imaginejosie@yahoo.com*



## CALLING ALL PATROLLERS...ALUMNI OPPORTUNITY IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

It's registration time... if you have made the decision not to register with the National Ski Patrol this season, please keep in mind the Alumni Membership Option.

The time and dedication required to maintain an active status is not always possible. If you have decided to take a break from patrolling, we would like to provide you with an opportunity to stay connected with NSP and invite you to become an Alumni member.

An Alumni member is a special registration category for people who, for various reasons, decided to no longer actively patrol. Membership dues for alumni are \$50 a year and you will have access to most of the benefits you received as a patroller including pro deals. You can also continue to keep your OEC and other credentials current and take other NSP courses. Check out [nsp.org](http://nsp.org) for additional information and benefits.

**ALUMNI INSTRUCTORS:** Alumni Instructors have the same instructor requirements. Keep current with Instructor Continuing Education (ICE) if you want to continue instructing.

**NSP PROFILE:** Please check your profile on the [nsp.org](http://nsp.org) website. Make sure all your information is up to date and entered correctly. If you **haven't paid** your dues, it's time to renew.

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

Don't forget, if you have maintained your membership for 50 or more years, you are eligible for a **Free Lifetime Membership** with no more National or Division dues. Congratulations to those of you who have received your Lifetime Membership! With NSP continued membership of 30+ years there is also a reduced fee for Lifetime Membership.

**ALUMNI CELEBRATION WEEK: WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN, WHITEFISH MONTANA, FEBRUARY 25 TO MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.** This celebration week is a fun time for family and friends of NSP Alumni and patrollers. You can search Grouse Mountain Lodge to find out more information or call the lodge, (406) 892-2525 and be sure to identify yourself as **"National Ski Patrol Alumni"** (available to family and friends) to get the NSP rate, also notify Tim Viall [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com) of your arrival date.

On another note, please let me know of any Alumni in your patrol that may have passed away. We want to be sure to get that information to the PNWD Awards to be acknowledged at the convention AND to the National Office.

**INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:** Please let me know if you have any questions or need any information on the NSP Alumni Program or Membership.

# SAFETY ADVISOR REPORT

By Jodie Jeffers, Safety Advisor

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

What comes to your mind when you hear SAFETY? Who do you think is affected by it-public, areas, patrollers, etc? We ALL are and by so many ways, so what are YOU doing to help educate, promote, and offer to others? Literally every day we can reach out to offer a tidbit or two, ride the chairlift and talk to young and more seasoned guests. Work with your area, local websites to promote. While January is declared National Safety Month by [www.NSAA.org](http://www.NSAA.org) (who also has lots of suggestions etc to explore), but should we really limit it to just one month?? Go to our PNWD website for suggestions and resources to use at <http://www.nsp-pnwd.org/safety-information.html>. Have ideas, planned events, or suggestions? Let me know.



Takes you to the PNWD website  
Safety Culture 4 All



## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY CODE

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

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

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

# HISTORIAN/SPECIAL PROJECTS

By Shirley Cummings

shirleycu@msn.com

## NSP History Quiz

December 2023

1. When did chairlifts first appear in the US?  
1770  
1865  
1936
2. What are the current official color(s) for most patrols of the NSP?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In the early days of ski patrol, what were the prior official color(s)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the name of a lift requiring the rider to position a disk between the riders legs and allow the disk to gently pull the rider up the hill.
5. In what city and state is the National Office of the NSP?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What award is given patrollers nominated for extraordinary service to the ski patrol and has also served a minimum of 20 years? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is a "Spademan"?
  - a. A ski brake
  - b. A ski binding
  - c. An extrication device
8. What is the name most patrollers call the annual business meeting of the Pacific Northwest Division?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What was the first official ski of the NSP? \_\_\_\_\_ Where was it made?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Name the regions in the Pacific Northwest Division:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(continued p.20)



# HISTORIAN/SPECIAL PROJECTS—continued

---

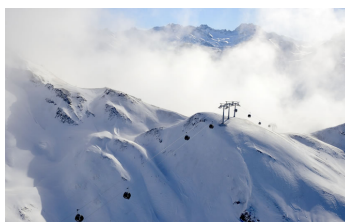
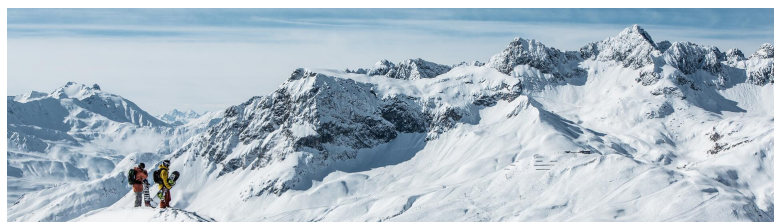
## History Quiz Answers

December 2023

1. 1936
2. Red and black jackets, pant color not specified
3. Rust parka, navy pants
4. Poma
5. Lakewood, Colorado
6. Distinguished Service Award
7. b. A ski binding
8. PNW Division Convention
9. Soloman Ski. Made in Japan
10. Inland Empire, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho, Wy'east







# The Austrian Alps are Calling Your Name!

Ski In/Ski Out at Zürs, Austria, plus experience Florence, Italy 3/1/24 - 3/12/24  
\$4,095/pp double occupancy, standard room

Zürs ... 212 miles of marked, groomed ski runs, more than 110 miles of off-piste runs, 88 lifts and 13,000 feet of vertical drop, all on the same lift pass! Zürs ... at 5,530 feet above sea level ... is a small sophisticated alpine paradise that combines the enjoyment of winter sports with a cosmopolitan atmosphere. Zürs ... from which we can easily ski the interconnected ski slopes of Lech, St. Anton, St. Christoph, Stuben, Oberlech, Warth-Schröcken and Zug.

Envision a typical day – step in to your skis behind the hotel, then ski to Zug for breathtaking views and a tasty beverage or snack from an on-mountain bar. Continue to the car-free hamlet of Oberlech and enjoy lunch on the deck of one of the many restaurants.

From there, ride the lift to Warth-Schröcken or ski down to Lech for an abundance of après-ski activities. Ski back to the hotel or take the free shuttle bus.

Another day, ski to St. Anton for lunch, schuss down to Stuben in the afternoon and still make it back to Zürs in time for dinner. The possibilities are nearly endless!



After a great week's worth of skiing, we will travel to Florence, Italy.

Explore on your own, or take advantage of the local tour options such as a day visiting the wineries of Tuscany. Or a day at Cinque Terre! Even a Vespa tour of Florence and the Tuscan hillside.

So many options!

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



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

**SERVICE  
and  
SAFETY**

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

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

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



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

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

Anne M Greenwood  
960 Sunmist Ct SE  
Salem, OR 97306

Email: [anne.greenwood@nsp-pnwd.org](mailto:anne.greenwood@nsp-pnwd.org)

**Article deadline for the next Nor'Wester is February. 15, 2024**