



## ALUMNI NEWS



FEBRUARY 2021

### Thank you to our Alumni Members

Thanks for weathering the COVID-19 pandemic, remaining steadfast in your support of the National Ski Patrol and your long-time contributions to the NSP, your former patrol, region and division. Thanks for a sense of humor in this most challenging of past years, for staying the course and helping the NSP surmount operational challenges. For those of you who remain involved in leadership roles, thanks, as well! Let us hear from you; contact your division alumni advisor (listed on the Programs > Alumni page at [nsp.org](http://nsp.org)) or me, Tim Viall, National alumni advisor, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com). A huge thanks to all!

### NSP Alumni members provide huge resource; consider applying your talents!

With NSP alumni membership recently topping 5,000 members, alumni members already provide a wealth of experience, talent and knowledge. They also provide a vast resource of needed skills and expertise to supplement the efforts of the "active" membership. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many have found new ways to remain active, assisting their former patrols, regions or divisions, or who have started new involvements or renewed activity with mountain/bike hosts units or bike patrols.

As we enter a new year of this pandemic world we live in, consider if you might want to give back to the NSP; whether to your old patrol, region or division. Below, highlights of several of our more active alumni and their contributions; for more on contributions of today's NSP Alumni, go to: the Programs > Alumni page at [nsp.org](http://nsp.org).



### Donna Short, long-time Nordic patroller, now active alumni member

Five of Donna's Forest Service colleagues were some of the first Nordic patrollers at Crater Lake National Park. She started as a volunteer patroller for the 1988-89 season, then took WEC (now OEC) with the aspiring patrollers from the Santiam Pass Patrol and took her Nordic skills test, memorable as Donna had to set up the Z pulley system inside the rim of the crater! Passing all tests, she became a full NSP patroller for the 1992-93 season.

In 1996, the Willamette Backcountry Patrol allowed Donna and several others to register with that patrol while doing all our patrol days at Crater Lake. A highlight from this period was traveling to Washington, D.C. when the Crater Lake Ski Patrol was recognized as National Volunteer Organization of the Year for the National Park Service in 2003. In 2006, Donna and her partner decided that driving past Willamette Pass on their way to patrol at Crater Lake no longer made sense; and began patrolling out of Gold Lake Snowpark with Willamette Backcountry Patrol. She learned all about their Ski Swap, eventually becoming a team leader, a role she continues since becoming an Alumni in 2019.

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

### Ralph S. Smith brings over 60 years of NSP service to the table



Ralph was an active patroller for 53 years prior to becoming an Alumni Lifetime member, totaling 62 years of active NSP membership to date. He has served as a Patrol Director, S&T Examiner and CPR/Red Cross Instructor. Ralph began in 1958 at Highmount Ski Center located in the Southern New York Region. When the resort closed, he chose Plattekill Mountain as his home base and was an active member until going alumni in 2011. Ralph was awarded his National Appointment in 1964 by none other than Minnie Dole at the Thayer Hotel at West Point.

More recently, he has been an active member of a group of patrollers who include both active and alumni patrollers who have had leadership experience within the Division. The purpose of this group is to gather and celebrate their experiences and the rich history of NSP at a yearly event. Ralph has been responsible for coordinating the gathering for the past four years which includes maintaining a membership database, securing a venue, coordinating contracts and planning a banquet.

He has been an active member of this group since 2004. Without the dedication exhibited, the priceless and rich vibrant stories around the history which is recalled, shared and maintained, would be long forgotten. Many stories, activities and anecdotes regarding past Division events and activities could be lost without Ralph's dedication to this group. At 88 years young Ralph continues to consider skiing a priority and actively skis at this event, and makes an effort to ski throughout the season as circumstances allow.



Ralph Smith in his early days.

### NSP National Awards program now recognizes Alumni for the National Outstanding Alumni Award

As you reflect on your many alumni friends, don't overlook nominating the most deserving Alumni from your division for the National Outstanding Alumni Award. And, you may find your former patrol is seeking volunteers to assist in the awards nomination process. So, think creatively and offer to assist.

### Alumni reap continuing benefits

In addition to keeping your NSP years of membership moving forward, alumni also receive a host of member benefits. Those include:

- *Ski Patrol Magazine* to keep you informed on today's NSP
- *Bi-monthly Alumni News* like this one
- Discounts through the *Ski Patrol Catalogs* and NSP Pro Deals Page
- *Sweep* and *Sweep Deals* monthly e-newsletters
- Ability to participate in NSP Training or Education programs
- Online access to the NSP website
- Voting rights in board elections

### Does your former patrol, region have an active Alumni Advisor?

For an active alumni program, urge your former Patrol Representative or Region Director to keep the alumni program and our active alumni in mind. Suggestions include:

- Establish an Alumni Advisor for each individual patrol (and, region), to take the lead on building alumni support, activities for alumni (i.e., an "Alumni Celebration Ski Day") and keeping communications open for alumni who wish to remain active with their old patrol.
- Advise current patrollers of "life after active patrolling" - as an active NSP alumni.

Perhaps you are the one to fill such a slot? With your help, additional value and enthusiasm can be added to a well-established alumni program. Remind our alumni of perks such as access to the NSP catalogue and NSP "pro deals". And, alumni retain their on-going years of membership! If you want more involvement, let those leaders at patrol, region or division level know your interest...be the squeaky wheel!

### Alumni involvement opportunities

**Volunteer at the huge Sea Otter Bike Classic, Ft. Ord National Monument between Monterey and Salinas, CA, scheduled for Oct. 7 - 10 2021 (note new dates):** Alumni and families are invited to volunteer at the annual **Sea Otter Bike Classic**, recently moved to October 7-10, 2021, for first-aid and course marshal work. Held at Laguna Seca Raceway and Ft. Ord National Monument, adjoining Monterey Bay, California, volunteers receive free camping, full event pass, lunch, event t-shirt and their patrol receives a financial donation. Make it an NSP vacation to sunny Monterey.

#### Alumni Celebration Week

Our third annual "**Alumni Celebration Week**" at Whitefish Mountain Resort, Montana, which had been set for February 28-March 6, 2021, has been **rescheduled for February 27-March 5, 2022**. For more info download [the updated flyer](#).

For more information on these two events, please see the NSP Alumni website.



Just some of the 40+ alumni and family at the 2020 Alumni Celebration event in Whitefish, MT.

### Help recruit fellow former NSP members into the NSP Alumni Program!

If you know of a patroller who needs a temporary break or is considering retiring from active patrolling, please suggest they speak with either their Patrol Representative or local Patrol Alumni Representative about the opportunities and benefits of the Alumni Program. For a link to the Become a Member form, click the button below or go to the Alumni page in Member Resources at [nsp.org](http://nsp.org). Also, feel free to forward this copy of Alumni E-News to others who may benefit from it.



**Don't forget to pay your 2021 alumni dues online or by check if you have not already done so!**

If you have suggestions for future issues of the Alumni News, contact your National Alumni Advisor, Tim Viall, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com).

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