

VALLEY VIEWS



The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Summer, 2010

Bob André

RD



Summer came quickly this year, so for most, the ski season most likely is long forgotten. As I write this, the Swain banquet is coming up on Saturday and will be the last for this season. I have truly appreciated the opportunity to attend the Patrol banquets and enjoy the company of so many dedicated

Patrollers. It is especially rewarding to see folks out of uniform and have time to discuss their "other" lives as we truly are a diverse and talented group. This diversity with a common purpose is for me one of the greatest strengths of the National Ski Patrol. We all bring something extra to the table that makes the whole a stronger, better organization. The next time you have opportunity for some downtime with another patroller that you may not know well, find out what their real life job is and enjoy the experience.

Our Region has once again received Outstanding Eastern Division awards (see pictures elsewhere in this newsletter). It is a very rewarding experience to have your Patrollers in your Region so honored and makes me proud to be your Region Director.

Many of our Patrollers are having a busy summer supporting the Region and advancing their education. Our Senior EMM TEs attended a recert at Swain in conjunction with Western New York. The OEC ITs are supporting the Region Education Fund by providing medical support for the Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club events, and a great number of you are involved in support of the Stuart Horse Trials as medical, SWAT, parking and other venues. The efforts of this group of dedicated Patrollers provide substantial financial support to the Region Education Fund, from which all Patrollers in the Region derive benefits. In addition these ventures obtain valuable public relations visibility for the National Ski Patrol, and can only help in developing new Patrollers.

John Shipman from the Wachusett Patrol in Massachusetts was elected Division Director at the annual Spring Officer's Meeting. John and his wife Susan plan on coming to the Stuart Horse Trials in July to see our

Patrollers in action. Please lend a hand on your assigned Patrol day to support our effort there and welcome our "rookie" Horse Trials supporter. Retiring Division Director Rick Hamlin was presented with a knife case containing knives from each Region. Genesee Valley Region contributed a Leatherman, for Rick having the tools to bring us into the 21st century.



New Division Director John Shipman

As I am sure you are aware by now there are significant changes coming with the release of the 5th edition OEC Text. At present the text should be released early next year. With that release date in mind this year's refreshers will follow the 4th edition cycle as will this year's candidate class. Once the book is released there will be a recertification for all on the new text and a phase in for refreshers next year. Next year will be a very busy year for our OEC program. I believe all will find the new text refreshing compared to the 4th edition. The book is entirely written and reviewed by the National Ski Patrol. Chapters are very readable and more in depth than in the past. You can actually sit down and read this text, enjoy the experience, and come away with a broader, more detailed knowledge of the material than in the past. In addition the pictures will be more relevant to what we do!

Please welcome new Patrol Directors Geri Cheribum (Nordic), and Robert Maloney (Powder Mills). At the same time thank Tony Imperato (Nordic) and Eric Leinberg (Powder Mills) for their service. It has been my pleasure to

work with them on the Region Staff. Only those that have been Patrol Directors can appreciate the hard work and dedication that is the hallmark of this position.

Enjoy summer and see you in the fall,

REGIONAL ADVISORS:

Nick Schiavetti

Alumni

The 2010 Genesee Valley Region Alumni Day was held on February 26, 2010 at Hunt Hollow Ski Club. Despite the significant snowstorm the night before that made for some travel difficulties, 31 people attended the event, including 16 alumni and 15 guests. The new snow made for some excellent powder skiing and the group had a very enjoyable day of skiing, reunion with former colleagues, and camaraderie among current and retired patrollers. One thing is for sure: No one went home hungry! The Hunt Hollow caterer did an excellent job of providing a bounteous buffet lunch for us and a group of generous patrollers and alumnae, Carolyn Schiavetti, Nancy Cleveland, Bonnie Andre, and Marcia Mundrick, baked a table full of wonderful desserts for the group. Thanks to their largesse and the generosity of several Hunt Hollow patrollers who donated many of the alumni lift tickets, we were able to come within \$9 of breaking even on the budget, a difficult feat in these economic times, and certainly a lot better than either the federal or state government has done this year.

Bob Andre welcomed the group on behalf of the Genesee Valley Region and thanked them for their past service and encouraged their future participation in appropriate region events. John Lawson addressed the group on behalf of the National Ski Patrol Board of Directors and brought them up to date on significant national developments of interest to alumni.

We were able to recruit 10 new alumni members in the region over the past year through our outreach attempts to invite alumni to join us on this year's alumni day. Marcia Mundrick and Bob and Bonnie Andre were particularly helpful in contacting recently retired patrollers and encouraging their participation. As a follow-up to these recent recruitment efforts, we will make attempts to contact patrollers retiring at the end of the 2010 ski season to encourage them to join the national alumni association as soon as they retire.

Our primary goal for next year is to find creative ways for these alumni to contribute their talents to future region programs. The alumni have a wealth of ability and experience that can benefit the region and the skiing public through their participation in appropriate region events. We will begin this summer by encouraging their participation in the Stuart Horse Trials that is a major fund raiser for the educational programs of the region.

The region alumni program has two basic purposes: 1) to acknowledge the previous contributions of alumni in the region and 2) to encourage continued participation of alumni in the region activities. The alumni day addressed both of these purposes as a good opportunity to recognize our alumni for their prior service and to re-engage them with region patrollers and activities. We hope to build on this successful contact with the development of expanded region alumni opportunities in the future.

Mike Mooney

Instructor Development

The Instructor Development class is for region patrollers who want to become instructors in OEC, S&T, MTR, or Avalanche and counts as a senior elective. This class is offered every spring after the ski season ends to avoid the time conflicts that patrollers encounter during the ski season. Participants in this class begin the process of becoming instructors by learning principles of effective teaching, observing demonstration models, and applying classroom and field techniques.

In response to student feedback regarding the inconvenience of late night classes, we modified the schedule last year to present most of the course in an all day Saturday session followed with a wrap-up session on the following Thursday evening. We just completed the GV Region Instructor Development class in May 2010 with four successful participants: **Matt Koelsch** of Swain, and **Bill Gottermeir, Betsy Landre and Gregory Kott** of Bristol. Talk to any of these people or to the other patrollers who have completed this course in recent years and you will hear lots of enthusiastic recommendations for the Instructor Development class. The instructors are looking forward to having another enthusiastic group of patrollers join us next year.

Several experienced instructors at different patrols within the region who have teaching experience in each of the NSP disciplines taught the Instructor Development course this year: **Marcia Mundrick** (Bristol: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), **Mike Mooney** (Swain: S&T), **Glen Gebhard** (Swain & GV Nordic: OEC), **John Lawson** (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM), **Bob Andre** (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), and **Nick Schiavetti** (Swain: OEC, MTR, Avalanche). In addition, we have had a new instructor joining us this year, **Pam Welch** of Bristol who has been mentored by **Marcia Mundrick** and has now become a full-fledged NSP Instructor Development Instructor. Welcome aboard, Pam!! I would also like to acknowledge the substantial administrative contributions made over the years to the program by members of the region staff, especially Region Director **Bob Andre**, Treasurer **Cathy Bentzoni**, and Webmaster **Bill Gamble**.

After completion of the Instructor Development class, instructor trainees must complete the mentoring program under an experienced instructor in each discipline and be evaluated by an Instructor Trainer. The Genesee Valley Region has been very successful in recent years in mentoring and evaluating patrollers and processing their applications through the national office to complete

instructor appointments in all the disciplines. Experienced instructors are available to help out any patroller in the region who wants assistance or advice on how to become an instructor or how to mentor an instructor candidate.

Genesee Valley Region now has a Mentoring webpage that provides information about the mentoring process. The link is in the lower right column of the region homepage (www.nspgvr.org) right underneath the Instructor Development link. Another new feature on the region website this year is the posting of lists of the requirements and responsibilities of instructors in OEC, S&T, MTR, and Avalanche in this region. These lists are found on both the Mentoring and Instructor Development webpages in Adobe Acrobat pdf format for downloading. The intent of these lists is to help potential instructors develop realistic expectations regarding what an instructor does and what the time commitments are to instruct in each discipline.

Instructor Development is the gateway for training new patrol candidates and refreshing current patrollers and enables us to replenish our ranks and update our skills. We invite patrollers to participate in an enjoyable learning experience and join the corps of instructors in the region who contribute so much to the National Ski Patrol and to the skiing public.

Finally, I would like to thank **Nick Schiavetti** for his continued assistance in the Instructor Development program. He continues to be a very valuable instructor and mentor for the program. He has added to his involvement in the Region by being the advisor for the Alumni.

Gina Wyffels **OEC**

The OEC program is off to a great start with planning and scheduling for the candidate class, and instructor and region refreshers. Be sure to check dates and locations of events posted on the region website calendar.

OEC Candidate Class

Cathy Rague and Mark Bowker are the candidate class co-IORs. Welcome to Mark as he embarks on his first season in this capacity. Marie Osypian developed a great interactive website for the class and will continue as the website administrator. Go to the region website under OEC and check out the OEC Class Information Website!

So far there are 35 potential candidates for the class with great representation from all patrols. The location has changed from Avon to Victor to provide a more central location for most people. ITs will once again be closely integrated with the instructor teams to help with lesson planning and content delivery. With such a large class, planning, preparation and participation from all instructors will be critical – and sincerely appreciated. The 4th edition of the manual will be used for the last time this year so all lesson plans and training information from national, the region and our own instructor development can be used as resources.

Instructor and Region Refreshers

Dates and locations for the refreshers are on the region website calendar. We will be doing pre-registration in an attempt to balance attendance at each event. This will hopefully help with the flow at each training station and minimize negative impact on instructors and facility support services. More on the pre-registration as the event dates get closer.

OEC Instructor Mentoring

Bill Teamerson will coordinate the mentor/instructor candidate (IC) pairs. There are several ICs who are very close to becoming full instructors and several ICs who recently completed the Instructor Development class. We will publish a list of ICs with their status very soon.

OEC Instructor Quality

Nick Schiavetti will follow through with Instructor Quality as he has in the past and will update the guidelines and instructor status for the upcoming training season.

The OEC program is shaping up to be challenging and exciting. It will be here before we know it! Once again we are looking for continued excellent support from all instructors, ITs and patrollers.

Have a great summer!!

Jim Mussnug **Avalanche**

This season we are conducting a combined Avalanche and Mountain Travel and Rescue program in Genesee Valley Region. We are fortunate to have Dennis Whitney organizing this course as Instructor of Record. We will be running the Introduction to Avalanche Safety and Rescue course along with Mountain Travel and Rescue Level I. This is a great opportunity to get two Senior electives completed in one overall course. We have designed a program to ensure we meet program delivery requirements in a reasonably condensed format. The first night, Thursday, December 2, 2010 we devote to MTR fundamentals such as clothing, sleeping bags, shelters, cooking, and food. The next indoor session, on Saturday, December 11, 2010, we concentrate on the classroom portion of the Avalanche program. The objective of this session is to cover the relationship of weather, snow pack, terrain and the human element to provide the means to assess avalanche risk when traveling in the backcountry. We will also use this session to inspect everyone's pack to ensure they have assembled the appropriate gear for the upcoming overnight session.

With the fundamentals covered in the indoor sessions, the final session is a weekend event planned for January 15-16, 2011 at Webster Park. We have found that Webster Park provides reasonable terrain to work with, a shelter to conduct some training at night and to gather in for socializing, and close access to vehicles in case of an emergency. This session covers topics such as orienteering, low angle rescue rope work, emergency shelters and fire starting, avalanche rescue beacons and

probing. The culmination of the event is a practical search and rescue exercise including avalanche rescue techniques. All elements of the program are integrated, such as use of avalanche rescue beacons, probing, and search techniques, and use of Z-lines to extricate injured skiers.

Students and instructors all consider this course format to be a success and a lot of fun for participants. The Region is fortunate to have a dedicated staff of instructors for Avalanche and MTR to guide your learning and help ensure you have an enjoyable experience in a safe environment. Come on out and experience another aspect of Ski Patrolling! Check the Genesee Valley Region NSP calendar for dates of these sessions. Any questions - contact either Dennis Whitney or Jim Mussgnug

Eastern Division is planning to conduct an Avalanche Level 2 course in March, 2011, at Whiteface Mountain. This is a fantastic program and everyone has always come away impressed with the overall program and the opportunity to conduct field work in actual avalanche terrain. Look to the Eastern Division NSP Calendar for the planned dates for this event.

Skip Millor **MTR**

This season we will once again team up with the Avalanche program and offer a combined Avalanche/MTR1 course. Along with two Senior credits you get to have a lot of fun leaning new skills in the snow. No need to travel, everything is here in the region.

Course dates are now on the Region Website calendar so you can plan ahead. Registration forms will be available October 1, 2010 next to the program dates. Plan to register early as this course fills up quickly.

Joe Menichino **Certified**

Hi folks- summer is here and I finally put my skis away. Liz is happy they are no longer in the living room.

It was a good season for the Certified program in the Genesee Valley. We hosted an Introduction to the Certified Program in early January at Bristol. The one-day program was very well attended by participants from multiple Regions. It was a long day and it was a bit tough to squeeze in all the sessions. This is really representative of the actual program. Jeff Baker cooked us an excellent lunch then made me haul down all the leftovers, pots and pans and garbage thru the bumps as my load in the sled demo run. I didn't dare dump the load with all the potential candidates watching. We were pleased to see better than half of the attendee's come up to the actual test in March to see the real thing.

The annual exam was held at Sugarbush at the end of March. Our Region was well represented by all of our Certified members and many interested patrollers from Swain and Bristol. Dave Walker, the current program leader continues evolving the program placing strong emphasis on consistent requirements, efficiently organized

test events and believe it or not- training. The skiing was awful after days of rain then freezing temps. Not many passed skiing or sleds this year. The First Aid section was a riot with fireworks, drunks and lots of challenges. This year's candidates did well in this portion of the exam. The annual dinner was fun and the annual Eastern Pa party was amazing as usual. Its hard to believe how many people they can squeeze into a rental unit at one time along with "refreshments", food, pets, luggage etc, etc.. Everyone survived including the guys that passed and were "shaved" by the gang.



The sled run hill at Sugarbush.

Next year it will be a bit tougher to attend the exam as a guest. If you have an interest let me know very early so I can make arrangements. The program attendance is growing rapidly and I believe the leadership will be tightening it up.

Have a great and safe summer. It won't be long and we'll be back at it in refreshers- can't wait....

Peter Parker **S&T**

What can I say? It's summer and there's not much skiing happening for the S&T course.

However, NOW is the time to plan and be sure to enroll in what is sure to be the most fun course you've ever taken in the Genesee Valley Region! Excluding the year we offered juggling, banjo playing, and tight rope walking, obviously.

So start your workout regimen to get those bodies in shape for the ski season then sign up to join your team of S&T T/Es for some time skiing and toboggan handling. If you have any questions at all regarding the course, check the GVR website S&T section and/or email me. We'd love to have any and all that are excited and interested to improve your confidence handling toboggans and skiing varying terrain. Best of all, we stress the importance of a smile at all times!

See you this winter!

Hi All,

I am excited to be taking over the helm of the SEMM program for our region. Bonnie and Bob have done a great job with it, and it should be a smooth transition. We have already had one of our first meetings and all the Senior TE's have re-certified for another 3 years. Our re-certification was in conjunction with Western NY division, so there was a great turnout, lots of interaction and some wonderful sharing of ideas and experiences. I think that as the TEs from each region work together, we might be able to pool our resources for those years when we have large classes.



Last year's Senior EMM Class at Swain.

I would like to invite **everyone** to join this years SEMM class. We get to meet people from other mountains, make some new friends, sharpen our OEC skills, participate in some challenging scenarios and have some fun.

If you are not sure what SEMM is about why not stop by for one of the first sessions? We can let you jump in and help for awhile.

Here is our **tentative** schedule.

Skills check off December 3rd

Outdoor Scenarios Sundays and Alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays

January 16th, 18th, 23rd, 26th

February 6th, 8th, 13th, 16th, 20th, 22nd, 27th

The final will be on March 5th.

If you have any questions about the program, just drop me an e-mail and we can set up a time to chat and go over everything.

Have fun this summer and See you on the slopes soon!

NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:

NORDIC

The Genesee Valley Nordic Ski Patrol had their Annual Spring and Elections Banquet at the "Rabbit Room" in Honeoye Falls. The Newly elected officers are Geri Cherubim as our Patrol Representative and Tom Adler as Assistant Patrol Representative, Secretary Mike Young, Treasurer Pam Mortensen, and Pat Fluharty joins Grant Fowler and Gina Wyffels as our Nordic Advisors.

Special Recognition awards went to Gina Wyffels- Genesee Valley Region Patroller of the Year, Gina Wyffels and Debbie Whalen - Charles Effrige Award of Excellence, Jim Drew – Daan Zwick Award of Excellence, Years of Service Award- 5 Years to Geri Cherubim, Tony Imperato, Grant Fowler, and Debbie Whalen - 10 Years to Mike Tallon and Tom Adler, and 30 years of Service to Holger Stave.



Region Patroller of the Year Gina Wyffels, with RD Bob André.

A successful year of training with the Sked at all three XC-SKI locations - Mendon Ponds, Harriet Hollister, and Cummings Nature Center - has brought our level of training to a new peak. Refining of OEC techniques and extrication processes are part of our continual training for this next years Patrol under the guidance of Deb Whalen and Skip Millor

Grant Fowler will be working hard as our recruiter for new members that can meet the standards of the GVNSP.

Mike Young

BRISTOL

Bristol held its year end picnic and awards ceremony at Mendon Ponds Park. The food was great and congratulations to our award recipients. There were several awards from Eastern Division. Jerry Sherman is this year's Division Outstanding Paid Patroller. Colin Ronald received the Eastern Division Memorial Fund scholarship and Bob Bryant, Mike Kamali, Keith McIntyre, Elaine Pratt, Jerry Sherman and Steve Sipple received blue merit stars.

The Bristol awards were:

- Patroller of the year – Jeff Welch
- Instructor of the year- Bill Teamerson
- Candidate of the year –Jerry Butler
- Hill chief of the year – Tim Eygabroad
- Auxiliary of the year- Steve Sipple
- Pro of the year –Scott Mundrick
- Nick Anastas unsung hero award – Kevin Boehm
- Pro Choice awards for those who are most helpful- Jan Scott, Russ Perrin, Joe Herbert, Mark Browker, and Phil Edelstein

We look forward to a busy upcoming year. Bristol has 15 candidates who will be taking OEC. Our on hill refresher is Sat. September 11.

Bill Gottermeier, PD

BRANTLING

The Brantling patrol finished a great ski season in March. Overall injuries that required the patrol's intervention were down, certainly a direct result of the increased patrol presence on the hill, coordinated by scheduler Dave Vinke, and the support of our patrol. A tremendously successful recruiting effort and candidate S and T course were led by Mike McManus, assisted by Greg Bernhard, Kim Buell, Pat Cirincione, Larry Mooney, Jim Reid, Cindy Showman and Dave Vinke, who worked with the candidates outside of the scheduled training. A great example of Brantling teamwork! At this writing, this past season's S and T alumni (4), and eight other interested skiers are planning to join the region's OEC course this Fall.

Our annual banquet was held at Brantling in April and was well attended. Patrol leader, Brian Mayou opened the awards ceremony with the theme of teamwork. The patrol was commended for the excellent communication and coordination of their personal schedules to keep the hill covered during the season. First year patroller, Paul Loveless and veteran patroller, Ann Boise were recognized for their consistent willingness to substitute for their fellow patrollers during personal schedule conflicts. The S and T team was recognized for the training efforts mentioned previously. NSP Service Awards were presented to Pat Cirincione - 5 yrs, Terry Bruno - 10 yrs, Cindy Showman and Brian Mayou - 15 yrs, Larry Mooney - 25yrs and Martha Rich - 35 yrs of service. Congratulations to all!

Other BIG news for the Brantling Patrol is the construction of a new, separate patrol building, tentatively scheduled for Valley Views

this Summer. A team of patrollers met in April with Brantling owner, Kevin Speer, to discuss design, location and layout. Stay tuned for updates on the progress as we move toward the 2010/2011season.

Brian Mayou, PD

HUNT HOLLOW

We had a great 2009-2010 season at Hunt Hollow. There was plenty of snow early and the entire hill was open.

The Patrol had our banquet in May where we celebrated Jack Starke's 35 years of service while he welcomed his retirement. Don't be a stranger Jack! Zack Starke was awarded our Candidate of the Year with his Grandfather and Father looking on – another 3 generation family of patrollers at Hunt Hollow.

Our Patroller of the Year was Greg West for bringing such great optimism and fun balanced with responsibility for the job we do to every shift. (See other award photos below.)

Another retirement note, Bill Stultz has decided made the difficult decision after 20 years of service to Hunt Hollow. Thanks Bill! We'll see you on the slopes!

We also had another patroller enter the instructor world with Greg Kott completing the ID course this year. Great job Greg and thanks for the dedication!

Looking ahead, Hunt Hollow has several candidates lined up to start OEC in August to help fortify our ranks and bring fresh faces to the hill.

Have a safe summer!

Peter Parker, PD



Jerry Sherman (Hunt Hollow and Bristol) received the George F. Wesson, Jr. Division Outstanding Professional Patroller Award from DD Rick Hamlin at the Spring Officers' Meeting.



John Topping (Hunt Hollow) received the T. Tyler Davis Division Outstanding Instructor Award.



Bill Gamble (Hunt Hollow Alumnus) received the Dick Doyle Region Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to the Division, Region and Hunt Hollow Patrol from RD Bob André



At the Swain Banquet, Doug Hollinger received the Region Henry Williams Award for volunteer service exemplifying the spirit of the NSP.

POWDER MILLS

We held our annual patrol picnic on March 27th, and a good time was had by all.

Elections were held and Awards given!

The annual on-hill refresher for all Powder Mills patrollers is scheduled for Saturday, November 6th.

Robert Maloney, PD

DICK DOYLE MEMORIAL GOLF GATHERING

SATUDAY JULY 31, SHADOW PINES GOLF CLUB

18 Hole Scramble 12:30-1:30 \$55.00
 9 Hole Scramble 3:00 \$40.00
 Includes Cart, Chicken BBQ and Guaranteed Laughter
 Register by July 16th

Make Check Payable to Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol.
 Mail to:
 Bill Teamerson
 1484 State Road
 Webster, NY 14580

Questions? bill@waysidegardencenter.com

SEE YOU THERE!



Some of last year's golfers.

For the latest information on Region matters, visit the Region web site regularly: <http://www.nspgvr.org>.