

# VALLEY VIEWS



The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Summer, 2012

**Bob André**

**RD**



We have finally put the 2011-2012 season to rest. Instead of recalling the mud, rain, and lack of snow let's recall the positives and move forward into the next season. Our Candidate class successfully integrated into the Patrols, and recruiting for next year promises another large class for this year. With the bulk of the 5th Edition OEC text

under our belt, I expect that this year's Candidate class and refreshers will run more smoothly. The refresher schedule is posted on the Region website so please check it out and plan your fall accordingly. Last year we asked Patrollers to sign up in advance for refreshers in what was a successful effort to have nearly equal numbers present at each refresher. This worked so well that we will follow the same plan for this year. Patrollers will be contacted by a Patrol Representative and asked to sign up for one of the Region refreshers. When a date is full all individuals remaining will be assigned to the date less full so check the dates and sign up early.

New faces donning new hats on the Region staff include **Pat Saeva** assuming the MTR Advisorship from **Skip Millor**. Skip has over the years conducted a superb program for the Region as our MTR Advisor. While other Regions struggle to even have an MTR program, our Region has run a very successful one thanks to Skip and our MTR Instructors. Thank you Skip for all you have done to execute this excellent program. Knowing Pat as well as I do, I expect we will see a continuation of Skip's efforts blessed with Pat enthusiasm and energy. Come join us for our MTR Level I course this next season combined with our Avalanche course led by **Jim Mussnug**.

**Tom Jansen** has stepped up to assume the Region OEC Advisor (ROA) role from retiring **Gina Wyffels**. We all owe Gina a big thank you for service, but even more so for her innovations to the program especially the Region refreshers. Gina's guidance has provided us with a much better continuing education program that maximizes our learning potential. Tom has jumped into the program with both feet and has already met with **Cathy Rague and Mark Bowker** to plan the OEC class and is picking up where Gina left off with the remainder of the program. The transfer of many heavy boxes of records went very smoothly, especially for someone with a banged up wing.

My thanks to retiring Patrol Directors and their successors for the continuing leadership within the Region. **Geri Cheribum(GV Nordic) succeeded by Deb Whalen, and Robert Maloney(Powder Mills) succeeded by Rick Church.**

Look to the Division and Region websites for information on the 75th NSP Anniversary Celebration held at Stowe this October 20th. Many of us from the Region will be attending this historical event-come join us at the birthplace of NSP.

I do not mean to steal Mike Lord's thunder - and he has the right to a great deal, but we were once again very successful with Eastern Division Outstanding Awards. It is a credit to our awards group and the entire Region that we brought home an Outstanding Large Patrol Award as well as Outstanding Administrative Patroller and for the 5TH YEAR IN A ROW, the Outstanding Instructor Award (to **Bob André Ed.**). Credit our Instructor Development and mentoring program as well as our programs and Patrollers for accomplishing this history.

Elections this fall held at the Region refreshers include Assistant Region Director and Region Director. Also National elections will be held on line for National Board positions. Our incumbent **John Lawson** is running for a new term. John has completed a good deal of work while on the board and I urge all to vote for him this fall. Information on the nominating process and Region elections is posted on the Region website. Please contact elections chairman **Greg Kott** for further information. National election information is available on the National website.

Once again I ask each of you to check your member page on the National website to assure that your information is up to date and accurate-especially email addresses. It is not effective to contact our Region as a group through the website when a significant number of addresses are not functional. Also make sure that your education information is accurate. At this time most of this information is hand entered and accompanied by unavoidable human error.

We appreciate all who have supported our Education Fund through our activities at the Stuart Horse Trials and GVRDC events. Come to the Horse Trials and watch Olympic and local riders launch over the Region cross-

country fence - successfully of course. We don't wish to over-train our Region medical staff.

Enjoy summer,  
Bob

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## REGIONAL ADVISORS:

### **Tom Jenssen**

### **OEC**

Having just taken over the ROA position from Gina, I am starting to appreciate just how great a job she did! I hope I can serve you as well as she did.

Having gone thru a year of OEC training with the new materials, the IOR's (Mark and Cathy), Bob, Marcia and I have re-organized the class schedule to spend more time on topics of more practical importance. We think this will benefit both the students and instructors. The classes start Aug 6 and will be held at Victor H.S. We will soon be posting the schedule and asking for instructor signups. Thanks in advance for your help!

The web site now has the dates for the Instructor refreshers held at Victor H.S. in September and the OEC refreshers held at Honeoye H.S. in October. We will again aim for a 50/50 mix of patrollers at these sessions, so please let your patrol director know your preference early if only one of the dates works with your schedule.

Have a great summer!

### **Peter Parker**

### **S&T**

Senior S&T had a healthy turnout this year with Candidates enrolled in the program from Bristol and Swain.

We held the final evaluation on March 4<sup>th</sup> at Bristol Mountain. Congratulations are due to our successful candidates:

**Arran Duncan, Steve Sippel, Shelly Fiumano, Valerie Sorrells, and Brian Ferguson, Marie Osypian, and Glenn Gebhard.**

Thanks are due to all the SR Trainer Evaluators who dedicated several nights or mornings to SR Clinics with our candidates – **Jeff Baker, Jim Nickerson, Tom Wallin, Joe Menochino, John Topping, Mac Inglis, Jeff Welch, Lori Kloesz, Scott Wild, and Glen Huot.** We also had great help from **Chris Hellems and Pam Welch.**

Have a great summer and please seriously consider coming out and joining SR S&T next season to experience the fun and excitement of Heli Skiing in the high altitude bowls of the Genesee Valley Region ski areas. (ok – maybe an exaggeration, but it got your attention!)

### **Bill Teamerson**

### **EMM**

Hi everyone, I know it seems early, but it really is never time to stop thinking about ski patrol.

Since we did not have enough participants last year to make a full class, and S&T had a huge success rate, I am anticipating a very large class! I will be limiting the number of participants to 15, and it will be first come first served. The people who signed up last year are already on the list, so that leaves room for about 9 to 10 other people.

We are planning a challenging year for EMM. Since this will be our first session with the new OEC manuals, it will give us the opportunity to utilize it and help everyone get up to speed on any new procedures and techniques.

Many of you have said that you feel “too rusty” or that you do not get enough experience at your mountain to take the EMM class. We are working on a program that might help you with that. We are starting the EMM program earlier this year, and spending the first few weeks just working on OEC skills, and then progressing into the more difficult EMM problems. I have found that the OEC skills are a stumbling block for many patrollers, whether it is because “they take care of that at the base”, or “we just never see that at our mountain”, I think everyone will benefit from some extra skill sessions. This will also be the time that we can work to bring everyone up to speed on the new manual!

I am also going to change up the schedule a little this year to try to make the sessions more available for everyone! So look at the GVR website to get the actual schedule.

Enjoy the summer and see you on the slopes soon!

### **Mike Mooney**

### **Instructor Development**

Patrollers who want to become instructors in Outdoor Emergency Care, Ski & Toboggan Transportation, Mountain Travel & Rescue, or Avalanche need to enroll in the Instructor Development course to begin the process of becoming an instructor. This class is offered every spring after the end of the ski season to avoid the time conflicts that patrollers encounter during the ski season and counts as a senior elective. Participants in the course learn principles of effective classroom and field teaching techniques and observe a variety of demonstration teaching models.

The course in an evening session with the students required to complete a CD/DVD prior to the evening session. The evening session reinforced the materials brought forward on the CD/DVD and allowed for practice by the students before presenting their mini lesson using the foundations developed in the course. Five patrollers completed this Instructor Development class in April 2012 and are now going through the mentoring process to become instructors. In our survey of the patrollers

who completed the course we received lots of enthusiastic feedback about the class format. Check the region website for further information. Signup sheets will be available at the Region Refreshers in the fall and you can also contact myself at [mooney@geneseo.edu](mailto:mooney@geneseo.edu) to register for the course.

In addition to completing the Instructor Development course, patrollers who want to become instructors need to complete the mentoring program with an experienced instructor in each discipline and be evaluated by an Instructor Trainer. Genesee Valley Region has been very successful in mentoring and evaluating new instructors and there are lots of experienced instructors who are available to give you assistance or advice on the instructor mentoring program. The region now also has a mentoring webpage that provides information about the mentoring process – you will find the link to it in the lower right column of the GV Region homepage (<http://www.nspgvr.org>) right underneath the Instructor Development link. Another 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 on both the Mentoring and Instructor Development webpages in Adobe Acrobat pdf format for downloading. The intent of these documents is to help potential instructors develop realistic expectations regarding what an instructor does and what the time commitments are to instruct in each discipline before signing up.

We have instructors from various patrols in the region with teaching experience in each of the NSP disciplines who will teach the Instructor Development course this year: **Marcia Mundrick (Bristol: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), Mike Mooney (Swain: S&T, OEC), John Lawson (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM), Bob Andre (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), Pam Welch (Bristol OEC) and Nick Schiavetti (Swain: OEC, MTR, Avalanche).**

The Instructor Development class is the gateway to becoming an instructor who trains new patrol candidates and refreshes current patrollers. These training activities enable the region to replenish our ranks and update our patroller skills. We invite you to take part in an enjoyable learning experience and join the corps of instructors in this region who contribute so much both to the patrols and to the skiing public.

### **Jim Mussnug** **Avalanche**

This season we are conducting a combined Avalanche and Mountain Travel and Rescue program in Genesee Valley Region. We plan to offer 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, November 29, 2012\* will be devoted to MTR fundamentals such as

clothing, sleeping bags, shelters, cooking, and food. The next indoor session, on Saturday, December 8, 2012\*, will 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 12-13, 2013\* 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 to Ski Patrolling! Sign-up sheets will be available at the fall Region OEC Refreshers. Any questions - contact Jim Mussnug. [mussnug@frontiernet.net](mailto:mussnug@frontiernet.net)

Eastern Division is planning to conduct an Avalanche Level 2 course in March, 2012. 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 all Avalanche courses.

*(\*Note – dates posted above are **tentative** – please check the Genesee Valley Region NSP calendar in the fall for final dates of these sessions.)*

### **Patrick Saeva** **MTR**

I am very excited to take over the MTR reigns from Skip Millor and am looking forward to being the new MTR Advisor for the Region. However, I have taken over this responsibility with some trepidation, given the size of the shoes that I have to fill. Skip has been a great friend and mentor over the years and I will have to work hard to live up to his expectations. Thank you to Skip and Bob Andre for the opportunity.

As mentioned in the Avalanche update, another combined MTR and Avalanche course is on the horizon. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate a little more this coming season than she did in 2012. As you know, we had to cancel the MTR 2 class this year due to the conditions.

NSP is scheduled to release an update to the MTR manual this fall, which is going to contain more coursework on GPS usage, Search and Rescue Techniques, and other interesting topics. So, even if you have taken MTR 1 in the past, you may be interested in refreshing your skills.

The program continues to shine in the Eastern Division because of the vast experience of the MTR and Avalanche instructors. In fact, GVR instructors are often tapped to help build and teach programs across the country. If you are interested in taking the combined class this next year or interested in working your way towards an MTR instructor, please let me know. We will continue to grow the program and offer a top-notch winter experience.

[psaeva01@rochester.rr.com](mailto:psaeva01@rochester.rr.com)

### **Joe Menichino** **Certified**

Hi folks- summer is almost here and the big wet snow we finally got late in the season has all melted. Beautiful but too late to enjoy on the slopes. What a rare winter and overall ski season. Hopefully we'll be back to normal next season.

The Certified program was held at Jay Peak in Vermont the last weekend of March. The test was completed successfully but it did require shoveling snow between runs to keep the ski exam running. Our Region was well represented by many of our Certified members plus a number of patrollers with spouses. Sunbathing time might have exceeded time on the slopes. Not a bad alternative. Next year we will be at Sugarbush. It's always a great trip and I can't recommend it enough.

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

### **Merrily Hoover** **Alumni**

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. This year's 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.

The 2012 Genesee Valley Region Alumni Day was held on February 24 at Hunt Hollow Ski Club. Unlike the previous 2 gatherings, the weather was great for driving and we were delighted to have 44 people attend the

festivities. This included including 30 alumni and 14 guests. Everyone enjoyed their skiing and they particularly enjoyed their lunch, which was catered by **Trish Azur** of the Brown Hound Bistro. We were also fortunate to have had wine from Hunt Country Vineyards and Deer Run, provided by **Deb Koop and Nick Schiavetti**, as well as real wine glasses and real dishes and silverware, also provided by Deb Koop. It made the occasion even more enjoyable. Desserts were thanks to a number of contributors including **Carolyn Schiavetti, Nikki Miller, Pam Thompson, Marcia Mundrick, and Merrily Hoover**. We calculated that among the Alumni in attendance we had a total of 826 years of active duty patrolling!!!! (That is a huge amount of experience!!)

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. We also agreed to try and get some of the more "experienced" Alumni to get together to write and work on a history of the Genesee Valley Region. We will try and make that happen some time this summer.

We have been successful in recruiting several new alumni members in the region again this year through our outreach attempts to invite Alumni to join us on Alumni Day. Our primary goal for next year is to find creative ways to provide additional financial support for alumni day, as the region expenses have mounted a bit with increased participation. We will begin this summer by encouraging Alumni participation in the Stuart Horse Trials that is a major fund-raiser for the region.

Please check the region website for more alumni information regarding building an historical document for the region. Also, if you know of someone who has retired from patrolling or is thinking about retiring, remind them that they can still stay involved with their old friends and colleagues by becoming members of the NSP Alumni Association.

## **NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:**

### **BRISTOL**

Bristol held its year-end picnic and awards ceremony at Mendon Ponds Park on Sunday, May 6. The food was great and a good time was had by all. Congratulations to all our award recipients. **Jerry Sherman** gave several awards from the Eastern Division.

#### **Brian Walsh received a Distinguished Service Award.**

**Lee Bentzoni, Todd Harran, and Tom Jenssen were awarded the Patroller's Cross. Tim Eygabroad and Mike Stamp each received a Purple Merit Star for saving a life. Andy Baisch, Mark Bowker, Jeremy Hellems, Jeff Simpson, and Rick Walzer each received a Blue Merit Star for assisting in saving a**

life. **Teresa Muench** received a **Yellow Merit Star**. **Kim McIntyre** received an **Angel Pin** and a **Guardian Angel Pin**.

The Bristol awards were:

- **Outstanding Patroller – Tom Jossen**
- **Outstanding Instructor – John Bolanda**
- **Outstanding Candidate – Andy Knapp**
- **Outstanding Hill Chief – Scott Rosebrough**
- **Outstanding Auxiliary – Tom Erbland**
- **Outstanding Mountain Host – Ken Elko**
- **Outstanding Pro – Russ Perrin**
- **Nick Anastas Unsung Hero Award – Jon Thompson**

Many NSP Service Awards were given out. We look forward to a busy upcoming year. Bristol hopes to have several candidates who will be taking OEC. The date for our On Hill Refresher is Saturday, September 29.

*Pam Thompson, PD*

## **HUNT HOLLOW**

On May 4th, the Hunt Hollow Ski Patrol assembled at the Canandaigua Yacht Club for its year-end banquet and awards ceremony. A great time was had by all, and the party continued well into the late evening (and beyond).

Despite a down year in terms of natural snowfall, HHSP still had plenty to celebrate this season:

- We added 6 Basic Patrollers to our ranks: **Nick Podhorecki, Jimmy Schaeffer, and Parker Wild** completed OEC after completing S&T last winter. **Kate Ackerman, Mark Amico and Roger Peinkofer** completed both OEC and S&T this year. Congratulations and welcome to the family!
- Additionally, 4 candidates successfully passed S&T and are on their way to OEC: **Carolyn Hotchkiss, Brian and Jenny Rosenbauer, and Rachel Wambach**. Almost there!
- **Parker Wild** was awarded an Eastern Division memorial Fund Scholarship and will be matriculating at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in the Fall.
- **John Lawson, National Board Member, was awarded the Eastern Division Donald F. Page Outstanding Administrative Patroller of the Year Award.**
- **Bob André** was awarded the Eastern Division **T. Tyler Davis Instructor of the Year Award** as well as a **Yellow Merit Star** for his work in the OEC Program.
- **Hunt Hollow Ski Patrol** was awarded the Eastern Division **Outstanding Large Alpine**

## **Patrol Award.**

- **Peter Parker, Sr.** received a **Distinguished Service Award** for his many years of outstanding service.

Please join me in celebrating the outstanding efforts of the Hunt Hollow Ski Patrol members, both past and present, whose dedication to the Hunt Hollow Ski Club and the National Ski Patrol is recognized with these awards.

Enjoy your Summer,  
*Joe Hoff, PD*

## **NORDIC**

Yes, we actually did ski on some great natural snow this season! We had fresh powder for our annual clinic at Harriett Hollister in January with our local PSIA Level IV instructor Randy French. While not a stellar snow season for anyone on skis, other stashes were found on various days at Cummings Nature Center and Mendon Ponds Park.

Our fall refresher began our quest to move toward the proposed National “50 Nordic Skills” which add to the OEC component and include navigation, survival, rope rescue techniques along with the required ski and toboggan elements.

Congratulations to **Nordic Alumni Peter Parker, Sr.** for receiving a **NSP Distinguished Award for Service** at the recent Hunt Hollow banquet.

For anyone interested in learning more about a fun way to get in great shape and enjoy the outdoors while providing service to the a different skiing community please go to [www.gvns.org](http://www.gvns.org). Consider taking the challenge!

*Debbie Whalen, PD*

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## **AWARD PHOTOS**



Figure 1 - Brian Walsh received a Distinguished Service Award.



**Figure 2 - Lee Bentzoni received a Patroller's Cross.**



**Figure 5 - Mark Bowker received a Blue Merit Star.**



**Figure 3 - Mike Stamp received a Purple Merit Star.**



**Figure 6 - Rick Walzer received a Blue Merit Star.**



**Figure 4 - Tim Eygabroad received a Purple Merit Star.**



**Figure 7 - Theresa Muench received a Yellow Merit Star.**



**Figure 8 - Peter Parker, Sr. received a Distinguished Service Award.**



**Figure 11 - The Hunt Hollow Patrol received the Eastern Division Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol Award.**



**Figure 9 - John Lawson received the Eastern Division Donald F. Page Outstanding Administrative Patroller Award.**



**Figure 10 - Bob Andre received the Eastern Division T. Tyler Davis Outstanding Instructor Award. Bob also received a Yellow Merit Star for his work on the OEC 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Text.**

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