

CV VALLEY VIEWS D

The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Winter, 2007

Mike Lord **RD**

Well, as I write the snow guns are on and Mother Nature has finally decided that winter should come for a visit. I hope this finds all of you ready for snow and the new season. I can say that all of you worked hard at our refreshers and deserve a little snow time. The region candidate class was again a big success, and please take a moment as the season starts to say Hi and get to know our new Genesee Valley members.

Thank you to all the region patrollers that voted in our last region elections. Marcia Mundrick and I look forward to working for you and our region in the coming months. I can't tell you all how much it means to me that you have given me another opportunity to serve you and the region for another term. Thank you so much.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter. Have fun reading what's going to be going on in our region this winter. Take the time to join a clinic or class. Have fun in the snow and I hope to be able to get out and ski with many of you this winter.

Mike

REGIONAL ADVISORS:

Nick Schiavetti **Instructor Development**

Patrollers who want to become instructors in OEC, S&T, MTR, or Avalanche should take the Instructor Development course to learn principles of effective teaching, observe demonstration models, and apply classroom and field teaching techniques. 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 it counts as a senior elective.

In response to student feedback regarding the late night classes of the past couple of years, we have modified the schedule for this coming spring. The course will be presented in the Genesee Valley Region during the day on Saturday, April 28 with the second session in the early evening of Thursday, May 3, 2007 at Hunt Hollow. Check the region website for the information flyer. Signup sheets were available at the Region Refreshers in the fall and you can also contact me at redhill3@rochester.rr.com to register for the course.

Seven patrollers completed the GV Region Instructor Development class in May 2006 and are now going through the mentoring process to become instructors. Talk to anyone who has completed this course in recent years and you will hear lots of enthusiastic recommendations for the class.

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 their 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.

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 & GV Nordic: 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).

The Instructor Development class is your gateway to becoming an instructor who trains new patrol candidates and refreshes current patrollers. These activities enable us 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.

Mike Long **OEC**

As the OEC program continues, this has been an active year. Thanks to Nick Schiavetti and his able staff, we were able to welcome four new OEC instructors, Tony Imperato, Robert Maloney, Linda Pazral, and Eric Zeise this year, just in time to help at the refreshers.

The OEC Class concluded on Saturday November 11th with the passage of 23 candidates to the ranks of patrollers. These newbies have now been turned over to the ski areas for final fine tuning. They will learn such important attributes, for instance, as how to respond to an accident irrespective of their location at the area, getting there first in order to practice their newly learned skills. When they have finished this, hopefully a few will

remember what made this possible, and join the rank of OEC instructors.

The success of this class was in large part due to the tutelage of the co-IORs, Steve Duncan and Bill Teamerson, who after two great years, have already retired--any volunteers for next year? As a special note, Bill and Steve would "like to extend their gratitude to all the instructors that helped out so much during the year. This course could not be successful without their dedication and commitment. They would also like to extend a special thank you to Marcia Mundrick who again took on the task of scheduling all of the instructors. Her help is priceless. This year the class was back in a school environment. Thanks to Andrea Marino, we were able to use the Avon Middle School cafeteria which was centrally located for the candidates. Steve & Bill are looking forward to seeing all of the new candidates out skiing or riding as they put their knowledge to use and work toward passing their S&T and helping the public".

The four Region OEC Refreshers concluded with the successful recertification of 13 ITs, 73 Instructors, 245 patrollers, and 6 visitors. With a few patrollers refreshing outside of the region, this comes to 339 active patrollers in the region. Certainly to make this happen takes a cadre of dedicated instructors which we are fortunate to have—thanks to all. Of course, the highlight of the two region patroller's refreshers at Honeoye HS was having cheese on the sandwiches. When word gets around that we again offer cheese on our sandwiches, I am sure everyone will want to recertify within our region.

On a final note, last years successful OEC Ski Rally will again be repeated on Sunday January 28th at Swain. Watch the Region Web Site and Patrol Announcements for more information as this develops. As last year, this was enjoyed by the Junior Patrollers, the Sr. EMM Candidates, patrollers, and certainly by the instructors that took part as injured and "disturb" spouses. Hope to see many of you there and looking forward to a great ski season and a successful EMM program.

P.S. from the IOR's:

OEC 2006 concluded on Saturday 11/4/06. We had another great year with 23 out of 24 candidates successfully completing the course. Bill and I would like to extend our gratitude to all the instructors that helped out so much during the year. This course could not be successful without their dedication and commitment. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Marcia Mundrick. She again took on the task of scheduling all of the instructors. Her help is priceless. This year we found ourselves back in a school environment. Thanks to Andrea Marino, we were able to use the Avon Middle School cafeteria. This location was centrally located and best of all, came at no cost to the region. We look forward to seeing all of the new candidates out on the mountain as they put their knowledge to use and work toward passing their S&T.

Valley Views

Have a great ski season!!

GVR OEC IOR's,

Bill Teamerson
Steve Duncan

Bob Andre' Senior EMM

The senior program is an emergency management program. The actual program consists of you participating as leader or helper in scenarios designed to teach good leadership skills. This is a fun, very rewarding program that teaches leadership skills and refreshes OEC skills while exposing you to variations on how to succeed in the real world with multiple patients, aggravated bystanders, etc. This year's program started Dec 12, with an OEC skill review for the class at Hunt Hollow.

Senior EMM Schedule for 2007

Training starts Sunday January 14, 1:00PM at Hunt Hollow

Sundays	Hunt Hollow	1:00PM
Wednesdays	Powder Mills	6:30PM
Thursdays	Swain	6:30PM by appointment

Other locations and times may be arranged for the convenience of the candidates.

Sunday January 28 OEC Enhancement Seminar at Swain.

Final Evaluation Saturday March 3, 7:30AM at Brantling
Please contact Bob Andre' prior to Jan 1 for details.

Senior EMM Trainer/Evaluators

Jennifer Grant, Chris Stiegler, Norm Robinson, John McManus, Jeff Baker, Bonnie Andre', John Lawson, Marcia Mundrick, Andrew Cruikshank, Mike Lord, Pat Fluharty, Ben Emerson, Sue Navarra, Janet Remizowski, Bill Teamerson, Steve Duncan and Mike Long.

Bob Andre' Senior Trainer Coordinator
585-924-7215

ehf1@hughes.net

John Topping S&T **Cold Weather is on the horizon!!**

We will be skiing before you know it and the Senior S&T program will start soon after the season gets underway, so sign up today. Begin the process by emailing me at jtoppin1@rochester.rr.com.

There is no better way to become a better skier and toboggan handler than to join the **Senior S&T Program**. One of the complaints we have heard over the years is the time commitment for completing the program. This year in not only the year we offer the one day final challenge, but we've shortened the clinics to just 11. What we promise to do is give any candidate personalized attention from our region staff and any addition help anyone may need. This program is all

about being better! We will improve your patroller skills and toboggan handling. The Senior S&T schedule and applications for the program are on the Web site. Check us out!!

Additional Programs:

We are considering one or more special clinics like we have had in the past, like the snowboard or tele clinics. Watch for more information on the web site.

Senior Recertifications If you have not recertified your senior S&T in a while it may be time (due every 3 years). Check the web page for the date and location that fits your schedule.

John Topping
S&T Advisor

Joe Menichino Certified

At last- we are skiing again. Welcome back. I just got home from a quick trip to Killington (patrol stuff) and I'm just a little bit stiff. Pulling on my socks this morning was no easy chore. Big mountains are great but the crowd at Killington is unbelievable. I'll take the good old Genesee Valley.

This year's annual Certified program will be held at Hunter Mountain in southern NY (pronounced Hunta by the locals I hear). The three day program will be held in late March. Lucky for us this is an easy drive to a great mountain. If you have any interest in joining the program, seeing what it's all about or better yet, participating as an IP in the OEC portion of the test on Saturday let me know. I can arrange passes for those that are willing to help. Helping with the First Aid test on Saturday is always fun and a great learning experience for patrollers at any level.

Important dates for this year are:

Certified Pretest at Windham - January 27
Certified Test at Hunter- March 23 to 25

On a sad note I have been told that Gordie Bell, long time Certified patroller and mentor to all patrollers is very ill and in the hospital. Gordie is a bit famous for being the first Certified candidate to complete the program in one year. He did this back in the very beginning of the program (late sixties/early seventies). Only 2 others that I know of have done it in one year since. Gordie is a great patroller and has helped hundreds of basic, senior and certified candidates reach their goals. Cards can be sent to:

Gordie Bell
2634 Boas Street
Harrisburg Pa, 17103

Please feel free to call me (607-587-8229) or any of the Certified patrollers in our region if you want to discuss any aspect of the program. Have a great, safe

season.....and pray for snow (or at least overnight cold for snowmaking).

John Lawson Awards

Well here we go again. As I write this we have our first ski days under our belt and all the patrols are ready for the upcoming season. If you pause to think a just a little on the activities of the last few months you come to a realize how much time patrollers have already invested in the upcoming season. Candidate OEC class, two Instructor refreshers, two region refreshers, and on-hill refreshers are completed. Throw in CPR and you have the bare minimum. Add in the class preparation for the upcoming season events and other region meetings and you get a sense of the volunteer effort provided by region patrollers, all of it outside of duty schedules.

For these efforts we often joke and say thanks in a way that sounds like, "Good job, we'll double your salary next year". Salary increases clearly are not the way to recognize individual contributions in a volunteer organization. We can, however, provide a formal recognition through the awards program. This is an effective way to let your fellow patrollers know that their efforts are both recognized and appreciated. You are the eyes and ears of the organization. As we go through the season I would ask each of you to recognize those around you who are providing extra services to the patrols and region. When you have identified an individual you believe deserves recognition for their hard work please contact me or another person on the awards program staff. We will help you chose the correct award for the action and submit it for approval. Thanks in advance for your help in this important patrol function.

I also wish to thank the Awards Committee for the great job they have done in getting the information together and the recommendations written for the award recommendations we received for the past season. These people are: Brantling, Pete Peterson, Bristol Mtn. Kris Vasiliasauskas and Rick Micoli, GV Nordic, Gina Wyffels, Hunt Hollow, John Topping and Bonnie Andre, Powder Mill Park, Therese Cositch-Sicker, and Swain, Myron Crispino and Andrea Marino. Thanks a bunch for a lot of dedication to work behind the scenes.

The awards committee was successful in the last year in recognizing 29 individuals. The Region Award Recipients are: Certificates of achievement to Student patrollers, **Mackenzie Osygian, Marie Revekant, Travis Clark, Trevor Mooney, Matt Apenowich, and Nick Crispino**, for participation in the student seminar at Jiminy Peak. White Merit Stars were presented to **Myron Crispino, Jeannie Eldridge, Marie Osygian, and Brian Walsh** for their work with Student Patrollers. **Russ Perrin** received the Doyle Region Distinguished Service Award. **Glenn Becker** received the Williams Award for Community service outside of the skiing community for his work with the Ronald MacDonald

House. **Mike Long** was awarded the Lehman Award as Region Instructor of the year and **Bob Smith** was awarded the Stevens Award for Outstanding Region Patroller. A special recognition award was presented to **Herb Lehman** in celebration of beginning his 60th year of patrolling.



Figure 1 - (L to R) Students Marie Revekant, Nick Crispino, MacKenzie Osygian and Travis Clark. Trevor Mooney and Matt Apenowich were not present for the photo.



Figure 2 - Mike Long receiving the Lehman Award from Mike Lord, RD, with Awards Advisor John Lawson.



Figure 3 - Bob Smith received the Stevens Award from Mike and John.



Figure 4 - Russ Perrin received the Doyle Award from RD Mike Lord.

We received 14 awards from the National Office. These awards are:
Yellow Merit Stars to **Brian Schanket**, **Charles Feller**, and **Mike Tallon** for their work in setting up GVR Nordic patrol coverage at Harriet Hollister Park.



Figure 5 - Mike Tallon, Charles Feller and Brian Schankat received Yellow Merit Stars.

Also Yellow Merit Stars were awarded to **Maggie Gerlach** and **Mark Whitford** for many years of CPR training for the candidate OEC class.



Figure 6 - Maggie Gerlach received a yellow merit Star from RD Mike Lord.

A Purple Merit Star was awarded to **Carol Wild** for saving a life. Supporting Blue Merit Stars were awarded to **Bob Smith** and **Dave Rearson**. **Mike Sheehan**, **Bob Hoover**, **Merrilee Hoover**, and **Hugh Turner** were presented with Distinguished Service Awards for their many years of dedicated service to Bristol and the Region.



Figure 7 - Hugh Turner received a DSA from RD Mike Lord.

Of special interest National Appointments were made to **Hugh McMillian #10396** and **Sue Navarra #10394** for their many years of dedicated service and the leadership they have provided to the NSP.



Figure 8 - Hugh McMillian's National Appointment, with RD Mike Lord and Bristol PR Kris Vasiliauskas offering congratulations.



Figure 9 - Sue Navarra with her National Appointment, shown with Hunt Hollow PR John Topping, ARD John McManus, Awards Advisor John Lawson and ARD Bob Smith.

Congratulations, and thanks, to all recipients. Without your dedication to the NSP the organization would not be able to continue.

NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:

BRANTLING

Brantling, Wayne County's largest ski area, opened for the season on Saturday, December 9, with two lifts and two slopes open. And the Brantling Ski Patrol, under the continued leadership of Patrol Director **Marsha Wait**, was more than ready. The patrol had an especially busy November, with the annual Open House Chicken BBQ fund-raiser on the 5th, On-the-Hill Refresher on the 11th and a work party on the 18th. Then it was just a too-long period of waiting for the snow, or in the case this year, of cold snowmaking weather.

The patrol welcomes three new members this season; candidates **Lynne Baumgras** and **Charlie Stanton**, who will begin S&T training with APD **Greg Bernhard** right after the holidays and **Patricia Camp**, a transfer from the Central Division, a 10-year patroller and OEC IT. And we're especially pleased to welcome back **Mike McManus**, returning from a two-year stint in the Chicago area.

The previously-mentioned BBQ was the usual big success, socially and financially. Once again our vegan chef **Kim Buell** pulled the whole thing together and cooked up 150 dinners.

And at the On-the-Hill we finally presented last season's Patroller of the Year Award (the Harry Rich Award) to **Brian Bartleson**, who missed the spring banquet. (And apparently we were able to keep it a secret all summer!)

Belated congratulations to **Jon Hess** and **Dawn Wright**, who successfully completed the Senior EMM course last season...right at home at Brantling. We're ready...let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Pete Peterson
Brantling Newsletter Editor

BRISTOL

Our season began started off with a very successful on-hill refresher. A special thanks goes to Marykae Hoercher for planning the refresher and to all of our terrific instructors for participating. After the refresher we had our 2nd annual catered chicken BBQ. Over 100 patrollers, alumni and family members attended the BBQ what a great time everyone had.

This summer a few patrollers spent a lot of time organizing our patrol building, labeling our shelves, sorting, and tossing out stuff that had been around for years; what an improvement. Thanks to Marcia Mundrick for leading the effort. Morning Star Hill Top was expanded to double in size and has been moved back farther away from the lift. This was accomplished in 1 weekend by several dedicated and talented patrollers. This was a long awaited improvement and will make for happier patrollers.

We are welcoming 6 new adult candidates, 3 new Junior Patrollers and 1 transfer. All have successfully completed the region OEC and our Bristol exercise.

The mountain made a several changes but the most noticeable improvement is to the main parking lot and entrance, which has been paved, striped and landscaped. We also have a new trail, lower galaxy, while we will only use it if we have enough natural snow this season, next year snowmaking will be added. Also, the terrain parks have seen many improvements beginning with the new and stately entrances to the parks along with new and improved features.

Bristol opened for the season on December 5th. Hope everyone has a great winter! Hope to see you on the slopes.

Cathy Bentzoni, PR

HUNT HOLLOW

The Hunt Hollow Patrol held their refresher on October 14th on a most beautiful day so all of the activities could be held outside. We welcomed many guests from other patrols and were happy to have them. It was a shorter day than normal with no CPR in the afternoon, but the multiple first aid scenarios we did sure got the cobwebs out. We chose not to offer CPR on the same day with so many changes to the CPR curriculum. We have been running classes to get everyone through and will have all of that out of the way by the time the season starts. Thanks to Bob Andre our OEC APD for organizing the on hill and thanks to Pamm Ferguson, Rob Bilhorn and Scott Wilkins for their time in teaching the CPR!

Our two candidates Devon Feeney and Greg Kott are certainly happy to be through with the region OEC class. They are looking forward to learning Hunt Hollow protocol and starting to ski (and snowboard). We want to thank all of the region OEC instructors for all of their hard work teaching the classes and giving all of the candidates a first class NSP education.

Hunt Hollow will be ready to make snow as soon as the weather cooperates. There were some minor upgrades to some of the facilities, but for the most part, they are just ready for the season to start.

John W Topping
PR Hunt Hollow

POWDER MILLS

Spring and Summer flew past, Regional OEC refresher is completed and the temperature is in the 60's after Thanksgiving. It's hard to believe that ski season is just around the corner. We're looking forward to another great upcoming season at Powder Mills.

We completed the On – Hill on November 11th. It was a great day with members from Swain, Bristol, Hunt Hollow, and Nordic joining in for the OEC and CPR/AED refresher. I wish to thank all the visiting patrollers for sharing their experience. It made it a fun day and a great learning experience. I would also like to thank Chris Wendell for getting all the equipment and leading the CPR/AED refresher in the afternoon. We welcome Robert Maloney as a new CPR/AED instructor.

Kate Belaskas is coordinating the calendar for us again this year and has it well underway. Watch for it to come out electronically shortly.

Upcoming events on the calendar are the set up on December 2rd and opening day is tentatively scheduled for December 9th assuming we have snow. In addition,

Eric Leinberg will be coordinating our S&T refresher / sign-off this season. Watch for the dates.

We would like to extend a welcome this year to our new patrollers Steve Briggs and Andrew Swarts who recently completed OEC training. We also welcome Pam Mortensen and Dave Dubreck as dual patrollers with Nordic. We wish our best to Glenn Becker who is now in London, England and Norm Deets who has moved to Minnesota. Our thanks for all of your contributions to the patrol.

Thanks,
Doug Bennett, PR

SWAIN

Swain decided to submit the following as their report for this newsletter. (*ed.*)

Jim Rague, a member of the Swain Ski Patrol, died suddenly on October 26, 2006 of a heart attack at his home in Rochester, NY. He was 45 years old and is survived by his wife Bethany, daughter Dezirae, sons Bryan and Luke, his mother and six sisters, and many relatives in his large family. Luke is a candidate this year for the junior patrol at Swain, and Jim's sister Cathy Rague is also a member of Swain Ski Patrol. Jim's late father, Edwin "Skip" Rague was a member of Honey Hill Ski Patrol in Warsaw.

Jim joined the Swain Ski Patrol in 1991 and became a senior patroller in 1996. In addition to being an avid skier and patroller, he volunteered in his sons' Boy Scout Troop and enjoyed his free time sailing in the summer. He owned his own business, Blue Chip Mold in Rochester, that manufactures various types of plastic injection molds.

Jim and his wife Bethany enjoyed a rock solid marriage where they were truly best friends. I remember a long ride that my wife and I took with them to the Breeder's cup horse races in NYC last November. Jim's attentiveness to Bethany whenever she was talking was so evident - he was not day dreaming, or reading the racing form, or even looking at the early season snow on the ground as we drove through the Poconos - he was completely focused and interested on what she had to say. I can say that I work harder on the things that make a marriage successful because of knowing Jim.

Jim had the opportunity to raise and positively influence 3 outstanding kids and had active involvement with their friends, schooling, hobbies, scouting, and of course skiing. I could not help but smile over the weekend before his funeral as we looked at some old pictures of Jim as a very young man with newborn Dezirae in his arms and thought about how successful he became as a husband, and a father. I was particularly impressed last winter when Jim stopped by our house unannounced one Friday night and asked if we had any spare firewood and a good sleeping bag? With a puzzled look I asked

him why he needed those things. He calmly explained that he was going to camp out in a tent with his son Luke and the scouts at Swain for 2 nights in the middle of winter - and Bethany was going too! Now that shows dedication to your kids. I'm sure Jim slept like a baby those nights with the trail lights on and the noise from the snow guns - as his dream job was always a 3rd shift "groomer" driving a snow cat at one o'clock in the morning. I can say that knowing Jim has helped to show me the important priorities in life as I raise two young children.

Whenever we got an early snow in November, or were in the middle of a long and snowy and brutally cold winter - I would go to work and hear everyone moaning and groaning about the cold, the shoveling, the terrible driving conditions. I would probably even be moaning myself if we got a storm in April and I was hoping for an early start to the golf season, but then I would talk to Jim and usually hear his favorite saying during a harsh Rochester winter - 3 short words: "This is great!" Skiing is a wonderful gift to give someone (especially when you live in Rochester, NY), and fortunately Jim had the opportunity to pass that along to Dezirae, Bryan and Luke - and I know he would want them all to stay active in the sport and pass it on to their kids just as his father Skip did. I can say that knowing Jim has helped me to smile a bit more than I would otherwise when Mother Nature turns down the thermostat.

As everyone who knew him was aware, Jim was usually a man of few words. We were skiing up at Stratton Vermont a few years ago on brutally cold day (20 below windchill). Jim would have called that a "nice" day. The area had to shut the gondola down due to the high winds, so we ended up riding the chairlifts in the afternoon. It was one of those days where you really didn't want to have ANY exposed skin. Well there's Jim - no facemask on - goggles and a hat only, his beard all frosted up - and I noticed there was frostbite beginning to form on his cheeks. So I pointed it out to him as any good ski patroller would do at the end of a run and said - "Hey Jim, you've got some frostbite on your cheeks." He just looked at me and said "So?" and got back on the lift. There weren't many people skiing that day to begin with due to the cold, but I believe at one point that afternoon everyone else on the mountain had quit except Jim. I can say that knowing Jim has taught me that sometimes the most appropriate response is to flash a knowing smile and say nothing.

Jim's business partner Paul shared a few stories with me about Jim's abilities as a businessman and skills as an engineer. Again, Jim never complained about the deadlines he had to meet or the road trips required in order to get a part to a customer on time. He never really commented about the tremendous number of hours he and Paul worked in order to make Blue Chip Mold successful and take care of their employees and he rarely complained when things went wrong. He just figured out how to make it all work. Jim was very modest about this part of his life's accomplishment and I know

his co-workers and customers will miss him very much. One of Jim's famous quotes that will stay with me was whenever some unexpected financial expense popped up in Jim or Bethany's life he would say "It's only money...just have to make more." I can say that knowing Jim and his attitude towards work and problem solving will certainly help me to curse a little less, and not blame anyone when things go wrong.

Jim was a great friend who was always there for me and willing to help out with projects at home. He would give you his opinion sparingly, usually when you were headed down the wrong path. He was a joy to ski with, a big man who skied expertly down any slope with grace, and who was loved by over 100 other Ski Patrol family members at Swain. Jim never boasted about his skills, just quietly did his job – and whatever was asked of him by others. I thought Jim might like this, so I did some quick math on what 16 years of Patrolling at Swain with Jim would mean statistically.

- ~ 400 ski days
- ~ 36,000 miles in a car to get there and back
- ~ 3.9 million feet of vertical
- ~ 6000 runs / chairlift rides
- ~ A lot of time in the chairlift talking about work, family and politics
- ~ A lot of time in the chairlift not saying anything

I can say I know a lot of people who are really going to miss those chairlift rides with Jim.

Roger Slade
Swain Ski Patrol

Nick Schiavetti
Swain Newsletter Editor

Calendar

For the current calendar of events, see the Region web site at <http://www.nspgvr.org/html/calendar.htm>