



Mike Lord RD

Well, the ski season is here and we are all getting back on the snow. I really don't have much to say right now but thank you all for the fun six years I've had being your Region Director. It's been an honor and I will miss it. Please take time to congratulate Bob Andre' for his success in the election. Thanks go out to Bob Smith for his energy and time spent running too. I hope to see all of you as the season winds through the next few months, but know that it was truly an experience I wouldn't have missed representing you the past few years.
Mike

REGIONAL ADVISORS:

Nick Schiavetti 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.

In response to student feedback regarding the late night classes of previous years, we modified the Genesee Valley Region schedule this past spring to present most of the course in an all day Saturday session followed with a wrap-up session on the following Thursday evening. Seven patrollers completed this Instructor Development class in May 2008 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 new class format. Because the response was very positive from both the participants and instructors alike, this year's Genesee Valley Region course will be offered in this new format at Hunt Hollow on Saturday April 25 and Thursday April 30, 2009. Check the region website for the informational 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.

In addition to completing the Instructor Development course, patrollers who want to become instructors need Valley Views

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 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 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), 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 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.

Mike Long OEC

As the OEC program continues, this has been an active year. Thanks to Bill Teamerson and his able staff, we were able to welcome 2 new OEC instructors: Chris Hellems and Tom Jenssen both from Bristol. The cadre of ITs under the coordination of Nick Schiavetti finished the 3-year cyclic visitation of all OEC Instructions under the region's "continuing improvement program".

The OEC Class concluded on Saturday November 15th with the passage of 26 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, Mary Emmighausen and Mike Lord, who put in a second great year. As a special note, Mary and Mike 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 again centrally located for the candidates at the Avon Middle School cafeteria. We 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 12 ITs, 64 Instructors, 259 patrollers, and 7 visitors. With a few patrollers refreshing outside of the region, this comes to 369 active patrollers in the region including the OEC class graduates. Certainly to make this happen takes a cadre of dedicated instructors that we are fortunate to have— thanks to all. Of course, the highlight of the two region patroller’s refreshers at Honeoye HS was again the catering by the Honeoye Foreign Language Clubs with crepes and cheese on the sandwiches.

The final OEC program will be the Senior EMM program under the coordination of Bonnie Andre. The kick-off event was December 11 at Hunt Hollow and the Final scheduled at Brantling for February 28. Looking forward to seeing many of you there, to a successful EMM program and to a great ski season.

Bonnie Andre’ Senior EMM

Registration for the 2009 Sr. EMM course is now closed. A skill review session was held on Thursday, December 11 at Hunt Hollow. Eleven patrollers from Bristol, Brantling, Nordic, and Swain are taking on the challenge with several just this one requirement away from achieving senior patroller status. Starting January 11 at Hunt Hollow, we will be meeting twice a week to practice scenarios with the emphasis on prioritizing in accidents involving multiple injuries and or multiple patients. We will be working outside and often on the hill in whatever weather conditions Mother Nature throws at us. The final evaluation will be held at Brantling on February 28.

Joe Menichino Certified

Hi folks- We have a good start to hopefully a fine snowy season. We have had good snow coverage here in Alfred for 3 weeks solid and I think the temperature will Valley Views

drop below zero tonight. Sure feels good to ski again, even if it is limited.

Many of you probably aren’t real interested in working toward Certification. Its true that it is a huge challenge. Testing was one of the most difficult things I ever did. The value comes from the high level of skill you must master to pass combined with the control of your emotions- no room for testing jitters in this program. And now the good news- the program has nicely matured into an environment that is success oriented rather than muscle and brawn focused. The current leadership has developed a new direction that has a strong emphasis on consistent requirements, efficiently organized test events and believe it or not- training. Having been involved in one form or another for the last 15 years I’m pleased to see the changes. Dave Walker helped me stay the course years ago when I started and now as Chair, he is bringing the program to a new level of success. Please call me or any of our region Certs if you have any interest. We’ll ski with you and give you insight into your potential for success in what is typically the most challenging segment for small mountain patrollers.

I’d like to briefly review this season’s Certified schedule and programs. The Patroller School and Introduction to Certified program will be held at Windham Ski Center the weekend of January 24/25. This is a terrific way to work on skills at any level from candidate to Certified. Contact Sharon Friedel at friedels1@juno.com for a slot in the either program. They are separate classes and the Intro to Certified school will have some portion of it at Hunter on the 24th. Certified Pretests are planned for Jan 22 at Sunday River Maine and at Sno Mountain, Pa. on 2/1. Let me or any of the Region Certs help you with registration before you run off to one of those. Finally the test is at Sugarloaf Maine the last weekend of March (3/27-29). All levels of Patrollers are welcome and needed to staff the OEC test. Not a bad deal to get a 3 day comp just for helping on Saturday. Plus you’ll meet lots of cool NSP members from the entire Eastern Division. Let me know if you are interest in going. I heard the WNY guys are hiring a bus....might be room for us too. Have a great season.

Skip Millor MTR

We have a full class of ten people taking the combined Avalanche Fundamentals / MTR Level 1 course. MTR instructor of record **Patrick Saeva** has done a great job encouraging people to sign up.

Special thanks go to the region’s MTR instructors, **John G. Benitez, Jerry W. Sherman, Robert Andre, Brian Walsh, Marcia Mundrick, Peter Falise, Ben Emerson, Dennis Whitney, James Mussnug, James Hopkins, Nick Schiavetti, and Patrick Saeva. Dave DuBreck, Gina Wyffels, and John Topping** are teaching in our instructor mentor program. I also want to recognize one of our region staff **Marcia Wait** (a.k.a the “beverage lady) who brings great delight to participants of our combined program.

Additional thanks go to the region for helping us purchase new high quality compasses for participant use. The compasses along with the new creative instructional design work by **Marcia Mundrick, Dennis Whitney, Patrick Seava** and **John Topping** offer a fresh approach for learning and applying map and compass skills.

Next season we will be offering our MTR Level 2 program. The indoor will be taught in Rochester and the two and a half day outdoor will be held in the Tug Hill area.

Jim Mussnug **Avalanche**

This season we are conducting a combined Avalanche and Mountain Travel and Rescue program in Genesee Valley Region. This will be the fourth time for running this type of combined program in the Region. We have totally revamped the program to ensure we meet program delivery requirements in a reasonably condensed format. This year, we have a total of 10 patrollers enrolled in the program. The first night, December 4, 2008, of the program, we devoted to MTR fundamentals such as clothing, sleeping bags, shelters, cooking, and food. The next indoor session, on Saturday, December 13, 2008, we concentrated on the classroom portion of the Avalanche program. The objective of this session was 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. The session was well-received, and the instructors viewed this session as the most complete avalanche program that has been offered in the Region. We also used 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 10-11, 2009 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. 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.

This is a great opportunity to get two Senior electives completed in one combined course. Students and instructors all consider this course format to be a success and a lot of fun. The Region is fortunate to have a dedicated staff of instructors for Avalanche and MTR to help you learn the course material, and have an enjoyable experience in a safe environment. Come on out and experience another aspect to Ski Patrolling! This combined program has been offered in alternate Valley Views

years – we plan to have the next session during the 2010 – 2011 ski season. Check the Genesee Valley Region NSP calendar for dates of upcoming sessions.

Eastern Division is planning to conduct an Avalanche Level 2 course in March, 2009, 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.

Peter Parker **S&T** **Cold Weather is here!!**

The Senior S&T program will start soon after the season gets underway, so SIGN UP TODAY. Begin the process by emailing me, Peter Parker at prp2@rochester.rr.com.

There is no better way to become a better skier and toboggan handler than to join the **Senior S&T Program**. Our goal is to give any candidate personalized attention from our region staff and additional help if needed or requested. This program is all about improving your confidence and ability as a ski patroller! We work to 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!! We strive to HAVE FUN and SKI A LOT!

You also will see other events listed on the S&T calendar. Skier Enhancement Seminars, Toboggan Enhancement Seminar, as well as others still be planned – such as a Tele Enhancement Seminar and a Snowboard Enhancement Seminar. These are 1-day events, so check you calendar and come and have some fun with us!

Bill Gamble **Alumni**

The Alumni Day for 2009 will be set for a date in February TBD at Hunt Hollow. Invitations will be mailed to all registered Alumni.

There is an Alumni information/registration form on the Alumni page of the GVR web site. For any other questions, contact me at 585-243-9555 or wgamble.me65@qtalumni.org.

NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:

BRANTLING

Brantling, Wayne County's largest ski area, enjoyed a good season in 2007-08, under the new ownership of **Kevin Spear**, long-time employee. Kevin took over the helm from **Pat** and **Fiffi Steinrotter**, Brantling owners for over 35 years. Fortunately, Pat and Fiffi are still around; as Fiffi says, "now I'm just an employee!". The patrol topped off the season with the annual banquet, held this year at the area. PD **Marsha Wait** handed out several awards; a 10-year pin to **Bob Hutteman**, who also

received special recognition for his acquisition of two excellent examination beds which now grace the patrol room and make it "roomier". **Dave Vinke** was awarded a 15-year pin, 25 years for **Jim Reid** and leading the entire patrol in years of service is past patrol director **Steve Mitchell**, who received recognition for 35 years. Another long-time patroller, **Martha Rich**, was given special thanks for her many years of conducting CPR refreshers at the On-the-Hill. Patroller of the Year for 2007-2008 is **Greg Bernard**, a long-time patroller who has headed up the S&T training at Brantling for several years. As might be expected of an event held at the area, the party continued until the "wee hours".

The current season began on November 22 and 23, the earliest opening in Brantling's history, as a lake effect storm dropped nearly a foot of snow on the area and cold weather facilitated several hours of snowmaking. As of December 6 the area is on its full seven-day schedule.

Several improvements were made in the off-season; numerous trees were cut and terrain cleared at the top of the hill to facilitate snowmaking and greater flexibility in setting race courses. The beginner lift formerly located to the south of the T-bar was moved to the bottom of Franz' Run parallel to the existing short lift to consolidate all of the beginner and novice teaching in one location. The slope directly to the south of the T-bar will become a new terrain park, with expanded snowmaking in this area. To upgrade snowmaking capability, several new high-efficiency guns have been added to Brantling's arsenal.

We have added several new patrollers in the past two years; **Lindy Fitzsimmons**, **Martha Lightfoot** and **Michele Whitcomb** joined us in 2007-08 and **Demetrius Dilulio** and **Kathy Madison** this season. We also have several prospective patrollers who will be undergoing ski and toboggan training and testing this season. The Brantling patrol is ready to go; now if "mother nature" follows up on her great start, it'll be another exciting season out in Wayne County.

Pete Peterson, Brantling Newsletter Editor

SWAIN

Snow before Thanksgiving, eager candidates, and new trails: what a way to start a new season! Over the summer, Swain expanded the west area into the "West Woods" with a new trail and cut-throughs to Last Will and Testament. Swain Snowsport Instructors cleared a large area of underbrush on the east side to create new glade skiing, and the Magic Carpet lift has a new location to create a great learning area. We welcome Rita Clement, Clinton Olsen, Carol Strieter, Deborah Goodwin, Rick Wilcox, and Paul Morgan as Patroller candidates. Joining the medical advisory staff is David Austin. Continuing our active Young Adult Patroller program are Michaela Donnelly, Matthew Sirianni, Greg Kramer, and Ryan Smith, who will be working on their S&T skills this season.

Valley Views

At our spring banquet, we recognized several patrollers for their contribution to Swain and to the Region. Robin Kirkner was awarded the McKenna Award as Swain Patroller of the Year. James Hopkins was awarded the Lehman Swain Instructor of the Year Award for S&T. Dana Mehlenbacher was awarded the Stoneham Candidate of the Year Award. Pieter Aarsen and Bernice Morehouse were each awarded the Hanning Award for Distinguished Service. We were pleased to see Joe Menichino receive recognition as the Region Instructor of the year. All of us have appreciated his patient and skillful instruction in every area of patrolling. It was also a time to recognize Tom Wallin as he joins an elite and dedicated group of Certified Patrollers.

Amidst all the positive changes and new additions, we do say goodbye to several experienced patrollers who have chosen to retire. Although they have left active patrolling, we hope to see Pieter Aarsen, Bernice Morehouse, Don Wambach, Lee Annucci, David Hassett, and Judy Scott on the slopes this season. Thanks to all of you for your dedicated years of service.

Dennis Whitney, Swain Newsletter Editor

HUNT HOLLOW

Snow is on the slopes and the hill is open. Hunt Hollow moved and expanded their terrain park over the summer and added a half-pipe. A new sun-deck was built at the top of Wayne's Way, offering incredible views on clear sunny days – all the way to Rochester!

We had 11 candidates successfully pass the OEC program this fall and Hunt Hollow was kind enough to allow us to host the final evaluation. 6 of those candidates will begin their Ski and Toboggan training in January to become full Basic patrollers by mid-February – while the other 5 have completed all of their training and are now patrolling.

Peter Parker, PD Hunt Hollow

POWDER MILLS

No report.

NORTHAMPTON

No report.

BRISTOL

No report.

Calendar

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

