



**Bob André** **RD**

So far, the 2009-2010 season has gotten off to a great start. Swain has new management that I wish the greatest of success. I am very pleased to have the folks at Denton Hill managing Swain and becoming a part of the Genesee Valley Region. It was a long summer for the Swain Patrol and they certainly deserve recognition for sticking together as a family. I have been fortunate enough to join them for their spring banquet and on-hill this year and can assure all that the Swain Patrol is alive and well.

We have three new patrol directors in the Region. Bill Gottermeier at Bristol, Brian Mayou at Brantling, and Geoff Feltner at Swain. Congratulations to them for stepping up and assuming the reins of their respective patrols. Retiring are Marsha Wait at Brantling, Scott Mundrick, Bristol, and Tim Cassidy, Swain. It has been a pleasure to work with them and I know they are all enjoying the respite. I also know that their dedication to the Region will eventually find them back in harness. About a month ago I had a call from a former Bristol Patroller, now in Vermont, tasked with the awards program there. She was asking how to best organize their awards program, after noticing how many awards the Genesee Valley has received in the last few years - way to go folks. National Outstanding Nordic Patrol - GVR Nordic; National Outstanding Instructor, Marcia Mundrick; National Outstanding Alpine Patroller, Joe Menichino; Eastern Division Outstanding Patroller, Skip Millor; Eastern Division Outstanding Patroller, Joe Menichino; Eastern Division Outstanding Instructor, Nick Schiavetti; Eastern Division Outstanding Instructor, Marcia Mundrick; Eastern Division Patrollers for Patrollers Award, Bill Gamble. I'd be impressed too. This recognition has been richly deserved and makes me proud to be a GVR member. Let us not forget the hard work and excellence put in by John Lawson and our awards committee.

Speaking of John Lawson, congratulations to John on being elected a National Board member with the second highest vote total. My thanks to all of you who voted. John will be retiring as Region Awards Advisor, passing the pen to Jerry Sherman. It is comforting to me to have Jerry involved, as I am sure his previous experience as Division Director will be most helpful.

Congratulations to John Topping on his re-election as ARD. John's support and advice is always appreciated and often needed. I would also be remiss if I did not thank our other ARD Marcia for her never-ending

support in managing the Region. I accepted the position of RD based on the outstanding quality of all our Region Staff and have not been disappointed.

My special thanks goes to all the OEC Instructors, IT's, and advisors who made this season's OEC Refreshers and the candidate class a success. Gina Wyffels did a superb job as our ROA and implemented beneficial changes to the programs. Our IT's and Gina are still fine tuning the program based on patroller input, so stay tuned for next year.

I have especially enjoyed working with Mary Emmighausen, Cathy Rague, and Marie Osypian, the advisors for this year's candidate class. I have great respect for their dedication, hard work and resourcefulness in graduating a successful candidate class this year. The best news is that after a few wings - and perhaps a prayer - they have again signed up for the task next year. Expect to see some positive changes in the class next year.

I was at Bristol and Hunt Hollow recently, observed the snow guns in action, and can assume that everyone else is enjoying the same - you Nordic folks will get yours too. I wish a successful and fun-filled season to all of you.

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## REGIONAL ADVISORS:

**John Lawson** **Awards**

Well another season is upon us. The awards group is ready to begin another season actively working to recognize our fellow patrollers who have gone above and beyond to help our organization. But before we get on to the upcoming ski season discussion it is time to reflect on the awards from the last season.

First, let me recognize and thank the people who are on the awards committee. From Brantling, Pete Peterson. From Bristol Mtn., Kris Vasiliauskas and Rick Micoli. From GVR Nordic, Gina Wyffels. From Hunt Hollow, John McManus and John Topping. From Powder Mill Park, Therese Costich-Sicker. From Swain Andrea Marino and Myron Crispino. I would also like to thank Nick Schiavetti who joined the team as the Alumni representative and thank Mike Lord, RD and John Topping and Marcia Mundrick ARD's for the region support they provided. Last year was very successful. The hard work and dedication of these people made this possible. - Thank you!

As a result of the committees work, the following awards have been presented in recognition of the contributions the following people have made to the region:

**Patriot Star Award:** Al Kraus, Bob Schantz, Scott Mundrick, Steve Moses, John Long

**Yellow Merit Star:** Al Kraus, Mary Eminghausen, Mike Lord, Nick Schiavetti, Scott Mundrick, Tim Cassidy, Marsha Wait

**Purple Merit Star:** Sue Schueckler

**Blue Merit Star:** Hugh McMillan and Rick Walzer

**Meritorious Service Award:** Mike Long

**Distinguished Service Award:** Ben Emerson, Hugh McMillan, Mike Lord

**Region Patroller of the Year:** Rick Micoli

**Region Instructor of the Year:** Dennis Whitney

At the Eastern Division Spring Officers meeting in April we were very pleased to accept the **Division Outstanding Instructor Award** for Nick Schiavetti and the **Division Outstanding Patroller Award** for Joe Menichino. All of us in attendance were ecstatic about the recognition received by our very deserving fellow patrollers. The Eastern Division is the largest division in the NSP. The competition for these awards is very intense and winning the recognition is a testimony to the contributions made by these two excellent patrollers.



Figure 1 - Mike Long Receiving his MSA from RD Bob Andre'.



Figure 2 - Ben Emerson receiving his DSA from RD Bob Andre' and PD Tim Cassidy.



Figure 3 - Hugh McMillan with past DD Jerry Sherman after receiving his DSA.



Figure 4 - Outstanding Alpine Patroller Joe Menichino, DSA recipient Mike Lord and Outstanding Instructor Nick Schiavetti at the Swain Picnic.

The excitement continued however when we learned that Joe Menichino went on to be named the **NSP Outstanding Alpine Ski Patroller of the Year**. Those of you who were at the second region refresher were present when the Division Director, Rick Hamlin, came to personally make the presentation to Joe, who was chosen as the most outstanding out of over 26,000 current patrollers. All of us who know Joe and have worked with him over the years are very pleased he received such an honor. We are proud to have him in our region.



**Figure 5 - Joe Menichino receiving the National Outstanding Alpine Patroller Award from DD Rick Hamlin.**

demonstration of concepts and hands on practice were emphasized. **Leadership and teamwork were central.**

Many demonstrative techniques were used to teach OEC skills. These ranged from assembling nuts and bolts in a bucket of ice water (which duplicated the dexterity needed to administer first aid on the hill) to sharing a better method of tying cravats inside a blanket roll. PowerPoint presentations, interactive lectures and a game similar to Jeopardy were three of the techniques used to involve the students and help review facts from the OEC textbook. A Sit Ski was among the tools brought to class for the students to work with. The time and effort that went into the instruction for each class was evident in every session.

We are proud of our new graduates and we thank our instructors.

Instructors of Record are Mary Emmighausen, Marie Osypian, and Cathy Rague.

### **New OEC Instructor Mentoring Program**

*From Bill Teamerson:*

The new OEC class taught the Instructor Candidates about the philosophy of teaching. The challenge, however, did not deter Mark Bowker (Bristol), Carl Schmidtman (Swain), and Meghan Smith (formerly of Bristol) from finishing the mentoring portion of the Instructor Development Program. Congratulations to the three new instructors on a job well done! Many thanks to their mentors – Marcia Mundrick and Glen Huot!

Shannon Bielaska (Swain), Diane Freiner (Swain), Aaron Duncan (Bristol), Steve Roat (Bristol), Steve Sippel (Bristol), Roger Slade (Swain), and Mike Young (Nordic) are well-poised to complete the program next year.

The outstanding commitment of the mentors and Instructor Candidates makes the OEC program possible!

### **Current OEC Instructor Quality Assurance Program**

*From Nick Schiavetti:*

Fifteen of the current OEC instructors were observed by the OEC Instructor Trainers (ITs) this fall and were recertified for another three-year cycle. This year completed the required triennial cycle of all the OEC instructor observations for the national quality assurance program. Next year begins a new three-year cycle where the ITs will do the observations all over again in perpetuity.

### **Skip Millor**

### **MTR**

I was gathering ideas for the 2009-2010 winter program update and reflecting on the outstanding job our instructors did the first night of our MTR2 course. My thoughts focused on an instructor that was missing last week, Ben Emerson. Ben loved to sleep in the snow.

Ben joined the MTR region instructor core about 10 years ago. He was always one of the first to volunteer to

### **Gina Wyffels**

### **OEC**

#### **OEC Instructor and Region Refreshers**

The OEC Instructor Trainers (ITs) and Instructors did an outstanding job implementing several significant program changes in the OEC refreshers and candidate class. Some of the changes included fixed 30-minute topic reviews, ITs as lead instructors coordinating the instructor teams of the candidate classes, improved use of teaching planning tools and creative teaching concepts, development of realistic props, and many others. The refresher schedule and content will continue to be evaluated and modified to consistently fulfill the objectives of the NSP training requirements as well as accommodate people's busy lives. The overwhelming feedback was that the quality and consistency of the instructing reached an all-time high level this year. The region is proud to have such a group of dedicated ITs and instructors!

#### **OEC Candidate Class**

*From Cathy Rague:*

On November 7 and 14, 2009, a total of 13 candidates graduated from the Genesee Valley Region OEC Program.

Two of the new patrollers will be skiing with the Swain Patrol, three will be skiing with the Bristol Patrol, four are with the Brantling Patrol, and four are with the Hunt Hollow Patrol. The class is quite eclectic and included students with backgrounds in medicine, law enforcement, computer technology, and construction.

Also several high school students are among our new graduates.

The class lasted three months, meeting two nights a week at Avon Central School and many Saturdays for on-the-hill, hands-on-practice at the ski areas. Over 80 instructors participated in preparing and teaching the OEC material.

This year, a new instruction strategy was introduced.

Each class was taught by a group of three to five instructors, lead by an Instructor Trainer. Structure,

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teach at both indoor and outdoor sessions each year. He also took the Instructor of record responsibilities more than once without question. When I had program administrative issues he was always a voice of reason that could quickly grasp the problem and offer the right solution. Behind the scenes he was constantly helping other instructors with materials for their lessons. One of his favorite comments when something didn't go the way he planned was, "...I just learned not to that again.."

We will miss learning with Ben and Ben's one-liners after an adventure. Most of all we just miss Ben!

### **Michael 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.

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. Eight patrollers completed this Instructor Development class in May 2009 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 May 1st and Thursday May 6th, 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 [mooney@genesee.edu](mailto:mooney@genesee.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 new feature on the region website this year is the posting of lists of the requirements and responsibilities of instructors in OEC, Valley Views

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.

### **Nick Schiavetti Alumni**

The "mission" of the Alumni Association is "to utilize the experience, knowledge and energies of those who have retired from active patrolling, while extending to them the recognition, dignity and awards they have earned." Alumni can stay involved by teaching NSP courses if they maintain their teaching credentials. They can also be members of courtesy patrols, work with Special Olympics, act in administrative capacities such as newsletter editors, webmasters, treasurers, registrars, social directors, etc., and assist with any and all NSP-sponsored activities.

The registration fee for Alumni membership is \$27 per year. Lifetime membership is \$700, or \$350 for members with 30 years of active service. It is free for those with 50 years service. Lifetime Patrollers retain lifetime status as Alumni without further charge.

*Ed. NOTE: The NSP's popular Limited Lifetime Membership Drive has been extended until June (or until 200 are purchased). The fundraiser offers a Lifetime NSP Membership to any member for the discounted rate of \$550 (vs. the standard \$700 rate).*

Alumni program information and a registration application form can be found on the Alumni page of the GVR web site at <http://www.nspgvr.org>. For any other questions, contact me at 585-243-5079 or email me at [redhill3@rochester.rr.com](mailto:redhill3@rochester.rr.com)

The Alumni Day for this ski season has been set for February 26, 2010 at Hunt Hollow. Invitations will be mailed to all registered alumni in January 2010. This past February 2009, nine alumni and guests enjoyed a

day of skiing at Hunt Hollow, and we hope that more will be able to make it next year.

In the Genesee Valley Region, in addition to one "Alumni Ski Day" per year, alumni receive Ski Patrol Magazine and the Ski Patrol Catalog from national, Trail Sweep newsletter from the Eastern Division, Valley Views newsletter from the Region, and invitations to local Ski Shops' Pro Nights.

The Genesee Valley Region has also invited the region alumni advisor to become an ex officio member of the region awards committee. Our hope is to recognize alumni who have made significant contributions to their patrols as well as to the region, division, and national. If you know of any alumni who have recently retired that you believe deserve to be recognized for their outstanding service, please contact me so we can prepare credentials for the awards committee to submit an award application on their behalf. Also contact me if you know of someone who is about to retire this year whose service you would like to see recognized with an award. We can discuss what award might be appropriate and gather the data needed to submit an application so the award can be given at the time of retirement.

There may be other activities that alumni can participate in beyond those mentioned. I would be delighted to hear creative ideas put forth by both patrollers and alumni alike, so please contact me with your thoughts to advance the alumni program in our region.

I would like to close by thanking Bill Gamble for his service as Region Alumni Advisor while carrying his usual heavy load of other duties for the region and division. Now is the time for Bill to enjoy the 2010 Alumni Day as a participant without having to take the responsibility for running it. Thanks Bill and enjoy your day – you've earned it!!

### Jim Mussnug Avalanche

A local avalanche program has typically been offered within the Region every other year in order to ensure adequate class size and to allow progression on to advanced courses within the Division. During the past (2008-9) season, a combined Avalanche and Mountain Travel and Rescue program was conducted within the Genesee Valley Region. Therefore, the 2009-2010 ski season is the off-season for Avalanche within the Region. Please refer to the Eastern Division web-site calendar for current listings of training opportunities, including Avalanche, throughout the Eastern Division. There are a number of one-day "Introduction to Avalanche Safety & Rescue" and "Avalanche Level I" courses being offered this season. Have a great, safe, ski season this year and stay clear of high avalanche potential conditions – that shouldn't be a problem within the Region! We look forward to you joining us next ski season to learn the latest topics in avalanche.

### Peter Parker S&T

The Senior S&T program will start soon after the season gets underway - in January, 2010, so SIGN UP TODAY. Begin the process by emailing me, Peter Parker at [prp2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:prp2@rochester.rr.com) of your interest, and ask any questions you may have.

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 will soon be on the Genesee Valley Region website! You can find an application there as well as a FAQ document. We strive to HAVE FUN and SKI A LOT!

Check back on the calendar because you will see other events listed. Skier Enhancement Seminars, Toboggan Enhancement Seminar, as well as others still being planned – such as a Tele Enhancement Seminar and a Snowboard Enhancement Seminar. These are 1-day events, so check your calendar and come and have some fun with us!

### Bonnie Andre' Senior EMM

We begin the 2010 EMM course with the largest class in memory. Fourteen candidates have signed on, seven from Swain, six from Bristol, and one from Powder Mills. Not only is it the largest, but it is one of the strongest, with many years of patrolling to add to the mix. We don't really get underway until January, so there isn't much to report right now. The final evaluation will be at Swain this year on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Joe Menichino Certified

Hi folks- Sadly, unlike last year we have a slow start to the season and I am sure getting impatient to ski and get to work patrolling. Temperatures are finally dropping and snowmaking has started. Let's hope the rain holds off and we can get started building a base.

Now the good news about the Certified program- the current leadership continues evolving the program placing strong emphasis on consistent requirements, efficiently organized test events and believe it or not- training. It remains just as challenging while slightly less intimidating. Please call me or any of our region Certs if you have an interest. We'll ski with you and give you insight into your potential for success. Remember that entering the Certified program requires completion of a credentials review and 2 recommendation letters from current Certified Patrollers before you start.

I'd like to briefly review this seasons Certified schedule and programs. We are running an Introduction to Certified program right here in the Genesee Valley at Bristol on January 9<sup>th</sup> conditions permitting. Contact Jeff Baker or me for a slot in the one-day program. A similar program and will be offered at Windham the weekend of Winter, 2010

January 23/24. These sessions are a terrific way to work on skills and get a chance to experience the program content. Contact Brant Maley at [skipatrol@comcast.net](mailto:skipatrol@comcast.net) for a slot in the Windham session. Finally the actual 2009/2010 exam is at Sugarbush Vermont the last weekend of March (3/26-28). All levels of Patrollers are welcome to attend and are needed to staff the test. Not a bad deal to get a 3 day comp just for helping on Saturday during the OEC portion of the exam. Lots of time to let me know if you are interested in going.

Have a great season, and Happy Holidays.

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## NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:

### BRANTLING

As of this writing, Brantling is off and skiing for the 09-10 season. Thanks to some well-timed lake effect snows and expanded snowmaking, two slopes were open on Saturday, December 12 and the area has been in continuous operation since then. **Kevin Spear** is beginning his third season as owner and very much hands-on operator. And this season Brantling is observing its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! (No one seems to know exactly when lift-serviced skiing began in the Wayne County Alps, but area records show that Brantling was first incorporated in 1959, so 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary it is!)

Brantling and the Brantling Ski Patrol enjoyed a good season in 08-09, although it ended rather quickly around the first of March. A well-attended end-of-season get-together at the area highlighted the year. Outgoing Patrol Director **Marsha Wait** was the recipient of a Yellow Merit Star for her six years as PD. (During her tenure as PD Marsha also was named Region Patroller of the Year and received a National Appointment.) Nice work, Marsha! Long-time Brantling patroller **Brian Mayou** takes over as PD, assisted by APD OEC **Jon Hess**, Ski and Toboggan APDs **Greg Bernhard** and **Mike McManus**, and APD Scheduling **Dave Vinke**. **Mark Lukacs** continues as Treasurer. Several service awards and other recognitions were given out at the gathering and Mike McManus was named Brantling Patroller of the Year for his ski and toboggan training and recruitment efforts. As a result of his efforts, assisted by **Martha Lightfoot**, Brantling welcomed four new patrollers this season; **Susan McGall**, **Annamaria Kontor**, **Paul Loveless** and **Carol Streiter**. (Last season we welcomed **Kathy Madison** and **Demetrius Dilulio** aboard.)

Brantling's ready...the Brantling Ski Patrol is ready... here we go again!

Pete Peterson, Newsletter Editor

### BRISTOL

Bristol had a busy day on Sunday Dec 6. It started with work sessions to get Rocket hill-top and base ready for the season followed by an orientation session for our new candidates. There was a hill chiefs meeting and a Valley Views

patrol meeting and then our annual blackout chair evacuation drill. Bristol opened for the season the next day.

Congratulations to Mike Long, who received the Meritorious Service award.

Bill Gottermeier, PD

### HUNT HOLLOW

Snow is on the slopes, and the hill is open. Hunt Hollow is beginning their second year of expanded snow-making, a bigger and better terrain park, and the new, larger lodge. We can only hope for lots and lots of snow! Some of the members and patrol got together in November to work on clearing Gauntlet, our tree-skiing trail. We also had a successful On-Hill Refresher in October, highlighted by an excellent talk on the topic of concussions by Hunt Hollow member Dr. Kate Ackerman.

All 4 of our candidates successfully passed the OEC program this fall, two of which are now full patrollers – Zack Starke and Conor Long. Alex Webster and Ellie Grinols will be working through S&T, and we look forward to having them full patrollers by mid-February.

Peter Parker, PD

### NORTHAMPTON

No report.

### POWDER MILLS

No report.

### SWAIN

Swain opened on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup> with some excellent snow and some very excited skiers looking forward to a great year at Swain. Our new operating hours are Monday – Thursday from 1PM to 9PM and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9AM to 9PM. The snow was excellent this weekend, and the area plans to continue making snow whenever possible, so that the entire mountain will be open for the Holidays.

There are a number of upcoming events coming to Swain in 2010 so check our web site. Also for those of you taking the Senior EMM test it will be held at Swain in early February and we are looking forward to hosting that event for the region.

Swain is open and will be operating at full capacity as soon as the weather permits and we would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and we invite all of you in the region to come down for a change of pace and ski at Swain.

Best wishes.  
Geoff Feltner, PD

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### CALENDAR

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