

# VALLEY VIEWS



The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Winter, 2012

## **Bob André**

**RD**



While the sun is shining today and the temperature should reach the mid 50s, the cold and snow will be coming soon, the snow guns working and the lifts running-finally. It seems like that this has been a very long off -season and I am ready for some actual Patrolling.

Valley Views is published twice yearly with past issues posted on the Region website. The old issues make interesting reading as they document a history of the Genesee Valley Region and it's leadership. Go to the website, spend a few minutes reading the past issues to appreciate the individuals who have served to make this the outstanding Region that we are; wish there was an Outstanding Region Award. Finally, do not forget to thank Bill Gamble for compiling, editing, publishing, and having to deal with "encouraging" the contributors to submit the information-thanks Bill!

We have some new faces in Patrol Director mode this season with Pam Thompson at Bristol, Shannon Bielaska at Northampton, and Joe Hoff at Hunt Hollow. Also Merrily Hoover has kindly volunteered to be the Alumni Advisor, taking the reins after Nick Schiavetti's very successful tenure. Mike Lord has been steering the Awards Committee after Jerry Sherman became the Eastern Division Awards Advisor. In addition Dennis Whitney has done an outstanding job as our new treasurer, earning him the Region Director's Mangled Monkey Award for removing a burden from my back earlier this year.

The National Board election results are on the National website with Board Chair Burt Mitchell reelected to the board as well as Scott Marland. New Directors are Gary Deaver, Ed Gassman, and Bill Hummer. Thanks to all of you who voted.

We all owe a huge round of applause to our OEC leaders this year, especially Gina Wyffels as our Region OEC Advisor, as well as Cathy Rague and Mark Bowker our candidate class advisors. Congratulate the new candidates in your Patrol for all their hard work through the difficulties with a new OEC text and curriculum. I also wish to thank all our instructors for their efforts and common sense this season-good job folks. In addition, recognize Mary Emmighausen as the Eastern Division Assistant OEC Supervisor responsible for our Region as well as CNY and WNY. Mary also happens to be a Swain Patroller-good for us.

Valley Views

The Region, led by Nick Schiavetti (and Carolyn and her cookies), tried some new venues to recruit potential new Patrollers, at the EMS open house and the Dome sale. These two venues confirmed our past experience that the best recruitment strategy involves our Patrollers contacting individuals they know and encouraging them to consider the National Ski Patrol. If you want to do less shifts-get involved, promote your Patrol and sign folks up!

One final thought for our Winter Newsletter is that our Region offers excellent educational opportunities with the Senior Program as well as individual course and enhancement seminars. All of these are fun, give you the opportunity to meet other Patrollers and will increase your knowledge base and confidence in the Patrolling environment. I know that the time commitment is always a consideration, but firmly believe the rewards strongly justify the means. Please consider just one opportunity this season.

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## REGIONAL ADVISORS:

### **Skip Millor**

**MTR**

A lack of participant enrollment resulted in our having to cancel MTR2 this season.

We are going to have a combined MTR1/Avalanche Fundamentals course next season. The dates will be posted on the GVR calendar in May 2012.

For those going for Senior Alpine or Nordic, this combined course will give you 2 credits and a lot of fun. Both courses satisfy the basic requirements for MTR2. MTR2 is required for Senior Nordic.

### **Bill Teamerson**

**EMM**

Hi All,

It looks like an exciting season for the SEMM program for our region. We already have 8 people signed up, and it would be great to have a few more.

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

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

If you are an instructor, or just interested in helping, we can always use extra hands for the practice sessions!

Our **tentative** schedule is on the region website. <http://www.nspgvr.org/region/EMMsched2012.pdf>

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

See you on the slopes soon!

### **Peter Parker S&T**

The Senior S&T program will start soon after the season gets underway - in January, 2012, 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.

The **Senior S&T Program** is an excellent way to become a better skier/rider and toboggan handler.

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 building your confidence and skills as a ski patroller! We all work together improve your patroller skills and toboggan handling.

The Senior S&T schedule can be found on the Genesee Valley Region website! Download the application there as well and be sure to read the FAQ document. We strive to HAVE FUN and SKI A LOT!

Be sure to check the calendar often for additional training Opportunities (Senior Electives) like Toboggan Enhancements, Patroller Schools, etc.

### **Gina Wyffels OEC**

We did it!! We successfully integrated the 5<sup>th</sup> edition into all of our OEC region refreshers, on-hill refreshers, and the candidate class.

A very special "Thank You!" to the Region Staff, OEC ITs and OEC Instructors for devoting many more hours this year to study, review and training. Only through your dedication, open mindedness and perseverance were we able to meet the requirements set forth by National to incorporate the new material into our OEC programs. It will take longer to feel totally comfortable with some of the new techniques, but with everyone's persistence we will succeed.

Please read the detailed summaries for the OEC candidate class, EMM and the OEC Mentoring program submitted by the program chair people.

Have a great season.  
Let it snow!

### **Nick Schiavetti OEC Mentoring**

Congratulations to the eight new OEC instructors who completed the mentoring program this year:

Russ Perrin, Shelly Fiumano, Peter Edelstein, and Andy Fleming of Bristol, Holly Hindman and Kevin Paine of Hunt Hollow, and Mike Novello and Mike Mooney of Swain.

Many thanks also to their mentors: Bob Andre, Bonnie Andre, Tom Wallin, Steve Duncan, Gary Marks, Tom Jenssen, Marcia Mundrick, and Nick Schiavetti for all of their time and effort in preparing these instructor candidates for their final IT evaluations.

And thanks as well to the Instructor Trainers who volunteered their extra time in completing the IT evaluations: Mary Emmighausen, Bob Andre, Nick Schiavetti, Bill Teamerson, Kris Vasilauskas, and Rick Micoli.

This list of patrollers who contributed extra time and effort to support OEC in the GV region demonstrates the team nature of this program. The outstanding commitment of these patrollers makes it possible for the region to train new patrollers and refresh experienced patrollers each year. So the next time you see these people on the hill this winter, be sure to thank them personally for their contributions to your ability to continue patrolling and our capability to serve the skiing public.

### **Mark Bowker & Cathy Rague OEC Training**

Welcome 2011 OEC Class

The Genesee Valley OEC Class of 2011 recently graduated 25 new NSP Members. This is the first class to graduate using the new Fifth Edition OEC Book.

Thanks to the 73 OEC Instructors, IT's and OEC Instructor Candidates who spent many hours preparing lessons and teaching the established skills as well as the updated NSP skills the new edition introduced. Several new first aid tools were introduced this year through the OEC Instructors. These include the Kendrick Extrication Body Splint and the pelvic splint. This continued learning and perfecting of our skill set characterizes the dedicated group of OEC Instructors we are proud to have in the Genesee Valley Region.

Our candidates worked extremely hard during these intensive three months. They come from all walks of life - including students, teachers, EMT's, engineers, artists PhD candidates, MD's, nurses, NP's, financial professionals, dental hygienists, tree cutters and business owners. We had a new generation of Ski Patrollers born during the class: welcome Eagan Motzer and Ryan Griffin. These new patrollers' families were called to give them a tremendous amount of support.

This year's class encompassed more than 106 hours over three months of scheduled classroom lectures, hands-on practice of scenarios, OEC Refresher participation, CPR, testing and evaluations, and instruction provided by individual patrols.

We appreciate the time we were able to spend at Hunt Hollow, Bristol and Swain during our Saturday morning hands-on practices. There is no better classroom than the hills of Western New York State surrounded by the Fall foliage.

We also thank our member patrols for providing additional instruction to their own as well as the other candidates.

Swain hosted the Final Practical Evaluation on Saturday, November 12. A chicken BBQ after the test celebrated the success of the class.

Our new patrollers are representing NSP at Swain, Brantling, Bristol, Nordic, Hunt Hollow, and Sipapu in New Mexico.

### **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.

In response to student feedback we made some changes to the timing for the course, we modified the schedule this past spring to present 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. Eight patrollers completed this Instructor Development class in April 2011 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. Check the region website for further information. Signup sheets were available at the Region Refreshers in the fall and you can also contact me 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 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, OEC), Glen Gebhard (Swain & GV Nordic: 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.

### **Merrily Hoover                      Alumni**

Many patrollers are not aware that there are two alumni programs - their local mountain's alumni benefits program and the National Ski Patrol Alumni Association program. Each ski area in the region has its own individual policies regarding alumni benefits, but the national alumni program provides consistent benefits for all retired patrollers regardless of where they patrolled.

The "mission" of the NSP program 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, can 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 national 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 after they retire

from active patrolling.

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 585-367-9239 or email me at [mbkhoover@aol.com](mailto:mbkhoover@aol.com)

The Alumni Day for this ski season has been set for February 24, 2012 at Hunt Hollow. Invitations will be mailed to all registered alumni in January 2012. Last February 2011, alumni and guests enjoyed a day of skiing at Hunt Hollow and a great buffet put on by the Hunt Hollow caterer in the lodge with wine thanks to Deb Koop and Nick Schiavetti. We hope that more will be able to make it next year.

In the Genesee Valley Region, in addition to the "Alumni Ski Day" each year, alumni receive Ski Patrol Magazine and the Ski Patrol Catalog from national, the electronic newsletters Trail Sweep from the Eastern Division and Valley Views 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 which award would be appropriate and gather the data needed to submit an application so the award can be given at the time of retirement.

I would like to close by recognizing Nick Schiavetti for all the work he did to keep the Alumni of the Genesee Valley Region both informed and welcome to stay involved in this great organization. Come to the alumni day in February and we can all catch up on where we have been and what we have done this past year. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

### **Mike Lord Awards**

Well everyone, last year was an outstanding year for the GVR as far as awards go. Three outstanding Division awards, a national appointment, three DSA's and numerous merit starts. A huge thanks to all the patrol awards advisors and the awards committee. A huge thanks to Jerry Sherman, who has moved up to the Eastern Division Awards job.

As we move into the new season I would like to ask everyone to look around at your fellow patrollers and talk to your patrol awards people with suggestions of people you feel need to be recognized for their hard work and dedication. The awards folks will then move the deserving

through to the level that will best fit their contributions and the NSP awards that they deserve. Please remember That we need every Region Patrollers input so we can get the recognition to those that deserve it most. Have a great season. See you on the snow!

### **Joe Menichino Certified**

I wish I could say we had a great start to our season like last year but obviously this isn't the case. I actually wish I hadn't put my bike away so soon. Many of you are probably suffering ski and patrol shift withdrawal. Well hang in there, hopefully winter will finally show up and give us some snow and cold weather so we can get started. Everyone at work thinks I'm nuts to wish for the arrival of winter. They just don't get it.

Recognizing that sooner or later proper winter weather will arrive please keep in mind that our Division offers a number of Patroller Schools and Certified Introduction programs this year. Find the details on the eastern Division NSP Calendar web page. <http://www.nspeast.org/html/calendar.htm>

The closest available to us is at Holiday Valley on Jan 7. This one covers S&T, OEC and Low angle rescue based on your selection. Contact Mary Lyn Boberg at [luckydiamond99@frontiernet.net](mailto:luckydiamond99@frontiernet.net). Another option is the Patroller School and Intro to Certified school (separate programs) scheduled at Windham on January Jan 21 and 22. Please feel free to contact me if you need help with arrangements or have questions about content for either of these. Tom Wallin and I plan on going to Windham and possibly Holiday too. I recommend the Patroller School to all Senior candidates, Basic patrollers and candidates that want a "advanced" experience and these classes count as a Senior elective.

This year's Certified Exam and meeting is at Jay Peek the weekend of March 22 thru 25. We have no limitations on the number of patrol visitors and spouses we can handle. Its really a fun time with 3 days of free passes, lots of sharing with patrollers from all around the division and lots of parties. Your only commitment is acting in an IP role on Saturday morning during the OEC portion of the exam. Ask anyone who has come up- it's a great time and a learning experience. Jay Peek is an amazing place to ski way up in northern Vermont facing Canada. Call or email me if you want to learn more about the trip or confirm your intention to go (607-587-8229).

Finally, potential Certified candidates need to be seriously working toward completing all required application details including needed letters of recommendation and preparation for the Certified Pretest including the required request form. All applications with letters must be complete by 2/22/12. Please do not consider submitting unless you plan to actually attend one of the Pretests this season. Pretests are scheduled in January at Hunter, Sunday River and Mount Snow. Check the same web page listed above for details. Call or email me if you want to learn more.



## Alvin Wagner

The Swain Ski Patrol lost one of our alumni when Al Wagner passed away on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, after heart surgery in Rochester. He was 80 years old.

Al was a member of the National Ski Patrol at Swain for 27 years from 1979 to 2006. He served as a first aid, WEC, and OEC instructor from 1982 to 1992. Al was a long time member of the Swain Executive Committee as Treasurer from 1984 to 1989 and as Assistant Patrol Director for OEC from 1989 to 1991. He received the Herbert Lehman Award as Swain's Outstanding Instructor in 1992 and a Yellow Merit Star from the National Ski Patrol in 1990.

Al was always active in all aspects of patrolling at Swain and was a constant and welcoming presence at all of our events. He was a faithful friend to all patrollers who will always be remembered for his keen sense of humor and he was always respected for his advice to younger patrollers. Al's steady confidence and warm personality will be missed by all who knew him and patrolled with him.

Al was predeceased by his parents, Carl & Sylvia Wagner and brother, Murray. He is survived by his loving daughters, Nettie (Ron) Goeler, Susan (Ron) Payer, Leigh (Russ) Bird and their mother, Janet Wagner; grandchildren, Rachael, Kate, Jacob, Justin and Miriam; and companion, Shelli Plosscowe. A Funeral Service was held at Temple Emanu-El and Interment was at Riverside Cemetery. Donations may be made to Temple Emanu-El or the [American Heart Association](#) in Al's memory.

Jeanne Eldridge and Nick Schiavetti  
Swain Ski Patrol

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