

VALLEY VIEWS



The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Winter, 2000

Pamm Ferguson **RD**

Holiday Greetings to you all! As we go to press the air is chilling and there's promise for snow in the forecast. This is another full issue of news from area patrols and information from your regional advisors. By now you should have received the **NSP mailing from National Chairman, John Clair**. Please take the time to read about the NSP programs and the paper written about NSP Member Personal Risk Management. As Henry Williams, GVR Legal Advisor, says in his article here, feel free to consult him with your questions in the event of litigation. **The Women's Patroller Skills Seminar** in March is going to be awesome! If you want to maximize the finesse of your patrolling skills, appreciate the importance of physical training, hear the inside scoop on equipment designed by women, for women, and ski for two days with a great group of women (sorry, no guys)---sign up. Deb Daniels (an amazing instructor and certified patroller) is taking registrations until Feb 1st (802-228-5032). I look forward to visiting all eight patrols this winter and skiing with you. Happy New Year, and best wishes for your best season yet!!!

REGIONAL ADVISORS:

Marcia Mundrick **Instructor Development**

We had a great group of patrollers complete the Instructor Development course in November. We had 9 participants from 3 patrols – **Dennis Turner, Judy Scott, Mary Emminghausen, Joanne Taylor, Joelle Kraft, Steve LaCrosse, Peter Parker, Marsha Wait and Toby Thomas**. Many of them are interested in volunteering as instructors for OEC or S&T. If you see them, give them a "pat on the back" for donating additional time. We're always on the lookout for good instructor material!!

If you are interested in being on the mailing list for the next Instructor Development – Phase I course, please call or send me a note. This course is a Senior elective. We would like to start teaching the course in May or June, to avoid all the other training in the Fall.

(Ed. note: When you see Marcia, congratulate her on being named the new Eastern Division Instructor Development Supervisor!)

Mike Lord **OEC**

Well the skiing isn't too far away, and the region OEC programs have just about finished up with everything that

has to be done before the snow flies. I'd like to take a moment and thank all of the OEC instructors who did so much for the region this fall helping with the candidate class and at the refreshers. Without their help the job would not get done. Special thanks, too, to the region Instructor/Trainers and to **Chris Stiegler** for running the region candidate class. Any patroller who has not met his or her OEC refresher requirement for this season please contact your patrol representative or me to arrange, somehow, to fulfill this important task.



Chris Stiegler receiving a token of appreciation from the Candidates at the conclusion of their practical evaluation.



Chris receiving a no less impressive appreciation award from RD Pamm Ferguson in recognition for the successful Candidate program.

The region candidate class was very successful with all the candidates passing and becoming OEC qualified. They are all now working hard at their patrols to meet the requirements there, and will be working with us as the New Year comes upon us. My thanks and congratulations to all

of them for a great time and a job well done. Please join me in welcoming these great folks into our family as you meet them in the coming season. GO MAX'S.

The Region refreshers are over, with all but a handful of our numbers participating either at Honeoye Falls/Lima or at Swain. Thanks to **Ginny Illi** at Swain for the great job she did for her patrol and the region visitors, and to all of the instructors who helped the Honeoye Falls refreshers go so smoothly. I received many thanks and kudos about the jobs you folks did so well and how much fun everyone had. I can't begin to tell all of you how easy you make my job.

The region has run it's Phase I class and I have a list of all of you who are interested in the OEC Phase II class. With the snow upon us, and time hard to come by, this class will be run in the spring. This will give the region a chance to collect all the names of folks interested in Phase II OEC and get the class information back to you. Anyone who didn't find a sign up sheet somewhere please call me or send your name via e-mail, and I'll add your name to the list.

As the season winds down the I/T's and I will be planning for the 2000/01 programs. I'll keep you all informed of changes to come, either through our Valley Views or mailings to those involved. Again to the region as a whole, thank you for all your hard work.

Joe Menichino Certified

Where is the snow???? Some of us were skiing on grass last Sunday (December 5/Ed.). That's hard on even my good old rock skis. My wife is mad at me for wearing my new boots around the house.

On Certified- here is an update on all the great upcoming programs run by the Certified staff:

1- The Women's Patroller Skills Seminar will be offered by Certified Patroller **Deb Daniels** (802-228-5032) from Vermont and is scheduled for 3/11 and 3/12 at Bristol- there are still spots available, sign up until Feb. 1st. No guys allowed.

2- The Patrollers School / Intro to Certified Program run by **Gordie Bell** (an amazing guy, 717-637-7216) will be run at Ski Windham on 1/22 and 1/23. Gordie has rough luck with the weather, but the programs are great, no matter if you are brand new at patrolling or ready to start the Certified plunge. I plan to go.

3- The Genesee Valley Region is hosting a Phase II S&T clinic Thursday 1/6 at Hunt and Sat 1/8 at Swain- yours truly coordinating (contact me at 716-596-3406). We only do this every couple of years so call **Al Efron** or I soon if you want a place.

4- The Certified pretests are scheduled for 1/22 at Windham and 2/5 TBD. Call me or **Steve Barnes** (603-433-9556) for details.

5- The Certified Meeting/Test weekend is scheduled for 3/31 through 4/2 at Jay Peak. Jay is really a great place to ski. If you have an interest in helping or just watching let me know- I can arrange it. They accept Canadian funds so get all your worthless Canadian quarters together if you are coming.

Pray for snow- it's time!

Sheila Fovel Alumni

There will be a Region Alumni Ski Day at Hunt Hollow on Wednesday, February 9th, starting at 9:30 AM. Alumni & Alumnae will be given a complementary ski pass and lunch. The ski pass is good for any 7 consecutive hours of skiing between 9:30 AM and 10:00 PM. Guest passes will be available for \$15, and lunches for \$5. **Contact Sheila Fovel no later than February 2nd** if you plan to attend, or for more information, at 716-266-7389, or e-mail at sfovel@nixonpeabody.com.

A letter of invitation will be mailed to all known Alumni in the Region in December, but if you don't receive one, feel free to contact Sheila anyway.

Tim Cassidy Venturing

The Genesee Valley Region Student Patrol Venturing Crew is starting its second year with five active members at Swain, and two at Ski Valley. Three of the members, **Matt Crispino, Joe Menichino and Jeremie Stearns**, have passed the OEC course and practical exam, and have become Auxiliary patrollers at Swain. Two others, **Dan Godfried and Nate Stearns** have completed the OEC course work and will take the practical at Swain in January.



The Venturing crew portrayed injured skiers for the Candidate OEC practical evaluation.

All the students will be participating in S&T training this season. **Brian Walsh**, at Ski Valley, has also started a group. He has two students at the present time and is looking for more.

The Swain group is conducting Fundraisers to raise money to attend the Student Patrol training weekend at Pico Peak in March. The Students sold Hotdogs and Burgers at the Snow Country open house and at the region make-up refresher at Swain last month. One of the upcoming fundraisers is the Camp'o'ree, which is an outing for Boy & Girl Scout troops and is held at Swain. There will be weekend camping; skiing discounts to the attendees, races, snow sculpture and snow cave competitions, games, and a campfire. This has been a well-attended annual event and we know it will be even better this year. If you know any troops that might be interested please contact **Richard Stearns** at 716-343-4463 or by e-mail at castear@iinc.com or **Charles Feller** at ChasFeller@aol.com for further information.

If you have a student that has reached the age of 14, is interested in patrolling, and that you would like to sponsor as a member of the Genesee Valley Student Patrol Venturing Crew, please contact **Tim Cassidy** or **Richard Stearns** at Swain, or **Brian Walsh** at Ski Valley.
Nate Stearns - Secretary, Swain Venturing Crew

Don Garman Awards

As we enter another December, we are all hopeful of a plentiful snow season. The holidays are upon us and we are all very busy in our own separate lives. However, in this season of peace and good will on earth, I once again ask that you think of your fellow patrollers and consider suggesting one or more for an award. When you think of somebody deserving, let your patrol awards representative to the Region Committee know, so that the process can go forward. To assist you in developing an award, I have listed the awards available from Region and National. The following awards reps may also help you.... **Dave Hanning** - Swain, **Skip Millor** - Bristol Mountain, **John Lawson** - Hunt Hollow, **Pete Peterson** - Brantling, **Cristina Hickok** - Ski Valley, and the Patrol Representatives for Powder Mills, North Hampton and Genesee Valley Nordic.

If you have any questions, please contact your Region Awards Rep, or call me (Don Garman) at (716) 423-3402.

Region Awards:

1. Region Outstanding Instructor (Lehman Award): awarded by Region - goes to Division for consideration.
2. Region Outstanding Patroller (Stevens Award): awarded by Region - goes to Division for consideration.
3. Region Distinguished Service Award – Named the Doyle Award, honoring Dick Doyle, long time patroller, instructor and Mentor at Bristol Mountain. (New 1999)
4. Region Merit Star - Given locally, automatic for rejected National Yellow Merit Stars.

National Awards:

1. **Gold Merit Star** - National Outstanding Patroller including administrative, and instructor.
2. **Silver Merit** - Runner-up to National Outstanding Patroller
3. **Purple Merit** - Individually save or are primarily responsible for saving a life.
4. **Blue Merit** - Outstanding or heroic use of ski patrol skills to save a life, but not to the level of the Purple. May be used to recognize those in supporting role of Purple.
5. **Green Merit** - Similar to Blue but action took place in Ski area.
6. **Yellow Merit** - Awarded for any outstanding act or service to NSPS. Must have an element of National relevance. May be used for supporting role for Green, Blue, and Purple.
7. **NSP Distinguished Service Award (DSA)** - Given for outstanding achievement in place of a National or LCA. May be given to a non-Patroller.
8. **Patroller Cross Award** - Awarded to a patroller who receives serious injuries while on duty. Patrollers killed in the line of duty are awarded the DSA.
9. **National Outstanding** - Patroller, Instructor, Administrative, Professional, Auxiliary, or Student; Outstanding Patrol. Awards given in each category annually.
10. **Avalanche Award** - Contributions to the avalanche program. Must have National significance.
11. National Appointments -
 - a. **Leadership Commendation (LCA)** - For deserving patrollers not eligible for National appointment.
 - b. **National Appointment** - for eligible Seniors
12. **Unit Citation** -
13. National **Certificate of Appreciation** - For "....."
14. **Service Recognition Awards** - (10 years or more in increments of 5 year intervals.) Ordered by Patrol Director or Awards Committee.
15. **Honorary Awards** – Non-Members given at the discretion of the Patrol Director, or Region Director. May be an NSP Award or Local or Region.
16. **Angel Pins** - Primarily for spouses, but may be given to others for recognition of support to NSP or local patrolling efforts. Requested by Patrol Director to Division Director.

Henry Williams Legal

The Regional attorneys for Eastern Division met in Albany in September in a first-ever pow-wow put together by **Bob Scarlett**, the new Division attorney. The exchange of local policies and ideas concerning liability, labor laws and patrol operations was productive for the Division and very valuable for the regions, sections and individual patrols. Here are some of the items on which there was consensus:

- The police function to enforce safe skiing policies and remove transgressors from the hill is a necessary operational part of every ski area but an unpleasant task for the ski patrol on whom the responsibility normally falls. Some areas in the Division have taken safety as the starting point. They advertise the safe skiing policy to raise the level of consciousness. Thus, the enforcers become "safety implementers" and not policemen. Some areas have recruited an entirely separate force called "Rangers" to enforce the safely policy, a program which involves organization, uniforms and perhaps free skiers. Patrollers are likely easier and cheaper.
- As patrollers, we cannot successfully be sued for ordinary negligence in the performance of our rescue job. The Good Samaritan Law in New York protects us from that liability. Someone could join us as defendants in an action, but the case would have to be dismissed. A lawyer would have to be retained to make the dismissal motion, which costs money. We can be successfully sued by an injured party for wanton or gross negligence. This is defined as conduct rising to the level of intent to injure the patient or such want of care that the patient would inevitably be injured. The Good Samaritan Law does not protect against gross negligence or an intentional tort: where a patroller assaults someone, for example. Your area's insurance policy will cover the lawyer for the motion to dismiss in the ordinary negligence case or the lawyer and the damages resulting from gross negligence or even intentional conduct. But does your area have such an insurance policy? Your patrol director should determine annually whether the area has a policy of insurance covering patrollers. If there is a question about it, a copy of the facing page of the policy will suffice. Just in case, every patroller should go through his insurance agent to make sure he is covered by his homeowner's policy. Clip this article out and send it to your insurance agent and ask him to tell you that you're covered.
- Every patrol should collaborate with management on an accident investigation protocol. Kits which can be found and used right away should be prepared, containing a tape measure, graph paper, camera and witness forms. This topic will be discussed at the next Regional meeting.
- When an adverse attorney or party calls a patroller about an accident, the policy of the area should be that the patroller should not talk to the caller but report to the patrol director who will discuss the matter with area management and insurance counsel. Usually the lawyer selected by

the insurance carrier will reply to the caller. As the saying goes, "It is not the responsibility of the patroller to make admissions. The patroller's function is to rescue."

- Sometimes patrollers are deeply involved in litigation arising out of an accident case as witnesses. They can be deposed by the attorney for the injured party and counseled before hand by the attorney for the area and then ultimately called at the time of trial to testify. This can be a very uncertain and nerve-racking time for a patroller. In case a patroller needs reassurance by someone who does not have a stake in the case but has knowledge about the litigation process, the Regional attorney should be consulted to talk about the case with the patroller and allay the uneasiness or insecurity.

Some areas in the region have new accident report forms. Look at them and ask questions before you have to use them. They are important documents, since they usually are the only "memory" that exists about what actually happened at an accident. You want to make sure for your own sake that the form is accurate and complete and is filled out at the time of the accident. Leave no blanks. "X" out or line through or put "N.A." for irrelevant spaces.

Alan Efron

S&T

The season is once again off to a slow weather start -- but that's no reason not to be optimistic!! The Genesee Valley Region is very lucky to be hosting **2 Division events** in addition to our own very full schedule of S&T activities. On Saturday and Sunday, January 29 and 30, we will be hosting the **Skiing Enhancement Seminar**. For only \$70, you get two days in a small group (10) with a PSIA level 4. If you want to work on your skiing skills this is the way to do it!! These SES sessions always get great evaluations. Call **Mike Morgan** at (716) 396-3073 or e-mail him at tengoski@aol.com to sign up. The other Division program is the **Women's Patroller Skills Seminar** taking place Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14, for only \$50. **Deb Daniels** on both the Division S&T Staff and Steering Committee will be leading this session. The first seminar of this type was held last year and received excellent evaluations from the audience. This is an excellent opportunity for the women on our Patrols to get some focused instruction – instruction that is relevant to a women. The deadline for registration has been extended until February 1 – see the December issue of Trail Sweep for details and a registration form.

The Region is also offering a full slate of S&T activities this year as well. In January we will be offering an **S&T Phase 2 Program** led by our own **Joe Menichino**. Joe ran a Phase 2 back in 1998 and the ratings were mostly 5's!! If you are interested in being a local or regional

instructor, need a Senior elective, would like to beef up your instruction skills or want to do something fun consider this clinic. We will also be offering both a 1 day **Senior S&T "Challenge"** and the traditional **2-Day Senior Clinic**. The one day Senior Challenge is "*kinder and gentler*" than the old format. Even though it is still a test - second runs are allowed!! If you have been thinking about the Senior S&T Program, this is the year to go for it.

Of course, we will also be offering **Senior Continuing Education Clinics** at each of the Alpine areas this season. We guarantee a fun experience and everyone will get at least one tip they can use in either their skiing or sled handling. Each senior must attend one of these clinics every three years but these are clinics **NOT** tests. Attendance is all that is required to meet the requirement. These clinics also offer a great opportunity to ski at the other areas, so take advantage!!

At the Division clinic last week I saw some great boarding and telemarking – doing all of the activities that are covered in the clinics. I am hoping to see lots of boarders, telemarkers and patrollers of all sizes, shapes and colors at this year's events.

Go to the Region web site <http://www.nspgvr.org>, contact me at (716) 924-1688 or e-mail me Alan.Efron@usa.xerox.com for details on any of these programs, to make suggestions or just to say hi! I look forward to seeing you all on the slopes! Thanks for the hospitality when we come to your area and Patrol Rooms.

Jim Mussnug Avalanche

This season we are offering a new-format Basic Avalanche course. We will complete the entire session in one day, February 5, 2000 (8:00AM to 4:00PM) at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Webster, NY. This course has been condensed to a one day format, but still includes rescue beacon and probe practice. Classroom sessions have been streamlined and include more participation. Here's a good opportunity to enhance your patroller skills or complete an elective for senior. Class cost is \$15. Contact Jim Mussnug for registration information.

(home: 716 872-0587, e-mail mussnug@eznet.net)

Bill Gamble Member Communications

I want to thank all of the patrols for welcoming me and my camera at their on-hill/on-trail refreshers, as well as the OEC Staff who ran the Fall Refreshers and the Candidate Evaluation, and all of the involved patrollers. You all treated me like one of the gang and put up with the strobe flashes while you were working your problems, and I really appreciate it.

For those who haven't yet discovered the Region web site, I urge you to take a look. The address is:

<http://www.nspgvr.org>.

Among other features, it includes the most up-to-date calendar of events. The calendar published in each issue of Valley Views is current when it goes to press, but there can be changes even before the newsletter arrives in your homes. The web site also includes photographic coverage of Region events too extensive to be included in the newsletter. While I provide most of the content on the web site, I welcome the contributions of others. An example is the Avalanche section, which was created by Nick Schiavetti of Swain.

The deadline for submission of articles for the Spring issue of Valley Views is April 10. Send materials to me at my e-mail address: gamblewl@msn.com (preferred) or via snail mail to 8 High Gate Trail, #5, Fairport, NY 14450. If you want to contact me, my phone number is 716-425-2134.

NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:

HUNT HOLLOW

Well, we think the Hunt Hollow patrol is all set for the upcoming season – as I write this the hill is blowing snow and if it stays cold we should open on schedule.

We have eight new candidate patrollers who have all passed the OEC course now and will be starting the on-hill OEC training and ski & toboggan training in another week. Two of them, **Ben Herbert** and **Bonnie Andre**, passed the Ski & Toboggan component last winter so will be full patrollers before long. Our congratulations for enduring all the OEC training go out to: **Bonnie Andre, Ben Herbert, Brad Buechel, Peter Mietus, John Long, Rob Bilhorn, Mike Leary, and Joseph Stephan**. These folks will bring our patrol back up to authorized strength. And our thanks certainly go out to the all the instructors who made the Region OEC course a roaring success! Great Job!

Hunt Hollow is planning to host one day of **Mike Morgan's** Division Skier Enhancement Seminar in late January and a number of the Hunt patrollers are looking forward to this. We hope to see some of you there!

Our new Mountain Manager, **Paul Trippi**, is very enthusiastic and supportive of the patrol. Our evac people have now fully trained Paul and his staff in lift evacuation techniques, so if we ever do this for real, their participation will be a huge help.

Speaking of lift evac, we have two new head evac instructors this year – **Joe Hoff** and **Toby Thomas**. They have responded with great enthusiasm to this new challenge and have done a really excellent job. They and several other Hunt patrollers attended the Division evac seminar at Holiday Valley this fall and enjoyed it very much. We saw a new style line gun there, have purchased one (see photo below), and it works great on the high

towers! If anybody is interested in checking this out, just let me know.



PR Dick Hitchcock demonstrating the Patrol's new line gun to Hunt Hollow Ski School Instructors

We think we're in good shape to patrol out of our new building this year. Most of the work is now completed, with the most recent adventure being the installation of wall-to-wall carpet. The crew who did this work have decided that they will definitely NOT be taking up carpet laying as a career! We're really looking forward to the extra room and lockers for personal gear. It has been a lot of work for all of us on the patrol, but we are proud of what we have accomplished. Many of you have seen it already, but if you have not, I invite you to stop by next year, make some runs with us, and check out our building. The first aid room will not be moving to the new building at this time, and will remain in the main lodge.

Our On-The-Hill refresher was September 18, very early and especially enjoyable, as it was a warm sunny day. We found that the nice weather permitted a more in-depth review of some of the procedures; it was so pleasant that we may well do an early refresher again next year.

Dick Hitchcock, PR

BRISTOL

Greetings from Bristol Mountain. We opened up the mountain on Wednesday, December 1, due in large part to the new snowmaking system. On Thursday there was a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Comet Express. The new quad chair runs smoothly and gives a fast ride up to the summit. The report from skiers is that they can now get in over 10 runs an hour.

Sunday, December 5th was a busy day for the patrol. Our candidate test was held at 8:00 AM. Four people successfully completed the scenarios. The candidates will now take the remainder of the month off to relax before the ski and toboggan handling sessions start in January. Their enthusiasm is still high and they are anxious to start patrolling.

Our general meeting was held at 5:00 on Sunday. **Brenda Rizzo** successfully completed all the requirements for Senior and she was awarded her new patch. **Vince Patane** was given his 45-year service pin. Congratulations to both.

After the meeting on Sunday we held the blackout drill. We had two chairs running and shut them down at 6:30, with a total blackout in effect. The weekend crews evacuated the patrollers on the Sunset lift with the evac tees. The Comet Express patrollers were loaded to the fourth tower and reached the top with the chair on auxiliary power. The new chair on auxiliary power runs as fast as the old summit chair on full power!

Now that we've completed all the necessary training, we're anxiously awaiting snow. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! WE'RE READY!

Melissa Doyle, PR

SWAIN

What do you say we plan a winter golf tournament? Seems that when we think of snow, it gets warmer. Lets try a little reverse psychology. What's the worst that could happen, we have a blizzard?

Finally Mother Nature has come thru with a little cold weather to allow us to make snow. Swain officially opened to the public on Thursday December 1st with daytime skiing.

Most fall refreshers were well attended both at the region level and at Swain. OEC candidates under the direction of **Ginny Illi** and her entourage of Instructors are well into their third month of training. The following OEC candidates are presently preparing for their on hill practical test January 22nd, 2000. They are: **Stephanie Brietzke, Amy Feltner, Chris Hickock, Bob Illi, Bob Loughlin** and **Paul Pavone**. Congratulations to each one for practicing patience, perseverance, pride and partnership in completing the OEC program. The "on hill" section utilized the mentoring program where each candidate was assigned an OEC Instructor to shadow during his or her candidacy. The purpose being:

1. Shadow the OEC instructor to observe on hill and patrol room first aid Techniques.
2. Observe first hand policies and procedures in the patrol room
3. Demonstrate procedures for opening and closing the hills where/when applicable.
4. Demonstrate proper use of the radio.
5. Meet fellow patrollers.
6. Learn how the patrol functions in general.

With this in mind, candidates learn first hand the importance and seriousness of our mission to serve the public in the outdoor recreation industry.

After 15 years as Swain ski patroller, **Gary Kenneweg** has decided to retire and join the ranks of the alumni. Both Gary and his wife Judy, began patrolling at Swain in 1984. A senior patroller and S&T Instructor, Gary has devoted many hours to the OEC program throughout the region. We wish him well in his retirement.

New picture ID cards will be issued this year to all patrollers. Please plan on stopping at skier services to have your picture taken.

The following patrollers successfully completed the Phase I class: **Dennis Turner** (S&T), **Judy Scott** (S&T), **Joanne Taylor** (OEC), and **Mary Emmighausen** (OEC and S&T)
Mark Whitford, Secretary

NORDIC

Genesee Valley Nordic Patrol is extremely proud of our five new candidates, all of whom started and completed the 120+-hour OEC course this fall. These are **Tom Adler** of Webster, **Melanie Gleason** of Rochester, **Mike Tallon** of Rush, **Jeananne Thomas** of Rochester, and **Karin Wittman** from Churchville. Karin received the additional accolade of being selected by her OEC instructors as "Best in Class". Congratulations!



Karin Wittman receiving "Top OEC Candidate" award from Chris Stiegler

The two other candidates who responded to our recruitment drive of the past year, **Peter LePage** of Rochester and **Nancy O'Connor** of Spencerport, will focus this winter on our Ski-ability program and then go on to the OEC course next fall. Former Patrol Director **Brian Schankat** will be the instructor for this season's Ski-ability and Patroller-101 sessions.

We are also fortunate in having the help of several Alpine patrollers to fulfill our patrolling commitments at Cumming

Nature Center and Mendon Ponds Park. **Therese Costich-Sicker** has joined as a qualified Dual Patroller, Alpine and Nordic, with us. **Dave Buschner** (Hunt Hollow), **Bruce Martin** (Ski Valley), **Skip Millor** and **Marcia Mundrick** (Bristol), and **Scott Rowe** have trained to work with us as Visiting Patrollers. Skip is also assisting in our major mapping project at Mendon Ponds Park.

Our full-day "On-the-Hill" refresher was held December 4 at Hopkins Point in Mendon under the direction of **Jack Hustler**, with 20 participants. The morning session was used for first aid problems appropriate to the skiers and terrain of Cumming and Mendon, plus an equipment review. In the afternoon, **Holger Stave** and Brian coordinated a search-and-rescue exercise that included construction of an emergency shelter for the injured skier, and training in belays and other skills using ropes on steep terrain. Our events were attended by Regional Director **Pamm Ferguson** and her assistant, **Pete Peterson**, and were well covered by photographer and Webmaster **Bill Gamble**.



A shelter for a simulated injured skier.

Our first patrol day is scheduled for January 1, 2000, and will continue on Saturdays and Sundays into March, given enough white stuff on the ground. All Patrollers are welcome to come and skinny-ski with us – just give **Eric Jaeckel** or **Jack Hustler** a call for times and locations.

The major fund-raising for us is "Hot Dog Days", to be held at Cumming Nature Center on Saturday and Sunday, February 12 and 13. We prepare and sell hot dogs, gourmet chili, mulled cider and other goodies donated by Cumming and Patrol members. We welcome all region patrollers to join us then for eating and skiing. (Since we have no separate Patrol dues, it is this event that supports us financially.)

See you on the "slopes".

Eric Jaeckel, PR

BRANTLING

Wayne County's largest ski area opened for the season on Thursday, December 2, the earliest opening date in several years. Unfortunately, a few days later we experienced our earliest CLOSING date in several years. Hopefully temporary! 48 hours of snowmaking, coupled with about six inches from Mother Nature resulted in excellent top-to-bottom skiing on Diann's Run.

Brantling welcomes three new future patrollers; candidates **Terry Bruno, Scott Crichton** and **Karen Merritt**, all of whom successfully completed the OEC course in November. They will be going through S&T training under the direction of APD **Martha Rich** as soon as the white stuff returns. Addition of these new patrollers will bring our roster at the Big B up to 40, the highest total in many years. Leading the patrol for the next two seasons will be PD/AR **Steve Mitchell**, OEC APD **Kim Buell**, S&T APD **Martha Rich** and Scheduling APD **Alan Pundt**. Treasurer **Jim Webster** and "Toboggan" Editor **Pete Peterson** return to their posts. Both of the patrol's pre-season events were big successes; the annual chicken barbeque fund-raiser at Brantling's open house netted over \$400.00 for the treasury, and the work party which followed the November 13 On-the-Hill Refresher resulted in the construction of a new double sled house with additional storage space at the top of the T-bar, the relocation and refurbishing of three other sled houses, and a renovation of the patrol room. Many, many patrollers worked on these projects, but special thank-yous go out to APD **Kim Buell, Mark Johnson** and **John Williams** for their work on the barbeque and to **Robert Centro, PD Steve Mitchell, Johnson, Williams, John** and **Chris Van Stauduinen, Marsha Wait, Beth Heveron**, and **Jim Webster** for their construction and renovation efforts. We have added two more lapel mikes to our radios, which were new last season, giving us five complete radios and a base station. This will greatly aid expanded area coverage, including the now lift-served tubing area and terrain park. Two-thirds of the patrol is now in red parkas as we enter the third year of our transition period, and plans are underway to make red or black sweatshirts with the "Brantling Ski Patrol" logo available. We await the return of SNOW!!!

Pete Peterson, ARD

SKI VALLEY

The Ski Valley Ski Patrol is trained and ready to start a great year. Forty-two active patrollers have completed all CPR and NSP requirements for recertification. All registrations are completed, dues paid, and transfers complete. All we need now is some snow!

Last year, the patrol completed a renovation of the patrol room and we have now contracted to have a new carpet installed that will match the new carpet throughout the rest of the facility. Our first aid and patroller facilities have

been greatly improved thanks to the efforts of many of our patrollers. As one of our goals this year, we will continue to upgrade more of our first aid equipment and facilities.

The patrol will also be helping Ski Valley in some unique ways this season. As part of our effort to partner with area management, we will be helping to run an "Adventures in Science" program at Ski Valley for some local schools. The program helps kids actively learn how science is applied in our everyday world. The patrol will be running a seminar for the kids on our lift. Topics will include how hydraulics work, the size and weight of the ski cable which holds the chairs, the concept of counter-weighting, and other operational specifications and features of the chair lift. The patrol will also be helping to provide a positive experience for several groups of Girl Scouts that will be enjoying a day at the valley. Patrollers will help administer the first aid badge for the girls by discussing treatments for various injuries and illnesses.

Last year, the Ski Valley Ski Patrol started an activity of having a once-a-month social at Ski Valley. This typically involves some skiing, a dish-to-pass, families, and a few beers on a Sunday afternoon. The purpose was to involve our families just a little more in the patrol and encourage some of our "day" skiers to get to know some of our "night" skiers just a little better. We will continue these get-togethers this year, as they were well received and seemed to accomplish their mission.

Let's hope we see some snow soon and have a great season.

Rob Fischmann, PR



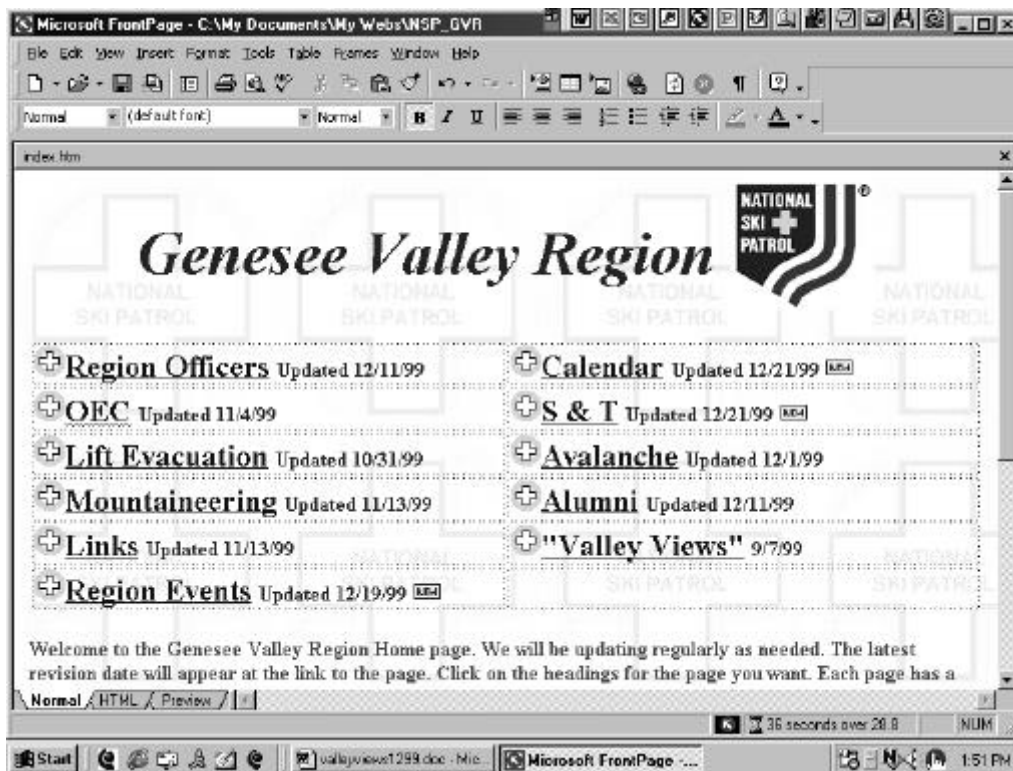
Calendar

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Bristol Patrol Meeting	January 4, 2000	7:00 PM	Egypt Fire Hall	Melissa Doyle H: 716-394-1828 W: 716-588-8516 mdoyle@eznet.net
Phase 2 - S&T Clinic - Classroom	January 6	7:00 - 10:00 PM	Hunt Hollow Patrol Building	Joe Menichino -H: 607-587-8229 W: 716-596-3406 joseph.a.menichino@dresser-rand.com
Phase 2 - S&T Clinic	January 8	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Swain	Joe Menichino -H: 607-587-8229 W: 716-596-3406 joseph.a.menichino@dresser-rand.com
General OEC Clinic for Bristol Patrollers (voluntary)	January 9	9:00 AM	Bristol	Melissa Doyle H: 716-394-1828 W: 716-588-8516 mdoyle@eznet.net
Senior S&T Clinic - Short, Med. Long Radius Turns	January 13	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Ski Valley	Mike Morgan 716-396-3073
Senior S&T Refresher	January 15	9:30 AM - Noon	Bristol	Scott Mundrick - 716-657-7238 mundrick@kodak.com
GV Region Officers/PR's Breakfast Meeting	January 16	9:00 AM	Swain - Wildwood Restaurant	Pamm Ferguson - H: 716-473-1196 W: 716-275-5403 ferg@troi.cc.rochester.edu
Senior S&T Clinic - Patroller Skills - snow plow, transition	January 20	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Bristol	Jerry Sherman H: 315-986-2736 W: 716-527-4489 jshernsp@rochester.rr.com
Swain Final Candidate OEC Evaluation	January 22	9:00 AM	Swain	Ginny Illi 716-889-4612 vhilli@aol.com
Senior S&T Refresher	January 22	9:30 AM - Noon	Hunt Hollow	Jerry Sherman H: 315-986-2736 W: 716-527-4489 jshernsp@rochester.rr.com
Senior S&T Refresher	Date TBD	9:30 AM - Noon	Ski Valley	Gordy Benoit 716-924-9274 gbenoit@frontiernet.net
Division S&T Trainer/Evaluator Clinic	January 22-23		Holiday Valley	Randy McNeil
Division Patrollers' School / Introduction to Certified Program	January 22-23		Ski Windham	Gordie Bell 717-637-7216
Certified Pre-test	January 22		Ski Windham	Joe Menichino -H: 607-587-8229 W: 716-596-3406 joseph.a.menichino@dresser-rand.com , or Steve Barnes 603-433-9556
General OEC Clinic for Bristol Patrollers (voluntary)	January 23	9:00 AM	Bristol	Melissa Doyle H: 716-394-1828 W: 716-588-8516 mdoyle@eznet.net
Senior OEC Begins	January 24	TBA	East Rochester Ambulance	Bob Finger: 716-394-9392 bobfinger@juno.com
Senior S&T Clinic - Sleds	January 27	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Ski Valley	Scott Mundrick - 716-657-7238 mundrick@kodak.com

Senior S&T Clinic - PSIA Skiing Skills (Challenge Test Clinic)	January 29	9:30 AM - Noon	Bristol	Mike Morgan 716-396-3073
Division Skier Enhancement Seminar	January 29		Hunt Hollow	Mike Morgan 716-396-3073
Division Skier Enhancement Seminar	January 30		Ski Valley	Mike Morgan 716-396-3073
Senior S&T Clinic - Challenge Format Test Review/Prep.	February 3	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Ski Valley	Alan Efron H: 716-924-1688 W: 716-427-4562 alan.efron@usa.xerox.com
Senior S&T Clinic - Challenge Format Test	February 5	9:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Ski Valley	Alan Efron H: 716-924-1688 W: 716-427-4562 alan.efron@usa.xerox.com
Basic Avalanche Course (Full Course)	February 5	8:00 Am - 4:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Webster.	Jim Mussnug H: 716-872-0587 W: 716-722-4732
Certified Pre-test	February 5		TBD	Joe Menichino -H: 607-587-8229 W: 716-596-3406 joseph.a.menichino@dresser-rand.com , or Steve Barnes 603-433-9556
Region Alumni Ski Day w/ Lunch	February 9	9:30 AM	Hunt Hollow	Sheila Fovel H: 716-266-7389 W: 716-263-1027 sfovel@nixonpeabody.com
Senior S&T Clinic - sleds (focus on inside handles - bumps)	February 10	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Hunt Hollow	Gordy Benoit 716-924-9274 gbenoit@frontiernet.net
Senior S&T Clinic - sleds (focus on outside handles - bumps)	February 12	9:30 AM - Noon	Swain	Alan Efron H: 716-924-1688 W: 716-427-4562 alan.efron@usa.xerox.com
Senior S&T Refresher	February 12	9:30 AM - Noon	Swain	Tom Wallin
Nordic Ski Patrol "Hot Dog Days" Weekend Fund Raiser for the Patrol	February 12 & 13	All Day	Cumming Nature Center	Eric Jaeckel H: 716-473-5685
Senior S&T Clinic - Pre-Clinic Review 1	February 17	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Hunt Hollow	Gordy Benoit 716-924-9274 gbenoit@frontiernet.net
Senior S&T Clinic - sleds (focus on outside handles)	February 19	9:30 AM - Noon	Swain	Joe Menichino -H: 607-587-8229 W: 716-596-3406 joseph.a.menichino@dresser-rand.com
Senior S&T Clinic - Pre-Clinic Review 2	March 2	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Bristol	Alan Efron H: 716-924-1688 W: 716-427-4562 alan.efron@usa.xerox.com
Senior S&T 2-Day Clinic/Eval.	March 4	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	TBA	Alan Efron H: 716-924-1688 W: 716-427-4562 alan.efron@usa.xerox.com
Senior S&T 2-Day Clinic/Eval.	March 5	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	TBA	Alan Efron H: 716-924-1688 W: 716-427-4562 alan.efron@usa.xerox.com
Senior OEC Final Evaluation	March 5	TBA	Brantling	Bob Finger H: 716-394-9392
GV Region Meeting	March 9	7:30 PM	TBA	Pamm Ferguson - H: 716-473-1196 W: 716-275-5403 ferg@troi.cc.rochester.edu

NSP Advanced Avalanche	March 9 - 12		Pinkham Notch, NH	Doug Graham 603-644-4530 doogie7038@aol.com
National Avalanche School Phase II	March 10 - 12		Pinkham Notch, NH	Doug Graham 603-644-4530 doogie7038@aol.com
Division Female Patroller S&T Clinic	March 11- 12	TBA	Bristol	Deb Daniels 802-228-5032 (Vermont Certified Patroller)
Division Certified Meeting / Test Weekend	March 31 - April 2		Jay Peak	Joe Menichino -H: 607-587-8229 W: 716-596-3406 joseph.a.menichino@dresser-rand.com , or Steve Barnes 603-433-9556
GV Region Meeting	April 13	7:30 PM	TBA	Pamm Ferguson - H: 716-473-1196 W: 716-275-5403 ferg@troi.cc.rochester.edu
GV Region Meeting	May 11 (tentative)	7:30 PM	TBA	Pamm Ferguson - H: 716-473-1196 W: 716-275-5403 ferg@troi.cc.rochester.edu
Phase I Course (Tent.)	May	TBA	TBA	Marcia Mundrick - H:716-229-4313 W: 716-340-5500, Ext. 7132

Check out the GV Region web site at <http://www.nspgvr.org> regularly for updates to the calendar and other news items, as well as occasional coverage of Region events.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

