

Valley Views

The newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Late Fall, 1997



Norm Robinson

RD

Happy Thanksgiving! By the time you all read this it will be early December and some of you lucky folks will have already been on the slopes enjoying the early December blizzard that we've all been waiting for. (... A guy can dream right?)

By now you all have heard about NSP selling one third of the building in Colorado to the PSIA and more importantly about the 1.4 million dollar judgment brought against the NSP as a result of the Kane case in California. Please remember... When you are patrolling or taking part in any training that's not an official NSP program then you are acting as an agent of the ski area NOT the NSP. If you have any questions about either of these matters you can ask your Patrol Director or, if you have internet access, get the facts directly from www.nsp.org

The latest NSP topics that seem to be raising quite a stir are a suggestion by our National Chairman that training be provided at the patrol level rather than by divisions or regions and the proposal to change the patroller classification names from auxiliary, patroller, senior, certified, etc... to a numerical system, level 1, 2, 3, similar to PSIA. On the training proposal... I feel very strongly that the sharing of ideas between patrollers from different areas is something that makes each patrol stronger. Our Region OEC, Senior programs and electives provide the opportunity for patrollers to visit different areas, share ideas and experiences, and bring something back to their individual patrols. If you have any doubt about this just ask someone that's been through one of these programs recently or better yet... sign up for one of these courses and see for yourself! On the topic of the name change... This was discussed at length at the November Region mtg. and the unanimous opinion of all PD's and Region advisors attending was "leave things the way they are!" If you have an opinion on these or any other issues please contact me and/or your Patrol Director. Your input is needed to accurately represent the opinion of this region.

Closer to home..... Now that the Refreshers are over, the On-The-hills are done and the OEC candidate courses are well underway. I'd like to take a moment to thank all of the instructors and IT's involved in getting the season rolling. These folks spend a great deal of time and energy before the season begins training and preparing lessons for refreshers and the candidate OEC classes. When you see one of these folks in a class or on the slopes please say Thank You! I'd like to publicly thank Frank Mocniak, our new region OEC administrator, for the outstanding job he's done getting the season's OEC programs underway. Thank you Frank!

On a final note.... I'd like to encourage everyone to participate in the region programs that have been planned for the upcoming season. These programs are a wonderful way to meet people from other areas and improve your skills!

Think Snow!

Norm Robinson - Region Director
RobinsonND@aol.com

Pamm Ferguson

ARD

By the time you read this, hopefully the snow will be on the ground and our bodies and minds will be tuned for another season on the slopes. It always amazes me as we reach this time of year and start to assemble for region and local refreshers, the high level of enthusiasm and energy that exudes from this group of Genesee Valley ski patrollers. Over the last twenty five years I've seen the pattern repeat itself each year, only the faces change. We (some 450+) come together from all walks of life and with different viewpoints, but we come together with some common thoughts in mind as patrollers. We especially care about the safety and well being of those who ski where we do and, of course, we share the love of skiing/riding. We strive to promote ski safety and hone our skills to best care for those unfortunate injured skiers.

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Region Advisors

At these refreshers I sense an enormous spirit of dedication in our CV Region. In addition to the many long time veteran patrollers, there is a constant influx of new people who bring with them their eagerness and desire to become a part of this organization. Many new members take on responsibilities for training those who follow them. We soon find that with increased involvement is a feeling of increased commitment to patrolling and to the success of the area programs. From a heterogeneous group a splendid homogeneous outcome springs forth. I'm proud, as I hope you are, to be a part of this cadre of patrollers, I look forward to seeing you again this season at your areas as you participate in your local programs and the region programs. Now, lets bring on the snow! - Pamm

Gordy Benoit **Ski & Toboggan**

Hope your fall is going well and you are in shape and ready to get back to skiing and patrolling this winter! The rage again this year in ski equipment as you are probably well aware are hourglass or shaped skis that improve your ability to "carve" turns. In fact, these skis make it difficult NOT to curve a turn, Given below are some thoughts on successful carve-turning with shaped skis both from my personal experience and from summarizing some recent ski magazine articles-

- Keep your body "quiet" - carving is strictly a direct pressure move achieved with little leg twist or forward drive.
- To turn, concentrate on pressing straight down with your heel on the narrowest part of the ski- the "sweet spot"- stand on the arch and heel of your foot and hang on to carve aggressive, fall line turns.
- Concentrate on pressuring primarily your outside or downhill edge first. If anything, unload the inside ski and have it only resting on the snow, begin to pressure it towards the middle of the turn and transfer your weight early to it for the next turn.
- To control speed on shaped skis, exert forward pressure on the toe of your boot-this is good for steep terrain or difficult tight spots.

So much for skiing 101, now to summarize the regional S&T programs.

Senior Continuing Education Clinic

The senior continuing ed. program is a requirement for senior patrollers who must attend a clinic every three years to refresh their skills. There is no evaluation at this clinic- you are only required to participate. These clinics are designed to introduce senior patrollers to the flew S&T techniques and to encourage existing and potential senior patrollers to continue to fine tune their skills. Locations and dates:

Ski Valley 2/7/98, Swain 2/14/98

Toboggan Instructor's Course

This course is designed to improve toboggan handling proficiency of patrollers, to provide a uniform baseline for toboggan training, and to expose patrollers to advanced toboggan handling skills while providing an avenue to become an instructor. The program is designed to provide a larger base of qualified toboggan instructors to assist with training at the local level. fly the way, this course is an approved Senior Elective. Call Gordy Benoit (924-9274) if you did not sign up at the Fall Refresher. If there is sufficient interest we will schedule a course for sometime in early 1998.

Melissa Doyle **Senior OEC**

Senior OEC Clinics

Now that you've completed the required CPR, Refresher and On-the-Hill requirements in anticipation for that first day of skiing, just how confident are you that your first aid skill level is good enough to handle an accident? How about handling a two person collision, with an obnoxious bystander?

The Senior OEC program is designed to give you practice scenarios with multiple injuries. Indoor sessions cover the basic bandaging and splinting techniques. New innovations from your peers at other areas are exchanged in these sessions. Outdoor role playing will challenge your thought process on prioritizing which injury to attend to first and how to get control of the scene.

If you are interested in improving your skill level, then the Senior OEC program is for you. Classes begin January 28. Final evaluation is March 8. There is a \$35.00 course fee. Please call Melissa Doyle before January 10 for details. You must be approved by your Patrol Director prior to the start of the program.

See you there! - Melissa (716)-394-1829

Region Advisors

Don Garmon

Awards

The 1996-97 Season was an active season for the awards committee. I want to thank the members who helped make this year a success: Skip Millor, Dave Hanning, Pete Peterson, Dick Oberholzer, and Pamm Ferguson.

At the refreshers, I mentioned the loss of Dick Oberholzer from our committee. While Dicks' contribution to the Swain Ski Patrol was great, his efforts on the Region Awards Committee will be felt for years to come. The initiation of the Region Merit Star and the Stevens Award were largely his ideas put down on paper and then developed with the full committee. Each of us should give thought to the idea that Dick brought to us; no good deed should go un-noticed.

Recognition of good deeds is one of the things that doesn't cost us much in effort. Recognition buys us much in results. It is always nice to hear your name read for having performed "above and beyond", or "given more than was expected". The benefit to the NSP is that that recognition is usually the fuel of further good works. When we get a pat on the back, we tend to continue to perform the actions that led to that recognition in the first place. Everyone benefits from the contribution of an individual.

Of nineteen possible awards from National and Region, applications for only six categories were received by the committee. Let me do the math for you. Thirteen categories had no nominations. Of the six categories of awards where application were made, only two Yellow Merit Stars and three Nationals were received where the selection was not limited to one person from the Region.

Not every "National NSP" award will be given, but we have not reached our saturation point. Is there only one spouse in the Region that deserves an Angel Pin? Of all the instructors we have in the region, why were there no applications made for "Outstanding Instructor?"

What's the point of all this? The point simply is that anyone can initiate an award. Each Patrol has a representative to the Committee who guides and develops the paper work with the writer. The application is then

brought to the awards committee. The committee will review the application and provide feedback through the representative as to revisions necessary, or they may decide to accept the application as written. National Awards are then forwarded to the Division Awards Advisor for review and then on to Denver. If award applications are not sufficiently meritorious to meet the National Significance Requirement, then a Region award may be given as appropriate.

Think about it!!! Isn't there someone you know who should receive recognition? The answer is YES.

Jack Starke

Alumni Advisor

Having been just appointed alumni advisor I first had to figure out what an alumni was, what do they do, what are the benefits, how do you join the alumni association, and what are the costs.

The Alumni Association is a special registration category of the NSP for people who, for various reasons no longer provide emergency services but: wish to continue their involvement with the NSP. To become a member an expatroller need only fill out a registration form and pay the annual dues of \$15. Members receive a subscription to Ski Patrol Magazine, have access to NSP Winter Catalog merchandise, and can participate in many NSP sponsored events. In the Genesee Valley Region an Alumni day is held at one of the ski areas. Alumni are not required to fulfill any skill or educational requirements but if interested may apply their experience and talents to assist NSP in a variety of capacities. They may even continue as OEC instructors if they are willing to meet the OEC instructor requirements. Throughout the NSP alumni have been used to recruit new members, provide administrative assistance, give safety talks, and participate in other community services. In our region, Stan Perry, who is an alumni from both Powder Mill and Nordic has for years maintained the GVR member database and provided many invaluable services. Thanks Stan! There may be other examples of which I'm not aware and I'm certain here are many opportunities for other alumni who might have an interest in more active participation in the NSP

Each alumni in the GVR will receive a letter and application to an Alumni Association member in early December. The Alumni Day has been held at Swain the past few years and this year will be held at Ski Valley on February 11, 1998. Please consider joining and I would welcome any suggestions that might make the Alumni Association more useful and appealing.

Region Advisors

John Bolonda

Snowboard

“The Dark Side”

The snowboard season is just about upon us so it is probably time we start thinking about safety on the hill. A runaway snowboard can be the cause of major personal injuries on the mountain side. As a patroller one of the “discussions” that can be anticipated with the patron that snowboards is the necessity of using the snowboard leash. Snowboarders typically are not concerned with becoming “separated” from their boards, as the bindings are not quick release like those of skis. The boarders may not, however, take into consideration the times when they are not in their bindings, like when they are walking back up the hill in a park, or when they are putting their boards on and off. A leash should be attached to the leg prior to stepping into the bindings. The design of the modern leash is long enough that it can still remain attached to the leg while carrying the board. Patrollers should attempt to explain the rationale for wearing the leash to boarders, while emphasizing that the safety and enjoyment of all mountain patrons is paramount.

For the patroller that rides or is intending to ride this season - safety equipment is the only means to prevent injuries and insure a long and healthy season. Twenty-five percent of all snowboard injuries are to the wrists. One way to prevent this type of injury is to wear the proper type of wrist protection. This **DOES NOT** mean rollerblade wrist guards. The rollerblade guard is intended to protect the wrist and hand surface from a sliding fall as opposed to the “sudden stop” that occurs with a snowboard fall.

Wearing a helmet is also recommended because of the sudden falls that occur when boarding. Protect your “gray-matter” from the impact associated with falling on a slope that is as hard as a sidewalk.

Like skis, there are boards and bindings for all different types of terrain and levels of ability. Be sure your equipment “fits” you properly. Be sure the length and type of board you are using is appropriate for its intended use. Also, lessons from a certified PSIA instructor and participation in the divisional snowboard enhancement clinics will make your use of the snowboard a more enjoyable experience. The two division snowboard enhancement clinics are January 10-11 at Hidden Valley, NJ (contact: Chris Weititz - 973 209-1821) and January 31 - February 1 at Okemo, VT (contact: Terry Randolph - 860 535-

1926).
Valley Views

Jeffrey Baker

Lift Evac Advisor

This is a great job!!! There’s a bunch of creative, motivated involved people among you who are working very hard to devise new methods practice and perfect the old ones and train the rest of us to complete competency. All I have to do is pass along all of the good work, ideas and information. So here’s a brief synopsis of recent innovations at the patrol level.

Ski Valley:

Tandem Riders- A failure of the bearing on the bull wheel gave the patrol a hands on practice session last season! A three year old riding with his father had the patrol scrambling for tandem evacuation methods Two lines were used with success but not with the smoothness the patrol wanted. Jack Starke has developed an auxiliary harness which tethers a toddler to the adult partner. Preliminary testing indicates it’s a winner Jack will share his brain storm with anyone interested. Patent pending of course.

Hands on- Several patrollers voiced that they were still lacking confidence in all aspects of the evacuation process. This year’s On Hill provided a rotation that insured that everyone would be exposed to the different responsibilities and get involved. Along with lively guidance from the acting hill chief, Scott Wild the exercise was the smoothest in recent memory with 32 minute efficiency. Practice works!!!

Hunt Hollow

It doesn’t hurt to have the Division Lift Evac Guru on staff. It is also apparent that these folks are serious about being leader in the field.

Necessity is a _____: “ It didn’t go quite as well as we would have liked.. ..” Last year the refresher prompted the patrol to not only fix it, but make the system great. A new guide line and instruction manual listing every aspect of the process has been produced, and it’s a beautiful bit of work. Practice has been modified, paring down the size or the participating group and allowing everyone more time with the equipment.

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Region Advisors

Swain:

Swat team on skis!! The folks at Swain have some unique situations demanding a higher degree of proficiency than most. Physically challenged skiers call Swain home and a specially trained and designated team has rehearsed nearly every scenario. The idea is to have a member of the team present to orchestrate the evacuation and insure consistency

Bristol:

With the number and complexity of lifts increasing every season the Bristol patrollers have a full bag of tricks. A wide array of throwing devices await small groups for individual practice Sessions. Practice and preparation and more practice are the key elements.

Interested in sharing ideas? An evac newsletter is in the works to expand the details.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your input and thoughts. I can be reached @

(716)-233-5838.

Nick Schiavetti Avalanche

This is the ski season for the basic avalanche course in the Genesee Valley Region. The basic class is offered in alternating years with the divisional advanced course so patrollers can schedule the two courses over two ski seasons. The 1997-98 Genesee Valley Region basic course will include an indoor session held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Webster on **Saturday, December 6 1997** and an outdoor session held at Bristol Mountain on **Saturday, February 7 1998**. A class size of approximately 15 to 20 patrollers is ideal for this excellent classroom facility and for outdoor probe line practice. Registration fee for the course is \$20 (\$18 if paid in advance at refresher).

The basic avalanche class is a chance to broaden your horizons, learn about snow science, see some great film footage of actual avalanches, develop more respect for the awesome powers of nature, improve your skills in the important rescue mission of ski patrolling, and

complete one of the elective courses for the senior program. Attendance at this class is also a great way to get to know members of other patrols in the region. We also welcome non-patrollers on a space-available basis for a \$25. registration fee if you know someone who might be interested.

Eastern Division Advanced Avalanche Class

The following ski season (1998-99) will be the year for the advanced avalanche course in the Eastern Division. The advanced avalanche class will be offered in New Hampshire in March of 1999, with a two day indoor session held in the Appalachian Mountain Club at Pinkham Notch and a two day outdoor session in Tuckerman Ravine on Mount Washington. Prerequisites for the advanced avalanche course are basic avalanche and basic mountaineering.

CRREL Biennial Avalanche and Mountaineering Seminar

The Biennial Avalanche and Mountaineering Seminar will be held this ski season on Saturday, April 4, 1998 at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, New Hampshire. This event is arranged by the Eastern Division Avalanche and Mountaineering Advisors and features internationally recognized experts in search and rescue, cold weather medicine, snow science, avalanche forecasting, winter clothing and equipment design, mountain climbing, outdoor emergency care, and high altitude survival. Previous speakers have included internationally known lecturers such as Dr. Edward Hixson, who climbed Mount Everest in 1983, Dr. Murray Hamlet, US Army cold weather injury specialist, snow physicist Dr. Samuel Colbeck, and Brad Miekjohn of the Utah Avalanche Forecasting Center. The CRREL seminar is an excellent opportunity to learn more about avalanche and mountaineering combined with an enjoyable social event. Attendees will have the chance to meet a large contingent of Eastern Division patrollers while staying at the classic (and inexpensive) Calvin Coolidge Hotel in White River Junction, Vermont for the weekend, A Saturday night banquet and a day of skiing at Killington are usually on the agenda.

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Region Advisors

Eastern Division Avalanche & Mountaineering Instructors Meeting

The Eastern Division Avalanche & Mountaineering instructors Meeting will be hold September 6 & 7, 1997 at the Regional Emergency Medical Organization (REMO) in Albany, NY. Tentative divisional plans include the offering of the Phase ii Avalanche & Mountaineering Instructor Development Program for those instructors who need to complete these requirements. The divisional officers are hoping for a strong instructor turn-out for this meeting so that we can update and maintain instructional standards throughout the division,

We look forward to an active, educational, and exciting season in the avalanche program for 1997-98. Join us for some rewarding hard work and enjoyable experiences meeting new people and learning new patrolling skills.

Nick Schiavetti Avalanche Advisor

Peter Falise Mountaineering

A basic Mountaineering Program is being offered December 13/14 1997 at Highland forest, Fabius, NY

The course will offer an optional overnight bivouac. if interested please contact:

Peter Falise
223-8961
pfallise@frontiernet.net

An Advanced Mountaineering Course is being offered indoor session being offered December 13/14 1997 Location TBA NY - Penn Border

Outdoor session being held February 20, 21 and 22 1998 Location TBA

Peter Falise
223-8961
pfallise@frontiernet.net

Genesee Region Mountaineering Advisor

Henry Williams Legal

The Legal Line

After the fall refreshers and four very lively audiences, there is hardly anything more to be added about the Kane case. It was a tragedy for the Kanes who lost a husband/father and it was a tragedy for the NSP which was implicated in a local matter it had nothing to do with and got stuck with a run-away \$1,400,000 verdict.

The lesson for us: headquarters in Denver has very little direct bearing on our local operations. Our own Patrol takes orders from the Mountain Manager who takes his policy orders from the Board of Directors National provides us with a lot of great training materials and it gives us our registration numbers and a sample organization. That's it And that's not enough to make National in charge of our local operations or have anything to do with it.

Cases come and go but accident reports are forever. They are usually a pain in the neck. You have spent a lot of time treating a patient on the hill, evacuating him or her, and seeing to care down in the aid room. Then the paperwork.

The paperwork is a legal document. It is a written memory of the event. If any litigation ensues, it is usually the only record It will remind you and it will be available to the other side.

It is also management's source for accident prevention and statistical analysis of types of accidents which can be expected - and prevented - at your area.

Count on the insurance carrier to read every important accident report. More importantly, count on your management reading every report. Every serious injury should be reported immediately to the Mountain Manager: every one involving neck, head or back, any collision, unhappy guest, involvement of equipment or anything involving children should be phoned up to the desk Most areas have a protocol for further reports, photographs, measurements and witness statements. Go through the file drawer to see how many reports in addition to the accident report there are.

Something for the Public Relations Department: follow up accidents with a call to the injured party or the parents a couple of days later to see how the injured skier is doing. They will love you and more importantly, come back and ski at your friendly and considerate place again and again.

Henry Williams-henry williams@msn.com-(716) 385-1010

Patrol News

Brantling

BRANTLING GOES RED!

The big news at Brantling, Wayne Countys largest ski area, is that the 1997-98 season will witness the beginning of the patrol's transition from the rust and blue parka to a basically red patrol jacket. Last spring, patrol members voted overwhelmingly for the change. The patrol selected a parka from Rubicon, a Lake Tahoe company currently outfitting several western ski areas, as well as many recreational organizations! The patrol's season got underway in early November at the annual Brantling Ski Slopes open house and used equipment sale where the patrol held their yearly fund-raising chicken barbecue, Profits from this years "cook-out" were in the \$350.00 range, slightly under the 1996 "take". Head chef and organizer Kim Buell did his usual great job, assisted by many members of the patrol. The annual on-the-hill refresher, coupled with an afternoon CPR refresher, was held on November 16.

Patrol officers for 1997-98 are PD John Van Staalduinen, APD S&J Dave Vinke, APD OEC Chuck Norton and APD Scheduling Mark Johnson, Jim Webster continues as treasurer, with Pete Peterson editing the patrol newsletter, "The TOBOGGAN", now entering its 20th year

At the spring banquet, 10 year awards were presented to Ann Boise and Mike Krouse. A 20 year award was given to Pete Peterson. Pete was also presented with a Region award from Marcia Mundrick for his service as newsletter editor and ARD. Cindy Showman was recognized for the most hours "on the hill".

In the 1996 - 1997 season 29 active Brantling patrolers represented 309 years of service; two going for big anniversaries next year; Steve Mitchell at 24 years and Harry Rich at 29.

John Van Staalduinen - PD

Bristol

After bustling last summer to get the ski patrol building finished, this summer was calm by comparison. The building was officially dedicated in January, 1997 with a visit from NSP National Chair, John Clair, Eastern Divi-

sion Board Representative, Jerry Sherman, Patrol Director, Bob Smith and Project Coordinator, Hugh Turner. The new building has greatly improved the working conditions for patrollers and provides greater comfort to the injured skier. Hugh Turner and Hugh MacMillan received Region Yellow Merit Stars for their hard work and dedication to the new building project.

Bristol Mountain says good-bye to some patrollers this season; Jan Abernathy, Jeannie Elliot, Sudy Hadsell, and Joe Macari. Retiring this year is Don Warren.

The Executive Committee for Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol for the 1997-98 season includes Join Bolonda Patrol Director, Melissa Doyle - Assistant Patrol Director, Winston Beers - Assistant Patrol Director, Kris Vasiliauskas - Secretary, Patrick Monaghan Treasurer, and Craig Ronald - MRB Chair.

Some changes at Bristol Mountain this season include five new airless snowmaking guns on lower Rocket - which will allow it to open up earlier. A new snowboard half-pipe complete with the Bombardier grooming equipment. In cooperation with area ambulance, fire and police agencies, Bristol Mountain patrollers participated in an MCI (Mass Casualty Incident) drill as part of our On-hill refresher in September. This was the first time that Bristol Mountain has held an MCI and it was well received by patrollers and emergency personnel.

Hunt Hollow

We have lots of changes this year at Hunt Hollow. Changes in roster, leadership, and plans for changes in facilities. It promises to be an exciting year for us independent of the effects of el Nino.

In leadership of the patrol, John Topping will be taking over for Bill Stultz as our APD responsible for S&T training. Andrew Cruikshank will be taking over the OEC APD. I will be giving up the APD position for First Aid and taking on the Patrol Director position. We look forward to taking up the challenge of continuing the excellent job done by Rick Wombat while he was Patrol Director for the past two years.

Changes to our roster. Long time Hunt Hollow patrollers, Trina Ziegler and Don Hare will be retiring. Don was a 10 year veteran and Trina had 20 years. We will miss these two dedicated and skilled people. On the other hand however, we will have six new patrollers this

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Patrol News

year. Three are candidates; Tennessee Watson, Matt DeFrancesco, and Peter Parker. Three are transfers from other areas; Ron Fulle, Mark Tornatore, and Mike Whyte. All are enthusiastic and we look forward to having them Join us on the patrol.

Really exciting news for us - the patrol has been given permission from the Hunt Hollow Board of Directors to plan for a new Ski Patrol Facility. This will allow us to plan, design, and raise funds for a new building. As many of you know we currently have a small area for both first aid and patrol use in the base lodge. The new facility will be a stand alone building near the base of the lift. As it is currently planned it will be for patrol use only because the first aid room will remain in the lodge. Start of construction is planned for next spring. We are excited about this opportunity and the winter will be a very busy time for our building committee as we prepare for the construction.

Genesee Valley Nordic

Nordic Fest '98

This years Nordic Fest will be held in the catskills in the Tannersville/Hunter Area from Jan 30 to Feb. 1 and will be a celebration of the 30th year of the Nordic Ski Patrol.

A full schedule will include:

Skier Enhancement Track/Skate

Global Positioning systems/map & compass

Skier Enhancement Nordic downhill technique at the local ski alpine area.

Contact Brian Schankat - 872-5603

Salmon Hills

One of our patrollers, Fred Dunaway, has been instrumental in starting a new nordic patrol at the Salmon Hills Cross Country Resort near Pulaski (Tug Hill). Our on the hill refresher is scheduled on December 6 at Salmon Hills - a joint refresher.

Contact Fred Dunaway at 315-597-4387.

Ski Valley

Shakers and Movers

Region

As Al Hickok assumed the controls as Patrol Director many wondered how Norm Robinson would keep himself occupied. It didn't take long: Norm was quickly voted into the position Of Region Director, a lofty spot requiring endless patience and wisdom. Those same qualities earned Norm the patrols highest praise, Ski Valley Patroller of the Year. We're all very proud to have him in our midst. Way to go Norm!

Candidates

Once again we have some of the most promising candidates working extremely hard to earn a spot with the patrol. Christina Hickok has passed the Ski and Toboggan portion and is well into tile first aid program at this point. Joining her are Jim Knapp and Steve Mihall and Barry Dumbault, We welcome their enthusiasm and appreciate their hard work. Please thank them when you see them snowplowing their way around the club this reason.

New Patrollers

Our ranks have been enhanced by the addition of many talented and committed new patrollers. Passing the intensive four month Outdoor Emergency Care course and the three month Ski and Toboggan Handling course with flying colors were the following candidates Andy Baisch, Kate Bauma, Ann Baylor, Scott Morrill, Dave Maliwauki, Dave Robinson and Norm Deets. Barry Soper will also be joining us this season, after showing us his skills from his experience as a Kissing Bridge patroller.

Senior Action

Two patrollers who really "showed em how it's to be done" were Cindy Wandling and Keith Henderson. They bandaged and splinted their way to the top of the first aid portion of the Senior Program. The voluntary, three year, five stage program, challenges patrollers to hone present skills and learn new techniques. Ski Valley enjoys a high percentage of these dedicated folks on our patrol.

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Patrol News

Certified

The Certified program provides the most comprehensive challenges to be met in the patrollers efforts for improvement. Testing everything from patrol management to extreme rescue situations the program requires a concentrated and committed effort. Peter Osborne heads up the program locally as the Region Advisor. Jeff Baker took his advice this past season and started his journey through the difficult process Look for Jeff this year for a free sled ride, as he practices for the next step.

Family Ties

By now you are probably starting to notice the familiarity to some of the names. It speaks well of the club and the patrol to have so many second generation patrollers filling the roster. The following patrolling parent/offspring combos help to strengthen the family atmosphere on the slopes: John/Cindy Wandling, Jack/John Starke, Dick/Barry Soper Norm/Dave Robinson, Al/Christina Hickock and Peter/Meredith Osborne. Congratulations to Kate Bauma who reports a patroller in progress We'll miss her on active duty this season, but she promises to let us dl hold the baby.

Emptiness

A void, which we will find impossible to ever fill equally, exists with the retirement of Denise West. Rumor has it that Robert Luke thinks his Mom is pretty neat and isn't quite ready to share her right now. We think she's special too, so it's ok, Luke, We know Denise will always be close by, (we're holding Greg hostage).

Refreshing

We are READY!!! Bring on the snow! Every patroller attended a minimum of the following required refreshers:

Home Study	6 hours
Region Refresher intensive, first aid seminar	10 hours
CPR, review of Professional CPR techniques	4 hours
On Hill Refresher, first aid, lift evac, procedures	11 hours
Ski and Toboggan recertification	4 hours

Many of the patrol are involved in instructing, participating and administrating many of the programs, thus doubling and tripling the level of commitment. We want to recognize two, in particular, for their efforts in

this years. very successful, refresher. Jim Dudley did a superb job of orchestrating our most critical training program, providing a well organized and interesting day of activities. Dave Murray had the place humming before many had wrestled themselves free of the sheets. He was visible throughout the day providing any support we requested. As always, you could still see him Smiling during our night time lift evac, as he threw evacuation gear over the newly renovated chair line. We feel very fortunate to have the help and we thank you both!!!

Jeff Baker - Ski Valley Ski Patrol

Ben Emerson Newsletter

Welcome to the first full issue of Valley Views that I have had the pleasure of putting together. I ended up in the Patrol News section because it was the only room left. When you take on a new job like this you develop a real appreciation for the time and effort your predecessor put in to it. Having said that, the first order of business is to thank **Pete Peterson** for the many years he has put out this newsletter. His continued support is invaluable.

It is important for all of us to remember that Valley Views is the voice of all of the region NSP membership. We want to report *all* of the great things that go on in the region during the year. In this issue you will see articles from the region advisors and most of the patrols. Everyone in the region is welcome and encouraged to submit articles Valley Views.

One of my goals in the next year is to assemble a staff that can bring different skills and points of view to our publication. Besides, its more fun to work on a team. Anyone interested in helping out please feel free to contact me.

We have need of writers, proofreaders, graphics, and anyone who can supply mass quantities of copies!

My other goal for this year is to start a region web page. Any suggestions for content and help getting this going would be greatly appreciated.

I hope you enjoy this issue! Please send your comments to:

Ben Emerson
716-436-2086
emerson6@frontiernet.net

Patrol News

Swain

Despite the generally poor skiing weather in the northeast this year, Swain had a busy and rewarding season. We had an active candidate class complete OEC and S & T training, hosted the Region Alumni Day, put in our usual long hours of patrolling, and enjoyed a great family fun day in March.

The 1996-97 season finished up with a flourish at our barbecue in Mendon Ponds Park in June where we honored the achievements of Herb Lehmann who completed 50 years of patrolling this season. Herb was presented with accolades from Swain, the Genesee Valley Region, the Eastern Division, and the National Ski Patrol. A new award for an outstanding Instructor was christened the "Herbert Lehmann Award" in his honor and Herb was the first recipient of the award in recognition of his many years as both an S&T and OEC instructor. We all owe Herb a great debt for his many years of service as a patroller and as an instructor. Everyone on the Swain Ski Patrol, as well as the majority of the people on the other patrols in the Genesee Valley Region, has been taught something by Herb over the years as a candidate, in the senior program, or in a region refresher. Thanks, Herb - we look forward to your next 50 years of instructing!

We were also delighted to see some well deserved awards presented at the barbecue. The winners of the Great Toboggan Race were Michah Eldridge and Chris Hellems. The William G. McKenna Award as Patroller of the Year went to Bernice Moorehouse, who turned in an excellent job of dedicated service all year long. Region Certificates of Merit went to Pieter Aarsen for his first aid room management contributions and to Nick Bucci for his house management work. Jim Rague and Richard Stearns completed their senior requirements.

Congratulations go out from all of us to Joe Menichino who completed the demanding national requirements to become a Certified Patroller, the first from Swain to do so. He put a lot of time, travel, and effort into three years of advanced training in S&T, OEC, and ski area management to meet the high standards of the certified program. Joe has a lot to be proud of in demonstrating the motivation and reaching the skill levels of a certified patroller.

We had two newcomers complete the OEC and S&T courses this season and join our ranks as new patrolers: John Boeckel and Mike Martin. In addition, Lynn Stockmaster, Ron Neracker, Richard Brockmann, and Liz Buckley completed the OEC requirements and become new auxiliaries.

We had a few retirements from the patrol this year. We will miss Bill Kliewer, Bill Lapp, Steve Gerlach, George Snyder, and Janet Snyder next year and wish them well.

We were also saddened by the untimely deaths this summer of two of our members, Dr. Alan Harder and Dick Oberholzer, who will be remembered in obituaries to be published in the Valley Views and in the National Ski Patrol Magazine.

Spring elections brought new officers in for the 1997-1999 seasons to come:

Myron Crispino, Patrol Director,
Tom Wallin, APD for S&T,
Knobby Eldridge, APD for OEC,
Tim Cassidy, APD for Adm.
Le Mark Membership Chair
Alan Efron, Treasurer, and
Nick Schiavetti, Secretary.

We wish them well in their endeavors and thank them in advance for the excellent service we have come to expect from those who volunteer.

We all owe a debt of thanks to the officers for the past two years and are especially appreciative of the efforts of Ted Snyder for his reprise as Patrol Director for the 1995-97 seasons after having taken a well-earned retirement from his APD and PD administrative duties in the 1980's. Are the rumors true that Ted plans to run again in 2005?

We look forward to the 1997-98 season and hope it brings us more winter wonderland weather than we saw last year. See you on the slopes.

Nick Schiavetti Secretary - Swain Ski Patrol

In Memorium

Richard C. Oberholzer

Dick Oberholzer, a member of the Swain Ski Patrol in upstate New York, died of cancer at the age of 60 on June 16, 1997 in Rochester, NY. Dick joined the Swain Ski Patrol in 1983 and served as a loyal and dedicated member for 14 years. In 1990 and 1991 he completed the first aid and skiing requirements to become a senior patroller. He was the Patrol and Section Advisor for the student program from 1987 to 1991 and also chaired the Swain Ski Patrol Awards Committee and served on the Genesee Valley Region Awards Committee from 1993 to 1997. In addition, he served for several years on both the Swain Ski Patrol Executive Committee and Chair Evacuation Team. In 1994 he was awarded the William G. McKenna Award as Swain's Patroller of the Year for his efforts in the service of the skiing public.

Dick received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Ohio University. After military service as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, he worked for 30 years at the Eastman Kodak Corporation in Rochester, NY, retiring as a Senior Engineer in 1992. He contributed to his community as a volunteer for both the American Red Cross and Special Olympics and served as chairman of the finance committee for St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece, NY, where a Mass of Christian Burial was held in his honor.

Dick participated in many outdoor activities throughout his life and enjoyed five good retirement years of skiing, biking, boating, camping, and tennis. To say that Dick was a regular at Swain would be an understatement: He was always near the top of the patrol roster in number of duty hours logged each year and averaged close to 350 volunteer hours per season in this decade. Even Dick's illness could not keep him away from skiing this past year - whenever he saw snow he said "You betcha!" and headed up the hill. Dick's family was always an important element in ski patrolling at Swain. His wife, Nancy, earned a well-deserved Angel Pin as a constant contributor to the patrol, volunteering to run numerous social activities and always assisting with student activities and coordinating the section and region student meetings that were held at Swain when Dick was student advisor. His

daughter, Beth, was a student patroller and stayed on to patrol as an adult at Swain and later on at Big Tupper after she married and moved to the Adirondacks. Dick's other children and grandchildren were extended members of Swain's patrol family who added something extra to our days whenever they skied with us. Dick had a very special sense of humor. His smile would light up a room and his laugh was contagious - we were all very fortunate to catch it so often. Dick would laugh as heartily at himself as he would at anything else - we could all use a larger dose of that special quality.

Just for fun, Dick kept an old brass candelabra in the patrol room kitchen that he lit up at lunchtime to add a little class to every meal he ate with us. Whenever we light his candelabra in the future, fond memories of Dick will brighten our spirits.

Dr. Allen Robert Harder

Dr. Allen Robert Harder, 74, a member of the Swain Ski Patrol in upstate New York, was killed when his twin engine Cessna crashed in heavy fog and rain near Dansville, NY at 7 a.m. on May 16, 1997. He was an avid pilot who was flying his own plane from his hometown of Hornell, NY to a meeting of the Upstate New York Society of Thoracic Surgeons in Rochester, NY.

Dr. Harder was a general surgeon who practiced at St. James Hospital in Hornell for nearly 40 years and was a Clinical Instructor of Surgery at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. He received his MD degree from Johns Hopkins University and completed his surgical residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. He joined the Swain Ski Patrol in 1961 as a member of the patrol's medical support staff and had remained active for 36 years.

Two of Al Harder's great loves were flying and skiing and it was not uncommon to look up and see him circling the ski area en route to or from a business trip. Frequently after such a flyover we would see him on the slopes catching a few runs to finish his busy day.

Allen Harder was always ready to support the training and efforts of the volunteer patrollers and his untimely passing leaves a void both in our ranks and in our hearts.

Harry Stoneham, Nick Schiavetti - Swain Ski Patrol