

# Valley Views



The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Summer, 2009

## Bob Andre'

RD



Boy, am I glad that we have all the old "Valley Views" on the GVR website. After Mike Lord's three terms, there is enough material there to provide me with inspiration for at least a term or two. Mike has provided us with insightful and steady guidance for the last six years and his shoes will be tough to fill. Thank you,

Mike for a job well done and for departing with the Region running smoothly. I am very fortunate to have him and our previous Region Directors for consultation when needed, and to have two great leaders in my Assistant Region Directors, Marcia Mundrick and John Topping. In addition we have a resourceful, experienced, and dedicated staff in the Region. I stated at the May Region meeting that it is customary practice for the staff to resign and be reappointed after a change of leadership, but I was too concerned that some might not reapply, so no resignations were accepted.

We have made some changes to the Region Staff that will be reflected in the newsletter. Mike Long has retired as ROA and fortunately for us Gina Wyffels has stepped up to the plate. Gina has been quietly working on the OEC program for the last month in preparation for the coming season. There will be some changes in the OEC refreshers this year, prompted by past experience, that we hope will result in a better program for all. We have discontinued the Lift Evacuation program for the time being, and thank Steve Shelley for his years of service. In its place is a new Risk Management program headed by Greg Sherman. Another new program is Fund Raising, chaired by John McManus. John hopes to expand our fund raising efforts to bolster our Education Fund, which is now funded primarily by the Stuart Horse Trials and Doyle Golf Tournament. All our programs are in penny pinching mode this year as we see what the new economic picture brings.

I do request that all of you log in to your member page on the National website and review your information. National is undergoing software updates and has asked that we verify the member page data. I know from my previous experience as an OEC Supervisor that there is a large amount of missing and incorrect information in the database, especially for older patrollers. National is providing you with a sort of amnesty to correct that

information, particularly as it applies to your senior status. It only takes a minute, so do it now.

With a very sad heart, I write this next paragraph pertaining to Ben Emerson's passing. Ben was a good friend, father and husband to a wonderful family. I will miss him greatly. Ben's dedication to the National Ski Patrol touched all of us at one time or another. Ben was always a cheerful, enthusiastic instructor. Our MTR instructor group will always have great memories of our trips with Ben, especially the humorous ones. Please take a moment to go to the Region Events page on the website to see Ben receiving his Distinguished Service Award and the Swain Hanning Award. Stay for a moment and remember Ben. (See "In Memoriam" below. Ed.)

Enjoy your summer as the Region Staff and instructors are hard at work preparing for the upcoming season. Thank you in advance to all of you that are helping with the Horse Trials as we will be seeing you soon.

Bob

## REGIONAL ADVISORS:

### Nick Schiavetti Instructor Development

The Instructor Development class is for region patrollers who want to become instructors in OEC, S&T, MTR, or Avalanche and counts as a senior elective. This class is offered every spring after the ski season ends to avoid the time conflicts that patrollers encounter during the ski season. Participants in this class begin the process of becoming instructors by learning principles of effective teaching, observing demonstration models, and applying classroom and field techniques.

In response to student feedback regarding the inconvenience of late night classes, we modified the schedule last year to present most of the course in an all day Saturday session followed with a wrap-up session on the following Thursday evening. We just completed the GV Region Instructor Development class in May 2009 with seven successful participants: **Shannon Bielaska** and **Carl Schmidtmann** of Swain, **Scott Wild** of Hunt Hollow, and **Christopher Babcock, Aaron Duncan, Meghan Smith, and Steven Sippel** of Bristol. Talk to any of these people or to the other patrollers who have completed this course in recent years and you will hear lots of

enthusiastic recommendations for the Instructor Development class. The instructors are looking forward to having another enthusiastic group of patrollers join us next year.



*Illustration 1: One of this year's Instructor Development sessions.*

Several experienced instructors at different patrols within the region who have teaching experience in each of the NSP disciplines taught the Instructor Development course this year: **Marcia Mundrick** (Bristol: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), **Mike Mooney** (Swain: S&T), **Glen Gebhard** (Swain & GV Nordic: OEC), **John Lawson** (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM), **Bob Andre** (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), and **Nick Schiavetti** (Swain: OEC, MTR, Avalanche). In addition, we have a new instructor trainee joining us this year, **Pam Welch** of Bristol who is being mentored by **Marcia Mundrick** and should become a full-fledged NSP Instructor Development Instructor by the end of next season. Welcome aboard, Pam!! I would also like to acknowledge the substantial administrative contributions made over the years to the program by members of the region staff, especially Region Director **Mike Lord**, Treasurer **Cathy Bentzoni**, and Webmaster **Bill Gamble**.

After completion of the Instructor Development class, instructor trainees must complete the mentoring program under an experienced instructor in each discipline and be evaluated by an Instructor Trainer. The Genesee Valley Region has been very successful in recent years in mentoring and evaluating patrollers and processing their applications through the national office to complete instructor appointments in all the disciplines. Experienced instructors are available to help out any patroller in the region who wants assistance or advice on how to become an instructor or how to mentor an instructor candidate.

Genesee Valley Region now has a Mentoring webpage that provides information about the mentoring process. The link is in the lower right column of the region homepage ([www.nspgvr.org](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. These lists are found on both the Mentoring and Instructor Development webpages in Adobe Acrobat pdf format for downloading. The intent of these lists is to help potential instructors develop realistic expectations regarding what an instructor does and what the time commitments are to instruct in each discipline.

Instructor Development is the gateway for training new patrol candidates and refreshing current patrollers and enables us to replenish our ranks and update our skills. We invite patrollers to participate in an enjoyable learning experience and join the corps of instructors in the region who contribute so much to the National Ski Patrol and to the skiing public.

Finally, I would like to say that I am turning over the program to our new Region Instructor Development Advisor, **Mike Mooney**. It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity for the last several years and I know that the program will be in good hands under the new advisor. Mike brings significant talent and both teaching and administrative experience to the job. He is currently SUNY Geneseo's varsity soccer coach, NCAA representative, and Assistant Athletic Director and he teaches physical education classes, including the "Principles of Coaching" course for the Geneseo education majors who are applying for New York State Coaching Certification. In addition to his duties as an S&T instructor at Swain and the Buffalo Ski Club, he has served as Assistant Patrol Director for S&T at Swain and has been a Region Instructor Development instructor for the past seven years. I am looking forward to working for Mike next year and anticipate the successful future continuity of the program.

#### **Skip Millor**

#### **MTR**

We will be holding MTR 2 this coming ski season in GVR. John Topping will be the instructor of record for the program. The dates are now posted on the GVR web site. We will have application forms with details on the website and at the refreshers in early October.

If you wish to join us I would suggest getting your application in no later than the second refresher. We will have places for 10 participants, and based on feedback from those that participated in L1 last season, I expect we will fill the program by the second week of October.

Have a great summer, if it ever arrives.

#### **Jim Mussnug**

#### **Avalanche**

This past season we conducted a combined Avalanche and Mountain Travel and Rescue program in Genesee Valley Region. This was the fourth time for running this type of combined program in the Region. We have totally revamped the program to ensure we meet program

Summer, 2009

delivery requirements in a reasonably condensed format. All of the instructors were pleased with the refinements, and proud to deliver a high quality program that exceeded the course objectives. With these enhancements all participants were able to get hands on experience with a variety of rescue beacons, as well as learn probing techniques for conducting rescues. We had a total of 9 patrollers and two non-patrollers that participated in the program. The first night, December 4, 2008, of the program, we devoted to MTR fundamentals such as clothing, sleeping bags, shelters, cooking, and food. The next indoor session, on Saturday, December 13, 2008, we concentrated on the classroom portion of the Avalanche program. The objective of this session were to cover the relationship of weather, snow pack, terrain and the human element to provide the means to assess avalanche risk when traveling in the backcountry. We also used this session to inspect everyone's pack to ensure they had assembled the appropriate gear for the upcoming overnight session.



*Illustration 2: Dinner at the campsite for the AFR/MTR participants.*

With the fundamentals covered in the indoor sessions, the final session was the outdoor weekend event on January 10-11, 2009 at Webster Park. The weather cooperated, and we had decent snow coverage and moderate temperatures. We have found that Webster Park provides reasonable terrain to work with, a shelter to conduct some training at night and to gather in for socializing, and close access to vehicles. This session covered topics such as orienteering, low angle rescue rope work, emergency shelters and fire starting, avalanche rescue beacons and probing. The culmination of the event is a practical search and rescue exercise including avalanche rescue techniques. All elements of the program are integrated, such as use of avalanche rescue beacons, probing, and search techniques rescue injured skiers. Thanks to Brian Walsh and his wife Kelly for arranging a group of volunteer Girl Scout "victims" for assisting with the rescue simulation.

Students and instructors all consider this course format to be a success and a lot of fun. This was a great opportunity to get two Senior electives completed in one combined course. National is currently revamping the entire suite of Avalanche courses that will be available within NSP. The direction is to align the two principal courses, Avalanche Level I and Level II with the professional courses from the American Avalanche Association. These courses must be offered in bona fide avalanche terrain. We anticipate being able to run a one day avalanche fundamentals class. While the National curriculum details only an indoor course content, we are confident we will be able to augment the course with additional outdoor hands-on experience with rescue beacons, probing, and rescue simulations. This combined program has been offered in alternate years. We will be evaluating options for conducting an avalanche course in the Region during the 2010-2011 ski season – either continue with a combined course with MTR, or perhaps a stand-alone course format. If you are interested in other Avalanche courses for the 2009-2010 ski year, please look to the Eastern Division NSP Calendar for options.



*Illustration 3: Avalanche probe line practice.*

### **Gina Wyffels**

### **OEC**

Our training season is fast approaching! The OEC candidate class is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 10. The classroom instruction will once again be at the Avon School District. Mary Emmighausen, Kathy Rague and Marie Osypian will be co-instructors of record and Patricia Camp is doing the instructor scheduling. This year the OEC ITs will be "coordinating instructors" for the classroom sessions. They will work with the instructor teams to implement effective teaching techniques, promote consistency of the teaching, and continue the high quality of training our program is noted for.



Several patrollers completed the Instructor Development course led by Nick Schiavetti. Bill Teamerson will coordinate the mentoring phase of their instructor development. The patrollers are: Shannon Bielaska (Swain), Christopher Babcock (Bristol), Aaron Duncan (Bristol), Carl Schmidtman (Swain), Meghan Smith (Bristol) and Steven Sippel (Bristol). Congratulations to all!

Dates of the instructor and region refreshers have been posted on the GVR website. Note that all refreshers are earlier this year and some of the venues are different. Instructor refreshers will be held on Sunday, September 12 and Saturday, October 3 at Hunt Hollow. Weekend days will provide more time to accommodate a slight format change this year. There will be a general classroom training session and then the Cycle B scenarios. More details to follow. The region refreshers will be on Sunday, October 11 and Saturday, October 24 at Honeoye High School.

Check the GVR website for contact information, details and updates.

#### **Bonnie Andre' EMM**

Once again, for the fifth straight year, Brantling hosted the EMM final. Six confident, well prepared candidates gathered to take the test. Perhaps the biggest challenge was getting around on very unforgiving ice. Candidates, IPs, evaluators, and Bill Gamble all had the added difficulty of navigating the extra slippery slopes. At the end of the day, all candidates passed, thanks to the hard work and dedication put forth by candidates and T/Es alike. A special note of recognition to Rick Micoli, who improves the moulage every year. The facial burns and open, bleeding femur fracture were especially realistic.



*Illustration 4: Treating the open, bleeding femur fracture.*

Peter Falise and Glen Huot from Bristol passed and finished their senior qualification, as did Lori Kloesz from Swain and John Draper from McCauley Mt. Perhaps the highlight of this year's class was Debby Whalen and Gina Wyffles completing their remaining senior requirement and

doubling the number of Sr. Nordic patrollers. EMM is somewhat more difficult for nordic patrollers but Deb and Gina not only proved it can be done but done well. As always, everyone enjoyed the chance to relax and enjoy the excellent chicken barbeque prepared by the Brantling patrol. A huge thank you to Marcia Wait, Brantling and the patrol for all their help and hospitality.

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

A great way to improve your skiing and toboggan handling is to join the **Senior S&T Program**. What we strive to do is give any candidate personalized attention from our region staff and any additional help anyone may need. This program is all about improving and succeeding! We will improve your patroller skills and toboggan handling so you may succeed when duty calls. Stay tuned to the GVR website for more information on Senior S&T, including the schedule and applications for the program.

Admittedly, July feels very early to be talking about Senior S&T, but it is in the summer months we can do so much to prepare ourselves physically for the winter months and skiing. Have a great summer! See you on the slopes... sprinting UP!

#### **Bill Gamble Alumni**

On Friday, February 27th, 9 Alumni and guests enjoyed a day of skiing at Hunt Hollow. It's too bad that more of the Alumni registered in the region could not attend. Hopefully, more will be able to make it next year.



*Illustration 5: Some of this year's Alumni Day attendees.*

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

directors, etc., and assist with any and all NSP-sponsored activities.

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

The registration fee for Alumni membership is \$27 per year. Lifetime membership is \$700, or \$350 for members with 30 years of active service. It is free for those with 50 years service. Lifetime Patrollers retain lifetime status as Alumni. For an application form, see the GVR web site at <http://www.nspgvr.org>.

**Nick Schiavetti** will be taking over as Region Alumni Advisor this year. I'm sure Nick will do an outstanding job, as he has done in his other advisorships over the years. He has already set up the next Region Alumni Ski Day at Hunt Hollow for Friday, February 26, 2010 at Hunt Hollow.

#### **Bill Gamble**                      **Member Communications**

I received the news that Ben Emerson had passed away during the compilation of this newsletter. Among his contributions to the Region, Ben was the Region Webmaster from whom I took over that function, and was an active photographer, feeding me many photographs of Swain, Avalanche and MTR activities for publication. He will be greatly missed.

#### **Joe Menichino**                      **Certified**

This year's annual meeting and test program was run at Sugarloaf in Maine the last weekend of March. Tom Wallin and Jennifer Conine (with her husband Chris) attended from our Region. Good old Dresser-Rand kept me home another year.

The candidate class was huge compared to other years. I set up over 30 separate Management and Hill Safety Interview sessions. The program is ramping up, and many excellent candidates are taking the challenge. I believe this is a direct result of continuing improvements in the Certified program. It certainly isn't any easier, nothing has changed in the examination requirements. What has changed is the level of consistency. The program is fully scheduled now and even though the test weekend is still a race for new members at least you know which way to run. Credential and pretest details are extremely well reorganized and you know where you stand before you start. Examiners are carefully selected based on their experience and the recommendation of the program chairs. Required information and weekend schedules are readily available. There are even training classes available mid-season to help you prep, and more important calibrate and acclimate to the environment. Helpers have more fun now too. Besides helping with the OEC test, this year's weekend included special lessons and programs for the spouses. I hear it was a great time all around.

Valley Views

What value for all this work.....simply a sense of personal accomplishment and pride joined with the knowledge that your skills and capabilities are second to none. While the challenge and workload has not diminished in any aspect, the program has evolved from a rough and tumble struggle into a more manageable focus that actually allows for tremendous learning opportunities. More of our excellent patrollers should try it. I am always ready to discuss the requirements with any of you. Please call or email if you'd like more information.

Sad news about the loss of Ben Emerson. I would have loved watching him nail the Certified OEC exam if he ever had had a chance to take it..... Have a great, happy and safe summer.

#### **John Lawson**                      **Awards**

Well it has been a great year for awards. I have lots of good news to discuss but before we get to the good news part let me take a few words here to thank the awards staff who have helped out in getting our awards submissions written and submitted.

The awards committee this year consisted of Kris Vasiliauskas and Rick Micoli from Bristol, Pete Peterson from Brantling, Myron Crispino and Andrea Marino from Swain, John McManus and John Topping from Hunt Hollow, Gina Wyffels and Geri Cherubim from GV Nordic, and Therese Costich-Sicker from Powder Mills. Mike Lord, RD, and Marcia Mundrick, ARD, have also worked closely with the awards committee. Putting together an award application requires research on the individual being recognized, filling out the request form, and most importantly writing a good letter of recommendation. As a group we review the applications and write and edit each others work. A great deal of effort goes into a good award application and I want to recognize and thank these people for the great job they do.

The good news is we have received many awards from the National Office this year. Not all have been given out but I want to let you know who, so far, has been recognized this year.

Our Region Patroller of the Year was Rick Micoli of Bristol. Rick has been a strong contributor in the Awards program, Sr. EMM, OEC, and S&T instruction as well as being an all around "Good Guy".

A new Division Award was initiated this year, the Patriot Star Award. This award is given to patrollers who have served in a combat role while in the US military. The recipients so far are Steve Moses from Hunt Hollow, and Scott Mundrick and Al Kraus from Bristol. I know there are more combat veterans in the Region. Please let me know who these people are and we will get them the recognition they deserve.



Yellow Merit stars went to Nick Schiavetti for his work as Instructor Development Advisor, to Mike Lord and Mary Emmighausen for being Instructor of record for the candidate class for 2 years, and to Tim Cassidy for 4 years as Swain Patrol Director.

A Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mike Lord as outgoing RD in recognition of his tireless commitment to the GVR and NSP. A DSA was also presented to Ben Emerson of Swain. All of us in the region have been touched by Ben in one or more of the many courses he has taught and mentored. The award was presented in recognition for more than 30 years of teaching and dedicated service to NSP.



*Illustration 6: Ben Emerson receiving the National DSA and the Swain David Hanning Commendation Award at his home.*



*Illustration 7: Joe Menichino, ED Patroller of the Year, Mike Lord, DSA, and Nick Schiavetti, ED Instructor of the Year.*

The Eastern Division also has recognized outstanding GVR patrollers. This year I am very proud to announce that at the Division level Nick Schiavetti was awarded the Division T. Tyler Davis Outstanding Instructor of the Year award and Joe Menichino was awarded the Division

Outstanding Alpine Patroller of the Year award. All of us who have worked with Nick and Joe are proud of them and happy that such great people were honored with earned recognition. Congratulations Guys! Well Deserved!

I want to also take a few words to remind folks that all of these awards are possible because someone has stepped up to the plate and suggested someone they know has done something worthy of recognition. All patrollers are basically our "Eyes and Ears on the ground". Please let me or anyone on the committee know if you know of someone who should be recognized. It is our job to get the recognition. Frankly it is very rewarding for us to be part of the recognition process for our fellow patrollers. You can have the same rewarding feeling by helping us identify deserving people. Thanks.

## NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:

### BRANTLING

The ski season was interesting to say the least. We had lots of snow for the skiers and 2 snow drags to boot. We thought skiing was expensive!

The season closed with our banquet in April at Brantling, lots of good food and friends. Our annual Awards were given out along with many thank-yous to all. More details to come in the winter Valley Views.

Several months ago, the region learned that Swain Ski area might close their doors for good. It would be a loss to see the area go, as well as all the ski patrollers that would be looking for homes. Brantling is a small area, but we have a great patrol and would like to extend open doors to any patrollers looking to stay active. Please contact Brian Mayou (315) 483-6165 any time if you would like to join us. Thank you for years of dedicated service to the region.

On a final note, if the potential for losing a ski area is not bad enough, Swain Ski Patrol lost Ben Emerson after a long illness. Ben was well known through out the region and was a truly dedicated patroller. Ben was an honor to the profession and will be deeply missed. We at Brantling send our condolences.

Marsha Wait, PD

### BRISTOL

Everyone is excited at Bristol over the news that construction of a second high speed quad has begun on the North side of the mountain. Other news is that we are working to start a Mountain Host Program using our current courtesy patrol people. We will provide first aid training so that these people can serve as first responders. Our on hill refresher will be on Sept 27.

The following people were elected in April:  
Patrol director – Bill Gottermeier  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant- Pam Thompson

2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant – Chris Hellems

Membership review board- Kevin Ratcliff and Dave Curry

The following people received awards at our awards banquet:

Patroller of the year- Cathy Bentzoni

Candidate of the year- Megan Smith

Instructor of the year- Janet Remizowski

Hill Chief of the year- Pam Welch

Pro of the year- Kris Vasiliauskas

Auxiliary of the year- Bob Hagen

We instituted a new award for someone who works hard behind the scenes in honor of Nick Anastas. Nick was present to present the award to Rachael Miller. Rick Micoli received the region patroller of the year award .

Glen Hout passed the senior S&T instructor certification. Peter Falise and Deb Whalen are new seniors.

Bill Gottermeier, PD

## **HUNT HOLLOW**

Hunt Hollow's 2008-2009 was another successful – especially with regards to the snow. Added snow-making capabilities had more trails open sooner and staying open longer than any previous season.

The patrol banquet was held on May 8th at the Canandaigua Yacht club. We had a great time and thank you to Mark Tornatore for organizing/coordinating the particulars. We had several awards to present, and special thanks to John McManus as our awards representative for a great job. Service awards were highlighted by Jim Nickerson receiving his 40 year pin! Our Instructor of the year went to Bonnie Andre for all the various avenues she has taken on to instruct and her endless smile and positive energy.

The elections were held for Patrol Director and a Board member from the patrol as a Member-at-large. I chose to run again as PD and was reelected, while John Lawson was elected to the board, replacing Katy Foley who's 3 year term had ended.

Many of us from the region will be volunteering soon at the Stuart Horse Trials in July. The patrol will also be helping out with manual labor down at Hunt Hollow to clear/open up the glade skiing – improving safety.

Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for the Hunt Hollow on-hill refresher – please feel free to contact me to inquire about attending if you can't make your own – [prp2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:prp2@rochester.rr.com).

Have a great summer!

Peter Parker  
PD Hunt Hollow

Valley Views

## **POWDER MILLS**

The Powder Mills on-hill refresher will be on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM at the Powderhorn Lodge in Powder Mills Park.

## **SWAIN**

At the end of the 2008-2009 ski season, the owners of the Swain Ski Area announced that they were ceasing operations and that the area was for sale. The announcement said that if there was not a sale by a specified date in August, the assets of the business would be sold.

There are unofficial reports of an offer to purchase the Swain Ski Area. At press time, that information was unconfirmed, and there was no indication that a sale had yet been finalized. Updated information will be posted on the Region web site as soon as it is available.

The Swain On-hill Refresher will be held on Sunday, September 13th at Swain.

---

## **GOLF REPORT**

By Marcia Mundrick



We couldn't have asked for better golf weather as patrollers from Bristol, Swain, and Hunt Hollow, instructors and friends gathered to play some great golf and enjoy a chicken barbeque at the well-manicured Shadow Pines golf course on May 30th. With the sun shining and cool breezes blowing, the teams took on the challenge of bringing home "the gold."

Previous winners- the Bristol instructors, Swain and the Henglser/Conklin teams returned looking to reclaim the title, but this year the 18-hole scramble went to Bristol's team of Jim Boring, Tim Eygabroad, Mike Stamp (who almost had his first hole in one!), and Rich Agnello—a patroller alumnus brought in from Albany! The 9-hole scramble went to the returning team of Brenda and Peter Rizzo and Jan and Bill Scott.

Our other contest winners were:



**Longest Drive** - Roseanne Chauncey and Al Donnelly  
**Closest to the Pin** - Marie Osypian and Scot Kidd  
**"Magic Ball" Return** - 4 way tie went to team of Rick Micoli, Bill Teamerson, Jamie Rushford, Ray Della  
**Most Birdies** - team of Tim Eygabroad, Mike Stamp, Rich Agnello, Jim Boring  
**Last place** - we're not saying who - received Dyer Straight range coupons

Rachel Miller, Jan Scott, Holly Rushford, and Brenda Rizzo are to be thanked for keeping the day running smoothly. Thanks to our participants and the generosity of our sponsor, \$300.00 was raised for the region's education fund.

---

## In Memoriam



**Ben Emerson**

Ben Emerson, a member of the Swain (NY) Ski Patrol died on June 17, 2009 at his home in Rochester, NY after a courageous, year-long battle with cancer. He was 59 years old.

Ben joined the Swain Ski Patrol in 1977 and patrolled for 32 years, serving with distinction in a number of important capacities as a patroller, Assistant Patrol Director, instructor in multiple disciplines, instructor trainer, and region administrator. He became a Senior Patroller in 1989 and received National Appointment Number 7661 in 1993. His history of accomplishments over those years qualified him for the National Ski Patrol Distinguished Service Award on the basis of both his dedicated service to the skiing public and significant leadership in the National Ski Patrol. He also received the David Hanning Commendation Award for his contributions as a patroller, instructor, and administrator at Swain over the course of his patrol career and was twice named the recipient of the Roland Stevens Award as Genesee Valley Region Patroller of the year.

Ben's greatest contribution over the years was in the area of training, including his work in Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC), Mountain Travel and Rescue (MTR), and Avalanche. From 1980 he served as a "First Aid," "Winter Emergency Care," and "Outdoor Emergency Care" Instructor throughout the evolution of this program in its various stages. Ben always assumed a leadership role in the emergency care training of both the Swain Ski Patrol and Genesee Valley Region. He led the Swain effort as "Assistant Patrol Leader for First Aid" as it was called in those days from 1983 to 1989 and was in charge of running both the on-the-hill refresher and the training and testing of the patrol candidate class each year.

After the WEC program was established, the Genesee Valley Region recruited him as the region WEC administrator to administer the region refreshers, instructor certification, and the newly minted region candidate class that combined all the candidates from the seven patrols in the region into one class. When WEC morphed into OEC, he was chosen by the region leadership to become an Instructor Trainer (IT) and he assumed a crucial role in the training and supervision of the region OEC instructors.

When the new Instructor Development Program was first instituted, he was assigned the task of teaching the Global Phase 2 and OEC Phase 2 courses for the Genesee Valley Region and he faithfully performed this duty until the mentoring program replaced Phase 2. Once the mentoring program began, he was chosen many times to act as a mentor or as an IT evaluator for OEC instructor candidates. In 2007, Ben reprised his role at the local level when he was appointed Assistant Patrol Director for OEC at Swain again. In addition to his regular OEC duties, he also served since 1992 as a Senior OEC Trainer/Evaluator (TE) and then as a Senior Emergency Management TE when that program was revised.

The quality of the emergency care provided to the skiing public throughout the Genesee Valley Region and at the Swain Ski Center in particular is a direct reflection of the significant contributions that he made to the training and refreshing of both the OEC instructors and the patrollers in the region.

Ben was also an MTR and Avalanche instructor, beginning in 1994. He put in extra time and effort as "Instructor of Record" for both Avalanche and MTR region classes in various years and participated in significant continuing education at the Eastern Division Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) Seminars in Hanover, New Hampshire and Regional Emergency Medical Organization (REMO) instructor meetings in Albany, NY. In addition, he acted as a mentor to both Avalanche and MTR instructor trainees to prepare them for their IT evaluations to become instructors.

Although Ben was a patroller for 32 years, his service longevity never enticed him to relax his contributions to ski



patrolling or the skiing public. With his long list of accomplishments, he set an example for younger patrol candidates as he worked closely with them during the training season and served as a gentlemanly role model to aspire to as they completed their training.

In addition to his patrol activities, Ben was an avid curler and was a long time member of the Rochester Curling Club. He was also an expert photographer who had a great love of the esoteric art of black and white photography and of the restoration of classic photographs from the deep past. He was truly a master of the art of imaging important human events.

Ben is survived by his wife Karen, daughters Adrienne and Meredith, and his sister Lowell. Ben was both a friend and colleague of many patrollers throughout his years on the slopes and his ready smile, sincere friendship, and easy going manner will be missed by all who knew him.

Nicholas Schiavetti  
Swain Ski Patrol

---

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