

# Valley Views



The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Summer, 2013

## Bob André

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One more season put to rest and, while this one started out on a less than ambitious note, we did have a great March. I know that I enjoyed the best skiing of the season on the very last days of being open. It is time for us to have a great December next season, followed by a long cold winter with lots of snow.

We have some changes in Region leadership this season. **Nick Schiavetti**, ARD has retired from Patrolling (we will miss you Nick). **Jeff Welch** was elected ARD, replacing Nick. **Merrily Hoover**, having done a stellar job with the Alumni program is taking a short break from the program, with **Pamm Ferguson** stepping up to be our Alumni Advisor. **Mary Emmighausen** retired from her position as assistant Division OEC Supervisor after a successful career. We are fortunate to have **Mike Lord** able to step in and assume Mary's role in supporting the Division OEC program as assistant Supervisor. **Rick Micoli** fortunately volunteered to assume Mike's position as Awards Advisor. **Cathy Rague** and **Mark Bowker** officially retired as IORs for our Candidate class, although Mark will still hang out with the class to help **Rick Micoli** and **Deb Whalen** - thanks for stepping up folks.

**Pam Thompson** has retired as Bristol Mountain Patrol Director - thank you for your leadership and support of the Region. **Chris Hellems** takes over the reins for Bristol. **John Lawson** was re-elected to the National Board of Directors and subsequently elected Assistant National Chairman. Congratulations John! John is always available to answer any questions pertaining to our National organization.

I have had Bill Gamble include a short history of the Eastern Division Memorial Fund and Student Scholarship Program in this issue of Valley Views. If you go to the Division website you can also view the remembrances on the plaques. Each year we have Patrollers pass on, and the Memorial Fund is a vehicle to remember how much these individuals meant to us as friends and contributors to the National Ski Patrol. At our Region Spring meeting in May we decided to have the Region and the Patroller's Patrol each contribute \$50 to the fund in the name of Patrollers to be remembered. As an individual, you may also contribute. This year we are sending donations for MaryKae Hoercher from Bristol Mountain, Larry Mooney from Brantling, and John Hynd from Swain.

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Several Genesee Valley students have received scholarships from this fund over the years, which speaks well to the quality of our young Patrollers. Please consider a donation if you have lost a Patroller friend.

Many of you are no doubt aware that National will be increasing dues \$9 for the coming season. I view this as a good thing. There has not been a dues increase in some time and we can't afford to have our National organization operate on a continuing deficit budget. We desperately need to have an upgraded computer system, both hardware and software. Our instructors spend an inordinate amount of time trying to get course completions recorded, and this needs fixing. In addition, advisors that need to travel to National meetings need to have expenses covered.

Now the good news-both the Region and Eastern Division are in sound financial condition and do not anticipate a need for a dues increase in the near future. The Eastern Division has made sound investments and has an excellent finance committee. Our Region advisors do a great job of program support without breaking the bank. The Region Education Fund, supported by our outside volunteer activity donations, is very helpful in defraying equipment and other costs related to our educational programs.

We will be offering electronic voting for the National Board Election at our refreshers this fall. Last year many of you wished to vote but did not know your log in information. This will be an important election so please go to your member page on the National website, and verify your log in information and profile page content.

Have a great summer, and we will see many of you at the Horse Trials in July. Our parking crew is captained on Thursday by the triumvirate of **Deb Whalen**, **Brian Mayou** and **Rick Church**. Friday starts the Swain barbeque celebration headed by **Knobby** and **Jean Eldridge**. With Saturday headed by **Chris Hellems** and Sunday, **Scott Wilkins**. Our Region thanks all of you and your volunteers.

Bob

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## REGION ADVISORS:

### **Mike Mooney** Instructor Development

Patrollers who want to become instructors in Outdoor Emergency Care, Ski & Toboggan Transportation, Mountain Travel & Rescue, or Avalanche need to enroll in the Instructor Development course to begin the process of becoming an instructor. This class is offered every spring after the end of the ski season, to avoid the time conflicts that patrollers encounter during the ski season, and counts as a senior elective. Participants in the course learn principles of effective classroom and field teaching techniques and observe a variety of demonstration teaching models.

The course is an evening session with the students required to complete a flash drive module prior to the evening session. The evening session reinforces the materials brought forward on the flash drive and allows for practice by the students before presenting their mini lesson, using the foundations developed in the course. Nine patrollers completed this Instructor Development class in April, 2013, and are now going through the mentoring process to become instructors. In our survey of the Patrollers who completed the course, we received lots of enthusiastic feedback about the class format. Check the region website for further information. Sign up sheets will be available at the Region Refreshers in the fall, and you can contact me at [mooney@geneseo.edu](mailto:mooney@geneseo.edu) to register for the course.

In addition to completing the Instructor Development course, Patrollers who want to become instructors need to complete the mentoring program with an experienced instructor in each discipline and be evaluated by an Instructor Trainer. The Genesee Valley Region has been very successful in mentoring and evaluating new instructors, and there are lots of experienced instructors who are available to give you assistance or advice on the instructor mentoring program. The region now also has a mentoring web page that provides information about the mentoring process – you will find the link to it in the lower right column of the GV Region homepage (<http://www.nspgvr.org>) right underneath the Instructor Development link. Another feature on the region website this year is the posting of lists of the requirements and responsibilities of instructors in OEC, S&T, MTR, and Avalanche in this region on both the Mentoring and Instructor Development web pages in Adobe Acrobat pdf format for downloading. The intent of these documents is to help potential instructors develop realistic expectations regarding what an instructor does and what the time commitments are to instruct in each discipline before signing up.

We have instructors from various patrols in the region with teaching experience in each of the NSP disciplines who will teach the Instructor Development course this year:  
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Marcia Mundrick (Bristol: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), Mike Mooney (Swain: S&T, OEC), John Lawson (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM), Bob Andre (Hunt Hollow: OEC, EMM, MTR, Avalanche), Pam Welch (Bristol OEC) and Nick Schiavetti (Swain: OEC, MTR, Avalanche).

The Instructor Development class is the gateway to becoming an instructor who trains new Patrol Candidates and refreshes current Patrollers. These training activities enable the region to replenish our ranks and update our Patroller skills. We invite you to take part in an enjoyable learning experience and join the corps of instructors in this region who contribute so much both to the patrols and to the skiing public.

### **Patrick Saeva** MTR

We had a great combined MTR 1/Avalanche course year with five people completing the class. Chris Babcock was the IOR and led the class through both the indoor and outdoor sections of the program. As usual, our Division has a great cast of instructors, probably some of the best and most experienced instructors in the NSP.

I would like to congratulate Andrew Fleming, Rick Brown, Andrew Swarts, Anna Maria Kontor and Mark Amico for completing Level 1, and in fact, most if not all of the group has already expressed interest in MTR Level 2 this coming Winter.

For those of you interested in achieving Level 2 status, we are hoping to schedule a trip to a more remote location this year. We will certainly be looking for more snow and some more difficult terrain.

If you are interested, although Winter seems a long ways away, now is a great time to check out your equipment, fire up the stoves, and give everything a quick once over to prepare for next season.

Please let me know if you are interested in Level 2 or becoming a MTR instructor. We are always looking for more skilled participants.

### **Tom Jenssen** OEC

Hard to believe we're at the beginning of another OEC training cycle. Having just taken a deep breath, here we go:

#### OEC Classes:

The new IOR's for the OEC class will be Deb Whalen and Rick Micoli – my thanks to them for stepping up to this very important role. And many, many thanks to Cathy Rague and Mark Bowker for their three years as IORs – they helped to usher in about 75 new Patrollers over that time. The schedule for classes will be on the GVR website shortly. The first class will be Monday, August 5. The location will be at the Victor School System, similar to the last several years.

### OEC Refreshers:

Dates for the OEC refreshers are on the GVR website. Once again, we'll rely on each patrol to arrange a roughly 50/50 split between the sessions.

### OEC Instructors:

Instructor refresher dates have been posted on the website. I will shortly be sending out the first e-mails requesting signups for the OEC classes. Thanks in advance for your commitment to this important work. Also, welcome to the following new instructors and instructor candidates (some of these folks are returning to instructing after some time):

Cyndi Sherman, Steve Sippel, Steve Dugan, Ernst Meyer, Pam Welch, Eric Washburn, Tim Cassidy, Richard Stearns, Sam Zebelman, Mary Beth Flynn, Geri Cherubim, Scott Wild. If I missed anyone, please let me know! I appreciate your willingness to be an OEC instructor.

### Bill Teamerson

### Senior OEC

Hi Everyone,

It has been a busy few months for us. We had our final back in February, and mother nature cooperated by giving us a pretty nice day!

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the day a success; Swain Ski Resort, Dana Mehlenbacher & the Staff at Swain, and all the TE's and Candidates! Congratulations to everyone on a job well done! And special congratulations to the new Senior OEC's: Mark Bowker, Geri Cherubim, Kent Hughes and Marie Osypian!

All of the Trainer/Evaluators had to be re-certified this year, so a group of 18 of us under the watchful eyes of Mary Emmighausen, Mike Lord and Bob Andre, reviewed scenarios, evaluating and other aspects of being a T/E. Thank you to all of you who participated, and a special thank you to Mary, Mike and Bob.

We would like to welcome several new T/E's: Mark Bowker, Bill Gottermeier, Scott Mundrick, Jim Nickerson and Deb Whalen.

Have a great Summer!

### Pamm Ferguson

### Alumni

Another great Alumni Day was held at Hunt Hollow on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year, the skiing conditions were really good, and once again, Merrily Hoover and her volunteers did an excellent job of providing hospitality.

Approximately 45 Alumni and their guests enjoyed good skiing and sharing stories with their peers, while enjoying a variety of beverages and a fine lunch catered by the Brown Hound Bistro.

For more Information on Genesee Valley Region Alumni activities and volunteer opportunities, or to join the Alumni Association (cost = \$27/year or options for Life Membership based on years of service) and continue to

receive NSP publications, catalogs, "pro night" invitations etc., even though you've retired from active patrolling, go to the Alumni Page of the [Region web site](#), or contact Pamm Ferguson: [ferg@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:ferg@ur.rochester.edu).



Illustration 1: The Alumni during their lunch break.

### Joe Menichino

### Certified

Hi folks.

Certified news is minimal but interesting as usual. The annual meeting was held the last weekend of March at Sugarbush. The snow was amazing. We skied Castle Rock and numerous double diamond woods trails again and again. It was excellent old-time Vermont narrow trail and woods skiing. Sugarbush is the best. We had a great turnout of Genesee Valley staff at the annual meeting. All 4 Certified patrollers from our Region attended the session and examined various events. Six Genesee Valley Alpine Patrollers representing Hunt, Bristol and Swain also participated. The candidate count this year was low but the success rate was very high compared to recent years. Patroller Schools and Certified Boot Camps are paying off for our new members.

The Genesee Valley Region has no new Certified candidates right now, but 1 or 2 members are considering. The program has not gotten any easier but the overall member attitude and the learning environment has improved tremendously. If you want to improve your skills and challenge yourself beyond anything imaginable at your home area, this is the program to take.

In other news, the Genesee Valley will most likely be hosting another Certified Boot Camp this Fall at Jeff Baker's Keuka Lake cottage. Last year's program was a blast and very well attended. Everyone is welcome, but you need to sign up early. Dave Walker stepped down as Certified Chairman this year after a long and successful run. He is replaced by Bill Jordan. Bill has chaired a number of Certified categories over the years and is well prepared to replace Dave. Bill has appointed Jeff Baker



as First Aid Chair for the program. I can't wait to see what nasty problems Jeff develops for the exams over the next few years.....

For those of you who are considering starting the program, please give me or any of the Certified Patrollers in our Region a call, and we can discuss requirements.

Have a great and safe summer. It won't be long, and we'll be back at it.

### **Bill Gamble                      Member Communications**

As Bob André requested, here is information on the Eastern Division Memorial Fund, quoted from the Eastern Division web site:

#### **The Eastern Division Memorial Fund**

On December 1, 1975 a committee was formed to set up an Eastern Division Memorial Fund to provide a means of honoring & remembering Patrollers & Friends of Skiing. Their names are now engraved on plaques, which are displayed at Division events throughout the year. Comprising the board was Bruce Halliday (NJ) Eastern Division Awards Advisor; Bob Bettie (NJ) ADD; Don Page DD, Tyler Davis ADD; Frank Murati SC E. NY & Al Pels RD NJ. On April 25, 1976 at the Eastern Division Officers Meeting they created and established the Eastern Division Memorial Fund. Zack Wellman became the first Fund Chairman.

Contributions to the Fund are accumulated and the interest generated by these moneys is used to provide scholarship assistance to patrollers who are furthering their education.

The Memorial Fund has grown over the years to over \$47,000 and we have awarded 90 student scholarship grants totaling over \$35,000.00

Contributions may be made to the fund c/o David J. Nelson, Fund Chairman, 2 Terrace Road, Boonton, NJ 07005. Please state in whose memory the gift is made and provide the address of the family. The Fund will inform the family of the contribution and the name of the benefactor, without revealing the amount of the gift. The contributor will also receive a letter of thank you from the fund. In the passed years I have received contributions in amounts ranging from \$25.00 to \$1000.00 to be used in this very worthwhile program which keeps the memory of a loved one while assisting the future of our own dedicated patrollers.

A formal application is now enclosed and can be emailed or sent to the above address: [davidjnelson@optonline.net](mailto:davidjnelson@optonline.net)

Applications are reviewed prior to the Division Officers' Spring Meeting. To insure sufficient time for such review, it is requested that all applications be provided to the Fund Chairman by March 31. Scholarship awards are announced at the Spring Officers' Banquet.

## **NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:**

### **BRISTOL**

Well to say 2012 - 2013 was better skiing season then 2011-2012 is an understatement. This year, again, we went over 100 Days, with an extra weekend thrown in in April just for good measure. The skiing at Bristol was fantastic this season, and we need to thank our management for a fantastic job of snowmaking. We even had a weekend with bumps on Rocket from top to bottom; yee-ha!

Bristol patrollers received the following awards at the annual end of year picnic:

- Mark Bowker received a Yellow Merit Star for his outstanding service as OEC IOR for the region.
- Bill Teamerson received National Appointment Number 11370
- Jeff Welch received National Appointment Number 11386
- Pam Thompson received National Appointment Number 11390
- Kris Vasiliauskas was awarded the Eastern Division George Wesson Jr. Outstanding Paid Patroller Award
- Judy Valachovic was named the 2013 BMSP Outstanding Candidate
- Rick Micoli was named the 2013 BMSP Outstanding Instructor
- Bruce Hogarth was named the 2013 BMSP Outstanding Patroller
- Team 8 won the 2013 Nick Anastas Award



Illustration 2: Kris Vasiliauskas receiving the Division George Wesson, Jr. Outstanding Paid Patroller Award.



Illustration 3: Bill Teamerson receiving his National Appointment.



Illustration 4: Jeff Welch receiving his National Appointment.



Illustration 5: Pam Thompson receiving her National Appointment.

Summer is here; enjoy your time, and stay in shape – yes, round is a shape. If you drive by Bristol during the summer and see someone standing in skis and patrol gear

waiting for the Comet Express to start, don't worry, it is Scott Mundrick; he is already waiting for next year. The man had over 450 hours of patrolling this season; WOW!

Best Regards,  
Chris Hellems, PD

## **POWDER MILLS**

The Powder Mills Park Ski Patrol is a small cadre of eight active patrollers who support the Swain Ski Resort's Learn to ski program at Powder Mills Park (part of the Monroe County Parks System) in Bushnell's Basin. Our season typically runs from a Christmas Week Ski Camp through the second weekend in March, weather permitting. During the ski season, Swain and Powder Mills management use the Powderhorn Lodge, which is set up as guest services, with restrooms, a ski and snowboard rental shop, and a Patrol aid room. The Patrol maintains a self-serve hot cocoa station in the lodge, proceeds from which are used for consumable supplies and patrol-owned equipment.

Powder Mills Park Ski Area is typically open for operation weekday evenings and Saturday & Sunday through the season, with an average of over 1000 skier visits in a season, trending upward in the last few seasons. Though our hours of operation and skiable terrain are limited, the Powder Mills Ski Patrol members are the Safety and Emergency Medical Service providers who allow for a very successful introduction to skiing for many of our communities' young families.

Powder Mills Park Ski Patrol members are part of the National Ski Patrol System, and train to the same standards required of all Patrollers. As terrain served at Powder Mills Park is all "walkable", alpine skiing ability is not a requirement for patrol membership or for the performance of full patroller duties. If you have grandchildren living near the east side of Rochester, encourage their parents to get them started skiing at Powder Mills Park. And, be sure to encourage their parents and family members to talk to a Powder Mills Patroller and consider joining us. We would like to build our numbers back to a full complement of about twenty active patrollers.

Rick Church, PD

## **SWAIN**

Swain's season started out slowly but finished with a bang, thanks to the great snow and winter weather conditions we experienced in March. We were busy during the 2012-13 season with eleven new candidates who all successfully completed the OEC program. Of the eleven, two were adults: Tessa Tidd & Jim Jowiak, and nine were Young Adult Patrollers (YAP's): Gabrielle Mehlenbacher, Zachary Mehlenbacher, Julia Ricciardiello, Bethany Schoonover, Taylor Schoonover, Mic Storm, Lily Strine, Mika Thompson, and Andrew Washburn. CONGRATULATIONS to all!



Swain held its year-end Awards banquet at Swain Ski Resort -- Shawmut Grille on April 13, 2013. The food was great and a good time was had by all.

### **Congratulations to all our award recipients:**

#### **National Awards:**

Distinguished Service Award for long standing commitment to the NSP and the Swain Ski Patrol -| **Geoff Feltner**

Distinguished Service Award for long standing commitment to the NSP, Genesee Valley Region and the Swain Ski Patrol - **Nick Schiavetti** (Nick is also retiring from patrolling, he will be missed.)

Yellow Merit Star for completing 4 years as OEC instructor of Record for the Genesee Valley Region - **Cathy Rague**

#### **Region Awards:**

Region Henry Williams Award for Community Service recognizing contributions to community volunteer organizations and causes outside of the patrol (Irish Children Program) - **Tim Cassidy**  
Certificate of Appreciation for her years of support of the Patrol, the Region and the Eastern Division and an Angel Pin Award - **Caroline Schiavetti**

#### **Swain Awards:**

Herbert Lehman Instructor of the Year - **Dennis Whitney (S&T) and Marie Osypian (OEC)**

William McKenna Patroller of the Year - **Marie Osypian**

Harry Stoneham Award - Outstanding Candidate of the Year (Completes the full program in one year and shows exceptional enthusiasm) - **Tessa Tidd and Julie Ricciardiello**

David Hanning Award - Patroller honored for long term Swain commitment - **Paul Weitz**

Sliding Rague - This Patroller performed a crazy physical feat in the line of duty, and everyone survived - **Myron Crispino**



Illustration 7: Geoff Feltner received a Distinguished Service Award.



Illustration 8: Tim Cassidy received the Region Henry Williams, Jr. Award for Community Service.

Elections were held in April for Swain's new Executive Committee Members. Our new Patrol Representative is Marie Osypian, the Secretary is Trey Stephany, and the Treasurer is Mike Mooney. The committee is busy planning the upcoming year, which includes a busy summer season with plans for Motocross and Mountain Biking. A schedule can be found at [Swain.com](http://Swain.com). Come join in the fun!

The date for Swain's On-the-Hill refresher is Saturday, October 5, 2013. Have a safe summer.

Marie Osypian, PD

### **NORDIC**

After a great season of natural snow totaling greater than 141 inches at Harriett Hollister the group gathered at The Rabbit Room to celebrate. Patrol service awards were presented to Tony Imperato and Geri Cherubim. We welcomed our newest dual patrollers to the fold and congratulated our successful Sr.OEC candidates.



Illustration 6: Nick Schiavetti received a Distinguished Service Award.

Heading into the "off season" plans are in place to finalize radio communications at Mendon Ponds Park, contribute some time and energy to the Regions efforts to support the Stuart Horse Trials and share our knowledge of the outdoors at the Annual ADK Outdoor Expo.

"Did you know?"

The Nordic patrol has 9 dual patrollers. These patrollers come from Bristol, Hunt Hollow and Swain. You can be part of the team. Learn how by visiting [www.gvnsp.org](http://www.gvnsp.org) click "Dual" on the top of the home page.

Deb Whalen, PD

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## **In Memoriam**

### **Marykae K. Hoercher**

Bristol Patroller Marykae Hoercher passed away April 7, 2013, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cancer.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Hoercher; sons, Seth Hoercher, Ryan Hoercher, daughter in-law, Cher Hoercher; beloved granddaughter, Pearl Hoercher; parents, Charles and Jean Kelley; mother in-law, Marion Hoercher; siblings, Michael Kelley, Cindy (Peter) Tichacek, Jim (Trish) Kelley, Tim (Karen) Kelley; brother and sister in-laws, Cathy Hoercher, Don (Margot) Hoercher, Susie Hoercher-Parkin (Jeff), Bill (Teresa) Hoercher; numerous cherished, nieces, nephews and faithful couch companions, Jazmin Fluff and Lilly Louisa.

Marykae was born in Chicopee, MA, grew up in Pittsford and lovingly raised her family in Farmington. Marykae was a life-long skier and long-time member of the Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol. She will be forever remembered for her devotion to family and friends, her commitment to helping others and most of all her gentle and loving spirit.

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### **Lawrence "Larry" Mooney**

The Brantling Ski Patrol in Sodus, NY lost a long-time fellow patroller when Alumnus Larry Mooney passed away peacefully on February 3, 2013, at the age of 68.

Larry was a member of the National Ski Patrol at Brantling for 26 years from 1985 to 2010, and served as Patrol Director from 1992 to 1994. He was a long-term member of the Brantling candidate training team, and was instrumental in the layout and construction of the newly enlarged patrol first aid room at Brantling. He retired from patrolling in 2010. Larry was a very active first aid instructor for many years, both at Brantling and in the Genesee Valley Region. He served as the Regional Outdoor Emergency Care Administrator from 1993 to 1997, functioned as an OEC Instructor Trainer and

Regional candidate class Instructor of Record, and was the region's first Global and OEC Phase II instructor when the National Ski Patrol introduced its new Instructor Development program for training patrol instructors. He also traveled as an OEC evaluator for the Eastern Division Junior Patroller Seminars, now known as the Young Adult Program. Larry's legacy as an OEC instructor is continued by his son David, who is now the Region OEC Administrator of the New Jersey Region.

Larry was a graduate of Georgetown University and the Albany Law School of Union College, and worked for many years as a lawyer in Palmyra, NY and as a Wayne County Public Defender.

After retirement from his legal career, Larry worked for many years at Katlynn Marine in Sodus Point, NY in his other avocation of boating in the summer. Larry loved to sail, and spent many years sailing and racing his Laser 28 on Sodus Bay and Lake Ontario. He also held a Captain's License and was active in piloting tugboats and barges on the waters around Sodus Bay, and was an instructor in the US Coast Guard Captain's Licensing classes.

Larry is survived by his son David (Julie) Mooney; daughter Ellen (Steve) Jeffery; grandchildren Alex Mooney, and Jacob and Joe Jeffery.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, February 7, 2013, at the Murphy Funeral & Cremation Chapel in Ontario, NY. In lieu of flowers, memorials in memory of Larry may be directed to the Brantling Ski Patrol, Mark Lukacs, Treasurer, 7060 Route 14, Sodus Point, NY 14555.

Pete Peterson and Nick Schiaveti

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