



The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Summer, 2002

John Lawson

RD

Greetings, I guess summer is finally here. Those of you who are true Valley Views fans and cannot wait for each issue will recognize this is an issue not normally sent out. Seriously, a lot of things are happening and it seems to make sense to send out an extra edition of the Valley Views so you have access to the information around the ski patrol events. Therefore, **READ THIS!!**

There are five reasons for sending out this issue. They are:

1. The fall refresher calendar is getting firmed up. The calendar is included here to help you make appropriate plans.
2. Another newsletter provides region advisors an opportunity to communicate events.
3. Changes to Sr. OEC that need to be announced before the fall refreshers.
4. An offer to get the new OEC manual early so you have it by refresher time.
5. The proposed changes to the NSP structure have been approved. Jerry and Pamm have comments on how these changes will be implemented and what it means to us.

Items 1 and 2 are fairly self-explanatory. Let me briefly comment on reasons 3 to 5.

There has been a lot of discussion about how we can improve Sr. OEC. This year we will have the people who wish to participate in this program begin the practice sessions in late fall. The idea is to have Sr. OEC candidates work with current region candidates and be involved in their training as well as brushing up on their own skills. This will essentially eliminate the classroom sessions previously held in February. There is a lot of opportunity for this program to be improved, both in how it is scheduled and how the training is accomplished. John McManus, the new Sr. OEC advisor, has written an article providing the details of the program. If you are considering Sr. OEC this year make sure to check it out. This is especially important because you cannot wait until the fall refreshers to sign up for Sr. OEC as we have done in the past.

Mike Lord has offered to order the fourth edition OEC book for anyone in the region who wants a new copy. He will do this without the money upfront. The advantage to you is that it will be provided to you and you will save shipping charges. Mike will then have them at late summer events, such as the dome sale, where they can be picked up. This is a great opportunity to get a new book - almost painless.

See Mikes write up for details and find an order form enclosed.

Last, but not least, the NSP governing body has passed the resolution to re-organize. There has been a lot of discussion about this when it was a proposal and I do not believe the discussion is over. We are including the article written by Jerry and posted on the web page that describes the changes that have taken place. My input to this process has to do with my observations and some thoughts that were inspired by talking to others about the changes.

First, I think about everyone will agree some changes are necessary in the organization. It is almost ironic that, while most of the concerns about the changes have to do with voting representation, the whole focus of the re-organization is to bring more control locally. All of us want more local control over our programs and NSP services and the changes are needed to accomplish this. I believe that the reorganization will allow us at the region level to be more attentive to our own needs.

Second, the new organization is going to be skill based. A lot of energy has been expended debating the lack of "democratic process" when the election process is eliminated. I personally am not that concerned. My reasons for feeling this way are varied but in general they can be summed up as follows: the democracy is not that great now (patrollers with out an elected region position currently do not have a vote), The new process will guarantee people have the skills in the area they are responsible for, The process is much more open to the average patroller (you do not have to be a career patrol politician to be eligible), many volunteer organizations are currently organized this way, and the downward delegating of region and area responsibilities. These are all good points that support the re-organization. In addition, the astute observer of Ski Patrol politics will note that the old election process did not guarantee the best interests of the patroller were paramount.

As in any other endeavor it is the people that make or break a project. I personally have a lot of faith in what Jerry, Pamm, Bill Sachs and the other board members are trying to do. I think that if anyone can "pull-it-off" it will be this group. Their focus is on what is best for our organization and us and not on feeding their own egos. The organization needs to change and now may be the best time to do it. Of course change is hard and always presents a little risk as well as some potential growing

pains. Let's recognize this and move on. Lots of work to do, but we will be better for it.

OK, enough for now. Look forward to seeing all of you in the fall. Enjoy your summer.

Jerry Sherman Eastern Division Director
NSP Board of Directors Adopts Sweeping Changes

Garmish, Germany was the location, June 8, 2002 the date that the National Ski Patrol Board of Directors (BOD) voted to make major changes to our organization - changes to the governance of the organization that will affect almost every level. Our old structure had been in place for almost 64 years. It served us well for the first 50, but in recent years, most members of the Board have realized that we were not focusing on the major issues facing the National Ski Patrol.

The BOD, beginning with the January 2003 meeting, will be 13 members. The current BOD has 23. The BOD will set strategic direction, approve program development, monitor quality assurance, direct the finances of the association, and assess member satisfaction. Membership on the new BOD will be open to every NSP member. The term "Knowledge - Based" will replace the old representative/political process of electing BOD members. A nominating committee composed of a cross section of members, including members at large, Division and Region officers, former BOD members, and one current BOD member not seeking election, will accept and review applications. The skills and experience of the applicants will be compared to a list of needs, prepared by the BOD. A slate of candidates will be selected. This slate will be published and every member will have the opportunity to affirm or vote against any candidate on the slate. The term of office will be three years with a maximum of two terms for life. The National Chairman will be elected by the BOD and will also have a maximum of two terms on the BOD. This new BOD will only deal with the "big picture" issues.

Governance of Divisions will be the work of the Divisions. The Eastern Division now has the authority to design our own structure and to make many of the decisions that in the past we had taken to the BOD in the form of proposals. This is an exciting prospect especially for those of us who have tried for years to advance Division issues at the National level. The problem was that we had 11 Divisions all trying to advance local issues. The BOD got bogged down micro managing the organization instead of dealing with issues that would solidify our position in the outdoor recreation industry. Along with the new power at the local level will come accountability for the delivery of NSP programs. The Division, Regions, and Sections must make the delivery of NSP training programs their number one priority. The BOD will measure our success. Member satisfaction and the availability of and participation in NSP programs will be two of the measurements.

What does all this mean to the average member? It will mean very little at first but as we move forward you should have more opportunities to participate in NSP training programs. You should see more member benefits in the form of catalog items and sponsorships like the Subaru program. A better relationship between NSP and our industry partners will increase the value of patrollers to areas. In other words we will continue to have a place to patrol. There will be more opportunities to become an instructor of high quality, current, and relevant training programs.

In April we formed a Transition Team to study our structure and how we deliver programs here in the Eastern Division. This team will make recommendations on how we can be more effective. The new power we now have will allow us to implement changes, suggested by the team and approved by Division and Region officers.

This is an exciting time in our organization. Many will resist change but I am convinced that over time most will embrace it. As I said earlier the Board of Directors has been working on these changes for over two years. Supporting this change meant giving up a seat on the BOD. Getting elected to the old BOD involved a great deal of time, effort, and personal expense. Many members who supported this reorganization were in their first term on the BOD.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact any Eastern Division board member or member of my staff. Check the Officers page of the Eastern Division Web Site (<http://www.nspeast.org>) for phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

REGIONAL ADVISORS:

Mike Lord OEC

I hope everyone's summer is starting smoothly and you're all having a good time. I've started planning for the coming season and in so doing decided to see how many of the region patrollers would be interested in getting their new OEC book. The fourth addition will be ready for purchase in July and it will be used this year during the refresher. So if you would like your own copy, let us know by August 15, with the enclosed form, (or e-mail me at mglord@aol.com) and the region will be placing a bulk order. The cost of the book is \$49.50. There won't be a bulk discount but we should be able to save a few bucks on shipping. OEC Instructors! This is your chance to save a little money and be ready for the coming season. I would expect every region OEC instructor to want to have the new material.

This edition of the OEC book is new from a different publisher. There will be many changes from the older

editions. If you have been holding off on a new first aid manual – now is the time to invest in a new copy.

After the books arrive we'll set up shop somewhere convenient, say at Snow Country's Dome Sale in August, so folks can pick up there book. Let us know for we'll be ordering soon. Have a great summer.

John McManus Senior OEC. **Senior OEC Changes – Opportunity Knocks!**

There are important changes to the Sr. OEC component of the Senior Program this year. At the National, Divisional and Regional level there is news and all of it is intended to add value to the program and to make it less time consuming and more meaningful for patrollers to complete this core component to obtain Senior Status. If you've considered the Senior Program in the past but thought it too time consuming or of questionable benefit, you're going to like these changes. **Unfortunately, you cannot wait until the fall refreshers to decide.** So, read on - this could be your year!

"Senior EMM" – what is it? As you probably know by now, Senior OEC is now known as the "Senior Emergency Management Module." The background and thinking supporting this name change at the National Level was well described by Bill Halsey in his article in the spring '02 issue of *"Trail Sweep"*. If you are unfamiliar with the rationale behind this, I invite you to refer to that article. What is most important for you to know is that there is no change in the program requirements because of this name change.

John Lawson in his comments about this special issue of *"Valley Views"* mentions one of the key changes we are making to the course this year. I'll cover that in detail but I first want to take a moment to describe this process. It is one of continuous improvement. It capitalizes upon the opportunity the name change provides to emphasize the benefits and attributes of this program and at the same time resolve some misconceptions. We have received valuable feedback over the years from Sr. OEC participants and it has told us much about what we have done well and what we need to improve upon. One consistent comment has been how much of an impact Sr. OEC has had on these patrollers and in many cases the outcome was different from the initial expectation. I've quoted some of these patrollers who were kind enough to provide some specific feedback for this article. I think you'll find them quite interesting.

John Long Hunt Hollow

What did I think about the program?

The senior OEC program involved a higher level of training to include: advanced triage, dealing with multiple injuries,

management skills, administrative training and Mountain Management interaction. Overall, producing a well-prepared, consummate patroller.

What did I get out of the program?

I felt I walked away from the program a better patroller.

Jeff Talon Hunt Hollow

To me, the benefits the Sr. OEC training can be summed up as confidence. We only get a few accidents to treat a year and my basic training was quite a few years ago. The refreshers are good, but I felt I had forgotten a good deal of info. The training w/ Sr. OEC refreshed my memory with the hands-on approach, but the management training/delegating duties provided me w/ the confidence I lacked. I am no longer apprehensive when approaching an accident.

Nick Schiavetti Swain

Like many other patrollers, I thought that Senior OEC was an advanced first aid course that would teach us newer techniques for solving more difficult first aid problems and would lead us to a higher level of first aid skill. I was surprised to discover that this was not the intent of the course. ----- What the course did is emphasize doing the OEC that you already know as a basic patroller under more difficult conditions that involved management issues that complicated the problem.

In one sense, I was disappointed to find out that I was not going to get to learn new first aid techniques. In another sense, I benefited from learning things about emergency management that I had not anticipated.

SR. OEC was never intended to be an advanced first aid course. It is and always was about decision-making, problem management and, most importantly, leadership (for the purposes of this article, I'll refer to these collectively as leadership skills). Of course, it is presented in the context of what we do as patrollers: rendering first aid and assistance in a unique environment with limited resources; but the required skills were the same basic OEC skills learned as a candidate. Of course, these OEC skills must be firmly embedded in the Senior Candidates' repertoire so they can concentrate on the incremental challenges of the program. Understandably, what is foremost in most candidates' minds when they decide to enter the program is the need to refresh and hone their OEC skills. This is the origin of one of the enigmas of Senior OEC. Simply described, this enigma is the course objective of developing these leadership skills, to see the "big picture", vs. the candidates' perceived need for a OEC "super refresher". Over the years, a well-intentioned effort to accommodate has resulted in a lot of skill based first aid training wherein much of the basic OEC material is

reviewed. This has added a good amount of time to the overall commitment required for the program and this additional training has become increasingly burdensome for the candidates as well as for the Sr. OEC Trainer/Evaluators. Emphasis on OEC skills has detracted from the scenario-based training that is fundamental to this program.

We have decided to address this issue by eliminating the evening indoor training sessions that have traditionally been devoted to reviewing OEC skills (no more Tuesday nights at East Rochester Ambulance!) Reducing the time commitment required of our senior candidates without compromising the integrity and quality of the Senior EMM Module should make the senior program more appealing and lead to increased participation. This year, formal required training for the Senior EMM program won't commence until the outdoor on-snow classes begin in late January. These outdoor sessions will be scenario based and appropriate OEC proficiency should be reinforced along with the leadership challenges presented. If needed, scenarios will be selected which focus on specific skill performance.

Nevertheless, we recognize this course presents for many of our patrollers an opportunity to refresh basic OEC skills. Some may feel a need to bone-up on certain skills in order to be well prepared for the challenges of the program. We have come up with a method that should satisfy the needs of all and provide some very interesting new opportunities and synergies as well. This year, we are going to experiment with making the OEC Candidate Class available to Senior Program participants who feel they need the additional review work. This creates some economies of scale and avoids the unnecessary redundancy of running multiple OEC training sessions. It also provides the unique opportunity for our Sr. candidates to work with our region's basic candidates, to share their "real world" experiences, and to be involved in the candidate training as well as reinforcing their own skills. Moreover, this form of mentoring coincides perfectly with the training model now in place within the NSP.

Because this training opportunity will occur much earlier in the year, it is essential I hear from you by the end of August if you are planning on taking the SR. EMM Program. This will allow for coordination with the OEC Instructor of Record, planning for additional instructors and distribution of the OEC Course schedule to those opting to take advantage of the training opportunity. The OEC Course schedule calls for the candidates to begin skill training and practice scenarios starting in early to mid September on Saturdays. If you are interested in the Senior EMM Module, please call me or send an e-mail and I will follow up with the required information. My e-mail address and phone number appear at the end of this article.

Another significant change has occurred at the division level and this pertains to our small but dedicated core of Sr. EMM Trainer/Evaluators. Bill Halsey, the Eastern Division OEC Supervisor, has committed to an instructor recertification/new instructor training program to be run in each region every three years. This is an important commitment because it means the burden for travel rests on Bill and his staff, benefiting the Sr. I/T's and I/T Candidates who will no longer be required to travel outside their region. In order to give all of our existing Sr. I/T's a common anniversary date for their three year Recertification requirement, Bill has further agreed to carryover many of our current I/T's whose certification expires before the course scheduled for the Genesee Valley Region in the 2003-2004 season. This is no small accomplishment and much credit for this should go to Bob Finger, the outgoing Region Sr. OEC Administrator, who was a vocal and staunch advocate for training to be conducted within the region. I am pleased to be able to carry this message forward to my fellow Sr. OEC T/E's, because it impacts much more than these individuals. The Senior program and the region overall benefit from the work of this extraordinarily talented and dedicated group of instructors and the region is very fortunate to have their commitment.

Jami Rushford Bristol

It gave me a level of confidence in my skills that I doubt would have evolved without such a program. I thought I had a good idea of what the program was like from speaking with patrollers who had taken the course the previous year, I came away with more than I had anticipated. The time spent performing watching or reviewing problem scenarios was a valuable experience. It took all of my OEC training, combined it with the principle of management or problem assessment required to make quick, through and timely decisions.

I think the most important thing I gained from this experience was that managing a problem from start to finish required more than just the ability to provide first aid. It taught me to think through my actions prior to starting, i.e. initial scene observations, what info to collect before making a call, ongoing assessments, management of my resources, including patrollers as they arrived, leading but not becoming so engulfed in the first aid aspects as to lose focus of the overall picture.

Would I recommend this to fellow patrollers? Absolutely.

Could this be your year to make a commitment to the Senior Program? Do you have what it takes to be a leader in your organization? Clearly, it is a lot to ask when there is no direct benefit to you. You don't get a raise for becoming a senior. You don't receive any direct benefits at most of our ski areas. What is in it for you? Perhaps you have a larger goal in mind such as a national appointment. Perhaps it is only the recognition of your ability and

capacity to lead. Perhaps it is the natural progression of your individual pursuit of self-improvement. Perhaps it is the recognition that from the Senior Program emerge the future leaders of our organization at a local, regional or national level.

In closing, I offer the following quote from a patroller who took the course for its own merits, regardless of her passing or failing. She sums up the contributions of the program quite nicely. Oh, by the way, she passed!

Nancy Least Swain

After twelve years as a patroller at Swain, I decided to participate in the 1999-2000 Senior OEC program (recently renamed Emergency Management Module). I strongly felt that I needed a good overall refresher to challenge and update my skills. While I had seen some types of first-aid problems repeatedly, other skills that I had learned as a candidate had not been called upon in a while. The on-the-hill and region refreshers helped, but I really felt that I wanted a more in-depth focus including some leadership skill training.

I enjoyed the Senior OEC program very much and feel that I received the added benefit of an increase in self-confidence for having participated. As a result, my first-aid decision-making is faster, and I do not hesitate to take the lead in a situation when it is needed. The great people that I work with at Swain noticed this new energy right away and I believe that it has had a broader positive effect than I could have anticipated.

My intent when I started the program was to enjoy the process and update my skills regardless of whether I passed or not. With that in mind, I encourage anyone to give it a try with an open and cooperative mind. Ego should never be the issue, competence should.

Marcia Mundrick Instructor Development

We had a great Instructor Development class this May. 10 patrollers completed the course with great ideas and lots of enthusiasm. Let's hope they continue on the path to becoming instructors. The class consisted of Gina Wyffles, Mike Tallon, Linda Breen, Anne Peck, Gary Marks, Eric Scott, Andrea Shelley, Dave Curry, Lorne Campbell, and Jeff Konzal. One more patroller, Jami Rushford, went to Buffalo to take the course. We also added one more instructor to our In Dev staff. Mike Mooney completed his mentoring with this class and is now a "full-fledged" instructor. Nice job!

Kevin and Patricia Campbell MTR

We are excited to have been asked by John and the Region Staff to take on the advisory position for Mountain Travel and Rescue. Kudos to Brian Schankat for doing a great job, he will be a tough act to follow.

The Genesee Valley Region will be offering a Basic Mountain Travel and Rescue course locally this upcoming season. The dates and locations are forthcoming, but it most likely will be held in early December. Hopefully, this course offering will facilitate those who want to continue on to the Advanced Mountain Travel and Rescue or Advanced Avalanche offered by Division in February/March, respectively. Others may wish to hone their skills with the expectation that there will be a Region Advanced Mountain Travel and Rescue course in the following season. The Basic Mountain Travel and Rescue course is a great way to learn about winter camping and backcountry rescue. The course is intended for and geared towards those of little or no experience. It always turns out to be a lot of fun. We hope to see many of you out there this coming season. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us by phone or e-mail from the Region website.

Calendar

As of 7/31/02

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Candidate OEC Class Starts	Region Candidates	August 5	7:00 PM	Honeoye Falls-Lima H.S.	Mike Lord H: 607-776-1353 mglord31@hotmail.com ; mglord@aol.com
OEC Instructor Refresher	OEC Instructors	September 10	6:30 PM	Honeoye Falls-Lima H.S.	Mike Lord H: 607-776-1353 mglord31@hotmail.com ; mglord@aol.com
Region Officers' Meeting	Region Staff	September 11	7:30 PM	TBA	John Lawson H: 585-248-5093 jlawson@rochester.rr.com
OEC Instructor Refresher	OEC Instructors	September 18	6:30 PM	Honeoye Falls-Lima H.S.	Mike Lord H: 607-776-1353 mglord31@hotmail.com ; mglord@aol.com
Hunt Hollow On-Hill Refresher	Hunt Hollow Patrollers	September 22	8:00 AM	Hunt Hollow	Andrew Cruikshank H: 585-256-3509 acruik@juno.com
Bristol On-Hill Refresher	Bristol Patrollers	September 28	8:00 AM	Bristol	Win Beers H: 585-442-2418 winb@eznet.net
Swain On-Hill Refresher/Night Evac.	Swain Patrollers	October 5	1:00 PM	Swain	Joe Menichino, H: 607-587-8229 menichino@infoblvd.net
Region OEC Refresher	All Region Patrollers	October 27	7:45 AM	Honeoye Falls-Lima H.S.	Mike Lord H: 607-776-1353 mglord31@hotmail.com ; mglord@aol.com
Powder Mills On-Hill Refresher	Powder Mills Patrollers	November 2		Powder Mills Park	Glenn Becker H: 585-924-5113 Glenn.Becker@usa.xerox.com
Region Officers' Meeting	Region Staff	November 6	7:30 PM	TBA	John Lawson H: 585-248-5093 jlawson@rochester.rr.com
Region OEC Refresher	All Region Patrollers	November 9	7:45 AM	Honeoye Falls-Lima H.S.	Mike Lord H: 607-776-1353 mglord31@hotmail.com ; mglord@aol.com
GV Nordic On-Trail Refresher	Nordic Patrollers	December 7	7:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Cumming Nature Center	Chuck Crockett H: 585-265-3708 ccrocket@rochester.rr.com
Bristol Blackout Chair Evacuation	Bristol Patrollers	December 8	4:00 PM	Bristol	Win Beers H: 585-442-2418 winb@eznet.net
Region Officers' Meeting	Region Staff	January 19, 2003	7:30 PM	TBA	John Lawson H: 585-248-5093 jlawson@rochester.rr.com
2003 Senior S&T Evaluation - Two-day	Senior Candidates	March 1 & 2	8:15 AM	Bristol	Jeff Baker 585-943-5837 jeff@newenergyworks.com ; jeffreybaker@msn.com

Region Officers' Meeting	Region Staff	March 5	7:30 PM	TBA	John Lawson H: 585-248-5093 jlawson@rochester.rr.com
Region Officers' Meeting	Region Staff	April 9	7:30 PM	TBA	John Lawson H: 585-248-5093 jlawson@rochester.rr.com

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

OEC Book Order Form

Yes, I would like a copy of the new 4th edition OEC Book.

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: ____ ZIP: _____

PATROL: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

**Send to: Mike Lord, 36 Maine Street, Bath, NY 14810,
or e-mail the same information to: mglord@aol.com .**



Figure 1 - Herb Lehman (L) with 55 Yr. Service Award and Harry Stoneham (R) with 50 Yr. Service Award, given at the Swain Picnic by PR Joe Menichino and RD John Lawson. 105 years in one picture. Silver rules!

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT:
<http://www.nspgvr.org>

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