

Valley Views

The Newsletter of the Genesee Valley Region

Spring, 1999

Pamm Ferguson **RD**

Several people represented your region at the spring meeting of the Eastern Division officers in Albany. Pete, John and I spent Friday evening at meetings for Region Directors and Section Chief/Assistant Region Directors and then all day Saturday in a workshop to learn about organizations (NSP as a volunteer one in particular) and management. The other representatives attended various meetings on Saturday pertaining to programs such as OEC, Nordic, Mountaineering, Avalanche, Awards and Auxiliaries. Sunday was the concluding day and general meeting of the officers to conduct Division business. It was a busy, often times intense weekend. But, we learned a lot and appreciate having had the opportunity to represent you.

Spring is truly in full swing and the banquet season is in high gear. It's been a pleasure to attend the region's patrol banquets and witness first hand the pride and camaraderie which are parts of the ski patrolling experience. Various patrols worked hard this winter on training, patrolling, building new patrol lodges, and becoming acquainted with new management. So, now this is the season to single out people both individually and collectively for their efforts this past season and for service over many seasons. Congratulations to each of you who have been awarded for your exceptional efforts and to each patroller for having fulfilled your responsibilities for another year. Hope you all had a memorable season – how could we miss with the weather! Have a great summer, and see you in the fall!

REGIONAL ADVISORS:

Don Garman **Awards**

The 1998-99 Season was an active season for the awards committee. I want to thank the members who helped make this year a success: John Bonczyk - Swain (Joe Menichino, Knobby Eldridge after John's passing), Pamm Ferguson - Hunt Hollow, Skip Millor - Bristol, Pete Osborne - Ski Valley, and Pete Peterson - Brantling.

This year was a difficult year for the committee and everyone who knew John Bonczyk. John added spirit to our committee and he is missed. It was our honor to have worked with John.

The committee submitted award nominations this year for the region in the following categories:

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- ◆ Division: Two National Distinguished Service Awards, processed by Region Awards committee for two Region patrollers.
- ◆ From Genesee Valley Region: one Outstanding Patrol Nomination - Alpine, four National Appointment Nominations, three Merit Stars - Yellow, Blue, and Purple, one National Certificate of Appreciation, two National Outstanding Ski Patroller - Instructor Nominations, one Region DSA - to John Bonczyk, three Region Certificates of Appreciation.

Recognition of good deeds is one of the things that don't cost us much in effort. Recognition buys us much in results. While final results have not been received from Division as to our success rate this year, I can say that good candidates were submitted for appropriate awards. I will attend the Division Awards meeting on April 24 in Albany. Once again, the committee didn't have an overwhelming pile of applications to wade through, but many good nominations were received. That was positive.

The awards committee will change for the 1999/2000 season because John is no longer with us, Pamm Ferguson has been elected as Region Director, and other personnel may change. However, it is never too early or too late to submit an award. The annual push in the spring is to meet patrol banquet dates and other than the "Outstanding" awards, there is no deadline. So, as things begin to green and grow, think about your fellow patrollers deserving of recognition. Write up the specifics (activities, dates, positions or offices held) and why the nominee deserves an award. Pass those ideas to the Patrol Representative (formerly Patrol Director) who will follow up with your patrol's Awards Committee representative. Let's make 2000 a banner year. (The list of awards available is given following this article.)

In closing, I would like to announce the new Region Distinguished Service Award. This award will be named the Doyle Award in honor of Dick Doyle, Bristol patroller. If anyone ever epitomized "distinguished service", it is Dick Doyle. The first Region honoree is John Bonczyk.

NSP AWARDS LIST

Genesee Valley Region Awards:

1. Region Outstanding Instructor (Lehman Award): awarded by Region - goes to Division for consideration.

2. Region Outstanding Patroller (Stevens Award): awarded by Region - goes to Division for consideration.
3. Region Merit Star - Given locally, automatic for rejected National Yellow Merit Stars.
4. Region Distinguished Service Award (Doyle Award) for long term service to NSP in multiple disciplines. (Contribution to NSP may be at Patrol, Region, and/or National level)

NSP National Awards:

1. Gold Merit Star - National Outstanding Patroller including administrative, and instructor.
2. Silver Merit Star - Runner-up to National Outstanding Patroller
3. Purple Merit Star - Individually save or are primarily responsible for saving a life.
4. Blue Merit Star - Outstanding or heroic use of ski patrol skills to save a life, but not to the level of the Purple. May be used to recognize those in supporting role of Purple.
5. Green Merit Star - Similar to Blue but action took place in Ski area.
6. Yellow Merit Star - Awarded for any outstanding act or service to NSPS. Must have an element of National relevance. May be used for supporting role for Green, Blue, and Purple.
7. NSP Distinguished Service Award (DSA) - Given for outstanding achievement in place of a National or LCA. May be given to a non-Patroller.
8. Patroller Cross Award - Awarded to a patroller who receives serious injuries while on duty. Patrollers killed in the line of duty are awarded the DSA. Serious injury is defined as an injury requiring physician care over a long period of time, surgery, extended rehabilitation and/or lost work time. It is further described as an injury that prevented the member from returning to their normal patrolling duties for the balance of the ski season.
9. National Outstanding - Patroller, Instructor, Administrative, Professional, Auxiliary, or Student; Outstanding Patrol. Awards given in each category annually.
10. Avalanche Award - Contributions to the avalanche program. Must have National Significance.
11. National Appointments -
 - a. Leadership Commendation (LCA) - For deserving patrollers not eligible for National appointment.
 - b. National Appointment - for eligible Seniors
12. Unit Citation - given for extraordinary activity or accomplishment.
13. National Certificate of Appreciation - For "....."
14. Service Recognition Awards - (10 years or more in increments of 5 year intervals.) Ordered by Patrol Director or Awards Committee.
15. Honorary Awards - For non-Members given at the discretion of the Patrol Director, or Region Director. May be an NSP Award or Local or Region.
16. Angel Pins - Primarily for spouses, but may be given to others for recognition of support to NSP or local

patrolling efforts. Requested by Patrol Director to Division Director.

Mike Lord

OEC

This has been an eventful first year for me as the Region OEC Administrator, and I would like to again thank all the Instructor/Trainers, OEC Instructors and other patrollers that have given so much of their time this year to help me get a handle on the work that needed to be done. Problems with OEC cards and credit for attending refreshers should be taken care of by the summer. OEC Refresher records have been received by the National Offices and we are beginning to plan for next seasons OEC programs even as you read this.

A Phase I course will be offered on May 18th and 20th. Contact Merrily Hoover if you are interested. A Phase II course is being offered on June 8th and 10th. Contact Ben Emerson or me if you are interested in these Instructor development classes.

The Region OEC Refresher is in the planning stages with dates hopefully in the middle of October and the end of October. Instructor Refreshers will be held in Sept. Watch the web page or contact your patrol as the summer ends for specific dates and times. The format will be the same as last year with forms to update our database at the sign in tables. Please make every effort to bring your OEC cards to the refreshers this year along with your first aid packs and a smile.

Again my thanks to all you patrollers out there and have a great summer.

Melissa Doyle

Senior OEC

The Senior OEC evaluation was given on March 21st at Brantling. (Test date was delayed because of too much snow on March 7th!) We tested 4 patrollers from Genesee Valley Region and one from Western New York. The GV patrollers who passed are:

Tom Lazzaro (Bristol)
Jan Scott (Bristol)
Holger Stave (Nordic)

Jan successfully completed all her requirements for the Senior classification and received her Senior patch. Congratulations to all participants and a thank you to Bob Finger and all the OEC Senior Trainer Evaluators for their assistance in training and testing.

I will be stepping down from the OEC Senior Trainer Coordinator roll; Bob Finger has accepted the position for the next season. It has been an interesting year for training weather—wise. Hopefully Bob will have better luck with Mother Nature!

Have a wonderful summer and see you on the slopes next season.

Gordy Benoit

S&T

Joint Western/Genesee Region Two Day Clinic
a Success Again

Again due to inconsistent enrollment in the senior program in both Genesee and Western Regions, we held a joint Two-Day Clinic Evaluation in the Genesee Region this year on Feb. 27th and 28th, 1999. Hunt Hollow was our gracious host on Saturday and Bristol on Sunday. We were the first group to use the new patrol building at Hunt Hollow and it was great to be involved in christening the building. John Lawson and the Hunt Hollow patrol were excellent hosts and everyone enjoyed himself or herself in the great sunshine on Saturday. Bristol as always was a cordial host for the Sunday of the clinic and provided a great afternoon party after the event. Thanks to John Bolonda and his staff for all of their efforts. Now for the details:

Genesee Region had twelve candidates and Western brought five. There were three boarders along with the 14 skier candidates. All Western Region candidates and IT's were housed with either candidates or IT's from our region with no expense incurred for lodging. Ten candidates passed both skiability and toboggan- from our region Joe Hoff HH, Scott Morrill SV, Peter Parker HH, Brenda Rizzo BR, Jan Scott BR, Brian Walsh SV all were successful in both parts. Since you can pass either skiability or toboggan and carry that with you indefinitely into the future, we also had 5 candidates pass toboggan skills only. From our region were: Leslie Kelley BR, Kirk Simpson SV, Chris Van Staalduin BR, and Rick Walzer SV. Next year these candidates will only have to pass skiability to pass Senior S&T. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

As always we had an excellent group of Senior IT's participating in the event. From the Western Region Greg Boberg, Roland Lunser, John Zajac, and from Genesee Region Jerry Sherman, Gordy Benoit, Mike Morgan, Joe Menichino, Bob Smith, Hugh MacMillan, Jim Nickerson and Scott Mundrick all manned stations. In addition John Topping from Hunt Hollow as a trainee this year helped during the weekend. Also John Van Staalduin, Keith Henderson and Cindy Wandling also assisted Al Efron in organizing the event. Thanks to everyone for their help.

After the clinic we conducted the usual Division candidate feedback survey with the following results. The overall program received a 4.4 out of 5.0 rating with most of the comments for improvement relating to more guided practice and feedback during the event. We will take these comments into account as we develop next years

program. Al Efron from Swain did an excellent job of organizing the Two Day coordinating travel plans, scheduling etc. between both regions. This was essentially a vision of the future since I am stepping down this year as S&T Advisor and Al Efron will take over next year. I plan on continuing on as an S&T Trainer, however a new job has me overcommitted. It has been a pleasure working with all of you on the S&T program and I am sure that Al will continue the fine tradition of S&T training that is region is noted for.

As a final note, there is still an ongoing discussion at the Divisional and National level concerning the decrease in enrollment in the senior program. In 1989 276 Division candidates took Senior S&T of which 59% passed. In 1998 only 112 candidates participated with 68% passing. While our success rate has gone up, the numbers are way down. Also the percentage of seniors in the Division has lowered from 24.9% (1966/7883) in 1990 to 2 1.4% (1800/8400) in 1998. This data would indicate as senior patrollers retire, Basic patrollers who do not participate in the senior program replace them. The survey included a broad cross-section from the Division and came to several general conclusions. High on the list of barriers were time and delivery, fairness of evaluators electives, lack of publicity, lack of justification for the effort in terms of benefits, preferred scheduling etc. Plans are to carefully review the survey and make recommendations for future changes to the program both Divisionally and Nationally. Get involved with your patrol leader in defining the senior program for the future if you want the program to continue. See you on the slopes.

Marcia Mundrick

Instructor Development

As you know, the Instructor Development (Phase I) course is the eight-hour workshop that is prerequisite for other NSP instructor training programs. The program also counts as a Senior program elective. The next course will be offered the first or third week of November. Information will be posted on the GVR web site as soon as it becomes available and at the Region OEC refreshers. If you would like further information, please contact me.

Holger Stave

Nordic

The season was, over all, a good one for upstate New York. Our patrol consists of 10 Patrollers, one of whom spent most of his time as Patrol Representative of Salmon Hills Ski Area: Fred Dunaway. Two patrollers from Bristol Mountain helped us on a part-time basis, one of who may dual-register next season. One candidate made Patroller during the season, and a second candidate joined us frequently for most of the season, passing her skiability. During the season we acquired four additional candidates, including two MD's. We tried a new scheme to attempt the involvement of downhill patrollers from our region by

distributing an invitation to "Come Ski With Us". There were some responses, but not as prolific as we had hoped. (Oh, wow, there is a NORDIC patrol?!?!?)

GVNSP covers two areas: Cumming Nature Center and Mendon Ponds Park. Cumming Nature Center is in the Bristol Hills near Naples, NY, with about 25k of groomed trails, an elevation difference of up to 350 feet, and a well staffed nature center including ski rentals, snack bar, and art and nature exhibits.

Mendon Ponds Park is a county park in Monroe County just south of Rochester, containing several ponds and a small lake. Trails exceed 50k, and range up to some extreme difficulties, but within about 150 feet of elevation. This area is a wide "open to the public", multi-use area where entry and trail use can not be controlled. We cover some of the more difficult areas where people tend to get lost.

This season we were able to ski about 8 weekends. This translates into 32 patrol days or 160 patrol hours of coverage. About 400 patroller man hours were spent covering these commitments.

In addition to the regular areas, several high-school races were covered in Mendon Ponds, a "Luna Ski" at Cumming, and one patroller served at the Tug Hill Tour-athon 50k race (While Fred raced). GVNSP members also attended several publicity and membership drive events with the Rochester Ski Club, Bristol Mountain Ski Patrol, and Mendon Ponds Winterfest 99.

One patroller passed his Senior OEC, hoping to try for the ski portion next season. For a good e-mail contact, use HGStave@aol.com or jhust56719@aol.com for information or to let us know you'd like to ski with us while in the area. We'd love to show you around.

Joe Menichino **Certified**

Genesee Valley was well represented at this year's annual Eastern Division Certified exam at Waterville Valley in New Hampshire. Certified candidates Tom Wallin from Swain and Jeff Baker from Ski Valley both took portions of the annual 3-day exam. Bristol's Jim Nickerson examined the practical first aid and bystander problems. Swain's Richard Stearns and Steve Shelley audited the test and worked as injured skiers and I had my first opportunity to work as an examiner in a number of areas and had fun as an injured skier in the first aid test.

I am proud to tell you all that Genesee Valley Region has a new Certified Patroller. Jeff Baker from Ski Valley completed both his remaining requirements, skiing and practical first aid and was one of only two Eastern Division patrollers awarded their Certification this year. Jeff trained

many hours to achieve this qualification and proved that hard work really does pay off. Tom Wallin also did very well successfully completing the dreaded bystander first aid problem and all the required interview segments.

The weather was perfect and the skiing was terrific at Waterville Valley. The ski and toboggan test held on Friday turned out to be extremely challenging. Examiner expectations were higher than normal due to the short slopes and excellent conditions. Only about half the candidates passed the morning ski test. The afternoon's toboggan test proved even more difficult as the spring conditions created huge piles of corn snow in the short mogul field. Even the forerunners had problems. Only one of eight candidates passed the sled portion of the test.

Saturday's test schedule started with the 2 hour written first aid and MCI test. Immediately following this, candidates moved into the practical first aid test. Each of the fifteen candidates was required to lead one and help on two problems. I was an injured skier on one of Jeff's problems and got to watch his great work. The problem involved four skiers in a collision. All four were off trail down a bank. I was jammed against a tree. My head covered with ketchup (yuk). I was unconscious with stable vitals and a severe back injury. The second injury was a double tib/fib, both compound. The third was a rapidly progressing spleen injury and the fourth was a loud witness who described the theoretical collision and generally got in the way. Which injury would you select as first priority and how would you delegate your two helpers once they arrived? Quick thinking is a must when you only have 20 minutes to get a problem like this done.

This year's bystander problem was the most interesting I have seen yet. Candidates are required to solve a severe first aid problem using only 2 untrained helpers. Windham's Paul Brant and Ski Valley's Tom Moroni did a fabulous job on the moulage set-up. My favorite was the evisceration scenario. Paul wrapped each injured skier up with saran wrap applying 6 large sausages with ketchup to their guts. What a sight! Tom Wallin was one of half the candidate group that successfully nailed this difficult problem.

Most of you are probably wondering why anyone would want to go through all this stuff. It's a good question when you factor in the level of difficulty and frustration each candidate encounters satisfying each and every Certified requirement within 3 years. One needs to remember that the qualification wasn't founded for part time volunteer patrollers at small mountains. The program was started by a core group of big mountain patrol directors and mountain managers in an effort to develop and identify highly skilled patrollers. Satisfaction of the Certified requirements still means monetary rewards for pro patrollers and enhanced opportunities for volunteers. The Certified program offers no clinics and lots of nasty

clipboard tests. It's not a clinic environment in any shape or form. For us local volunteers the value lies in the simple satisfaction of accepting the great challenge, trying our hardest and learning all the while. (Not to mention 3 days of free skiing at Waterville Valley with some of the best skiers in the Eastern Division.)

Jeffrey Baker

Lift Evac.

The last year of the millenium promises an opportunity to refresh and improve. Our region's patrols have exhibited excellent lift evacuation capabilities in the past and now is the time to share all of this valuable information. The goal for the Genesee Valley Region, Lift Evac Program, is to improve communications between patrols and share ideas, new and old.

Activities to give patrollers a chance to gather are in the planning stages. We will be looking at Region and Division meets with a heavy emphasis on hands-on practice. The region is looking for a host mountain for this show and tell seminar. The Division wide gathering will most likely come together at the NSAA (National Ski Area Association) convention late this summer. Discussions are in progress to decide if NSAA will be the appropriate venue for our needs. It will most likely be coupled with a risk management seminar to focus on the interdependence of these two areas.

By combining people from different mountains, different experiences we have a wonderful potential to make a real difference when it really counts. If you have ideas of your own, please make yourself known. The agenda is still very malleable and needs to reflect the needs and desires of the patroller. I can be reached at JeffreyBaker@msn.com or days @ 716-233-5838. Looking forward to a "non-stop" season.

NEWS FROM THE PATROLS:

SKI VALLEY

At the beginning of the ski season, the Ski Valley Ski Patrol Officers set several goals including improving our financial position, revamping our patrol room, and including our families in more patrol related activities. Thanks to an extremely strong group of officers: Jim Dudley, APD; Cindy Wandling, Secretary/ Treasurer/ Construction Manager; Scott Wild, Testing and Training; and Brian Walsh, Social Chairman), we accomplished all of our goals. Through fundraisers and raffles, we raised a handy sum of new funds that has already purchased a new Sager traction splint right on the heels of a new toboggan. This equipment was needed to help us upgrade our ability to help the skiing public and reduce time of exposure on the hill.

Cindy Wandling managed our patrol room renovation,

making the area much more functional and space efficient. This was a major undertaking, and numerous other patrollers who donated their time and talents generously assisted Cindy. As an incentive to involve our sometimes forgotten spouses in patrol activities, we sponsored several patrol-wide social gatherings on Sunday afternoons. This activity proved to be very successful and was expertly arranged and coordinated by Brian Walsh.

In terms of skill development, we had some major individual achievements. Most notably, Jeff Baker passed his test to become a CERTIFIED Ski Patroller. As you all know, the magnitude of commitment required to just participate in the training for this honor is formidable. Jeff not only passed, he obtained the highest toboggan handling score and first aid score. We are all very proud of this great accomplishment as we watched and helped Jeff train for the past 3 years. At a local level, we passed three new candidates (Katherine Rodenhouse, Tom Quick, and Malt Carey) and one experienced patroller on a board (Greg West) in skiability and toboggan handling. We also saw the successful completion all senior requirements for Brian Walsh. Scott Morrill passes the Senior Skiing and Toboggan Handling test while Kirk Simpson and Rick Walzer passed the Toboggan Handling portion of the exam. In honor of his on-the-hill and fundraising activities, Brian Walsh was named Patroller of the Year.

All in all, it was a great year. We will continue to upgrade our skills and facilities next year, but for now our attention will turn towards our end-of-year party on May 8. Another chance to honor our volunteers and their understanding spouses or significant others.

Best regards for a great Spring and Summer.

Rob Fischmann, PR

NORDIC

Our Region Nordic advisor, Holger Stave of Farmington, Successfully passed his Senior OEC first aid test in March, 1999 at Brantling Ski Area, and his Genesee Valley Patrol is very proud of his accomplishments.

An aggressive recruiting program for the 98/99 patrol year has netted positive results. We have one new patroller, Al Loeb of Brighton, who passed both his OEC and Skiability requirements. Karen Wittman of Churchville completed our Skiability program and is now a full-fledged Candidate who will take the Region OEC program this Fall. We also have six (6) other seriously interested potential candidates for the fall of 1999, one being a physician.

Thanks are in order for two special alpine downhill patrollers from Bristol - Skip Miller & Marcia Mundrick - for helping to take some patrol slots this year at Cummings and Mendon. Skip not only has been an enthusiastic

supporter, but is also spearheading a special mapping project at Mendon Ponds Park.

Our April monthly meeting was held at Mercy Flight Headquarters in Canandaigua, so we could refresh on how to interact & cooperate with a Mercy helicopter transport. The annual Nordic Banquet held on May 1st at the Scotch & Sirloin Restaurant proved to be a success for the second year, as most attendees received some type of recognition/award certificate for achievement and/or appreciation.

Eric Jaeckel, PR

BRISTOL

Bristol Mountain welcomed new patrollers Jim Ditzel and Kevin Ratcliffe. Our new auxiliaries are Kathy Bentzoni, MaryKae Hoercher, Tom Lyons and Paul Maciaszek. The teamwork that they displayed showed in their training sessions. All rooted for each other.

Jan Scott successfully completed all the Senior requirements and is now a full-fledged Senior. Congratulations to Jan.

Tom Speedy and Ed Braun are retiring from patrolling. Tom has patrolled 30 years; Ed has patrolled 25 years. Bristol will miss them in their red jackets, but we're sure that they will be free skiing frequently.

John Bolonda was recently elected to Assistant Regional Director, reporting to Pamm Ferguson.

Mark and Draga Haboian became parents again this spring. Baby is doing fine, but it may be a couple of years before the little one is on a snowboard.

Courtesy Staff ran the Ski Sense and Sensibility course again. Any pass holder that has his or her pass taken for any infraction of the Code 54 must take this class to get their pass back. The report from Courtesy Staff coordinator, Bob Stevenson, is that it was well received and students were able to see the mountain management's view on safety clearer. Bob Hoover is the patrol liaison to the courtesy staff. Any questions may be directed to him.

All officers and staff wish everyone a good summer. Have fun, relax, and we will see you all again at the Refresher in October.

Melissa Doyle, PR

BRANTLING

The Brantling Ski Patrol closed the season on a high note, hosting the Genesee Valley Region Senior OEC Clinic for the fifth consecutive year. Once again the patrol served the traditional chicken barbecue lunch for OEC Senior candidates, examiners, IPs and assorted dignitaries.

Special thanks to chefs Mark Johnson and Kim Buell for coordination and cooking, and additional thanks to assorted Brantling patrollers who helped out in many ways that day. Despite the up and down winter that we all suffered through, the "BIG B" got in over 75 days of skiing, due in a large part to the snowmaking and grooming efforts of owner Fiffi Steinrotter and his crew. For many years Fiffi has rented his compressors for the months of December and January. In a case of exquisite timing, last summer the decision was made to purchase compressors. As a result, we were able to make snow throughout the late January-all of February period and ski well into March. A big step forward was the purchase of five new four-channel radios with lapel mikes early in January. The radios are more reliable than our eight-year old equipment and the addition of the Brantling area channel and NOAA weather is a big help. A thank you goes out to Jim Webster and Kim Buell for their efforts in the communications area. We added four new patrollers this season and welcome John Williams, Brian Bartleson, Robert Centro and Mark Lukacs to the NSP roster at Brantling. At our end-of-season banquet on May 15 we announced the election of a new slate of officers who will carry us through the next two years; PD Steve Mitchell, Scheduling APD Al Pundt, OEC APD Kim Buell and S&T APD Martha Rich. A rousing round of applause for outgoing PD John Van Staalduinen and his staff; Mark Johnson, Chuck Norton and Dave Vinke. We're looking forward to a great summer, and an even greater winter later on.

Pete Peterson

HUNT HOLLOW

Another good season has ended. What started out very slowly actually ended up quite well because of the record setting snowstorm in Rochester. The Hunt Hollow Ski Patrol had a good year –accomplishing a lot and skiing until Easter Weekend.

This season Peter Jones and Scott Wilkins completed the requirements and are now full basic patrollers. In addition, William Lutz, a transfer patroller, completed his S&T and also achieved basic status. We also started three new people in the S&T program who will have met all the basic requirements upon completing OEC training next season. Joe Hoff and Peter Parker successfully completed the skiability portion of the senior program.

Our season was very busy. In addition to our regular patrol duties, we continued to work on our new patrol building, and by mid season it was sufficiently complete to allow us to use it when we hosted the first day of the Sr. S&T Clinic. By the end of the season, lockers were being completed and the interior was taking on a very homey atmosphere. A lot is planned for the spring, including building a deck, grading the land around the building, and finishing up the interior. It has been a lot of work for all of us on the patrol, but we are proud of what we have

accomplished. I invite each of you to stop by next year, make some runs with us, and check out our building.

I wish to offer our congratulations to Pamm Ferguson, a Hunt Hollow patroller, who has just been elected to the Regional Director position. Having worked with Pamm a lot on our own patrol I know she will do a great job.

This past season was the last for four Hunt Hollow patrollers. Don Garman, Louise Lakatos, Sheila Fovel, and Liz Aldridge are retiring. Each has contributed a lot to our patrol and we will miss them. Don has promised to stay on however and continue to work with the region awards committee and Sheila is going to work on the region level with NSP alumni.

My two-year term as PD for Hunt Hollow is up in May. This will be my last article for the Valley Views as PD. It has been a good two years for me. I met and worked with a lot of great patrollers in the region and look forward to working with you in the future. Thanks for all the good times. See you on the snow.

John Lawson, PR

SWAIN

After another busy season Swain closed on Saturday April 3rd and patrollers turned to their fishing rods, garden hoes, and golf clubs to keep them active outdoors until the snow flies again next November. It was an interesting season begun under new management: the addition of the new tubing park, the disappearance of the half-pipe, and the springing up of new tabletops around the hill made for some adjustments in patrol duty. We look forward to seeing what future adjustments the new management team has in store for us.

We had an active candidate class complete their OEC and S & T training this year thanks to the hard work of Pieter Aarson and Knobby Eldridge who ran the OEC program and to Tom Wallin and Roger Slade who ran the S&T program. Thanks also to all the instructors who assisted them in teaching the OEC and S&T classes. Special thanks are due to Lei Mark for her hard work all year long as Membership Committee Chair recruiting and advising candidates and managing all of our registration. Even as you read this she is already hard at work on next year's candidate class. Keith Price and Joanne Taylor passed the OEC to become new auxiliaries this year. Doug Hollinger, Marie Osypan, and Bob Terranova completed the S&T course to become new patrollers. Completing both the OEC and the S&T this year were: Mary Emmighausen and Sven Egholm. In addition, ski patroller Mike Wangler completed the S&T test on a snowboard to become our fourth snowboard patroller. Congratulations are also in order to Mike and his wife Colleen on the birth of their triplets! We all wish them well with their new family.

Family funday was held at Swain on Saturday March 13, with a big crowd of patrollers and their families that included the usual annual events, including the Patrol Director's Race, 60-second race, family fun races for all the kids, and a big chicken barbecue for the patrol families and the members of the Canaseraga Ambulance Corps, whose support is so important to us every year. Canaseraga Ambulance once again won the Volleyball Trophy winning three games out of five but the patrol has vowed to win it back next year, starting the millenium off right. The winners of the 1999 Annual Great Toboggan Race were Steve Shelley and Bill Bonczyk. This was Bill's third time winning the trophy, so he now joins the other three-time winners, Jon Gorton and Joe Menichino, as officially retired from the race - they can run in the race for fun in the future but can't be an official winner. Thanks to Jeanne Eldridge for all of her hard work organizing another great family funday assisted by Jo Newkirk and Carol Bonczyk (Registration), Bernice Morehouse (Judges), Lynn Sphar (Timekeeper), Marie and Mark Osypan, Jennifer and Chris Conine, David Hanning, Keith Price, and Mary Emmighausen (Games and Prizes), Kevin and Tricia Campbell (Food), Doug Hollinger (Volleyball Coordinator), Mark Whitford (Sled Ride Coordinator), and all the patrollers who participated by giving sled rides to the Ambulance people.

Elections were held at our annual spring work party on April 10th. Myron Crispino was re-elected Patrol Director for another two year term. Mark Whitford was elected Secretary and Roger Slade was elected Treasurer. We thank them in advance for their service and wish them well in their terms of office.

We were all saddened by the death of our dear friend and longtime colleague, John Bonczyk, in February. We will all miss him terribly and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family - they are all our family as well. John's obituary appears below.

On Saturday June 20 we will hold our patrol picnic at Mendon Ponds Park under the able direction of Tim Cassidy, Alan Efron, Judy Scott, and Steve Shelley. We look forward to this reunion after the snow has melted as our chance for one hard-earned day of relaxation and fun together without any of the usual responsibilities that are incumbent upon us when we patrol together.

We look forward to the 99-00 (oops - 1999-2000 - have to keep the Valley Views up to date with Y2k standards) season and hope it brings us lots of natural snow and an injury free season.

In Memoriam



John Bonczyk, a member of the Swain Ski Patrol in upstate New York, died of cancer at the age of 75 on February 18, 1999 in Rochester, NY. In his honor, every member of the Swain Ski Patrol wore a white ribbon on his or her patrol parka and we flew our flag at half-mast for the rest of the season. Spring flowers were planted in his memory on the edge of John's favorite slope at Swain.

After military service in the Marines during World War II, John received his bachelor's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and worked for 30 years as an engineer at the Eastman Kodak Corporation, retiring in 1983. John was an avid outdoorsman and his great loves of skiing in the winter and sailing in the summer kept him active outside all of his life. He contributed to his community as a mainstay of the Board of Directors of Rochester's Geva Theater, raising funds, running the gift shop, and managing numerous aspects of theater maintenance and operations. John was an active parishioner of St. Rita's Church in Webster, NY, where a burial mass was held in his honor.

John joined the Swain Ski Patrol in 1983 and completed his senior requirements in 1990. In 1995 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, and in 1996 he received National Appointment # 8071.

John was the Region and Section Safety Advisor for the Genesee Valley from 1989 to 1997, conducting competitions for elementary and high school students in the four county Rochester metropolitan area for the best ski safety posters to be displayed in the schools. Each year he raised donations for prizes from dozens of businesses to encourage safety consciousness among the students who participated in his safety contests. He was awarded a Yellow Merit Star for his Section and Region safety accomplishments in 1991. In addition, John chaired the Swain Ski Patrol Awards Committee and served on the Genesee Valley Region Awards Committee from 1997 to 1999. For several years he also served on the Swain Ski Patrol Executive Committee as the House Manager responsible for maintaining the patrol building and first aid room. As the garage sale king of Monroe County, he kept the patrol room furnished from his favorite supply source with refrigerators, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, sofas,

chairs, and whatever other furniture and appliances were needed.

John contributed to the outdoor emergency care education program at the patrol, section, and region levels as an OEC instructor, senior OEC examiner, and candidate instructor of record. John used props from Geva Theater and his theatrical expertise to spice up his OEC classes. In his most effective set, he placed under his armpit a rubber bulb filled with red water connected to a plastic tube that ran down under his shirt sleeve to his wrist. When he cut open a box of cravats with his Swiss Army knife, he squeezed the armpit bulb and shouted "Oh no, I've cut my artery" as "blood" spurted out all over. A lot of OEC candidates thought they were seeing the real thing when the other instructors rushed to his aid.

John's family has made constant contributions to the Swain Ski Patrol over the years. His daughter Judy and son Bill are both patrollers at Swain and the beautiful red and white patrol flags flying in front of our building were made by his wife Carol. We are fortunate to have their continuing legacy as part of our patrol family. John and Bill are the only father-son team to have their names engraved together as driver and tail-roper on the Great Toboggan Race Trophy -they won the race together when John was 72 years old, a sign of his continuing youth and vitality throughout his years.

John will be remembered for his dynamic personality as the source of energy in any gathering. He was the man who got things done and the man you always wanted to do things with: a colleague you could depend on, a caring friend who took his friendships very seriously, and a genuinely fun person to work and play with. His central presence in everything we did will be sorely missed. John approached every task with just three words: "Go, go, go!" and we loved to hear him shout those words at himself and at everyone he worked with -somehow they moved the job along faster. He kept us all moving by constantly reciting Bonczyk's Law: "Talk on the chairlift, ski on the slope." Even in your absence, John, we'll still follow your law.

Nick Schiavetti, Swain Ski Patrol

SUMMER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for articles to appear in the Summer edition of Valley Views is August 10. This should include news of Fall programs, on-hill refreshers, etc. Send materials to Bill Gamble, 8 High Gate Trail, #5, Fairport, NY 14450, or gamblew1@email.msn.com