



## FAR WEST DIVISION DIRECTORS REPORT

Far West Division Board Meeting

Davis, California August 4, 2012

Another winter is in the books for the Far West Division. The biggest accomplishment this year was the work done by our staff in rewriting legislation (AB 1245) for California. The Professional Firefighters Union tried to get the legislature to enact legislation that would have severely limited who could be licensed as a first responder in California. If passed this legislation would have required licensing and background checks for all first responders and that would have included all OEC technicians in the NSP in California. With a lot of help from our industry partners; CSAA, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Squaw Valley Ski Area and the owner of the Mt Shasta Ski Park, we met several times with the other stakeholders at the Cal-EMSA office in Sacramento. The outcome of these meetings produced an exemption for members of the National Ski Patrol while performing duties at Ski Areas in California. This is a major milestone in the nations EMS and is already starting to have an effect on the ski industry in this and other states. At this time we are still waiting to hear if this legislation will be passed and if the Governor will sign it. If not we will still work with CalEMSA to be sure that the exemption is included in the California EMR regulations.

Again I am happy to report that the Far West Division is adding yet another new patrol to the Division. In our Southern California Region the San Gabriel National Forest has requested NSP patrol coverage of their Nordic ski trails. Members from neighboring Nordic patrols are pitching in to help form this new patrol. Also, the other newer patrols in our Division are report great success. Our newest Alpine patrol at Kirkwood Ski Area is growing and hopes to add additional members this next season. One of our Nordic patrols even supported a biathlon at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, working closely with their patrol.

## FAR WEST DIVISION DIRECTORS REPORT cont.

With the rather poor snow in the Sierras this last season, some of the programs that were scheduled had to be postponed or cancelled. This created opportunities for our patrols and regions to provide events at a more local level. Without our Winter Education Conference being held, Squaw Valley stepped up and provided a regional SEM. It was so successful that this may provide a model for future programs. This summer two of our regions are combining forces to conduct an Instructor Recertification Conference. Also in the works are new Senior Manuals for OEC and OET. We have had numerous conference calls and are working towards helping produce quality manuals that we can all use.

I have been active on the National Level. I was selected by my fellow Division Directors to serve on this year's nominating committee for the National Board of Directors elections. With a lot of teleconferences we were able to select a very qualified slate of candidates and would like to encourage all of our members in participating in this year's election. Also, I serve on the Planning committee, Governance subcommittee for elections / list of needs, and have been selected to be the assistant spokesperson for the Division Directors Team. There has been a lot of work on the National P&P with a draft that will be going to the National Board. The last section to be reworked covers the code of conduct. In my spare time I have attended as many regional meetings as I could and just recently met with the rest of the division staff to prepare this year's budget. I visited Southern California for a fellow patroller's memorial service and will be attending their Regional Awards Banquet in September.

Submitted by:

*Bill Gibson*

Far West Division Director, NSP

[www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org)