



Far West Division Summer Board Meeting – August 3, 2013
Davis, California

Michael Nolen – Certified Program Supervisor Report 2012-2013 June 1, 2013

There were five Certified events this last winter and spring.

1. I hosted a Mid-Winter Certified Clinic at Mt. Shasta on Monday through Thursday, January 28 to 31, 2013. It was a four day event. There was one full day of training on the first day of the clinic. There were two specific training topics, one classroom and one field. The classroom training was Mountain Weather Forecasting. The field session was Snow Pit Analysis. Thirty Patrollers participated in this clinic. Participants came from Mt. Ashland, Mt. Bachelor, Sierra At Tahoe, Mt. Rose, China Peak and Mt. Shasta Ski Park.
2. The Far West Division Winter Education Conference (75 Year Gala Weekend) was held at Northstar on Saturday and Sunday, March 9 and 10, 2013. This was the third opportunity for certified training and testing at Northstar in the last three seasons. Last season without the Winter Education Conference the Association of Professional Patrollers hosted a Certified Clinic at Northstar. This event has shown a lot of participation from National Ski Patrollers. Keith Tatsukawa, Eastern Region Certified Advisor, and Scott Hoffman, President of the Association of Professional Patrollers, hosted the certified portion of this event. I was traveling in support of two Certified Clinics out of state. The first at Angel Fire, New Mexico and the second at Schweitzer, Idaho.
3. I hosted a Blasting Seminar on behalf of the Association of Professional Patrollers at Mt. Rose on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19 and 20, 2013. This clinic was set up as “Explosives 101” training. It was particularly oriented towards Volunteer Ski Patrollers and Patrollers from mountains without an Avalanche Mitigation Program. Five Volunteer Patrollers attended the seminar. Two from Sierra At Tahoe, one from Sugar Bowl, one from Homewood and one from Snow Summit. Another Volunteer and Part Time Paid Patroller from Sugar Bowl attended as well. Mike Laney, National Avalanche Director, was part of the volunteer contingent of students at the seminar. We were fortunate to get Larry Heywood, Snow and Ski Safety Consultant, to present on both days. The seminar was a great success as expressed through written evaluations and many verbal comments.
4. There was a Certified Clinic at Mt. Baldy and Snow Summit on Friday through Sunday, March 22 to 24, 2013. Mark Gieibel, Southern California Certified Advisor, hosted this Mid-Winter Clinic with support of Scott Hoffman. There was a full training day at Mt. Baldy with clinics in Avalanche Mitigation and Explosives given. Almost all of the attendance at this clinic was Volunteer Patrollers.
5. A week long Certified Spring Clinic was held at Mammoth Mountain, Monday through Friday, April 29 through May 3, 2013. This clinic attracted numerous Volunteer Patrollers. The momentum from the Mt. Baldy and Snow Summit Certified Clinic attracted over 15 Volunteer Patrollers from Southern California to Mammoth Mountain. Also in attendance were five member of the National Certified Committee made up of Division Certified Supervisors. Steve Kuller led our group. Work was completed on the Certified Study Guide for the National Ski Patrol. Mike Laney was in attendance and had a significant contribution to the Certified Study Guide. The study guide is now in review with Carrie Click and Darcy Hanley. Volunteer and Part Time Paid Patroller from Sugar Bowl, David Galson, reached full certification through the Association of Professional Patrollers. I will work with him for cross certification in the National Ski Patrol.

I have continued to be involved with conference calls regarding Certified at the national level of the National Ski Patrol. Steve Kuller, National Certified Program Director, is chairing this effort. The goal is to create a more consistent Certified program nationally and get it advertised and supported at the national level. Information is available at www.nsp.org. There also is a Certified calendar showing all certified events throughout the nation.



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The challenge for Certified still remains in communicating the opportunity available for Patrollers. The Far West Division and the National Office are sharing information on their websites about the Certified Program. This has helped tremendously. The training available in the certified area is at the highest level we have currently for Patrollers. There is some confusion within the Certified Program in the Far West Division. This comes from the fact that the Association of Professional Patrollers works in conjunction with the National Ski Patrol to provide training, testing and certify Volunteer Patrollers. This organization during my involvement since the spring of 1985 has always had a large participation from Volunteer Patrollers. This is true even with the professional title of the organization. I am glad that the Far West Division Winter Education Conference was back this season as a venue. This event has added a lot to encourage more Volunteer Patrollers to become candidates for the Certified Program. I feel we can do more to attract Volunteer Patrollers into the Certified Program. One thought relayed to the National Certified Committee is to e-blast Senior Patrollers.