



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

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION REPORT
FAR WEST DIVISION
Don Harris, Region Director
August, 2013

This season, 2012 – 2013, Southern California Region has again increased in both registered patrollers and patrols. The Region's current registration is 640 patrollers, including registered professionals; up 48 over last season. The Region also added 1 new Patrol, San Gabriel Mountains Back Country, serving the **San Gabriel Mountains area**.

Snow pack this season was marginal at best; despite showing early promises, winter weather throughout Southern California was very mild causing shortened ski and resort seasons.

So Cal Region hosted several Clinics this season for Avalanche, Mountaineering and the Senior and Certified Programs throughout the Region, including at Las Vegas. One of our field trips for the Avalanche I class traveled to Mammoth area to conduct its weekend Field Session; there was not enough snow in our local resorts.

An OEC class series began in March in the Big Bear area. Recruiting appears to be down overall compared to last season's level; and of the new recruits, there seems to be reluctance to sign-up for the OEC classes. There are 6 recruits in the current class, which started in March. Preliminary registration shows only 6 recruits signed up so far for new classes. Our Board is puzzled by a seeming lack of commitment by recruits to upcoming training classes. However, we remain committed to exploring new and other opportunities to market NSP and recruit interested skiers and boarders into the Programs.

Mammoth Basin Patrol worked a bi-Athlon event in Mammoth in March which was extremely successful and well-attended.

Members of the Region worked as First Responders at many off-mountain events this season, including **Stunt-Tacular** benefitting the Children's Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Polar Plunge in Big Bear. **Karen Wentworth**, our Big Bear Section Chief, has taken the position of Paid Patrol Director at Snow Valley, and we wish her the best.

This year's Region Awards Banquet was held June 1st in a gorgeous outdoor setting at the base of Angeles National Forest on the private property of a non-Patroller and friend of the Region Director. We had an amazing turn-out of 202, including our special guests Bill Gibson and Tom Sherry. I want to acknowledge and offer my sincere thanks to the Region Members and spouses who helped to make this year's event so successful.

Submitted,

By Don Harris, Region Director