

February 21, 2013
Program Supervisor Report for Certified
Michael Nolen
Far West Division Certified Program Supervisor

There has currently been one Certified event this season in the Far West Division. This clinic was at Mt. Shasta Ski Park. 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 through Brett Lutz of the National Weather Service out of Medford, Oregon. The field session was Snow Pit Analysis presented by CJ Sveta from the Association of Professional Patrollers Board. 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.

There are four other Certified events this winter and spring.

1. Far West Division Winter Education Conference (75 Year Gala Weekend) at Northstar, March 8 and 10, 2013. This is 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. Scott Hoffman and Keith Tatsukawa will host the certified portion of this event. I will be returning on Saturday, March 9, 2013 from two Certified Clinics. The first at Angel Fire, New Mexico and the second at Schweitzer, Idaho.
2. I will host 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 is set up as "Explosives 101" training. It is particularly oriented towards Volunteer Ski Patrollers and Patrollers that are from mountains without an Avalanche Mitigation Program. Three Volunteer Patrollers from Lake Tahoe have already registered for the seminar. We expect to have 25 participants. Mark Giebel, Southern California Certified Advisor, has been contacted to send Patrollers up to this event. His group is heavily involved in the Certified Program. This information has been presented to the Mother Lode Region during a Board Meeting.
3. There will be a Certified Clinic at Mt. Baldy and Snow Summit on Friday through Sunday, March 22 to 24, 2013.
4. The Spring Clinic will be at Mammoth Mountain April 29 through May 3, 2013. This clinic attracts participants from throughout the division and beyond. Roughly 200 are expected to come.

I have been 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.

I will be traveling outside the division to New Mexico for a Mid-Winter Clinic at Angel Fire and one at Schweitzer, Idaho. No expenses to the Far West Division will be incurred.

The budget remaining for Certified is \$721.54. A Mt. Shasta Ski Park Certified Clinic Expense Report will be turned in for \$138.46 immediately. Reports will be turned in for Mt. Rose and the Mammoth Mountain Spring Clinic following these events.

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 is back this season as a venue. This event has added a lot to encourage more Volunteer Patrollers to become candidates for the Certified Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Nolen
Far West Division Certified Supervisor

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