

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION REPORT

Don Harris, Region Director

Summer, 2014

Southern California Region experienced a decline in registered patrollers this past 2013-2014 season. The loss of approximately 50 patrollers can be attributed to “aging out”, injuries, and others with work-related issues.

2013 showed early promise with good rainfall and snowfall in October; however, since, and as has been well-publicized in the news media, snow pack this season was marginal at best. Some hills in Southern California never opened, for instance, Mt. Pinos, while others closed early, including Mountain High which closed February 23rd. As a result of our warmer than normal winter temperatures, snow making also proved challenging.

Las Vegas hosted an Avalanche I class, and our So Cal Region hosted two Avalanche I classes and one Avalanche II class this season. Some Mountaineering classes had to be cancelled due to lack of sign-ups and poor snow conditions. One of our Avalanche classes again traveled to Mammoth area to conduct its weekend Field Session – due to lack of snow in our local resorts.

An OEC class series was conducted beginning in late March 2014 in the Big Bear area, with at least 18 students signed up. The Region is looking forward to more OEC classes beginning in the summer.

Southern California Region continues to explore new and other opportunities to market NSP and recruit interested skiers and boarders into the NSP Programs. We conducted informational seminars at two REI locations – San Diego and Rancho Cucamonga – in November 2013; they successfully generated interest and candidates. We hope to be able to repeat these seminars and expand this program to other REIs this coming season.

This year’s Region Awards Banquet was held June 7th at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley.

This is the end of my third and last term as Region Director for the Southern California Region. It has been an interesting, at times challenging, but generally rewarding experience to have served in this capacity for the last six years. I wish my successor, Diana St. Clair, much success and reward as she steps up to be our Director.

Respectfully submitted By Don Harris — Immediate Past Region Director