

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION REPORT

Don Harris, Region Director

Winter, 2014

Southern California Region has experienced a decline in registered patrollers this 2013-2014 season; an approximate loss of 50 patrollers, some of which are “aging out”, some due to injuries, and others with work-related issues.

2013 showed early promise with good rainfall and snowfall in October; however, since then, and as has been well-publicized in the news media, snow pack this season has been marginal at best. Some hills in So Cal never opened, for instance, Mt. Pinos, while others are closing early, including Mountain High which closed February 23rd. For certain resorts during the last 3 months, snow making has been challenging due to inclimate high temperatures.

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

An OEC class series will begin in Late March 2014 in the Big Bear area, with at least 18 students already signed up. Hopefully more OEC classes will begin in the summer. Sadly most of 2013’s summer sessions were cancelled due to lack of participation.

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; they successfully generated interest and candidates. We hope to be able to repeat these seminars and expand this program to other REIs this next season.

This year’s Region Awards Banquet will be held June 7th at a golf course at Mountain Square Park in Fountain Valley.

This is the end of the 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.

Submitted,

By Don Harris

Region Director