

Join Far West ski patrollers, family, April, 2019, for first-aid, marshal services at US's largest cycling event!

Huge Sea Otter Bike Classic located at Laguna Seca Raceway, CA, April 11-14, 2019

For the 13th year, 50 Far West Division ski patrollers, family and friends provided first-aid service, non-emergency transport and course marshaling at the Sea Otter Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, CA, the USA's largest outdoor biking event.

This four-day bicycling extravaganza attracts 10,000 participants ranging from world-class pro riders to serious amateurs and recreational cyclists. Over the four days, riders take part in circuit racing, cross-country events, wild downhill and dual slalom racing and citizens road and cross-country rides. Each year, NSP members provide first-aid care to over 200 riders, from incidents of road rash and exhaustion to more serious trauma-induced injuries.

Over 70,000 spectators crowd the huge venue, which spreads out from Laguna Seca Raceway into the scenic back country of the Ft. Ord National Monument and, for the road races, along roads through Monterey County. 450 trade show vendors make for the largest market in the country for cycling equipment and accessories.

In 2018, the Dodge Ridge Patrol led in volunteer numbers, with 27 members and friends/family (providing

marshaling services), joined by patrollers from Bear Valley, Mt. Shasta, Sugar Bowl and Heavenly Valley ski patrols. Each year our NSP contingent pairs with members of the Friends of Fort Ord and members of a back-country first-aid unit, as well as Monterey County Fire Services.

NSP members and friends camp at "Ski Patrol Central" within the event, enjoy Friday and Saturday barbecues, find time to ride their bikes, attend the huge trade show and make new NSP friends! For their volunteer service, the Sea Otter Foundation donates almost \$5,000 to patrols of the NSP volunteers.

Patrollers, family and friends are **offered free camping** right in the Laguna Seca paddock at Ski Patrol Central as well as **and free admission**. Motorhomes, camping trailers and tents make for cozy accommodations and **Friday and Saturday NSP barbecues** add camaraderie and fun to the experience!

The Far West Division invites members of Far West patrols to join us for the next huge event! For more insight into the event itself, go to seaotterclassic.com.

Mark your calendars, April 11-14, 2019; to volunteer or for more info, call or email Tim Viall, Coordinator for NSP Volunteers for the Sea Otter Classic, at tviall@msn.com, or 209.969.3875.



Clockwise from top left, the FWD first aid crew for the backcountry courses prepare to depart for assignments, hundreds of vendors display bikes and everything for the cycling sport at huge trade fair; NSP and BETA team members (Bicycle Equestrian Trail Assistance volunteers, in orange vests/shirts) and tents, motorhomes made for cozy evenings at "Ski Patrol Central". Join the NSP team in April for NSP service and fun!

