



Pablo Pszemia-Rower, Assistant Manager at Robles Catedral, San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina holds the NSP flag with Frank Shoemaker, FWD Registrar on November 7, 1994. Lago Nahuel Huapi is in the background. According to Frank, there wasn't much snow but the hospitality was great, and he's offered to assist any southern-bound ski bums in finding employment at the nearby inn at Llao-Llao.

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# PATROLLER

# PEEK

NATIONAL  
SKI  
PATROL

1995 WINTER EDITION VOL.16, No. 2

## CLIFF'S CONNECTION: LIGHTNING STRIKES THE NSP

by Cliff Chewning  
Division Director

It is starting off to being a fantastic season for skiing (at least in the Sierra Nevada). The measurements in feet of snow, not inches, is reported by the news services following every storm passing through California and Nevada. Here in the south, things are still a bit lean, but very cold. Snow guns are keeping the major resorts running at full capacity. Anyway, let's hope for the best in 1995.

Lightning bolts were flashing and thunder was blasting all around a National Board of Directors meeting held at Chicago's Holiday Inn, Elk Grove, last October. Oh, it might have been the planes passing overhead on their final approach to O'Hare. All kidding aside, this was a special "retreat" meeting called by Jack Mason and approved by the BOD for the sole purpose of reviewing the future direction of the NSP. An outside facilitator, Grace McGartland, author of the book *Thunderbolt Thinking* and a professional consultant, guided us through the process of forging a *Vision* into the 21st century for the NSP. This was followed with the creation of a new *Mission* which strikes at the heart and soul of the organization, our MEMBERS. Strategic plans were discussed which will enable the Board to act in a financially prudent manner at the upcoming mid-winter meeting in January. Since this is a bold new way of conducting business, a uniform method of communication will be developed before we take the vision or mission to the slopes.

Grace did a fantastic job of channeling the talent, dedication, sincerity, and egos of 30 of the most diverse, and sometimes stubborn, members of the NSP to reach a consensus. By dividing into groups to develop ideas then changing groups to examine other groups' ideas, a total picture could be formed. She would not let us leave any topic or idea until ALL agreed and bought into it. We would discuss, compromise, and sometimes change ideas before moving on. It is the first time as a member of the BOD that all of us agreed on any major/significant conception. Grace's actions and methods indeed did create a "Thunderbolt" way of thinking. I would encourage you all to read her book and revolutionize your way of decision making and planning for the future.

Ray, Tom, and myself, as representatives of the Far West Division membership, are in accord with and support thoroughly the rest of the Board on the adoption of the *Vision 2000* and new *Mission Statement* of the NSP. We look for great things to happen in the future. I hope by the time you read this Peek article you will have seen the new directions established and be thinking into the next century. Complete and uniform explanations will be mailed to all 27,000+ members soon.

This will not affect our recently developed FWD Mission Statement. It was written to dovetail into the direction passed down from the National level. I still think it needs to be examined annually to keep pace with our ever-changing organization and industry. Any ideas or thoughts you might have which would strengthen or broaden the scope of our organization can be passed on to any officer or myself. No idea is too crazy.

On a more local note, the recent merging of the Bay Area Region with the Eastern Sierra Region was a positive move. This will allow for the maximum delivery of Divisional services to the membership. Tim O'Brien, Walt Singletary, and their respective officer staffs are to be commended. The FWD Board will continue to examine possible mergers and realignments that best suit the needs of the membership, industry, and area management.

There is an election for FWD officers coming this winter, including my position. Please take the time to vote when the ballot comes. The worst message sent to elected members of a volunteer organization is one of apathy. When only 60% of the "elected" voting representatives in the FWD (Patrol Directors, Section Chiefs, Region Directors) return their ballot, they are NOT putting forth your feelings and ideas. Do something about it and change!! Speak your mind to your elected representative and be heard.

For those wishing to expand your methods of communication, be sure to check into getting on the "superhighway". Jeff Gile is doing a great job of keeping an up to date e-mail address directory of NSP and FWD members. It is the wave of the future. Most home PCs with a modem will allow you access to the Internet. If you have questions regarding which service to use or how to sign up, give Jeff a call.

The mid-winter FWD meeting was held on February 4, 1995. A full report will follow in the next issue of the *Patroller Peek*. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new advisors to the FWD and to thank Roseanne Jankowski for a job well done. Have a safe and enjoyable winter. See you on the slopes, I hope.

### FWD Announces New Advisors

**Training Advisor**  
Jennifer Bryan  
3879 Cashill Boulevard  
Reno, NV 89509  
hm: (702) 322-1190

**WEC South Supervisor**  
Karen Wentworth  
6086 Orange Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
hm: (714) 821-8786



# BEHIND THE SCENES

## AT THE OCTOBER SPECIAL SESSION

by Ray Bryan, Assistant Division Director

Elsewhere in this issue you will probably find information about the vision and mission statements that resulted from the special session of the National Board of Directors held in October. Many of us at this session realized that these statements lose much of their meaning without an understanding of how they were developed, or how it is hoped they will guide our organization. The mission, for example, is intended to be a living document that may benefit from some better wording, and will be continually evolving to match the direction we want to send the organization. The important measure will be how these concepts are used to direct decisions and change in our organization.

I believe the most important things accomplished at this session were building consensus within the board, **creating some redefinitions**, and the major soul searching and free thinking that took place behind the scenes. Without coming to consensus, the reluctance to make tough decisions that existed at last summer's annual meeting would likely continue. Redefinitions put back in focus things like who "we" are and who are the customers. An old perception was that "we" were a national organization and the members were the customers. The new definitions say "we" are an organization of 27,000 members, and the customers are the ski and outdoor recreation community. You are the "we". But, without a doubt, the accomplishments of this session most difficult to measure will be the effects from all the little things. Look at the emerging interest in the outdoor recreation community. The concept doesn't do much for me personally since my involvement centers around skiing. But for others this is a big deal as many ski areas are becoming year round, multi-activity destinations. A growing number of our members are working with their ski areas to provide safety services for non-ski activities. Is this a concept that we will keep as part of our organization, or will it prove to be a poor fit and better left to some other organization to pursue?

The informal conversation I found myself in on the evening of my arrival gives a little more flavor of the types of exploration that took place behind the scenes. One of the board members started contrasting the NSP with membership organizations that support other professions. Most of us were able to offer information about our professional organizations such as engineers', accountants', electricians', the medical field, and others. One of the primary things that these professional organizations **provide is standards for their particular disciplines**. Standards are set by the members for the benefit of the members. Created by the foremost authorities in their respective industries, these become the accepted standards. Membership in one of these organizations associates you with these high standards, and provides a degree of professional recognition and respect. Although the NSP is similarly positioned in its industry segment, we tend to be very **timid in our standard setting activities**. We historically tend to follow the industry rather than take on more of a leadership role. Our new vision sees us as a **leader for the future**.

Imagine an area operator giving a deposition about the standards used to transport injured skiers down the mountain. Scenario #1; "Well, Joe takes our rookie patrollers out for a couple of toboggan runs and teaches them what he knows. Then they basically figure the rest of it out on their own." I bet the plaintiff's attorney will want the jury to hear that testimony. Scenario #2; "We train our patrollers to the standards set by the National Ski Patrol, an organization with 27,000 members and over 50 years of patrolling background." The operator's attorney smiles.

Probably our best established standard today is WEC. The entire membership, regardless of other training, is required to meet the WEC standards unless they are classified as a candidate. You may recall that one of the reasons for this uniformity is so the skier receives one standard of care regardless of which patroller is attending to their injuries. It may be all smoke and mirrors, but it does provide a good answer to the question "why were my injuries treated by someone with advanced first aid, and his by an emergency medical technician?" Elimination of double standards has contributed to the trend for NSP membership and WEC as ski area policy.

The potential exists for the NSP to take a more aggressive role in setting industry standards as they relate to ski patrolling. **No other organization in support of patrollers has our numbers, resources, or recognition**. Some observed that we either need to set the standards, or someone else will set them for us. I saw overtones of this conversation impact many of the discussions over the next two days, and I can see some of it in the resulting vision and mission statements. The same can likely be said for other informal discussions. The impact that all of this will have on the future of the NSP remains to be seen.

## PATROLLER PEEK

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**Division Director: Cliff Chewning**

Editor: Teri Reynolds

Advertising is being accepted for the *Patroller Peek*. If you have a message that you would like to have directed to the patrollers of the Far West Division and would like to help subsidize the printing cost of the *Patroller Peek*, you may place an ad based on the following rates:

Full Page	\$180
Half Back Page	\$125
Half Page	\$100
Quarter Page	\$60
Business Card	\$25

### Change of Address:

National Ski Patrol  
133 S. Van Gordon Street, Suite 100  
Lakewood, CO 80228

### Deadlines:

May 1  
September 1  
January 1

Articles will be selected for publication based on Divisional applicability. Articles may be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity and brevity, but not for content. Letters to the editor will be accepted for publication only if accompanied by a patroller's name and number. To submit an article, send a hard copy and a computer disk, if possible (any format). Black and white photos are preferred, but color photos will also be accepted.



# 1995 FAR WEST DIVISION CALENDAR

	Date	Event	Location	Contact
MARCH	4	Senior WEC Training	Donner Ski Ranch	Tom Brennan
	4-5	Nordic Senior Clinic & Evaluation	Donner Ski Ranch	John Kretschmann
	11	Nordic Ski & Toboggan Clinic	Donner Ski Ranch	John Kretschmann
	15-17	Senior Training Clinic	Squaw Valley	Bill Hassett
	18	Senior WEC Evaluation	Sugar Bowl	Tom Brennan
	18-19	Nordic Senior Clinic & Evaluation	Sugar Bowl	John Kretschmann
	18-20	Advanced Mountaineering Field Trip	TBD	Mike Laurance
	25	Nordic Ski & Toboggan Clinic	Mt. Pinos	John Kretschmann
	25-1	International Patrolling Seminar	Italy	Jeff Gile
	APRIL	8	Nordic Ski & Toboggan Clinic	Sierra Summit
AUGUST	3-5	Far West Division Summer Meeting	Rio Bravo	Tom Vanella
	11-20	New Zealand Patrol Seminar	New Zealand, Tahiti	Chuck Herbert

### Telephone Numbers for Contacts Listed Above

Tom Brennan	(209) 521-0209
Jeff Gile	(916) 773-0425
Bill Hassett	(415) 591-7320
Chuck Herbert	(415) 456-9214
John Kretschmann	(415) 592-7697
Tom Vanella	(916) 891-5200

## New Zealand Seminar

by Chuck Herbert  
Awards Advisor

Two stimulating ski experiences have been set up expressly for members of the Far West Division. The trip to New Zealand is scheduled for August 1995 and the one to France and Switzerland for February-March 1996. These seminars will permit us to learn about patrol work and skiing in other parts of the world so that we may be better patrollers at our home areas.

### NEW ZEALAND

There has been considerable pent-up demand for a seminar to the "land down under". Because New Zealand is in the southern hemisphere with reversed seasons you will not even miss any ski time at home when we go this coming summer! Be prepared for a totally different experience. Kiwis are a very spontaneous group who do things in their own way, mostly with great zest. The country is unique and of great beauty. The bus trip from Christchurch to Queenstown will give us a taste for the region with its great sheep stations. We will have the opportunity to ski some of the famous glaciers like the Tasman and the magnificent powder fields of the Southern Lakes Mountains. We will share experiences with patrollers at ski areas like Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, Cadrona and Treble Cone. The week of August 11 to August 20 is one of the best for snow.

Since most of us are not likely to make too many trips to the South Pacific in our life time, we are offering another opportunity on the way back. An optional stopover in Tahiti will allow bare boat sailing, diving or just relaxing during the week of August 20-27. Sailing will be out of Raiatea while the snorkelers and divers will be at the Bali Hai Resort on Moorea. We will also spend two nights in exotic Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia.

The basic New Zealand trip will cost \$1995 while the Tahiti stopover will cost \$695. The sailing may vary a bit, depending on the number of people per boat. If interested, promptly contact Chuck Herbert at (415-456-4295) or Fax (415-332-0957).

### FRANCE-SWITZERLAND

The next issue of the *Patroller Peek* will have more information on this exciting trip, planned for early 1996.

\* KAYAKING \* TENNIS \* RAFTING \* HIKING \*

## The Far West Division invites ALL to the Summer Meeting '95

at the  
**Rio Bravo Resort**  
Bakersfield, California  
August 3-6, 1995

Same reasonable rates as last  
year!  
\$50/night, single  
\$55/night, double

Same fun time as last year!

\* WATER SKIING \* FUN \* VOLLEYBALL \*



## Phase II Update

by Bud Dow  
Ski & Toboggan Advisor

Obviously, the 1994-95 ski season has jumped off to a great start. Mother Nature has already dumped a season's worth of snow on most areas and is promising to send even more. Each region has (or should have) one or more Alpine Toboggan Instructor courses scheduled, and the regional instructor trainer-trainers have identified and are training their new candidates for Instructor Trainer (I.T.) positions.

The status of the Skiing: Phase II still remains quite a bit of a mystery. At "Powderfall '94" during the Skiing: Phase II seminars held there, several options were discussed. These spanned the spectrum from (1) a 'stand-alone' 12 to 16 hour course in the same format as the Alpine Toboggan course, to (2) a 4 hour unit to be included with or added to the Alpine Toboggan course, and finally (3) a "cover the things 'they' need to drive toboggans as the need arises" approach. Not a very clear picture?! The prevailing opinion seemed to be about evenly split between the 12 to 16 hour course and the 4 hour unit approach. At this time the folks in Denver still haven't sent us a clear message or a program.

What are we doing about Skiing: Phase II here in the Far West Division? Well let me tell you! We have scheduled four "Skiing and Snowboarding Clinics" to be held at various hospitable locations around the division. Bud Dow along with Paul Romero (FWD Snowboard Advisor) will be conducting these clinics in a parallel fashion to bring the skiing standards to the snowboarders, and at the same time demonstrate to the alpine skiers that the criteria and standards for skiing can be applied directly to snowboards simply by changing the titles. These clinics will attempt to deliver our best version of the Skiing: Phase II course, or at least what it may become.

The first of these clinics is already in the books. It was held in the Tahoe/Donner Pass area on the weekend of December 17-18. Saturday we worked our way around Boreal Ridge, then on Sunday we "popped-over" the ridge (literally) to Donner Ski Ranch to put on a repeat performance at that area. Instructor Trainers from the Eastern Sierra Regions and the Mother Lode regions were invited to attend either or both sessions, whichever was most convenient for them.

Our second clinic will be held at the Dodge Ridge Ski Area just up from the town of Sonora. This clinic will be (was) conducted the weekend of February 11-12. All interested TOBOGGAN INSTRUCTOR TRAINERS are enthusiastically invited. Region Directors may recommend others on a space available basis only. All I.T.s and patrollers interested in participating MUST contact Mike Lawrence at (209) 527-1213 to confirm your reservations and assure your reserved parking space.

Later clinics will probably be held in the Central Region and the Southern California Region (most likely at Sierra Summit and Snow Summit). The exact details of these programs have not yet been worked out.

There you have it in a nutshell! The Alpine Toboggan course is going well, the new Snowboarding program is enjoying widespread acceptance, and the Skiing: Phase II is ... well, coming along. All division Toboggan I.T.s need to send in their rosters to the National office, and please also send a copy to Bud. Any Regions or "combined" Regions who are conducting Senior Programs should send that information to Bud also. That's it for now. May the "dry fluffy stuff" keep falling.

## WEC News

by Tom Brennan  
WEC North Advisor

With the ski season well upon us I hope everyone has completed their fall refreshers and all of the new WEC class records have been sent to the National Office. This is a good time for a reminder that without proper documentation through the National Office you and your ski area run a larger risk of liability in the event of a legal action. I realize that we are a volunteer organization and a bunch of good people trying to help, but legally and procedurally we are still required to have our documentation completed. This responsibility rests with all of us: the new candidate, the patroller, the WEC instructor and the Patrol Director. The WEC Instructor of Record for any program is required to submit the class records to the National Office within two weeks of completion. As a WEC class graduate you should receive your "Winter Emergency Care Technician" card about two weeks after the class record was submitted. If you did not, contact the person who was the instructor of record for information. The final check in the line of responsibility will be the Patrol Director. Before anyone can become a National Ski Patroller they must have a WEC card. If a new candidate/patroller does not have one, assume it does not exist. Lost cards can be replaced through the National Office for a \$5.00 processing fee. There is another check in the system that comes from the National Office every spring: the "Delinquent Report". The delinquent report goes to Patrol Directors and WEC Administrative Staff and shows all currently registered members of your patrol and the current status of their WEC records. If there is information missing then it needs to be found. This may be due to missing class records, data entry error, missed class/refresher or dues payment not having been recorded. Vivian at the National Office can be a valuable resource when tracking down this type of missing information.

The State of California has made some changes in the recertification process of people with EMT-1A certificates. The new program is modeled after the paramedic program which allows for two year certification with testing every four years. To accomplish this an EMT must now complete 24 units of continuing education (C.E.) during each two year period. This documentation would be verified for renewal at the EMT's local State EMS Agency.

Through the "Alpine, Mother Lode, San Joaquin Emergency Medical Services Agency," the NSPS F.W.D. - North has just been approved as a continuing education provider. What all of this means is that for any of our members who are EMT-1A's you can receive C.E. credits for our fall WEC refreshers. Over a two year certification period this would not provide enough hours for a complete recertification. An EMT will still need to work with their local EMS Agency for additional C.E. credits. For this to work I will need to continue to maintain accurate, up-to-date records of our WEC instructors. I will work out a procedure so the instructor of record can forward the necessary completion records to me, in order that proper certificates may be issued. Records involving C.E. credits, instructors and classes have to be maintained on a four year basis. Once we have this up and running we can look at the possibility of expanding our C.E. program to include additional training; i.e., Senior WEC. SIDE NOTE: there were no provisions made in the new state regulations to allow modular building for WEC to EMT-1A.

## Regions Merge Alumni Set Goals

by Jack Moscovitz  
Southern California Region Alumni Advisor  
Far West Division Alumni Advisor



by Walt Singletary  
Eastern Sierra Region Director

With a handshake and an exchange of letters of understanding, the last Region consisting entirely of metro patrols has become a part of National Ski Patrol history. The Bay Area Region, which has supplied patrollers to resorts in the Sierras for longer than anyone can remember, merged with the Eastern Sierra Region on December 1, 1994.

Six months of negotiations were required of Bay Area Director Tim O'Brien and Eastern Sierra Director Walt Singletary and their boards to conclude the agreement which resulted in the consolidation, with Bay Area Region patrols and sections remaining intact as presently organized. Tim O'Brien was appointed Assistant Director of the Eastern Sierra Region and will chair a committee to study the possibility of renaming the Region to more accurately reflect its geographical service area. Four members of the Bay Area Region have already been appointed to positions on the staff of the Eastern Sierra Region and more are anticipated as full consolidation takes place.

This consolidation reflects a long standing reality that the two Regions were already one in everything except name. Both have long traditions of patrolling the same resorts, holding WEC refreshers together and participating in jointly organized and sponsored Senior training and evaluations. The consolidation eliminates the duplication of administrative effort, provides for a single set of discipline advisors and will result in both financial and man-hour savings.

The Alumni Association provides an opportunity for "vintage" patrollers or patrollers with a temporary need to become inactive. An Alumni Member continues to receive Divisional and National publications. Annual dues are \$15. In addition, alumni may support their local patrol with ski swaps, fund raising, PR activities, as a WEC instructor (so long as they maintain certification), etc. ...

You will find the newly developed Mission Statement and Goals of the Alumni Association listed below. For an application, please contact your Region's Alumni Advisor or drop a note to me at the following address:

Jack S. Moscovitz  
2890 Woodwardia Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90077

### MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a program designed to meet the needs of patrollers who, for various reasons, are unable to remain on active status, yet wish to retain contact with Ski patrol processes, activities and friends.

### GOALS

- An Alumni Advisor in each Region, selected by Region leadership.
- Increase Association membership by 10%.
- Gather and publish reports of successful Division Alumni Association activities.
- An Alumni coordinator in each patrol to maintain a directory of Alumni members and to coordinate (communicate) activities with the patrol.

## e-mail directory

by Jeff Gile, jrgile@netcom.com

Thank you for your responses to my request for e-mail addresses. We now have about 80 addresses from Far West patrollers in our directory. The response was good enough that we have set up a test retrieval system. Norman Bookstein of Tahoe Area Nordic Patrol is our test system postmaster. If you would like to retrieve the list, send a message to: fwest-roster@mail.skipatrol.org and it will be returned to you automatically in a few minutes. If you would like to be added to the list, send a message to me and we will add you to the directory. Let me know what you think.

### In Memoriam

John Kane, a member of Bear Mountain Ski Patrol, was killed in a skiing accident on January 14, 1995. The accident occurred at Bear Mountain Ski Resort, in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California. The *Patroller Peek* would like to extend the sympathies of the Far West Division to his family.

by John Kretschmann  
Nordic Advisor

## Nordic/Snowmo Cooperation?

So how about this early snow season? I know it caught a lot of patrollers and patrol management off guard as we found ourselves hustling with early season preparations trying to get required training completed and patrollers signed up for patrol days. I feel we owe a great deal of gratitude to our illustrious Mother Lode region director Daryl Witcher for our seasonal good fortune. Daryl was closing a fall meeting, and asked all those present if we would take a moment to bow our heads and repeat after him, which we all diligently did, and then in some fashion of prayer we repeated some whimsical words of hope and encouragement to the "Great Snow Gods". I don't recall the exact verbiage we recited; however, whatever it was it sure worked. Thanks Daryl.

By now our Nordic patrols will have completed the "On-The-Trails" and have settled down to some degree of normalcy. Early season cross-country skier use has been running at record numbers, which should come as no surprise considering this magnificent early snowfall. It has put increased demand on our patrollers, but we've adjusted to the needs.

This season the Nordics will be putting increased emphasis on advanced backcountry survival, rescue, and skiing skills. Goals have been set towards advancing Mountaineering Instructors and promoting qualified patrollers to "Nordic Senior" status. A workshop at the recent Yosemite Tri-Advisory meeting presented the forum patrollers will follow towards Nordic Senior. Interested patrollers need to consult with their respective patrol directors to acquire a Senior Manual and application.

Nordic Senior candidates have three years following their approved application to complete all required modules. A breakdown of the specific requirements are detailed in the Senior Manual. I have scheduled a series of clinics and an evaluation this season for one of the required modules, "Ski & Toboggan" handling. Please see the Far West Division Calendar on page 7 for date and location. Patrol directors are asked to work with their potential candidates on the required ski & toboggan skills prior to the clinics and evaluation, and ensure that candidate applications are completed promptly with a copy forwarded to me.

I'm encouraged by the interest shown toward this personal achievement goal. As we know, there are no significant "perks" or "incentives" to entice the Nordic patroller toward this outstanding accomplishment. For the most part it's being recognized as one of National Ski Patrol's finest patrollers. A personal goal which brings extraordinary satisfaction to those who strive to endure its arduous trials and tribulations.

As I travel around to various Nordic patrols I'm reminded how different each patrol area really is. Nordic patrols differ in topography, management and public contact. One patrol may operate within a popular resort with set track, skating lanes, and snow play areas while others exist in the solitude of the deepest wilderness on totally un-groomed trails with minimal markings and control. One area may have to deal with incidents in a parking lot, and another with the severity of exposure injuries, survival and avalanches.

I recently attended a meeting with the Lake Alpine Nordic Ski Patrol and its Director, Jeff Myll, where another variable was added to our vast array of peculiarities: snowmobiles! Yes, those noisy, smelly, exhaust belching behemoths intruding into the peaceful tranquility of the cross-country skier's winter backcountry. The Forest Service, in managing public lands, is trying to uphold the

motto of "Land of Many Uses". As such they have allowed snowmobile routes throughout forest service lands. These routes are shared by the cross-country skier as well as the snowmobile traveler, and as such the potential for confrontation in this "shared trails" situation does exist.

This meeting, attended by the Forest Service, Toulumne County Sheriff's office, National Ski Patrol and several leaders from various snowmobile clubs was called to discuss existing as well as potential difficulties and to set goals and objectives towards a cooperative management plan with existing winter visitors and agencies in the area. Resulting highlights from this meeting include:

- 1) A cooperative patrolling agreement with the snowmobile clubs utilizing their trained members to patrol snowmobile trails. They will work toward educating other snowmobile users in proper and safe operational procedures, and adhering to established protocols when operating snowmobiles within pedestrian traffic areas.
- 2) National Ski Patrol WEC instructors will offer "Mini-WEC" classes to snowmobile patrollers, providing them with basic "First Responder" capabilities.
- 3) The Lake Alpine Nordic Ski Patrol, along with the U.S. Forest Service will accelerate the expansion and marking of new cross-country skier trails to attract skiers away from busy snowmobile routes.
- 4) In conjunction with the Toulumne County Sheriff's Department, the Lake Alpine Nordic Patrol will train and familiarize their members for search and rescue response. They will participate in joint SAR exercises with the Sheriff's Department, and other SAR agencies in the area.

This is an exciting direction for Nordic patrollers. We are trained in winter travel, emergency response and rescue. As such we should be recognized as a viable resource to California's winter SAR teams. Cooperative training with other recognized SAR teams and county agencies will assist in that direction. As for the snowmobile, before we cast them off as a terrible nuisance, an infringement to the peace and quiet of winter in the backcountry, we need to remember that they can be our best friend, a vital life line to safety when we are confronted with disaster and in need of expeditious evacuation of an injured person. And how many of us wished for that snowmobile when we found ourselves breaking through 2 feet of new heavy snow. A "Land of Many Uses", we can set the example as good neighbors; there's room for all of us.

The Lake Tahoe Area Nordic patrol is now operating with more than 70 patrollers and candidates. They have the monumental task of trying to cover the enormous Tahoe basin. They have been concentrating primarily on Castle Peak and Tahoe Meadows, two extremely popular areas. However, Mike Kelly, patrol director, informs me they now have picked up a third area, Galena Creek, in the vicinity of Mt. Rose. I understand this is advanced backcountry skiing territory, and Mike will be using his most advanced patrollers here.

So that's it for now; senior candidates get your applications in ASAP, and as you travel around why not give one of your associate Nordic patrols a call and sign on for a weekend or day of patrol duty. You may find that the most beautiful winter terrain may not necessarily be in your own backyard, and the camaraderie can be most rewarding. See you on the trails.



Diamond Peak Patrol and Sky Tavern Patrol held a combined Dry Land Refresher in November. These two patrols, plus some other patrollers who couldn't make their own refreshers, accounted for an overflow crowd at the Sky Tavern Day Lodge.

The WEC session of the refresher was held during the first heavy snowfall of the year for the Mt. Rose area of Nevada. At the end of the day the instructors staged a disaster where there were twice the number of victims as there were rescuers. This was a mock earthquake which included an explosion and fire in the kitchen area.

The second day was devoted to lectures; new insurance form, OSHA regulations, AIDS and Hepatitis B precautions, shots, etc. ... and finished off with lift evacuation.

Instructors of record were Jennifer Bryan for Sky Tavern Patrol and Tish Hicksted for Diamond Peak.

