



Far West Division News and Views

News and Views of the Far West Division, NSP; www.farwest.org, February, 2019 Volume Eleven, Issue 1



Lance Vaughan, FWD Director

The end of January often brings a pineapple express, making the remainder of the ski season a bit of work and reminding us the fun we find chasing gravity on powder days.

While we enjoy the fresh snow, fun, sun, groomers and helping those who find themselves in a sticky spot, please recall we are out on the mountain to volunteer our skills and knowledge as working patrollers. Fun yes, but our first focus is hill prep, risk reduction, and serving the skiing public.

The end of January is often a time when a vital tool for a vibrant patrol community starts to wane. **Communication.** Without proactive communication we quickly lose alignment with our local team. Folks we work best as a team, the paid staff and the volunteer staff. Maintaining alignment keeps the team intact with shared goals and efforts. When I get calls with concerns it is most often due to underutilized communication channels.

Please reflect for a minute as you arrive at your Ski area and ask yourself, "What can I do today to help attain the team goals..." We all must proactively engage and let our actions reflect we share the goals and focus of our local

management team.

Dues --- Please pay both sets of dues: National Dues via the NSP website AND Region and Division dues via your local patrol. Lack of dues payment forces your Patrol Rep into a conversation about your eligibility to patrol.

NSP marks all members not current with dues as Suspended; you can't patrol, can't help communications, and miss out on skiing with your fellow patrollers. Please Region and Division dues are essential to funding the great educational programs mentioned in this newsletter.

Training:

- Mountain Travel Rescue lists training options. Backcountry, side country, back packing, day hikes, or out fishing, you will learn skills that can make your time in the woods more enjoyable.
- Avalanche -- Each year we read of slides catching skiers, snow mobile riders, climbers, even hikers. Thinking of attaining Senior status you will need Avalanche as a required elective.
- Toboggan / OET - Get in a clinic and work on those sled skills, the lack of snow in

Please see Director, cont'd p. 6

Mark your calendars:

See the farwest.org Calendar page for full program-based events in the FWD.

**Far West Winter Meeting, Mar. 2, location TBD.,
Sea Otter Bicycling Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, April 11-14, 2019
Far West Awards Dinner, August, 2019, Davis, TBA**

Continually check out the FWD (and, your own Region's) web site for updated calendar dates.

Submit your events!

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Addresses up-to-date?

Is your mailing address and e-address current with the National office? Remember, the FWD gets its mailing lists and email lists directly from the National office in Denver. If you change your US mail or email address, to to your Member Profile to change, and, notify your own patrol.

Don't miss out on exciting future issues of FWD 'News and Views' and other NSP publications!

FWD News and Views

News of the Far West Division, NSP

Division Director, Lance Vaughan

Asst. Dir., Nancy Stormswold

Asst. Dir., Richard Wilson

Arizona Dir., Andrew Youngblood

Eastern Sierra Dir., Katie Dumont

Mother Lode Dir., Tony Atkins

Northern Cal., Sam Lanier

Professional Rep, Open position

Southern California, Richard Roth

Secretary, Janice Waits

Treasurer, Keith Dickens

Legal Advisor, Geoff Hutcheson

Registrar, Peggy Jamison

Alumni Advisor, Alyson Dutch

Awards Advisor, Bill Gibson

Avalanche Supervisor, Keith Church

Certified Advisor, Lance Vaughan

Community College Advisor, Steve

Thorsted

Conferences Advisor, Sonja Kively

Instructor Devel. Super., Loretta O'Brien

Mountain Travel, Rescue Supervisor,

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Outdoor Emergency Care Supervisor,

Sue Dennison

Outdoor Emergency Transportation

Supervisor, Daryl Whitcher

Recruitment/NorCal, John McGuigan

Recruitment/SoCal, George Tinoco

SAR Liaison, NorCal, Roger Yang

SAR Liaison, SoCal, Mike St. Clair

Woman's Program, Trudy Nye

The FWD News and Views is published three times yearly, in September, December and February. Deadline is the end of the month prior to publication.

Features, photos; send to Tim Viall, fwd-newsletter@farwest.org, or mail to 5854 Turtle Valley Drive, Stockton, CA 95207.

Election results announced!

TO: Far West Division Board and Membership
FROM: Janice Waits, Far West Division, Election Chairperson
SUBJECT: 2019-2021 Election Report

Elections for the offices of Division Director and Assistant Division Director were opened August 13, 2018, with only one nominee for each position being received as of **December 3, 2018** — Nominations were DUE for Division Director and Assistant Division Director Positions. Any nomination or announcement must be accompanied by a one-page resume of the candidate's membership in NSP that demonstrates the candidate's eligibility for office and a one-page statement of the candidate's platform. All nominations, other than self-nominations, must be accompanied by written acceptance of the nomination signed by the nominee.

After an additional one-week, results were given to Lance Vaughan, Division Director per Bylaws **5.4.2.1a**, *If, after nominations are closed there is only one (1) nomination for an office, the single nominee shall be declared elected to the office, and no balloting or other action shall be required. The Division Director and/or Elections Chair shall notify the eligible voters in writing, as soon thereafter as possible. (8/2/14)*

ELECTION RESULTS FOR the JUNE 1, 2019 – MAY 31, 2021 TERMS DIVISION DIRECTOR

2019-2021 Lance Vaughn, Division Director This will be Mr. Vaughn's second full term.

ASSISTANT DIVISION DIRECTOR

2019-2021 Richard Wilson, Assistant Division Director This will be Mr. Wilson's third and final full term."



Welcome to the 2018-2019 ski season!

I can comfortably say the season is in full swing. What a wild start we have had to this one (at least I can speak for the Tahoe Basin areas). Not only crazy traffic and weather, but some firsts too. I must admit I have never been on "lightning hold." That's how last Sunday started and ended on the north shore of Tahoe....what??? Really??? Yep, the season is in full swing.

As January comes to a close, we all need to take a minute and review our profile (www.nsp.org) Is everything current? If not, how do you need to get your profile current? Has appropriate credit been given to you for all the courses you have enrolled in? Have you received credit for the Refresher Cycle B for 2018? If not, you need to work with your resort's patrol representative and let's get it handled. You are responsible for your profile. Please follow the "chain-of-command" when there an adjustment is necessary to your profile. (Your patrol rep first, then region OEC advisor.)

I encourage all patrols to take some time and work on OEC skills. I know a lot of patrols work on their sled skills throughout the year, do we do the same for our OEC skills. I would challenge all resorts to get a schedule put in place to refresh patrollers throughout the season. We want to ensure we're all ready to help our guests when the time comes. Go onto nsp.org and register the OEC Enhancement courses.

There are several there to refresh:

- Lower Extremities
- Upper Extremities
- Head, Face, Neck & Back
- Hip & Pelvis
- Chest, Abdomen, Genitalia
- Unresponsive or Altered Guest
- Other: Special Olympics or Adaptive Skier

A special shout-out to the So Cal and Arizona regions for working together to get some senior candidates trained and tested. What a great example of teamwork. Thank you for working together on this common goal. We are truly a family: always willing to help each other out. I've been fortunate to be able to visit some resorts and participate in OEC finals as well as SEMs over the past couple years. It's always so rewarding to see how we all work together. Each resort is a tightly knit family and our regions and division also demonstrate the family bound we all share.

Some upcoming events within our division: Feb 16-17 Women's Clinic at Dodge Ridge; February 24, SEM at Snow Valley, March 24, SEM at Donner Ski Ranch, and April 13, SEM at Heavenly Mountain Resort. I encourage people to get out and help with these events. We have to remember as we all were going through the process to obtain our OEC, there were many people that showed up and helped get us through. Let's all get together and help one another.

Remember life is not measured by the breaths we breathe, rather by the moments that take our breath away.

Get out there and enjoy. Ski fast, ski safe....

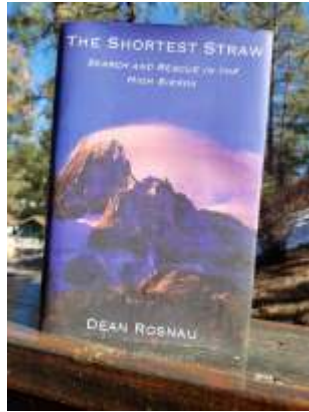
Sue Dennison, FWD OEC Supervisor

Sue Dennison, FWD OEC Supervisor,
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Mountain Travel and Rescue preps for big season!

At the recent Tri-Advisory last November the guest presenter was Dean Rosnau. Dean recently wrote a book about his experiences of being on the Mono County SAR unit, a very active unit in the Mammoth and June Lakes area. He writes about what got him interested in rope climbing and then into SAR and his move to living in the Mammoth area. It's an easy reading book and if you ever wondered what happens to the "dirt-bag" guys we see climbing in Yosemite at Camp 5 this is a book to read.



It can be found at REI stores and at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Looking good for this winter to be a good one for the MTR program!

Snow pack is looking good for adventuring into the backcountry, and with this adventure should come the knowledge of everyone how to enjoy it and be prepared for anything that may occur.

How to enjoy the snow and weather that comes with the winter mountain environment is the goal of the MTR courses. Besides the conditions at the Alpine hills conditions are developed in the back country that prove to be challenges and dangers we must be knowledgeable and be prepared to encounter.

The Avalanche program covers the danger avalanches present. See Keith Church for the courses, but how to survive and enjoy the traveling and camping in the winter mountain environment is the MTR program. Shelter, food & nutrition, clothing, route selection (to medicate avalanche danger) and many other topics are presented to be more knowledgeable in how to enjoy the winter mountain back country.

Lost skiers and others out in the back country has become a major concern. We as patrollers are often called upon to conduct or assist with these searches as we are looked upon as ones that enjoy the mountains and know how to safely navigate in this terrain, thus SAR (Search and Rescue) has become a major topic covered to become an effective member of a SAR team.

The public is expecting us to be skilled in the mountain winter environment in all aspects of it both on the slopes of

the resort and being able and knowledgeable of the winter survival skills off the resort.

Here are the courses that have been scheduled. If you would like to learn more about the MTR program and join in a course contact myself (numbers below) or the instructor listed for the course of interest.

Northern California Region:

None scheduled at this time. Make plans to attend one of the other courses.

Mother Lode Region:

MTR 1	Classroom	To be scheduled
	Field session	March 23-24
	Pincrest	

For more information contact Jeff Gurrola at ascenderjeff@gmail.com
Course number: F067190001

Eastern Sierra Region:

MTR	Classroom	Already been held.
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For more information contact Chris Haagen at cmhaagen@gmail.com

Southern California Region:

MTR 1	Classroom	Has already been held.
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If you have had your classroom but not the field session contact Natalie.
Field session February 3-4 location Mammoth area
For info contact Natalie (Muraciov) Regg at scblackdiamond@yahoo.com
Course number:F030180001

MTR 2	Classroom	Has already been held.
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If you have had your classroom but not the field session contact Natalie.
Field sessions March 15-17 location TBD
For info contact Natalie (Muraciov) Regg at scblackdiamond@yahoo.com
Course number:F030180002

Arizona Region:

None scheduled at this time.
For more info contact Guy Roll at guy.roll@gmail.com

These courses are designed for the patroller and will increase the skills and knowledge of winter mountain survival and travel. **Please see MTR, continued p. 13**

US Ski Patrol Asia, Seoul, Korea

When Korean commercial ski resorts opened in the early 1980s, hitting the slopes became a significant addition to leisure activities in Korea, and new generations of South Koreans were introduced to recreational skiing. US Service Members were eager to journey to the new resorts, and soon became popular weekend destination for

Service Members, expats, and their families. The mountainous roads to the resorts were narrow, and, in many cases, the nearest medical care to resorts was a small local

hospital with limited capability to deal with serious injuries. Nascent Korean patrollers had ski skills but generally not extensive first responder training and few spoke English.

Recognizing the very limited medical care available at resorts, US Military leadership formed a group of military personnel with ski and medical experience to aid. Some of

this group happened to also be National Ski Patrol patrollers serving in the military in Korea. Their mission during ski weekends was simple: provide support to US servicemen on the slopes. The group interfaced with the Korean patrol and was often the primary source of care for English speaking guests.

US Ski Patrol Asia X002 was formed under National Ski Patrol Headquarters soon after the informal group was conceived. The Patrol remained directly under NSP Headquarters until 2017, when NSP National required us to fall under a NSP Division to facilitate use of new NSP automated systems and ensure definitive monitoring of patrol training by an element outside of Korea. We have been fortunate to become US Ski Patrol Asia F006 under Far West Division Admin.

Over the years, the Patrol has provided support to Service Members, civilians and families serving with US Forces Korea, along with US Embassy personnel and English - speaking international schools in Korea. We host an annual OEC refresher course for NSP patrollers serving in Korea and other parts of Asia, and have allowed them to join the patrol to maintain NSP status even when their military or

civilian duties precluded them from regular patrolling with us. We offer support to US Forces Korea adult and youth groups on ski trips, providing introduction to skiing instruction as well as OEC assistance in conjunction with the Korean Ski Patrol. Each year the Patrol conducts the race event and patrol support for the Yongpyong International Ski Festival in Korea which will host its 37th Annual Event in February.

We have fostered excellent relationships with ski resorts

in Korea. Korean patrollers welcome partnering with our patrollers, and continue to request our visits more than we

can provide with our current membership. At our highest point we had approximately 80 patrollers at two locations in Korea. Our current strength is 13 patrollers and four candidates. We also have two secondary patrol members, on tours of duty in Korea, actively patrolling with us.

Maintaining strong membership is a challenge with the constant rotation of

Service Members and civilians to new jobs that take them home to the US, but the Patrol has been successful in remaining active. Service Members generally serve a one-year tour in Korea, and even if

they can find time to pass the OEC written exam and hands on qualification in one season, they often rotate before providing any continuity to the patrol.

Patrol members are for the most part US citizens, but we have other English speaking foreign national members, many of whom come with prior patrol or first responder training and experience. Relocation of Army bases from Seoul and northern areas to Camp Humphreys, further south, has added to patroller departures, but with our NSP status secured with our establishment under Far West Division, we are setting our sights on growth in the future.

Our members Facebook group is US Ski Patrol Asia and the email for contact is usskipatrolasia@gmail.com



Division Director, continued from page 1

recent seasons made sled clinics a challenge. It's like riding a bike, you pick it right up, but we must get in the handles and refresh that muscle memory. Daryl talks about Functional Tension, an OET clinic will point out this is a tool/technique not a curse.

the meetings as informative, busy, and collaborative all good things. The challenge of the meeting was sitting in an Embassy Suites meeting room by the Denver airport while being forced to look at the Rockies covered in snow about 30 miles away.

The pull to ski when the clouds cleared was to quote and industry partner "epic".

I'm feeling lucky and think we will miss the annual pineapple express this year. Get out and ski, engage locally and be an active part of your team. Perhaps you can get an extra powder run during hill opening, perhaps not. Please remember we are out on the hill to align with local patrol management and serve the skiing public.

Powderfall is at Snowbird this April, most of the spots are filled, getting a morning tram at the Bird is a treat. Don't miss out.

Sea Otter Classic represents a unique opportunity to recruit for both ski patrols and bike patrols. Join the fun in the sun and the chance to work a completely different type of wreck.

Summer is long, hot, the lifts are stopped, and our bikes await. Thank you to all for being a member of this first responder organization. Now please get out and go do it. - **Lance Vaughan**, FWD Director.

- OEC -- Thank you OEC instructors for a busy fall refresher season. Take some time and work with a Senior team and remind your hands on how to use the equipment.

- Women's Clinics – Trudy Nye and team are very active. Get out and ski in the group, learn new skills, improve and have fun. Dates abound, don't miss out.

- Recognition (awards) – please look at your patrol and take the time to submit members for recognition. Let's celebrate the positive actions and habits of members who help us all perhaps to add skills, drive programs or make it fun.

In early January I was on the Colorado plains attending the NSP Board of Director Winter meeting. I'd describe



Our skiing future is tied to the dreams of young skiers and boarders, like these Junior Patrol candidates from China Peak (see story, p. 10).

FWD Events Calendar:

Please see the farwest.org Calendar page for full updates on varied program events!
Far West Winter Meeting, March 2, location TBD
Whitefish Mountain Alumni Celebration event, Whitefish, MT, Feb. 3-10, 2019,
Sea Otter Bicycling Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, April 11-14, 2019
Far West Awards Dinner, August, 2019, Davis, TBA

Post your key events in FWD 'News and Views', send to editor Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com; also post on the FWD website, send to webmaster Rye Livingston. webworker@farwest.org.

See the FWD Web site for updated calendar and training opportunities: www.farwest.org!

FWD Woman's Program Update and News...

I hope everyone is having a fantastic winter with all this snow!

Women's Clinics: Regarding women's clinics, there are two currently scheduled. Feb. 16-17 at Dodge Ridge, ski and toboggan clinic, 2 days. Feb. 24, Heavenly Women's clinic, one day, toboggan and ski clinic. Contact me for more information, cost and details on both clinics.

Powderfall 2019, Snowbird, UT!!! April 3-6. There are only a few spots remaining for registration. There are still clinics available. This is a great opportunity to improve your skills and meet other patrollers from throughout the US and beyond! Sign up now!

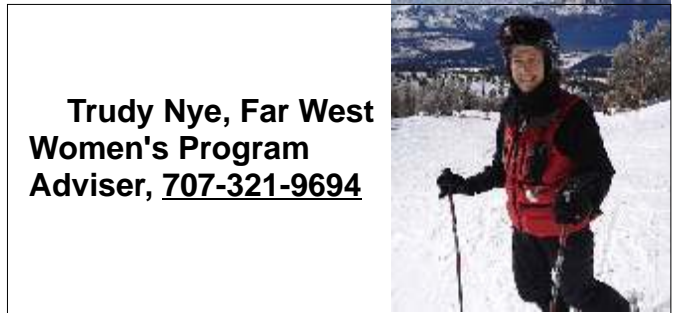
We have a possible opening in NorCal region for a women's program adviser. If you patrol in the NorCal region and are interested, contact me. This is a great opportunity to step up to a larger role in the Far West division! That is our main goal, to help advance more

women to administrative positions and higher levels of involvement! Be the Change!!

If you have any other information regarding your patrol, region or division women' program news and information, let me know, and I will help spread the word!

Have fun this season, be safe, volunteer to move up a level in NSP!

Trudy Nye, Far West Div. Women's Program Adviser



Website is place to find community service opportunities!

Have you an outdoors event that could use NSP help? Seeking an off-season way to utilize your OEC skills?

List your events and opportunities! If you are working to organize NSP first-aiders for Tough Mudder events, annual Cerebral Palsy bike-a-thons, community fund-raising events, big outdoor events like the Sea Otter Classic and more, list them! And, don't forget to work to enlist your alumni to assist!

And, make a habit of scanning the FWD website for

continuing info on such events and programs - as well as new developments in your Far West Division!

Send your event and activity postings, with the "who, what, where, when and how" to **FWD Webmaster Rye Livingston**, webworker@farwest.org. Also send your events to **Tim Viall**, **FWD Newsletter Editor**, tviall@msn.com and we will profile them in FWD 'News and Views', the newsletter of the Far West Division!



Pictured, left to right, Dori Bietz and Mike Fanelli worked the Tough Mudder event at Northstar during summer; NSP members and an NSP Subaru worked the Headwaters 50 K Trail Run, and over 40 patrollers and family members worked at, and enjoyed off time, at the Sea Otter Bike Classic in April. Please post notices for such events on the FWD website, and, scan the site for volunteer opportunities!

Join Far West ski patrollers on April 11-14 at Sea Otter!

Imagine forming a 50 person bike and trail first-aid safety patrol to watch over 10,000 competitors over four days of intense downhill, cross-country, road bike, dual slalom and Gran Fondo races, handling several hundred first aid codes, making new friends, then disbanding after four days. Make notes for next year, reload - and do it all over again, a year later.

That's a short description of the National Ski Patrol first aid and safety patrol that serves the huge Sea Otter bicycle classic, each year for the past 14 years, drawing 50 ski and bike patrollers, alumni and family members from around the west (family, friends can serve as course marshals). As an additional plus, each participant receives a \$30 per shift donation to their respective NSP patrols for their service.

The drama unfolds in spectacular Ft. Ord National Monument and the adjoining Laguna Seca Raceway, between Monterey and Salinas, CA, where 72,000 spectators gather to watch almost over 9,600 competitors, from world-class pros to amateurs, take part in this growing celebration of American cycling.

The Far West Division invites patrollers and families/friends from around the country to team up for first-aid duty and course marshaling for the Sea Otter Classic, April 11-14, 2019 at Laguna Seca Raceway and Ft. Ord National Monument, between Monterey and Salinas, CA.

The Sea Otter Classic features everything from dual slalom, downhill racing, road racing, citizen's grand fondos and mountain bike cross-country – Sea Otter yields thrills and spills offering NSP members a variety of first-aid roles in back-country and road-side environments. With thousands of spectators and a trade show with 450+ vendors marketing all things cycling-related, the event has few equals. For more insight, see: seaotterclassic.com.

This is the USA's largest outdoor biking event; the National Ski Patrol has built a 14-year record of providing four days of quality OEC care and course marshaling, working with the local Monterey Peninsula Rural Fire Department. Last April, almost 50 members and friends of seven patrols provided 130 shifts of service to the event and handled well over 200 first-aid codes.

In an expanded role in 2019, the NSP is also taking over



the lead in two large “first-aid tents”, offering an opportunity for several patrols to send first-aiders to work in teams of 2-4. Notes Jeff Frost, Sea Otter Classic Risk Management/Athlete Services official, ““Without NSP's involvement in the event, Sea Otter would not be as safe, or successful, as it is. Professional support and leadership...thank you NSP!”

Ken Kramer, NSP Board Member and chair of the NSP Bike Patrol Committee, notes “events like the Sea Otter are a great way that

NSP can further its mission of helping keep people safe on the mountain and during other outdoor activities”.

Far West Division Director Lance Vaughan, whose home patrol, Dodge Ridge NSP, got the ball rolling for the Sea Otter when Lance's father, Richard, headed up the first NSP team of volunteers in 2006, adds, “the event is a wonderful transition from ski season to bike season. When the NSP began the relationship no one could forecast the event would grow to such huge numbers of active outdoor people; the NSP activity has grown with the event. It's a first class affair, in a beautiful setting. The Far West Division invites NSP members to join us in April”.

NSP members, and their family/friends (who can serve as course marshals without first-aid training), are invited to join us for a big NSP Saturday night BBQ at Laguna Seca; prepare to eat well! NSP members can camp, FREE, at Ski Patrol Central for up to four nights, find time to ride their bikes, make a side trip into adjoining Monterey, attend the huge trade show and make new NSP friends!

Patrollers, family and friends are offered no-cost FREE camping right in the Laguna Seca paddock at “Ski Patrol Central”, FREE admission to the festival (\$80 value), FREE lunch and cool volunteer t-shirt! Motorhomes, camping trailers and tents make for cozy accommodations and all enjoy the evening NSP barbecues!

As Far West Director Lance Vaughan notes, “the Monterey Peninsula offers a wonderful and beautiful setting; add thousands of bike riders - all their energy makes the event a great way to kick summer into action. You need to see and experience the setting and the energy of the event. Plan a California vacation trip, tied around several days volunteering at the Sea Otter”! Mark your calendars, April 11-14, 2019. **To volunteer or for more info:** Contact Tim Viall, Coordinator for NSP Volunteers for the Sea Otter Classic, tviall@msn.com, ph: 209.969.3875.

Join other Far West ski patrollers April 11-14, 2019 for first-aid, marshal service at US's largest cycling event!

Huge Sea Otter Bike Classic centered on Laguna Seca Raceway, CA, April 11-14, 2019

For the 14th year, 50 Far West Division ski patrollers, family and friends will provide 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 50,000 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. 600 trade show vendors make for the largest market in the country for cycling equipment and accessories.

The Dodge Ridge Patrol led in volunteer numbers in 2017, with 27 members and friends/family (providing

marshaling services), joined by patrollers from Bear Valley, Mt. Shasta, Sugar Bowl and Heavenly 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 and Emergency Services.

NSP members and friends camp at "Ski Patrol Central" within the event, enjoyed Friday and Saturday barbecues, found time to ride their bikes, attended the huge trade show and made new NSP friends! For their volunteer service, the Sea Otter Foundation donated almost \$6,500 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 barbecues add camaraderie and fun to the experience!

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



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!



China Peak brings on seven Junior Patrollers!

The Junior Patrol at China Peak has expanded this year to include seven strong candidates. Although five of them are 15 and two are 16 years old, the maturity and talent is outstanding. This group of young patrollers is sharp and hasn't backed down a minute from the arduous training required to earn their cross.

Their journey started with attending and graduating the OEC class August to November, only to impress the rest of Patrol at refresher with their prompt recall of information and attentive skills, to now working with Patrol on the hill accomplishing their task book including sled and avalanche training. It is a joy to witness the camaraderie that has formed, their desire to achieve, them embrace the high level of responsibility and passion to serve the public. Junior Patrol provides great value to our Patrol in many ways.

First, CPSP promotes a family friendly atmosphere on our team and these Juniors compliment that notion just because of their age. They end up being a positive role model to other young kids around Patrol plus offer adult patrollers an opportunity to invest in their future. This investment is lifelong as they learn work ethic, responsibility, emergency response skills and positively mature their character.

Second, we all hear about the good old boys club which in short is an informal network of connections where men on Patrol use their position of influence to promote other men on Patrol. This is cancer to a modern day Patrol which invites women and minors to invest equally in a team.

CPSP leadership has worked for years to dispel this good old boys notion while increasing its integrity. The presence of Junior Patrol is another leg of that. They are expected to perform on the same capacity as any other patroller and so far have held their own. Their mere presence positively shifts this old school tide and as the numbers grow, so does the vision of equality.

Lastly, the stated values of NSP are excellence, service, camaraderie, leadership, integrity and responsiveness. Working with youth requires a different level of integrity versus training an adult. The goal is not only training for a job on the hill but more importantly invest in our future. As Patrol mentors, trains and invests into our Junior Patrol we tend to live more acutely the traits we push. It doesn't take much to see how this can only be a good thing.

The key to any growing group is recruitment and retention. China Peak Volunteer Ski Patrol has made a push the last three years to focus on these two concepts. Social media and building personal relationships with each candidate throughout training has proven to generate class sizes of 12-15 candidates the last three years. As we see our patrol grow, our Junior Patrol has been a big addition this year. Initially, our patrol kids who have endured life on patrol with their parents year after



year all turned 15 at similar times (and more are coming down the pike). Real traction to recruit junior members is when these Junior Candidates post their accomplishments on social media with pictures that illustrate the camaraderie, impressive uniform and cool skills like sled work.

Additionally, wearing NSP clothing and paraphernalia in class and around school makes their association tangible. Teachers and students alike inquire, generate conversation, join us for a day at Patrol and ultimately will be included in our next OEC class starting in August.

The power of positive peer association at work!

- Julie Winter, Assistant Patrol Director, China Peak National Ski Patrol.

Alumni program growing in both the FWD and NSP!

Today well over 4,500 NSP Alumni are registered throughout the US and other countries. They offer a wealth of experience, talent, knowledge and dedication providing a vast resource of needed skill and expertise to supplement the efforts of the "active" membership. In the Far West Division, the number of alumni is well over 400.

There is no doubt that your collective experience can substantially add to the current goals of your patrol, your region/division. There are many reasons to go "inactive" besides "retirement": family responsibilities, new additions to the family, job responsibilities, health issues and more.

Let's explore the human side of alumni membership:



Larry Bolander, Heavenly alumni center, on bike, is a veteran Sea Otter volunteer

There are veteran alumni who remain actively involved in local patrol and other NSP activities – such as the huge Sea Otter Bike Classic in California, attracting 50+ NSP patrollers and alumni for course marshal and first aid duty. One of our 'regular team members' is Larry Bolander, Nat'l #4974, joined the Golden Gate NSP Patrol, CA, in 1971, served as patrol rep and in a variety of training roles, and did similar duty in the region and division. Larry has more awards and merit stars than almost anyone, so I asked him why does he continue to serve in events like this?

Larry notes, "for one thing, I enjoy helping, always have. I enjoy the respect that I have been given and the responsibilities to get things done. I also enjoy all the people that have volunteered to help the public, off the slopes. I also enjoy riding the course on my time off, as it is one of the best I have ever ridden, with breathtaking scenery in the back country. The Sea Otter crew listens to what I have to say and I appreciate that, more than you can imagine".

Rob Scharf is a Sierra at Tahoe, CA, mountain host. Ron notes, "I patrolled from 1997-98 to 2008-09 and got burned out driving two-plus hours to the ski resort to be there by 7am, working until 5pm, then returning home. I then took a year off as an alumni but missed the camaraderie of the patrol and that good feeling we all get when helping a guest of the resort. For me, the mountain host program offered a way to serve the public, the mountain and the NSP. I have been a host from 2010 to present, and love giving back"!



As we head towards another ski season, if you are a patrol representative, region or division director, please keep the alumni program and our active alumni in mind.

NSP Patrols are advised to consider the following:

- Establish an Alumni Advisor for your individual patrol, to take the lead on building alumni support, activities for alumni in the patrol (how about an "Alumni Celebration Ski Day"?), and opportunities for alumni who wish to remain active with their old patrol.
 - Advise current patrollers of "life after active
- Please see Alumni, continued on page 19...**

Renew alumni dues on-line!

Alumni members; renew your NSP Dues on-line. I have had this question come up several times recently. Here's how to do it:

- a) Logs into the NSP web site, with member number and your Password, then,
- b) At top, upper right where it will say "Hi, (member name)" merely click on that icon, and it takes you to your My Profile page, then, at bottom left of the Profile, click on the "Renew Now" button, and it allows you to pay with credit cards, Pay Pal and the like.

Thinking of going inactive, retiring?

Is family life, work requirements or advancing aches and pains getting in the way of your active patrolling? Consider "going alumni" to keep your connection to the NSP a real one. See the next page for all the benefits you retain as an NSP Alumni, then merely clip the page and return it with your check. In successive years, you can renew, on-line (or, consider returning to active patrolling). To switch registration to Alumni, see next page...



BECOME AN ALUMNI MEMBER TODAY!

Have you taken a break or retired from patrolling? If you want to stay connected with NSP and were a patroller for at least one year, you can become an alumni member.

Alumni membership is a way for former patrollers to remain affiliated with NSP. You can choose how involved you want to be, whether as an instructor or with your local patrol. You always have the option to go back to patrolling with current OEC and your patrol rep's approval.

For only \$30 a year, you'll receive benefits including:

- Member voting rights;
- *Ski Patrol Magazine*;
- *Sweep and Sweep Deals* monthly e-newsletters;
- Discounts through the *Ski Patrol Catalogs* and NSP Pro Deals Page;
- Education resources; and
- Online access to the NSP website.

Become an alumni member today, and join over 3,500 other alumni who help support our great organization.

Send in the form below with a check or money order for \$30 made payable to National Ski Patrol to:

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

Photo credit: Jan Nelson



New Alumni Registration Form

133 S. Van Gordon St. • Suite 100 • Lakewood, CO • 80228
Phone: (303) 988-1111 • Fax: (303) 988-3005 • Email: alumni@nsp.org

Name _____

NSP Member # _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Email _____ Birth Date _____

Former Patrol _____

NSP Alumni, friends, family celebrate in Whitefish, Montana!

As you read this, alumni members from the Far West, Pacific Northwest, Northern and Central Divisions are celebrating with fellow NSP Alumni, families and friends for an “**NSP Alumni Celebration Week**” at Whitefish Mountain, Whitefish, Montana, during the week of February 3-10, 2019 (active NSP members, family, friends also welcome to join in the fun).

Whitefish Mountain (formerly Big Mountain) is consistently rated in the top 30 US ski resorts, offering 3,000 skiable acres, almost 2,400 vertical, 11 chairlifts and presents an incredible skiing/snowboarding experience (see: skiwhitefish.com). The mountain offers FREE skiing to “super seniors” (age 70+) and about a 15% discount to seniors age 64 and up (hence, many alumni and spouses ski FREE).

The highly-rated **Grouse Mountain Lodge** (glacierparkcollection.com), just minutes from the mountain, with free shuttle to the mountain, offered a “book four nights, get the fourth night free” package (hence, \$115



per night, X3 = \$445 for four nights, double occupancy). You can book for four nights (starting Sunday, Feb. 3, or Wednesday, Feb. 6), or stay for the full week. The Lodge is adjacent to a nice cross-country ski center and just a mile from downtown Whitefish; majestic Glacier National Park and dog sled tours are nearby.

Special activities: The Northern Division Alumni Advisor will offer several no-cost “Old Knees

Clinics” during the week, special nights out at local restaurants will be arranged, and optional tours into Glacier National Park (no charge), or Dog Sled Adventures (fee involved) in nearby Montana State Forests will be offered. A great adventure; meet NSP friends from around the country and share those “alumni tall tales”.

If you missed this year’s event, we will do it again: Mark your calendars beginning Super Bowl Sunday, February 2-9, 2020. To get more info, let National alumni advisor Tim Viall know your interest, at tviall@msn.com, or (209) 969-3875.

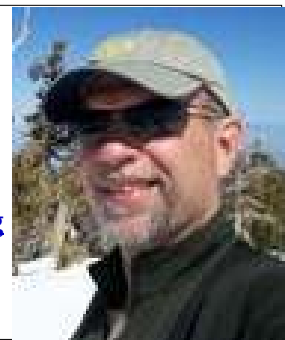
Mountain Travel and Rescue, continued from p. 7

These courses are opened to all patrollers, Alpine, Nordic and Auxiliary. This course is designed to expand your knowledge and experience of the mountain winter to a higher level and gain confidence in how to survive in relative comfort and how to be an effective member of an SAR (Search And Rescue) team if called upon by your Hill management.

These courses and skills are designed for the patroller that has not taken this type of activity and are designed to increase your confidence in the winter environment.

Karl P. Chulski, FWD-MTR Supervisor, Far West Division Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor, fwd-mtr@farwest.org

Karl P. Chulski, FWD-MTR Supervisor, Far West Division Mountain Travel & Rescue Supervisor, fwd-mtr@farwest.org



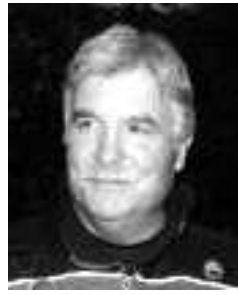
Teaching Tips & Tricks – the lost art of Tail Roping!

If there is one thing that will start a lively round of 'cussin and discuss'n when Sled Drivers get together at Powderfall or Nuts & Bolts, it is Tail Roping. There are so many different techniques, tactics, combinations, 'always do this..' and 'never do that's..' that an argument is guaranteed. While most OET Instructors reading this are familiar with the best practices observed here on the West Coast, there are some strange recommendations in the Central part of the country, and the Eastern Division is moving toward a recommendation for 30' long Tail Ropes on the other coast! There are nearly as many different ways to effectively control the back end of a rescue toboggan as there are Eskimo words for Snow! Let's take this opportunity to review the most important concepts – the ones that we would like all of our Far West Division Transportation Instructors to focus upon.

Why use a Tail Rope?

While some areas of the country may utilize a tail rope for nearly every guest transport event, here in the Far West Division the above can be a very fair question. With the seasonal staffing difficulties that many of our Resort operators have today, making the most out of our limited Patrol staff is certainly very important. We have all been trained to run a sled without a Tailer, and most of us routinely respond to an injury scene with a rescue toboggan, treat the patient, load them up, and evacuate them to the Base Patrol area with only a toboggan driver and no tailer. It may be more common today to use additional manpower to transport the injured guests' gear down to the base than it is to use another patroller to help run the sled down the hill. However, we also understand that using additional trained personnel can, at times, be critical to the safe transport of our injured guests. In short, a Tailer can be a very useful insurance policy. Generally speaking – when you need a patroller on your tail rope – you REALLY REALLY REALLY need one.

Certainly, severe injuries can trigger the need for a slow, uber-controlled guest evacuation where a Tailer can be required - as can evacuations over hard snow, as well as deep snow. Other factors where a Tailer may be helpful can be as diverse as the required route of the evacuation (hard traverse across the fall line), steep pitch, heavy traffic, or an evacuation route with an



extended flat section requiring an active whip from the Tailer just to maintain momentum. A patroller on your tail rope can be a considerable advantage in all of these scenarios and many more, which leads us to the next question – when does that Tailer need to be ready to provide active assistance to the Driver, and when is that Driver most at risk?

Lets talk about transitions.

I think that most of our students understand that a Tailer may be required to provide positive control to the rear end of the rescue toboggan when the evacuation route requires traversing across the fall line. Even a straight fall line route in very steep terrain may require tail roper assistance. However, it is crucial that our students are also able to identify and articulate that the sled Driver is most at risk of a fall during a transition maneuver, regardless of the route or the pitch of the terrain. Indeed, all skiers – sled drivers and sled tailers alike – are at the highest degree of risk when they transition their ski or board from one direction to another. The vast majority of falls occur when the ski is in transition from edging, to flat, and then back to edging again – the exact sequence required for a transition maneuver. Since our evacuation protocol calls for the driver and tailer to have ski tips pointing in the same direction, safety requires that the transition movement of the toboggan driver is NOT simultaneous with the transition movement of the tailer. Therefore, Critical Performance Indicator #1 is

TRANSITION MOVES MUST BE SEQUENTIAL

The tailer must be prepared to provide active belay assistance to the rescue toboggan while the driver executes a transition movement. Once that movement has been completed, the tailer may then complete a transition move to align with the direction of the driver. Because of the risk involved in the execution of the transition move itself, best practice requires that one of the operators is in a stable position, with edges engaged, while the other operator performs the transition maneuver. It is much less critical which operator transitions first – and who transitions last – although generally the driver is responsible for route selection and would normally transition first. However, the tailer should be allowed the option to - in extenuating circumstances such as an abnormal surface condition, traffic, upcoming obstacles, etc. - transition first as required for safety. This option should only be exercised with active and effective communication between the driver and the tailer.

Please see Transportation Nation, continued p. 20

Looking For A Few Good Instructors...

It took a cadre of NSP instructors to transform each of us from an outdoor enthusiast to a Patroller. Dedicated instructors volunteered their time so we could be successful at every step of the training. To continue this legacy, NSP is always looking for talented patrollers to “Pay It Forward” as instructors.

There are many benefits to becoming an NSP instructor. As an instructor, you will take your knowledge and skills to the next level. You must master the material before you can really teach it well. Your abilities will continue to expand as long as you are teaching others. In addition, as an NSP instructor, you will learn principles of adult education that are applicable to any setting. You will become a more effective instructor any time you teach, to include at other volunteer activities or even work.. As an added benefit, the NSP instructor course, called Instructor Development, counts as an elective towards Senior certification.

So, how do you become an NSP instructor? The first step in becoming an instructor in any NSP discipline is to complete the **Instructor Development (ID) course**. This course will help you understand how adults learn so you can tailor your teaching and optimize training. You will also learn how to efficiently develop a lesson plan, called a “Six-Pack.”

This ID course is currently offered in two formats. The first is the Traditional format where students meet in a classroom with an ID instructor for presentations and discussion of the material. The second option is the Hybrid format consisting of an online course followed by a face-to-face portion with an instructor. The online course allows you to complete the didactic portion at your own pace. During the face-to-face portion, the instructor will review some key issues about becoming an instructor. In both

formats, you will be given an opportunity to practice some teaching using the “Six-Pack” lesson plan.

The second step in becoming an instructor in is to complete the **Instructor Mentoring Program**. In this step, you will work with an NSP certified instructor to learn the NSP curriculum, develop effective lesson plans, and practice your instructional methods.

For more information about the ID program, or would like an ID course offered to your patrol, please contact the ID Advisors for your Region (listed below) or email me.

Regional ID Advisors, FWD

Arizona ID Advisor:

Kristin Gunkel, klgunkel@gmail.com

Eastern Sierra ID Advisor:

Sandy Sommer, sandysommer@dslextreme.com

Mother Lode ID Advisor:

Tony Atkins, tony_atkins@comcast.net

Northern California ID Advisor:

Bill Gibson, downhillbill01@gmail.com

Southern California ID Advisor:

Doug Hill, dch@cadwest.com

Far West Division ID Program
Supervisor: **Loretta O'Brien**,
lobrien110@gmail.com



Communications enhanced in FWD, regions!

Did you know that both the FWD web site and the FWD Facebook page have been enhanced and expanded to share information with patrollers and alumni?

As an example, is you need insight on Awards, go to the web page and click Awards in the Member Programs area. The FWD web site offers a new look, new organization and offers new options like Community Service Opportunities. To see the start of this new resource for you, the patroller, go to: farwest.org/MemberPrograms/CSO/CSO.html.

The FWD Facebook page continues to grow in interest (almost 700 FWD members) and utilization as more patrollers and patrols use it as a place to communicate their

successes, fun activities and to recruit patrollers and alumni into off-hill and on-hill activities. Go to:

facebook.com/groups/448272738574183/ and Join the page! It's there for you and your patrol!

On the Facebook site, you can post up news to reach our FWD members, upcoming events and special projects, or just good skiing insight worthy of sharing. So, check it out, go and use it!

If you are sharing news of your patrol or region, also remember to send it along for inclusion in the FWD 'News and Views' newsletter. Send to newsletter editor Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com!

Community College Program sees number of changes

The Community College Program has had a number of changes recently. At one point we were going to have everyone fill out an Admission form that could be signed electronically. Then it was decided the forms had to be signed then scanned and turned in.

The class hours were changed by the program to a point where we would earn only a dollar or two for each patroller enrolled. After awhile we were wondering how the process was going to be changed again and if this was the end of the program. All this happened before we even told the program IOR's how to enroll their classes.

Finally, we have what is without doubt the best enrollment process we have ever had. If a person has enrolled in the program in past years they are currently enrolled and do not have to fill out any form at all. Only new patrollers need to fill out a short one page form to enroll from now on and they only need to do it once. Hopefully, this season will see more patrollers enrolled and higher funding for the participating patrols. Finally, the funding was restored to previous levels.

A new class available this season, Patrolling 101, is

off to a good start with many patrols enrolling their candidates. Another new class is in the works for next season pending approval, Hill Safety. Hill Safety, if approved, will allow a patrol to obtain funding for morning meetings, Hill setup and Sweep. That amounts to three hours per day per patroller of paid instructional time. At this time it looks like the College we use may approve the class.

The purpose of the Community College Program is to provide funding to enhance the current training offered to all patrollers. Any funds from the program must be used for educational purposes. The funding is from a grant for training first responders.

If your patrol is interested in participating in the program contact Steven Thorsted at stevethorsted@gmail.com.



Sign up...for Sea Otter!

Sharpen your NSP first-aid skills at America's largest bicycling event, April 11-14, 2019 – and earn some money for your service for your patrol! In addition to providing either first-aid or course-marshal service, you get:

- Free admission to this huge, four day event (\$80 value),
- Free camping for motorhomes, fifth-wheels, tents in the heart of the action at Laguna Seca Raceway,
- Free lunch and snacks
- Two NSP Barbeques, Friday and Saturday nights
- Make new NSP friends, with members from 6-10 other NSP Patrols
- Family members, friends can also serve (as course-marshals), too!

To Sign up: Send your name, patrol, email, cell phone #, days available, and if you need trailer, 5th wheel or tent space to Sea Otter Coordinator Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com, or phone (209) 969-3875. [For best volunteer opportunities, sign up today!](#)



Alumni Celebration Day shaping up for this season!

Details on the coming March “Alumni Celebration Day” are in the works. In 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, the Eastern Sierra Region graciously hosted visiting alumni at Sugar Bowl, Heavenly, Sierra at Tahoe and Northstar Resorts. If you are an alumni member, watch for an email with details about the March, 2019 event. Typically, the resort hosts a lunch, the NSP patrol offers a tour of the mountain, and veterans of FWD patrols can catch up on alumni news and swap stories about their past NSP service/adventures!

At right, Eastern Sierra and MLR alumni who gathered to ski, share old patrol tales, catch up and remain involved in the NSP at Heavenly Valley Resort in March, 2016. Thanks to Heavenly, Sierra at Tahoe Resort for 2017, and Northstar for 2018 hosting!



Ski Patrols of the Far West Division:

Here are the stellar patrols of the FWD:

Arizona Snowbowl
Alpine Meadows
Alta Sierra
Badger Pass
Big Bear
Bear Valley Ski Patrol
Boreal Ridge
Buckhorn Ski Club
China Peak
Coppervale
Diamond Peak
Dodge Ridge
Donner Ski Ranch
Heavenly
Homewood
June Mountain
Kirkwood
Lake Alpine Nordic
Lee Canyon
Lassen Volcanic
Mammoth Basin Nordic
Mount Lemmon
Mountain High
Mt. Baldy
Mt. Pinos Nordic

Mt. Shasta
Mt. Waterman
Northstar
Pinecrest Nordic
Reno Ski Patrol
Sierra Ski Patrol
Snow Valley



Soda Springs
Squaw Valley
Sugar Bowl
Sunrise
Tahoe Backcountry
Tahoe Donner
Tahoe Donner Nordic Center
US Ski Patrol Asia - Korea

Be a part of the awards team; it depends on you!

The Outstanding awards deadline is coming up so please get started on this year's submissions.

Outstanding awards must be written, signed and submitted to your region awards advisor for judging at the region level. Winners from our five regions are submitted to the division awards review committee and out of these five one is picked to be submitted for judging as the National outstanding award for this year. There are twelve categories of outstanding awards and many of your fellow patrollers are worthy of this recognition.

It all starts with you. Someone has to take the time to write down why you think someone should receive the award. But first a few things you should consider.

The award is based on outstanding performance of an individual or patrol and this is considered over the last four years. Yes, not just what they have done or are doing this season. These awards are meant to be for those individuals that continually exceed what is expected of the average patroller.

We know last year was very challenging with many of our areas opening late and having rather short seasons but, the year before was huge. Lots of snow and many, many days of patrolling. I can think of quite a few members that put in long hours, trained new and returning members and lead by example. They should be recognized for all the efforts.

This year we are again having a great season. You know who is always there, putting forth outstanding efforts and being an example to all of us. Wouldn't you like to see them be recognized for their work and dedication as a member of the NSP?

Please start with your patrol representative, they can help you with the proper and up to date forms, can give you a copy of the members NSP profile and put you in touch with others that can help you with the submission. After you finish the write up your PR signs the submission and sends it on to the region advisor. Speaking of your region advisor, they are a great source for additional information and even examples of past outstanding awards submissions that can help you see how other have done it.

Please follow the chain of command as you work your way through this process. Sending this to me, the division awards advisor, the National awards advisor or to the national office in Lakewood will only slow down the process since we will have to send it back to your PR.

You may be new to this and I hope many of you are since we all can submit these awards. What are the outstanding awards that are presented each year?

They are, Alpine patroller, Nordic Patroller, Patroller, Paid patroller, Instructor, OEC instructor, Administrative, Patrol rep, Large alpine patrol, Small alpine patrol, Nordic patrol.

The deadline for submitting this year's outstanding awards vary slightly by each region, so please check with

your regional awards advisor so you don't miss the final filing date.

ESR Advisor Leillani Connolly at leilanicconnolly@hotmail.com

MLR Advisor Debbie Witcher at witcher15@comcast.net

SoCal Advisor Barbara Baxter at barbax14@gmail.com

NorCal RD Sam Lanier at snoshoesam@me.com

Arizona RD Andrew Youngblood at a.youngblo@gmail.com

Merit stars and National Appointments can be submitted at any time. Be sure to check Chapter 12 in the NSP P&P for guidelines on the requirements for these awards. These have to be filled out on the current application forms, found on the NSP WEB page under awards, with all the proper signatures and documentation and submitted at least 45 days for processing. Again please check with your PR or Region Awards Advisor for help and guidance submitting these awards.

Hall of fame awards are one of the newest forms of recognition offered by the NSP. The requirements are very specific however we have many members that are deserving of this award. Out of the five requirements listed in the P&P a member must have at least four of them. But as many of us know many of our members that have been around for quite a while definitely meet this requirement. All that you need to do is fill out the application with the members history and add a brief letter of recommendation, get a few supporting signature and send it in. This one is actually easier to submit since it does not require signatures of everyone in the chain of command for submission. So far only two members of the Far West Division have been submitted and both have been inducted into the NSP hall of fame. The recognition is open to past and present member even members that are no longer with us. Wouldn't it be nice to see that special member that contributed so much better inducted into this group of elite members past and present? I hope to see your submission real soon.

The awards program is all about recognizing member for all they do for the skiing public, the NSP and your patrol and your members. Awards all have to start somewhere and that place has to be with you. Take the time to submit a fellow patrollers today. We all know that member that deserves this and wouldn't it be something to see them recognized as an outstanding award recipient, handed a merit star award, receive a national appointment or be inducted into the hall of fame? You bet it would be wonderful.

Get started today and be a part of the awards team.

Bill Gibson, FWD Awards Advisor.



Alumni, coninued from p. 11 patrolling” - as an active alumni of the patrol and the NSP.

- Keep current patrol leadership thinking of ways to retain, and involve, your patrol's alumni and those “contemplating going inactive”.
- Share your patrol's alumni advisor's contact information with your region's and division's alumni advisor, so individual patrols receive ongoing alumni updates and tools!
- Contact **new FWD Alumni Advisor Alyson Dutch** for help in building alumni activities at your hill!



If you are already an NSP alumni, what are your ideas? With your interest and help, additional value and enthusiasm can be added to a well-established Alumni Program. Your individual input is needed to grow the program and your ideas are appreciated. If you have an

interest in maintaining contact and/or involvement with your local patrol, let your former patrol's patrol representative know. If you have talents that can be utilized at patrol, region or division level, let those active leaders know your interest.

Don't overlook alumni perks such as access to the NSP catalogue and NSP “pro deals”. If you missed this year's first annual “Alumni Celebration Week” at Whitefish Mountain Resort, Montana, mark your calendar for next year, starting on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2-9, 2020!

To the many thousands of NSP alumni, we welcome your continuing involvement in your local patrol, region or division. Please feel free to let me know your questions or ideas; **Tim Viall, National alumni advisor, tviall@msn.com or (209) 969-3875.** Thanks!

Tim Viall, National Alumni Advisor, tviall@msn.com, (209) 969-3875;

For additional info, go to: www.farwest.org, click on Member Services, then, Alumni!



Avalanche Curriculum Update

NSP's National Avalanche Committee (NAC) submitted new draft curricula for the L1 Avalanche and Companion Rescue courses to the national Education Committee (Ed Comm) last year. The Companion Rescue curriculum was approved by Ed Comm last September. Hopefully we will hear back from the committee soon on our L1 submission. These courses will be the equivalent of the new American Avalanche Association (A3) Level 1 Avalanche and Avalanche Rescue courses offered in the Recreational Track. Once NSP has adopted the new curricula, it will be submitted to A3 for approval. The NAC hopes to see that happen this season.

Ed Comm signed off on a new course to be offered as a Senior elective in divisions/regions with a dearth of actual avalanche terrain in which to hold fields classes. We expect to see this course available before next season. The working title is “Avalanche Senior Elective” but that will change as it could be confusing for divisions like our which require a full L1 course as a prerequisite for Senior certification.

Lastly, the NAC has updated the Avalanche Awareness course. It, too, will be included in a new Avalanche Instructors manual to be available prior to the start of next season.

Pro Track Bridge Update

Good news for procrastinators! A3's Pro 1 Bridge course will be available next season. The opportunity to bridge

into the Pro Track with a pre-2017/18 L2 Avalanche cert has been extended by a season. Originally, the bridge was to be available only during the first two years of the new Recreational/Professional Track curricula rollout. What is the Pro 1 Bridge course? Here is an overview from A3:

BRIDGE COURSE (PRO 1)

BRIDGE COURSE: Fast-track 1 or 2 day course that covers the Pro 1 evaluation and course proficiencies for individuals to gain recognition within the new system. This course is for current avalanche professionals ready for Pro 1 evaluation who need minimal refresher skills before being tested. Individuals must pass the Bridge Course to gain Pro 1 recognition in the new system. Bridge courses will be offered through the transition period 2017-2020.

Prerequisites: Level 2 and at least one full winter season of relevant work experience. Prior practice and preparation for Pro 1 standards and techniques recommended.

Keith Church, FWD AVY Program Supervisor;
fwd-avalanche@farwest.org



The theory of Functional Tension.

We have all seen ineffective tail roping, which is generally a symptom of poor edge control. “Water skiing” is a term used to describe the effort to apply tension to the tail rope when edge braking is ineffective; the tailer swings the lead hand upwards and uphill to provide the required separation from the toboggan and provide tension to the rope. This is often followed by the rope sagging to the ground as the tailer struggles to match speed with the driver and reduces separation from the toboggan. Both symptoms display the effect of inconsistent guidance delivered to the sled and often result in a 'herky-jerky' evacuation speed.

Effective tailing requires consistent edge control through all terrain and surface conditions to enable the delivery of tension to the tail rope immediately as required by the driver to control the rescue toboggan. While control assistance may be dictated by the conditions noted above (steep pitch, hard traverse, rough surface conditions), the tailer must also recognize when the driver is most at risk and be prepared to provide assistance during transition movements. Critical Performance Indicator #2 :

UNDERSTANDING WHEN FUNCTIONAL TENSION IS REQUIRED

Note that the typical toboggan evacuation entails travel over moderate and flat terrain as well; functional tension may not be required along the entire route, but the tailer must be aware of all approaching conditions, including oncoming traffic, and communicate with the driver at all times to provide a safe evacuation experience for the guest.

Given the varied terrain that we operate on every day, the theory of Functional Tension can be a difficult concept to grasp. Applied rope tension can be described as functional only if the rope can be brought to full tension (with active control assistance) by a roll of the ankle joint and/or minor extension at the hip; any more extensive motion - such as a step, stem, wedge or lean - should indicate to evaluators that the rope tension is less than functional. Note that this concept

is independent of the terrain; it is also independent of the surface conditions. Functional Tension can be observed as a very minimal sag, or “belly”, in the tail rope between tailer and toboggan – one that requires only a minimal amount of movement by the tailer to eliminate as active assistance is applied to the toboggan. The final Critical Performance Indicator -

Describe and demonstrate the application of Functional Tension

Demonstration of this important concept will be a critical point in your next tail rope practice session. Here in the Far West Division, we recommend that the belay point for the tail rope be the uphill hand, tucked tightly behind the Tailer's hip for maximum braking influence, with the lead (lower) hand only guiding the tail rope, and not providing any deviation in the straight line of the tail rope from the belay point to the point of contact at the rear of the toboggan. A slight belly in the rope, reduced by a simple roll of the ankles in an uphill direction while maintaining a strong, balanced, athletic stance will give your visual leaners an excellent reference image as they explore the concept.

Our goal is to provide some indicators to assist OET instructors when evaluating tail rope performance – whether in a practice session at your local area or perhaps in a senior evaluation at a neighboring resort. Focusing on best practices for critical performance – with a clear understanding of when they must be applied - will strengthen the relationship between the Region level evaluation events and the local patrol training officers and give all of our students the best possible opportunity for success as they grab the tail rope and follow the toboggan down the mountain. Because in the end – as Dore Bietz always says – everybody loves a good tail !!!

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