



# Far West Division News and Views

News and Views of the Far West Division, NSP; [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org) September, 2019 Volume Eleven, Issue 2



## Lance Vaughan, FWD Director

Welcome to Fall, 2019; patrol activity steps up several levels as we shift or focus from Summer to winter. After the last handful of winters, it is hard to guess where and what amounts of snow will fall this winter on the West. The past two weeks I was reading reports from MBARI (Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute) and others, learning more about the return of the Pacific warm water “Blob”. This is not an El Nino or La Nina, rather like the warming recorded in 2014 – 2016. My toes & fingers did notice the La Jolla ocean was much warmer this July than in past years; the report data indicates about 9 degrees warmer. I hope the cold-water upwelling occurs early and knocks that warm water back to the South Pacific. Data suggests a possible great winter for golf, and perhaps rough for skiing. Zoinks!

Wherever the warm water ends up, we will find snow, skiing and present training opportunities for our membership. Program Supervisors are very engaged with planning program delivery across our vast geography and I encourage all of you to take your first opportunity to train and engage. Don't wait for more, less or perfect snow conditions. As all of you experienced, we seem in a snow pattern of too much or too little, get any training you can ASAP. The push to get everyone into training a result of the past eight years of condition extremes coupled with the need to keep our skills at our accustomed high levels.

This summer the Division **Awards**

(Recognition Dinner) was in Sacramento hosted at the wonderful facilities of the St Jude Hospital. The evening was rewarding with Outstanding in the NSP recognition Gold Stars and several runners up awards – Silver stars. Please take a minute, look at your patrols, work up a profile of your peers doing great work or adding to the patrol experience with their extra effort and energy. Write it up, submit your story, and inspire others to invest in their patrol experience. Writers block? Bill Gibson can direct writers to resources to help the process. We are attempting to better align our events and will return next year with a new meeting format for early August 2020.

**Training** - We support attending training outside your region, that is a great practice to share ideas and meet new patrollers, please alert the host area of your interest. Hopefully, you can use this support if we might need to chase snow. That warm ocean blob might have a snowfall impact.

Daryl the **Toboggan** Dude is busy with plans to push our training out into the regions, offering all a chance to move towards the snow and reduce some travel. Senior Ski & Tob events are held at a regional level with patrollers encouraged to attend outside their home region. Region advisors work with Daryl on annual calibration of skills, techniques, terms and best practices. Ask a toboggan instructor, grab a toboggan and take a clinic run or three. The important thing, practice, training and practice. Driving sleds comes back faster than riding a bike.

Sue Dennison is working with **OEC** Region advisors building a schedule of staffed refreshers, and some Senior OEC evaluations. Regional events work best for the SR OEC skills eval,

**Please see Director, cont'd p. 11**

## Mark your calendars:

**Jump to p. 11 to mark your NSP calendars for a host of NSP clinics and events!**

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

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Lots more; see inside!

## 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., Brian Haena

Mother Lode Dir., Amy Lindblom

Northern Cal., Dave Brown

Professional Rep, Open position

Southern California, Richard Roth

Secretary, Janice Waits

Treasurer, Keith Dickens

Legal Advisor, Geoff Hutcheson

Registrar, Ri Chan

**Alumni Advisor**, Dr. Jim Margolis

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,

Karl Chulski

Nordic Supervisor, Jeff Gurrola

Communications/Newsletter, Tim Viall

Communications/Web, Rye

Livingston

Outdoor Emergency Care Supervisor,

Sue Dennison

Outdoor Emergency Transportation

Supervisor, Daryl Whitcher

Recruitment/NorCal, vacant

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](mailto:fwd-newsletter@farwest.org), or mail to 5854 Turtle Valley Drive, Stockton, CA 95207.

# Election results and coming elections

DATE: July 10, 2019

TO: Far West Division Board

FROM: Janice Waits, Far West Division, Election Chairperson

SUBJECT: 2019-2021 Region Director Election Results

With only one (1) nominee for Eastern Sierra and Northern CI

Elections for the offices of Region Director for Eastern Sierra and Northern California. Only one (1) nominee for each region stepped forward: ES, Brian Haena; No. CA Sam Lanier.

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

## REGION DIRECTORS

Eastern Sierra 2019-2021 Brian Haena, This will be Mr. Haena's first full term.

Northern California 2019-2021 Sam Lanier, (resigned June 20, 2019)

## **AMENDED/ADDITIONAL REGION DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS FOR the JUNE 1, 2019 – MAY 31, 2021 TERMS.**

Northern California Region: A Special Election was held for Northern California Region Director the 2019-2021 term. Again only one (1) nominee stepped forward, David (Dave) Brown. Bylaws 5.4.2.1a therefore, David (Dave) Brown, will be Northern California Region Director for the 2019-2021 term. David Brown, will be eligible to run for three (3) terms as Northern California Region Director.

Mother Lode Region: Resignation of Region Director, Tony Akins, June 1, 2019, with one (1) year remaining on two (2) year term 2018-2020. June 2, 2019, Amy Lindblom appointed as Region Director for the remaining year. Per Bylaws 5.4.4.1 Amy Lindblom, is eligible to run for three (3) terms as Mother Lode Region Director.

*Bylaws 5.4.4.1 a) Unscheduled vacancies in the office of Region Director shall be filled by an election held within ninety (90) days after the commencement of said vacancy. An interim replacement shall be appointed by the Division Director to act between the date of vacancy and the date of said election. Any such replacement shall come from the Region where the former Region Director is registered. b) If there is less than six months before the start of the next election cycle then the position may remain unfilled and/or appointed, by the Division Director with agreement of the affected Region's Patrol Representatives and the FWD Board. c) A Region Director may be removed, for just cause, from his office by the Division Director with the concurrence of a majority of the Board of Directors, or by two-thirds vote of the voting Members in the Region Director's region, or by the unanimous vote of all persons holding membership on the Division Board of Directors exclusive of the person whose removal is sought*

Please see Election, continued, p. 5

# Announcing Tri-Advisory 2019! Back to where it began!



Dates: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Place: Wawona Camp Ground site, Yosemite Park

Registration: **\$ 30.00**

**Due to changes in the reservation system for the special Yosemite Valley camp site it resulted in locating to Wawona.**

Entrance fee: As per normal entrance

Tent camping: **Included**

Continuing the Tri-Advisory tradition of Tri-Advisory for its 41<sup>st</sup> year since 1978 Tri-Advisory will be at the venue that was where the first Tri Advisory was held!

Sponsored by the Nordic, Avalanche, and MTR (Mountain Travel & Rescue) programs Tri-Advisory refreshes by hands-on clinics in the outdoors. Clinics and skills in ropes, GPS-maps & compass avalanche beacon and other topics are presented. With so many patrollers of like mind from round the Far West Division gathering a wealth of knowledge is shared amongst all.

Tri-Advisory will also be a registered NSP ICE course for the Avalanche, Nordic, and MTR instructors.

## Celebrating 41 Years 1978 – 2019

What started out 41 years ago by a handful of like-minded patrollers wanting to tap into each other's collective knowledge, the Tri-Advisory has grown to become a "not-to-miss", key educational conference within the Far West Division of National Ski Patrol.

***Yeah-but I am an Alpine patroller*** ...if you're a patroller interested in the backcountry, wanting to gain new skills but you're unsure where to begin, the Tri-Advisory is a great place to start! First, you'll meet and get to know the key instructors from your region who will mentor you locally ... OK! Next, you'll hear from people who have "been-there, done-that", sharing their experiences and opinions, giving you insight and information on needed knowledge, training, and skills.

***Oh-yeah ... You need to be here!***

This site proved to be an exceptional venue for the hands-on clinics of avalanche beacon usage, GPS and map & compass navigation work, as well as other topics for the back-country enthusiast. After a big pot-luck style dinner arranged by Larry & Millisa Cody of Mt Pinos Nordic Area everyone tent camping will be treated to a very quiet night away from the general camp grounds.

The Pot-Luck dinner that Larry & Millisa Cody arrange has certainly become a must not miss event! Millisa and Larry will be conducting classes and demonstrations on the art of Dutch Oven camp cooking, so be sure to bring your Dutch oven and ask them questions. They really are pros at this and would like to pass their knowledge on.

Bring your family and friends. What a great getaway! Spectacular views and short hikes await everyone. This is all in addition to the Tri-Advisory agenda--not to mention Saturday evening's dinner and entertainment

Make your plans now! Get the registration form from [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org) with more details and up-dated information! Complete the form and mail to the address on the form with your registration check.

Camping will be at the Group Camp Site located in the Wawona Camp Ground. This site is on the banks of the South Fork Merced River and across the road from the Wawona Hotel and cabin rental is available behind the Hotel in the area of Redwood. Tent camping is only allowed in the Group Site, RV's may get their own site close by.

Reservation for Tri-Advisory can be found at:

<http://www.farwest.org/styled/MemberPrograms/Conferences/Conferences.html>

RV camping reservations can be made with the Park Service:

[www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm) or call (877) 444-6777

Hotel lodging reservations can be made with the new authorized concessionaire, Aramark:

[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com) or call 888.413.8869

We are looking forward to a great weekend ... we'll see you there! Submitted by Karl Chulski



# Mountain Travel and Rescue preps for big season!

Big changes for the course delivery of the MTR program!

During PowderFall 2019 held in Snowbird, Utah, this past April the MTR National Director hosted a face-to-face meeting with all the Divisional Supervisors. I represented the Far West Division.

The big topic was to review the student manual. The current 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was published in 2012 and was by some opinions missing important detail on topics of importance.

Rather than re-write this manual it was agreed by all the Supervisors the best option was to adopt the Freedom Of The Hill, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, selected chapters, as the student manual for the MTR program. This has just been approved by the National Education Committee.

Detail of the selected chapters will be published in the upcoming Ski Patroller magazine in an article by the National MTR Director, Myron Allen. Be sure to read this article!

In short, the IOR of a MTR course has the option of using the current MTR 2<sup>nd</sup> edition manual for the next three years, or transition to Freedom Of The Hills immediately for this season's courses.

As Freedom Of The Hills does not cover the topic of organized Search And Rescue (SAR) the current MTR manual may be used for the next three years, or at any time a course may elect to use the Introduction to Search and Rescue (2008, National Association for Search and Rescue).

By 2022 fall all courses are to use Freedom Of The Hills and Introduction to Search and Rescue. Freedom Of The Hills is updated about every 5 to 7 years, much more often than the MTR program could up-date a manual, and it has been recognized as the go-to book for mountaineering.

Update on The National Weather Service in its latest report as of this writing (August 2019) is predicting conditions are lining up for a better than 50% chance of a normal condition developing for the west for this season.

Conditions do change quickly and dramatically with any mountain conditions, time to prepare and gain the knowledge is prior to needing the skills. To get prepared, the MTR course presents how to confront the winter environment and be prepared. Clothing, nutrition, weather, shelter are just a few of the topics presented to prepare for the winter environment in the event of an emergency, SAR, or just for the enjoyment of the winter backcountry. The public is expecting us to be skilled in the mountain winter environment in all aspects of it, on the slopes of the resort and being able and knowledgeable of the winter survival skills.

As the OEC refresher are beginning to be on everyone's mind the MTR program is also getting ready and making plans for an excellent season.

Courses will be scheduled very shortly so you can plan your winter patrol schedule around the dates. Contact the IOR's below to put your name on the list!

Courses offered are:

- MTR Fundamentals one day of classroom with one day of field activities (no overnight to this course)
- MTR 1 one day of classroom with one day and overnight of field activities
- MTR 2 two days of classroom with two days and two overnights of field activities. This course is available to those who have already taken MTR1 and Avalanche course.

These courses are opened to all patrollers, Alpine or Nordic. 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 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.

To check if courses are planned or scheduled contact:

So Calif Region: Natalie Muraciov

[scblackdiamond@yahoo.com](mailto:scblackdiamond@yahoo.com)

Mother Lode Region: Keith Gale

[keith\\_gale@hotmail.com](mailto:keith_gale@hotmail.com)

Eastern Sierra Chris Haagen

[cmhaagen@gmail.com](mailto:cmhaagen@gmail.com)

Arizona Region Guy Roll

[guy.roll@gmail.com](mailto:guy.roll@gmail.com)

Nor Calif Region: Contact Mother Lode or Eastern Sierra Regions

**Karl P. Chulski, FWD-MTR  
Supervisor, Far West Division  
Mountain Travel & Rescue  
Supervisor, [fwd-mtr@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-mtr@farwest.org)**



## Elections, continued from p. 2

### 2019-2020 FAR WEST DIVISION

ELECTION NOTIFICATION for 2020-2022 Terms

ELECTION—Nominations are now open for Assistant Division Director

Two-year term June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2022.

For position of Assistant Division Director, presently held by Nancy Stromswold, this would be her third two year term. Asst. Div. Directors may serve no more than 3 consecutive 2 year terms.

Please note the following dates.

December 2, 2019—Nominations DUE for Assistant Division Director Position. A 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 may be accompanied by a one-page statement of the candidate's platform. A nomination also must be accompanied by written acceptance of the nomination signed by the nominee

January 6, 2020—Assistant Div. Director candidates list finalized by Elections Committee.

January 27, 2020—List of candidates for Assistant Div. Director, their resumes and platforms to be posted to the FWD web site.

February 3, 2020—Date of Election, ballots will be distributed to electorate.

**March 2, 2020**— Date all ballots to be received/postmarked by for Assistant Div. Director positions.

March 23, 2020—Results announced (sooner if all eligible ballots are returned)

PLEASE FORWARD ALL NOMINATIONS AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO:

Email nominations and/or announcements to: [jrwai40@gmail.com](mailto:jrwai40@gmail.com)

Janice Waits, Election Chairperson

1202 Rembrandt Drive

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

REGION DIRECTOR ELECTIONS:

Also be advised that Arizona, Mother Lode, and Southern California regions are due for Region Director elections, in spring 2020. Positions are for 2 year terms June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2022.

Region directors may serve no more than 3 consecutive 2 year terms.

Arizona – Andrew Youngblood – 2016-18 & 2018-2020 Region Director Incumbent

Mother Lode – Amy Lindblom – appointed 2019-2020 Region Director, eligible for 3 full terms.

Southern California – Richard Roth – 2018-2020 Region Director Incumbent

Nominations are now open and will be accepted to later than February 3, 2020. Consult a region officer or your region's by-laws, officer's handbooks, and ski patrol manual for qualifications. Nominations are to be submitted to the Division Election Chairperson, Janice Waits [jrwai40@gmail.com](mailto:jrwai40@gmail.com).

REGION ELECTION TIME LINE

**February 3, 2020**—Pronouncements of Candidacy and letters of acceptance of candidacy due to Elections Chair/committee

**April 6, 2020** — Ballots sent out along with candidates platform and statement

**May 4, 2020**— Date all ballots to be received/postmarked — results announced

## Assistant FWD Newsletter Editor sought

**FWD 'News and Views' Assistant Editor:** The FWD newsletter is published three times yearly, in September, December and February. Deadline is the end of the month prior to publication. Seeking an assistant for newsletter editing and layout, will happily train and mentor! Contact Tim Viall, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com), or phone (209) 969-3875.

# FWD Recognition Program for 2019

An enthusiastic crowd attended the Far West Divisions annual Recognition Dinner in Sacramento in early August to toast great programs and deserving awardees. Here are highlight, including awardee photos pictured with Division Director Lance Vaughan and Awards Advisor Bill Gibson:

## **Outstanding Patroller- Maureen Oakes – Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol**

Maureen started patrolling in 2015 and has been a patroller for just three years. But in those three years she has become an important part of the area's first aid room. She has an extensive background in the medical field and this makes her a valuable part of the team.

She always exceed her required duty days and with her family and work commitments this is not always easy. However she does not wish to be given any special treatment and always shows up for not just their duty days but additional days when the mountain would otherwise be short staffed.

Besides OEC she has already completed Avalanche 1 and later this year she should complete the requirements to be an OEC instructor. This will be a big benefit to both the Sugar Bowl Patrol and the Mother Lode Region.

So if a job needs done in the first aid room or anywhere at Sugar Bowl the Patrol turns to Maureen Oakes, the Far West Division's Outstanding Patroller for 2019. She also receives a Yellow Merit Star for being submitted as the division's outstanding patroller.

## **Outstanding Instructor – Non OEC – David Reed – Big Bear Ski Patrol**

David started patrolling in 1983. He has become an instructor in OEC and OET and at Big Bear he is an instructor that teaches in all nine disciplines of the certified program.

He is also one of the areas key trainers of candidates in both OEC and OET. Spending many weekends helping new candidates and provides daily toboggan clinics with an emphasis on the many different sled that they may encounter are the area. Sleds such as a cruiser, an edge or a CPR sled.

Over the many years as an OET instructor David has served the patrol and the APP on many levels. But this award is about being a great instructor and for these reasons David Reed was selected as the Far West Division's Outstanding Instructor for 2019. He also receives a Yellow Merit Star for being submitted as the division's outstanding instructor.

## **Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative – Jon Harvey- Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol**

In 2010 Jon joined the NSP and has served the skiing

public as an incredible example of a member of the Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol. He has risen to be recognized as a leader of our organization. He quickly became a senior, and both an OEC and an OET instructor and has been his patrols representative since 2016. In fact he has been the patrol representative for his patrol several times now, an assistant patrol representative, and many other positions. As the patrol representative he has worked closely with his area management. He represents his patrol at the region meetings and rarely misses them.

Jon also saw a need at the resort for AED's so he over saw the procurement of some of these and help develop policies and procedures for their maintenance and use for the Property Owner Association that borders the resort. Plus as an EMT/Paramedic he helped coordinate hill protocol with the local ambulance so that patient care would be seamless from the hill all the way to the hospital.

As the PR he has encouraged the development of new instructors. Over the last few years this process has produced many new instructors and the result has allow some of the more seasoned instructors to move into positions at the region and division level.

The Far West Division recognized the Patrol Representative of the Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol as the outstanding Patrol Representative, Jon Harvey.

He also receives a Yellow Merit Star for be submitted as the division's outstanding patrol representative.

## **Outstanding Nordic Patroller – Mark Cohen– Mt. Pinos Nordic Patrol**

Mark has been a member since 1997, that is over 20 years, has brought the skills he learned in his everyday life to become a truly outstanding Nordic Patroller. He is an OEC instructor, has been a Patrol Representative and a Senior Nordic Patroller. And he is the regions OEC equipment manager.

Mark devotes many hours to his passion as a patroller, teaching OEC classes, interacting with outside agencies, conducting field trainings. All this on his own time and at his own expense. As a contractor he has helped the Forest Service with the care and maintenance of the facility they let the patrol use for the patrols operations which enhances the relationship the patrol enjoys with the Forest Service.

He is so committed to sharing his passion for Ski Patrol that he regularly invites friends on ski outings and discusses NSP with them. Some have even joined the NSP because of this time he spends with them. These are just a few reasons



that he is a leader on his patrol and in the NSP.

A member of the Mt Pinos Nordic Patrol, Mark Cohen, is the Far West Division's Outstanding Nordic Patroller of the Year and also receives a Yellow Merit Star.

### **Outstanding Young Adult Patroller –Nathan Whisler-Homewood Ski Patrol**

Nathan began helping his father and the rest of the patrol with sweep at a very young age but as soon as he was able he enrolled in an OEC class, he did and became a Young Adult Patroller just last year in 2018.



Besides completing OEC, he has taken Instructor Development, Avalanche 1, CPR, FEMA ICS 100 and even an American Red Cross Babysitting Class. But that is not all, for the last several years he has help as an assistant in several OEC finals.

Nathan has already started to help out in his patrols leadership. When the patrol worked on rewriting their policies and procedures, he provided the input on the section about Young Adults.

If you think our youth are unfocused or undisciplined I suggest you introduce yourself to the Far West Division's Young Adult Patroller of the year Nathan Whisler from the Homewood Ski Patrol and he too receives

a Yellow Merit Star for being submitted as the division's young adult of the year.

### **Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol – Northstar Ski Patrol**

Founded in 1976, the Northstar Ski Patrol serves an area that is quite unique since the area is almost 3200 acres and is entirety on private land. Served by 20 lifts and with a wide variety of terrain, most of it serviced by snow making, this is one of the busiest areas on the Far West Division. With 110 members the patrol has a strong training program and is proud of its high standards. Beyond the basic level, patrollers are encouraged to continue their training and enhance their skills. They host many regional and even division level training events. And over the last few years have hosted senior training and testing, a regional women's clinic and even a division alumni ski day.

In addition to the high level of training, the other strength of this patrol is its superb relationship between the volunteer and paid staff. On the hill the patrol is seamless with no distinction between paid or volunteer staff member. Many of the paid staff, including patrol management, are members of the NSP. A large percentage of the paid staff started through the volunteer program.

While it is safe to say that all patrols are outstanding, this

patrol's training, camaraderie, dedication and pride in each other is truly exceptional and for these reasons the Northstar Ski Patrol is the 2019 FWD Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol. The Patrol also receives a Unit Citation for being submitted as the division's outstanding large alpine ski patrol.

### **Outstanding Nordic Patrol –National Runner Up-Mammoth Basin Nordic Patrol**

Mammoth Basin Nordic Patrol started in 2004 and with 6 active members this patrol rises to many tasks. Three of the members are seniors and two of them have a National Appointment. Instructors in OEC, OET, Avalanche, MTR and CPR just to name a few. Their members serve on the region board and are regional advisors. And they serve as support for an annual Winter Biathlon.



They work closely with the local Forest Service and local Law Enforcement. They meet each fall to cover annual responsibilities, area boundaries and even any interface they may encounter with non hibernating bears.

They even maintain a Facebook page and a web page. As you can see they are a very active patrol even thou there are only six of them. But don't worry about there being so few of them, this last year they had another candidate join them and each year they are involved in several recruiting events.

A truly outstanding patrol and a uniquely enthusiastic group; congratulations to the Mammoth Basin Nordic Ski Patrol the 2019 FWD Outstanding Nordic Ski Patrol. They also receive a Silver Unit citation for being the runner up patrol in the Nation.

### **Outstanding Small Alpine Ski Patrol – Soda Springs Ski Patrol-National Winner**

The patrol was organized in 1980, at an area that has 2 lifts and covers 200 acres and 653 feet of vertical. And they truly represent a small patrol with only 10 members but, that



does not mean that they are not a very active patrol. With a season that covers more than 120 days the members average at least two patrollers per day. That's a lot of patrol days with such a small patrol. This patrol provides support for many special events. The

# FWD Recognition Program for 2019, continued

area annually hosts the “Legends of Snowboarding” with many of the same competitors that attended the first Sierra Snowboarding Championship back in 1985. And the patrol is on hand to make sure the event runs flawlessly.

The members are very active in the local community sharing the NSP with the areas guests. They serve a small family area and have a number of couples on the patrol with kids being regulars in the patrol room. The Far West Division is honored to present the Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol award to the Soda Springs Ski Patrol for 2019 and is also the Outstanding Small Patrol in the Nation.

## **Outstanding Alpine Patroller – William Borelli – Dodge Ridge Ski Patrol**

A patroller for just 8 years Bill became a senior patroller just last year. But for those 8 years he has been very active within his local patrol as a board member, assistant PR in charge of training and now taking over the reins this year as the patrol representative. He has also been an OEC instructor for all those years but always up for a challenge, he took on becoming an OET instructor last year while also becoming a senior patroller. And now he has jumped into becoming a senior level instructor, in both OEC and OET, not bad for only being a member for 8 years and don't forget he is also the patrols PR. Not too bad at all. Bill sets a very high bar with his expectations for himself but he tirelessly devotes time to help every patroller be all they can be.



A truly outstanding patroller from the Dodge Ridge Ski Patrol, this year's Far West Division's Outstanding Alpine Patroller is Bill Borelli. Bill also receives a Silver Merit Star for being the National Runner Up in the NSP.

## **Outstanding Paid Patroller –National Runner-up Thomas Brickley– Dodge Ridge Ski Patrol -**

Thomas, our Outstanding Paid Patroller joined the NSP in 2012 after working for two years as a lift operator. As I read the nomination I would say he might be called a bit of an over achiever. After his two years as a lift op, where he was on a constant look out for guest that needed help, he breezed right through his OEC class. He moved right into the ranks of the paid staff and then

became an EMT. This allowed him to work for the local county ambulance and he even became a CE provider to help his fellow patroller get continuing education credit. But that is not all; he also worked as a Police Community Services Officer. You would think that is enough for anyone but recently he was hired by the local city police department and just graduated from the police academy this last February.

Now back to patrolling, he helps out with all aspects of training and I am sure as time permits he will become an instructor in at least a few programs.

The Far West Division was honored to present the Outstanding Paid Patroller Awards to Thomas Brickley. And along with this award we are please to recognize Thomas as the National Runner up in the Nation with a Silver Merit Star.

## **Outstanding Administrative Patroller – Ri Chan – Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol – National Runner Up**

Ri has been a member of the NSP since 1998. A former member of the Southern California Region, she move up north and joined the Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol in 2000. Her profession then took her back to Southern California, but she maintained her membership with her new Tahoe area patrol by commuting the 350 miles up north. She did this for 14 years. She has since moved back to Northern California and now that she is no longer burdened with an excessive commute, she supports the patrol by providing a twice monthly BBQ as well as après ski goodies.



Ri is a friendly, supporting and welcoming presence in her patrol, she has been a strong supporter of women's events at her home hill, helping organize and participating in the Women's Ski and Toboggan Events. She has served in multiple roles as a board member and treasurer of her patrol. A professional accountant, she has donated her expertise by serving the last six seasons as her region's treasurer.

From the Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol, the Far West Division was Proud to honor, Ri Chan Outstanding administrator for 2018. She also receives a Silver Merit Star for being selected as the Runner Up in the Nation as the outstanding administrator in the NSP this year.



## **Outstanding OEC Instructor – National Winner- Carl Ritcher– Dodge Ridge Ski Patrol**

O u r O E C instructors are the backbone of the NSP organization. There is no doubt they put in a copious amount of work preparing and presenting refreshers, senior training, OEC Enhancement Seminars, Instructor



Recertification's and the NSP's full OEC class. Carl has done just that over his career.

In 1990 he joined the NSP and immediately began his quest to be an instructor. Since 1993 he has been very involved in OEC first becoming an instructor but not before becoming an avalanche instructor in 1992. In 2012 he became an OEC IT and continues to guide his patrols OEC in this role.

OEC is his passion. He thrives and lives for the next OEC class where he leads as the IOR, not in a condensed class just covering the basics but over the course of several months spending each Sunday teaching and one night during the week for those who would like a little more practice. How many of us would open our house up to our students each week so that they would become the best OEC technicians they can be? Plus he puts on weekly OEC clinics for both the volunteer and paid patrollers that emphasizes a practical, use your head approach to OEC. Since many of the paid staff are also EMTs and Firefighters, this is very helpful not only on the mountain but year round.

Not just satisfied with being an outstanding OEC instructor, he does all he can to grow the number of instructors on his patrol and in the region. As an IT, he pairs new instructors up with seasoned instructors and has them work closely together to become seasoned instructors themselves.

He is also a strong supporter of the NSP always encouraging the paid patrollers to join the NSP. Plus annually, he attends the regional instructor continuing education not just every three years as required by NSP.

It is clear that instruction has been the hallmark of this patroller's long time commitment to the NSP. He leads by example and leaves no stone unturned in bring others to the highest possible proficiency of patrolling.

The Far West division is proud to select Dodge Ridge patroller Carl Ritcher as the 2019 Outstanding OEC Instructor. And as the Outstanding OEC Instructor in the

Nation Carl also receives a special recognition award and a Gold Merit Star.

There were other awards presented at the Division Member Recognition Banquet in Sacramento on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Division Directors Recognition- Janice Waits- Alpine Meadows- Division Secretary Service Certificates of Appreciation**

**Katie DuMont** – Eastern Sierra Region Director 2015-2019

**Sam Lanier** – Northern California Region Director 2017-2019



**Tony Atkins** – Mother Lode Region Director 2014-2019

**Tony Atkins** – Division Conference Coordinator 2011-2017

**Doug Hill**- Instructor Development Supervisor 2008-2018

**John McGuigan**- Northern Recruiting Advisor 2010-2019

**Steve Thorsted**- Community College Advisor 2016-2019

**Keith Dickens**- Division Treasurer 2007-2019

**50 years of service – Cliff Chewning- Big Bear Ski Patrol**

**Meritorious Service Award -Keith Dickens**

Keith Dickens served as the Far West Division Treasurer for nearly 12 years. He entered the role in a time of turmoil the previous Treasurer suddenly dropped from sight and took the Bank Account info into the void. Keith worked to restore access to the Far West Accounts, performed an audit and determined what had transpired over the prior year. The process to re-connect with the Division funds was a long task; Keith kept



**Please see Recognition, continued on p. 10**

## Recognition, cont'd from p. 9

his focus and prevailed. The following 11 yrs progressed without incident and Keith worked with the DD and ADD to establish a budget forecasting process and gain acceptance across the Division Supervisors. The Division is on good footing with a sound budget and processes.

This year the FWD submitted award nominations in all twelve categories to the National Awards Committee. One was selected as the Outstanding in the Nation, three were runner-ups but all were the best of the best in the Far West Division. And one patrol was the top in the Nation with another as the runner up. Plus we have recognized members for their devoted service one even that have been a member for 50 years. I think that is a wonderful showing in every category.

Submitted by Bill Gibson, Far West Division Awards Advisor



## Celebrating the Superhero in Every Patroller

I attended my first Southern California Region awards banquet 12 years ago. The room was filled with everyday men and women, a cross section of the So Cal NSP Region. My plus-one was wife Victoria. On our arrival, I attempting to explain patrol culture, and my new-found friends, I came to the epiphany that these men and women were, in reality, superheroes. Our patrol colleagues may seem a bit understated like Clark Kent, but at a moments notice, they appear in red vest with white cross emblem, ready to rescue those in need. The NSP award banquets honor the best-of-the-best. Many with seemingly superhuman abilities.

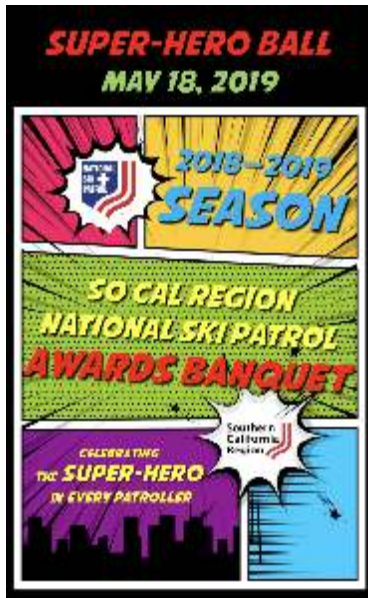
Fast forward...our 2019 theme became *Celebrate the Superhero in Every Patroller*. Our save-the-date announcement used a comic-book theme, inviting patrollers to a costume-optional event. *The Grand* event center in Long Beach became our lair. Program and presentation decks echoed the acknowledging

theme. Table decorations, character stand-ups, and linen colors took on superhero expressions and hues. Superhero elixirs (signature drinks) were energized with glow-sticks that hinted superhuman potential.

Nearly everyone arrived ready for role-play, dressed as their alter-ego. Honorees were awarded, programs were acknowledged, and friendships were bonded. Awards winners were photographed in front of a commemorative step-and-repeat.

Special thanks to all in the banquet committee: Tina Choi-Nelson, Wayne Wong, Halle Sparrow, Scott Goodman.

Submitted by **Scott Goodman**, BBMR Patrol



## Division Director, continued from page 1

however organized, it is a crowd of patrollers. Please engage by adding to your skills and taking some time to advance your OEC skills.

Keith Church and the **Avalanche** team set dates for Level 1 and Level 2 courses, you can attend to complete the Senior Avy requirement or learn a live saving topic and skill. Unless the snowfall is extreme in either direction courses should fit most schedules.

Karl Chulski and the **MTR** (Mountain Travel & Rescue) team also posted training dates around the West. Do think about joining the Nordic and MTR team at the annual Tri-Region event. Avalanche, Mountain Travel and Nordic training offered this year just outside Yosemite in the Wawona area. Think about a trip snow camping; see my note of the “blob” impact on snow.

Trudy Nye continues offering the **Women's** ski & toboggan training events. It is great to see the training social events being regionalized off the snow and on snow training remains high level and very hands on. The group finds a way to welcome all and keeps skilled instructors busy each day.

**Leadership** - I asked Region Directors to start looking for the next and beyond leaders. Want to engage? Start by contacting your patrol rep or an IT with your interest and get started, growth is a key element for satisfaction with a job, or volunteer role. Please invest in yourself and the NSP by being active and contributing.

**Young Adult Program** - A special committee is working on crafting a Young Adult program for the NSP. Great progress to date resulted in launching pilot programs with two patrols in the FWD. The program focus is guidelines and practices to protect both the youth and Adult patrollers from mistakes and situations we want to prevent.

Look for the program addition to the Policies & Procedures in the Spring, in the interim please consider adding young Adult patrollers as your service area allows. If Patrol reps want to know more, please drop me a note.

**Alumni** – FWD's own Tim Viall heads up the Alumni Program for the entire NSP. Tim has kicked the classification to the front page and happily and sadly (as patrollers retire) the classification is growing rapidly. Congrats to Tim for his success at kick starting another path for membership activity. Recent changes by the NSP allow Alumni members with current OEC cards recognition for the use of their OEC skills in the giving of care or aiding or saving a life. Alumni members maintaining their instructor certification are often assisting in teaching OEC, judging and helping their patrols. If it is time, give this classification some thought. You'll see thoughtful contributions to this newsletter by newly-appointed FWD Alumni Advisor Dr. Jim Margolis, who has quickly recruited Alumni Advisors on all five FWD regions; they already working to ramp up the FWD Alumni program.

**Dues** – Please promptly pay your National Dues via the on-line portal. \$60 Region and Division dues payment remain via patrol collection, most often at OEC refreshers.

Activity abounds across our Division; get engaged, contribute, serve with a smile and enjoy skiing.

Think the warm water “Blob” away - I'd rather have too much snow.

See you on the slopes. **Lance Vaughan**, FWD Director.

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## FWD Events Calendar:

**ICE Clinic, Davis, September 14 (see p. 12)**

**Tri-Advisory Clinic, Yosemite, Nov. 1-3 (see p. 3)**

**Snow Bomb events, early to mid-November, volunteers needed (see p. 13)**

**FWD Winter Board Meeting, January, location TBD**

**California Avalanche Workshop, November 2, Kings Beach (see p. 27)**

**Mammoth AVY ICE Clinic, December 7, 8 (see p. 27)**

**Alumni Celebration Week, Whitefish, MT, week of Feb. 2-9 (see p. 20)**

**Sea Otter Bike Classic volunteer opportunity, April 16-19, 2020 (see p. 15, 16)**

**FWD Summer Recognition Dinner, August, 2020, location TBD**

**Post your key events in FWD ‘News and Views’, send to editor Tim Viall, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com); also post on the FWD website, send to webmaster Rye Livingston. [webworker@farwest.org](mailto:webworker@farwest.org).**

**See the FWD Web site for updated calendar and training opportunities: [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org)!**

# 8th Annual NSP Instructor Continuing Education Clinic

hosted by

Mother Lode and Eastern Sierra Regions

Saturday, September 14, 2019

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

See agenda below for different discipline sessions

Check-in / continental breakfast begins at 8:00 am

Davis United Methodist Church

1620 Anderson Road, Davis, CA. 95616

The Eastern Sierra and Mother Lode Regions invite NSP OET, OEC, and ID instructors to attend the Instructor Continuing Education Clinic on September 14, 2019 in Davis, Ca. Registration is now LIVE.

The core elements of instructor recertification are:

1. Active Instructor activity.
2. Instructor trainer (IT) evaluation and feedback of instructors.
3. Attendance and participation in a Region or Division continuing education clinic once every three years during an instructor's three-year accreditation cycle.

Clinic Overview The design of the CE Clinic meets the third part of the instructor recertification process. Instructors in multiple disciplines can attend two ICE Clinics in one day. Region Advisors and Division Supervisors will update program information, provide specific discussion of region programs, changes in NSP curriculum, reporting requirements, and enhance skills to carry out the duties of an NSP instructor. Instructors will come away from this Instructor CE Clinic with new knowledge, sharper teaching skills, and tools for their teaching tool kit. Instructors whose certification expires in 2019, 2020, or 2021 are encouraged to attend.

## Agenda

- 8:00 to 8:25 Check in for OET clinic, continental breakfast
- 8:30 to 11:30 OET (Alpine) Instructor Continuing Education Clinic
- 11:15 to 11:40 Check in for OEC, ID clinics
- 11:45 to 12:15 Instructor Skills Review (required for all ICE Clinic participants in all disciplines)
- 12:15 to 1:00 LUNCH provided
- 1:00 to 3:00 OEC Instructor Continuing Education Clinic
- 1:00 to 3:00 Instructor Development Instructor Continuing Education Clinic

## TWO STEP Registration:

Each participant must register via Eventbrite (\$30.) To register, click on the link to Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nsp-instructor-continuing-education-clinic-tickets-66575046757>

Each participant must register via the NSP website for the Instructor CE course(s) they plan to attend:

OET (Alpine) Instructor's course number

**F057190009**

OEC Instructor's course number **F026190009**

ID Instructor's - contact Loretta O'Brien (lobrien110@gmail.com) to enroll

\*NOTES: Instructor CE Clinics for Nordic OET and MTR will be offered at Tri-Advisory.

Contact FWD Avalanche Supervisor Keith Church for information about the 2019 Avalanche ICE clinic, ([keith\\_church@hotmail.com](mailto:keith_church@hotmail.com)).

Instructor Appreciation Each ICE clinic participant registered by August 30, 2019 will receive a long sleeve base layer wicking Please see ICE Clinic, continued next page.

## MEN'S LONG SLEEVE



## WOMEN'S V-NECK LONG SLEEVE



## ICE Clinic, continued from p. 12

Instructor Appreciation Each ICE clinic participant registered by August 30, 2019 will receive a long sleeve base layer wicking shirt in the size of their choice and an NSP lanyard. Registration after August 30 will receive a shirt, but sizes are limited to remaining stock.

### Registration Deadlines

August 30 is the deadline to pre-register and request a shirt size.

September 11 is the deadline to pre-register and receive a lunch.

Registration after September 11 is \$30 but does not include lunch.

Questions: If you have ICE registration questions, please contact:

[stromswold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stromswold@sbcglobal.net)

Contact your Regional Program Administrator for questions about recertification.

We look forward to seeing you in Davis on September 14<sup>th</sup>,

The 2019 Instructor Continuing Education Clinic Team

Dore Bietz [dorebietz@aol.com](mailto:dorebietz@aol.com)

Bill Borelli [patrolrep@drnsp.org](mailto:patrolrep@drnsp.org)

Rob Maxim [robert.e.maxim@gmail.com](mailto:robert.e.maxim@gmail.com)

Barney Siri [barneysiri@gmail.com](mailto:barneysiri@gmail.com)

Nancy Stromswold [stromswold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stromswold@sbcglobal.net)

## Volunteer at Snow Bomb! Have fun, spread the NSP opportunity

The Eastern Sierra Region and Mother Lode Region of Far West Division of NSP has staffed a recruitment booth at Snow Bomb for 10 years. Its primary purpose is to recruit new patrollers, but also is a wonderful PR venue for us to “show the cross” to the public. We have met many very interesting people. Some have expressed an interest in becoming a ski patrol. Often our visitors come by to thank us for helping them or family who have been hurt at an area or just to say Hi. Some are retired patrollers who share their past patrol activities, usually very positive.

This year we will have a booth in San Francisco (Rick Bulan) Nov 2 and 3 and Sacramento (Matt Ridge) Nov 16 and 17; 10-6. We would like to have representatives from as many of our 22 patrols as possible. Staffing is usually in pairs of 2-3 hour shifts. We also encourage patrol specific recruiting cards and pamphlets. Dress is patrol vest and jeans. We would like to complete our staffing well in advance. We will forward specific information about the two venues when we receive them from Snow Bomb.

To volunteer, contact:

Rick Bulan, ESR RA, [rick.bulan@easternsierraregion.org](mailto:rick.bulan@easternsierraregion.org);

Matt Ridge MLR RA, [matt9\\_72@yahoo.com](mailto:matt9_72@yahoo.com)

## 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](mailto:webworker@farwest.org). Also send your events to **Tim Viall**, **FWD Newsletter Editor**, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com) and we will profile them in FWD ‘News and Views’, the newsletter of the Far West Division!



# Birthing a new NSP Bike Safety Patrol for the American River Parkway

Inspired by the FWD's success in providing a “pop-up bike patrol” for the last 16 years at the huge Sea Otter Bike Classic at Laguna Seca Raceway and Ft. Ord National Monument, NSP alumni members Tim Viall and Dr. Jim Margolis are working with the County of Sacramento and the American River Parkway Rangers to establish an American River Bike Safety Patrol for the 25 mile long parkway, from Old Sacramento up the American River to Folsom Dam.

Several more steps need to be taken before the County Supervisors can approve such a new organization, but Viall reports that more than a half-dozen Parkway coalition organizations and the Sacramento County Parks Director have greeted the concept with high interest.

Development of a volunteer bicycle safety patrol for the Jedidiah Smith Trail and American River Parkway, Sacramento, CA, would take place under the auspices of the National Ski Patrol and its Far West Division. Viall has suggested the following outline to the Parkway leadership:

**Services to be provided:** Bike Patrol members would work as eyes and ears with the Parkway Rangers and other stakeholders, provide trail directional advice, equipment assistance, safety insights, offer bike safety programs, assist with events and render first-aid services as required.

**Developing organization:** the National Ski Patrol (NSP) and its Bike Patrol subset, under the guidance of the NSP's Far West Division. With over 32,000

members, the NSP has become more involved in bicycle safety patrols in recent years, with bike patrols organized much like the NSP's 600-plus ski patrols.

**Training:** Volunteer members would be trained much like traditional ski patrollers, with emphasis on bicycle rider interaction, trail and equipment advice and first-aid skills (the NSP trains members in either Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) or Outdoor First Care (OFC), with training approaching EMT-level first-aid skills.

**Recruitment of members:** Potential bike patrol members would come from the over 100 current NSP members who live in the Sacramento Capital Region; members of the local cycling and hiking community would be invited to join and then trained as new bike patrollers. Current NSP patrollers could sign on as their secondary NSP patrol.

**Training of bike patrol members:** It is anticipated that recruitment will likely begin this fall, with training in bike safety and Outdoor First Care for non-NSP members; the new patrol would likely “go live” sometime in spring, 2020.



Pictured, top, a group of riders at mile 18 on the American River's Jedidiah Smith Bike Trail, at left, an NSP bike patroller at work in the mountains; at right, an NSP bike jersey from the NSP catalogue.

**For more information, please send name and email address, and what NSP patrol you are affiliated with, to:** Tim Viall, Far West Division bike patrol advocate & NSP National alumni advisor, 11135 Moose River Ct., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670; [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com); (209) 969-3875.

## Plan ahead: Join FWD patrollers, April 16-19, 2020 at Sea Otter!

Imagine forming a 60 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 15 years, drawing 60 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 16-19, 2020 at Laguna Seca Raceway and Ft. Ord National Monument, between Monterey and Salinas, CA.

This is the USA's largest outdoor biking event; the National Ski Patrol has built a 15-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 60 members and friends of seven patrols provided 130 shifts of service to the event and handled well over 120 first-aid codes.

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: [seautterclassic.com](http://seautterclassic.com).

In an expanded role in 2019, the NSP is took 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 barbeques!

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 16-19, 2020. To volunteer or for more info:** Contact Tim Viall, Coordinator for NSP Volunteers for the Sea Otter Classic, [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com), ph: 209.969.3875.

# Join other Far West ski patrollers April 16-19, 2020 for first-aid, marshal service at US's largest cycling event!

*Huge Sea Otter Bike Classic centered on Laguna Seca Raceway, CA, April 16-19, 2020*

For the 15th 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 120 riders, from incidents of road rash and exhaustion to more serious trauma-induced injuries.

Over 70,000 spectators crowd the huge venue, which spreads out from Laguna Seca Raceway into the scenic back country of the Ft. Ord National Monument and, for the road races, along roads through Monterey County. 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 2019, with 27 members and friends/family (providing

marshaling services), joined by patrollers from Bear Valley, Mt. Shasta, Sugar Bowl, Heavenly, Sierra at Tahoe. 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 \$6,000 to patrols of the NSP volunteers.

Patrollers, family and friends are offered free camping right in the Laguna Seca paddock at Ski Patrol Central as well as and free admission. Motorhomes, camping trailers and tents make for cozy accommodations and Friday and Saturday 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 16-19, 2020; to volunteer or for more info, call or email Tim Viall, Coordinator for NSP Volunteers for the Sea Otter Classic, at [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com), or 209.969.3875.** For more insight into the event itself, go to [seaotterclassic.com](http://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!





# Utilizing Retiring and Retired Ski Patrollers; Four Innovative Programs in the Eastern Sierra Region

by James Margolis, MD, is FWD alumni Advisor,  
formerly Eastern Sierra Region recruitment and retention  
advisor

In my capacity as Eastern Sierra Region Recruitment and Retention Advisor: I have noticed 3 trends over the past several years:

1. We are having increasing difficulty recruiting new patrollers. We have not filled our OEC classes and at least one did not even offer a class this past year.

2. All too often, we dedicate hundreds of hours teaching OEC and basic patrolling and have over half our candidates and young patrollers drop out in a year or two. Long term retention is hampered by the huge commitment patrolling requires and the demands of family, education and work. Also this is stressful work and there is significant loss due to burnout.

3. Our region enjoys a huge and ever enlarging alumni population, many still actively involved with patrolling and many others who would be if opportunities were available. This is could be a major source of trained, skilled and experienced patrollers who could continue to make continued contributions to ski patrolling. Once a patroller completes training to become a basic patroller, NSP is very accommodating to students. One option, to promote a 20 year patrol commitment would include young patrollers to take time out for education and job training by becoming an alum for a few years (making sure they attend annual OEC refreshers) and rejoin as a full time patroller for several more years.

What follows are examples how 4 resorts in the ESR have set up programs that both facilitate recruitment and promote continued optimal participation as a retiring or alumni patroller:

Patrol A—this resort has some very advanced terrain and has always recruited for senior level alpine patrollers. Their volunteer patrollers often commit to 20+ years and they found that many were still fit and skillful but not able to

ski and pull a toboggan on their very advanced runs. Three options are available to “less than abled bodied”(injury or age): Complex 6- half day speed control on their top to bottom exit run; complex 7- - assigned mid mountain and are primarily responsible for skier assistance. If they are very limited by injury, are assigned to mid mountain walk in clinic and provide first aid and guest services.

Patrol B- This patrol has had a Mountain Host Program for about 25 years, It was under resort management until recently. It is run by an NSP alum and all are Outdoor First Responder (OFC) certified. They provide customer service at the base area, do speed and safety control and assist with the care of on hill emergencies. They have used this program both as a recruitment tool as several of their patrollers began in this program and as a mechanism for patrollers to continue to serve as alumni.

Patrol C— This patrol recognized the continuing skills and dedication of a senior patroller who was suffering from severe and progressive medical problems. They allowed him to staff the mid mountain aid station as his patrol assignment. When he became too disable to even do this, he was always an active teacher or facilitator in their and other OEC refreshers and activities. They also were early pioneers in the Host program. Several years ago they developed their Host program under NSP. This served as a good way to recruit and begin training several of their patrollers. They provide base customer service. A similar program is their Mountain Safety Program. They provide on hill safety and =guest services. It also has served as both a recruiting and alumni program.

Patrol D - my home patrol—I began my career with ski patrolling 35 years ago signing in as a doctor patroller for about 3 years, actively patrolled for 21 years and continue as an alumni-doctor patrol, teach OEC and respond to injuries on the hill. When I became an alum, my wife, who is a very talented quilter, started making me a retirement quilt. She said she is not going to complete it until I actually stop patrolling. I wonder if I will ever get it?

**Please see Alumni, continued p. 21, thanks...**

## 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](mailto:alumni@nsp.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

NSP Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Former Patrol \_\_\_\_\_

# Meet your Regional Alumni Advisors!

Meet your Regional Alumni Advisors; they are here to assist you and other FWD alumni:

**Heidi O'Neil, NorCal Region,**  
[heidimoneil@gmail.com](mailto:heidimoneil@gmail.com):

I was born in Eureka, California and am a graduate of Fresno State University with a BS in Nursing. I have worked as a registered Nurse for over 30 years. I currently work in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka.



I began Patrolling as a junior candidate at Horse Mountain in northwest California in 1973, became a basic patroller in 1976, and a Senior Patroller in 1977. I have patrolled at Horse Mountain, China Peak, Mt. Shasta and Tahoe Donner ski areas. I have been an OET instructor for the past 12 years. My husband and oldest daughter are also Ski Patrollers and my father was a founding member of the Horse Mountain Ski Patrol. My husband and I will both become alumni this season, after patrolling together as a couple for more than 35 years. We love patrolling, especially the people we have met through the organization and hope to continue to make a contribution to NSP as Alumni Advisor for the Nor-Cal region.

**Skip Jackson, Arizona Region:**

Skip Jackson, a skier for 62 years and an Alpine patroller for 25 years has held the position of Arizona Region Director, OEC IT and instructor. A retired Registered Nurse with extensive ICU experience, an Army veteran I just finished two terms as the Sunrise Patrol's Treasurer. When I'm not in Phoenix you may find me working for the Forest Service as a Lookout in the Kaibab National Forest or running a river in the Southwest.

Our alumni are a critical resource to important to lose, their acquired knowledge, experience, and wisdom should be drawn upon to make the Patrol more effective. The biggest issues are letting them know what options are available, that their experience is valued and keeping an alumnus involved without requiring them to return to full time Patrolling. Coordinating with the ski area and obtaining their concurrence for alumni to work as mountain hosts or similar positions during the peak hours of the ski day and getting some compensation is critical if alumni are to stay involved.

**Bob Hoffman, Eastern Sierra Region:**

I began patrolling in 1961 and retired in 2011 after 50 years of active patrolling at Heavenly (home patrol), Sundown in CT, and Wintergreen in VA. My National number is 3653. I have held most elected offices such as Patrol Leader of Skyline, Regional Director for the BayArea Region



and Asst FWD Divisional Director and National Board Member. I was one of the principles in forming the modern ski mountaineering program and was one of the first patrollers to start WOOOF (the first avalanche rescue dog organization in California). I have been proactive in my support of NSP membership by being an advisor to our patrol representatives by providing leadership as well as policy and procedures recommendations. I have been a First Aid and OEC instructor, a Proficiency Instructor, an Avalanche Instructor, and a Testing and Training Instructor. I have 8 Yellow Merit Stars and 4 administrative awards. I have been a Senior/National patroller actively for 50 years and continue to be an OEC Instructor. I was Alumni Advisor at Heavenly for 5 years and at the ESR for 3 years. I have worked with Tim and Dr. Jim to help build energy into our Division and the National program.

Bob Hoffman, 5758 River Birch Dr, Reno, NV 89511, 775-473-7953, [hoffskipc@aol.com](mailto:hoffskipc@aol.com)

**Ron Evenson, Mother Lode Region:**

I started patrolling in Ohio as a member of the Boston Mills Ski Patrol in 1982. Prior to that, I had been a part time Ski Instructor at Mount Hood in Oregon where I passed my Level 2 certification. In addition, I have patrolled at Chestnut Mountain in Illinois and have been a member of the Donner Ski Ranch Ski Patrol since 1992. I have been Assistant Patrol Rep, at DSR, Patrol Rep., Assistant FW Division Rep, and have National Number 7830. I am an OEC Instructor, and OEC IT, and an OET Instructor.

Ron Evenson, 4322 El Macero Drive, Davis, CA 95618, 530-304-7273, [ron@alpinescientific.com](mailto:ron@alpinescientific.com)



**Mark and Patty Giebel, Southern California Region:**

The Giebels are finishing 35 years as active patrollers. We will continue as instructors and ITs for OEC. We are both certified with APP. My wife is the only fully Certified female in our region that I am aware of.

We also work with the disabled at Mammoth for the last 10 years basically teaching them to ski in the winter and in the summer kayaking, rock climbing, bicycling, etc.

Our reason for taking over the Alumni position in So Cal is that we have lost too many good patrollers recently with all their knowledge and experience. Bringing them back to be involved in any way we can will be a win/win for everyone. I plan on having once a month activities to draw them back in the fold.



# NSP Alumni, friends, family are invited to celebrate in Whitefish, Montana, Feb. 2-9, 2020!

Plan to join fellow NSP Alumni, families and friends for an “**NSP Alumni Celebration Week**” at Whitefish Mountain, Whitefish, Montana, during the week of February 2-9, 2020 (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](http://skiwhitefish.com)). The mountain offers low cost skiing to “super seniors” (age 70+) and about a 20% discount to seniors age 64 and up (hence, many alumni and spouses ski for LOW prices).

The highly-rated **Grouse Mountain Lodge** ([glacierparkcollection.com](http://glacierparkcollection.com)), just minutes from the mountain, with free shuttle to the mountain, offers a “book four nights, get the fourth night free” package (hence, \$115 per night, X3 = \$345 for four nights, double occupancy). You can book for four nights (starting Sunday, Feb. 2, or Wednesday, Feb. 5), or, stay for the full week (additional



nights just \$99/night). The Lodge is adjacent to a 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 and XC clinics will also be offered. 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”.

Don't miss this fun event; **Mark your calendars beginning Super Bowl Sunday, February 2-9, 2020.**

**For more info, let National alumni advisor Tim Viall know your interest, at [tviall@msn.com](mailto:tviall@msn.com), or (209) 969-3875; we will send you more insight and keep you posted as new activities during the week evolve.**

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## Alumni, continued from page 18

Above are four examples of how retiring/ retired patrollers can be utilized to continue working with their patrols and serve the snow sport public. I am sure there are many other examples of this through out NSP. Setting up unique programs like these can help with both recruitment and retention and utilize more of our alumni so we can help our commitment to provide care to the public, maintain our manpower and utilize valuable experience, training, teaching and mentoring that our retiring/retired patrollers can provide.

Submitted by **Dr. Jim Margolis**, Far West Division alumni advisor, [jamadapa@att.net](mailto:jamadapa@att.net), (916) 947-9636; for more insight into the alumni program, go to [www.farwest.org](http://www.farwest.org), click on Member Services, then, on Alumni!



Doc Jim has been active in ski patrol for over 30 years and is a past Patrol Representative from Homewood at Lake Tahoe. As an Alumni, he continues to be the medical advisor for his patrol, an OEC IT, and the Eastern Sierra Region's recruitment and medical advisor. His long-standing commitment to patrolling has been recognized with an LCA, DSA, Purple Merit Star and several Yellow Merit Stars. He continues to practice medicine as a child psychiatrist and was recognized in 2009 by the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society by receiving the Golden Stethoscope Award “Doc of the Year” award. He teaches medical students at both University of California at Davis School of Medicine and California Northstate University Medical School. He has published two articles in SPM.

# TRANSPORTATION NATION

**All the sled news that's fit to print**

Wow! What a great season we had – last year was so much fun! More fun than I have had in a long, long, time. I got to ski from winter – Julie Winter to be precise – all the way to summer – Sandy Summer ! Both are great people, outstanding instructors, and just a bunch of fun to be around!

Toss in a mid-winter invite to Montana Snowbowl to work a 4 handle sled clinic, then on to Powderfall at Snowbird in April, and top it off at Mt. Hood for the June Nuts & Bolts clinic and you can see how I had more fun this season than I have had in a long, long time. Thanks to each and every one of you who allow me to do what I do for the NSP. Lets do it all again!

Before we begin the new season, let's review....

## Program delivery in the Far West Division

It was just about 5 years ago this past winter that we were at the last of the Far West Division's Winter Educational Conferences. Originally modeled like the NSP's Powderfall event, the 2014 Far West event was held at Northstar at Tahoe, but during mid-season, to take better advantage of the on snow training opportunities. As I recall we had about 60-70 patrollers in attendance for the 3 day event, which also featured a Division Board meeting and about 15 or so instructors to support the various clinics that were run on the hill or in private rooms down in the village. I think that all educational disciplines were represented, although not all classes were heavily attended, but a good time was had by most folks.

The unfortunate part arose when the Division got all of the bills for the event and totaled it all up. In addition to the hefty registration tag that the attendees had to pay, the Far West Division had the awesome good fortune to pay for all the meeting rooms, coffee, water, doughnuts, etc. that had become a part of the expectations of the attendees. All of this, of course – occurred at a world class venue in the middle of the winter. In short, Dorothy was not in Kansas anymore – and the Wizard of Oz was not going to pay the bills. A hard look at the financial risk v. the educational reward led the Far West Division Board of Directors to conclude that the MegaEvent model was no longer working for the Far West Division. Either patroller dues would need to be raised substantially, or a new program delivery model had to be created. Our Board made the decision to move away from a Division-centric program delivery framework, and thus – the Regional delivery model was born.

In essence, the concept that was adopted took the educational programs of the NSP to the masses. Rather than the Division staff running events directly – the delivery of the NSP educational product would be “pushed down” one level into the Regions, and Region staff would be responsible for the delivery



of the product. No longer would the Far West Division command that all patrollers leave their home resorts and travel mid-season to remote mountains to train – the

Division Program Staff would now travel into each Region to promote program development and assist the Region staff with Senior qualification events. For the OET program in particular this was a significant development, and one that has had a lasting effect on at least one Region in the Far West Division.

The key to the concept is to decentralize the delivery of the educational product, and by corollary, to empower the downstream instructors to be able to do their job effectively with guidance, but not barriers, from the levels above. Simply put, let's allow good instructors to do their jobs. Let's not create the old centralized delivery structure down at the Region level, which then requires that every Senior candidate train at some remote location simply because “that's the way that we have always done it”.

All OET Region Program Administrators in the Far West Division have been given the authority to run their program in the manner that best suits their Region. My requirements are simply this:

- Stick to the plan (NSP P&P program requirements)
- Utilize your Instructor Trainers & IOR's effectively
- Minimize barriers to success
- Communicate your needs to me

If the transportation needs of all patrol's in your Region are not being met, please contact me.

## OET Season focus points

Hopefully you are already registered to attend one of the many pre season Instructor Continuing Education events this fall. The following is a preview of the Outdoor Emergency Transportation program focus points for this season; each will be discussed in more detail in my ICE presentation:

- Improving relationships – the IOR & the IT*
  - Maintaining constant quality improvement*
  - Course closure operations*
  - OET course registrations*
  - Engaging upstream & Downstream*
  - Making your Senior Program more effective*
  - Allowing access while maintaining standards*
  - Cowboys & Indians*
  - Beyond the Reservation*
- Hope to see you there! Daryl

# NSP Instructor Continuing Education Program

By now, all FWD Instructors have encountered NSP's Instructor Continuing Education (or ICE) program either as a participant, an Instructor of Record (IOR), or an Instructor Trainer (IT). But I still get many questions about how this program works.

So, as we get geared up for the next patrol season, I thought I would review the key aspects of the ICE program.

In 2018, NSP revised the Instructor Continuing Education (or ICE) program with improvements in content and organization. The new manual, *Continuing Education Clinic Guideline for NSP Instructors* ([insert hyperlink](#)) is a great resource where you can get full details. But here are the highlights.

To get credit for an ICE program, the participant must complete two modules:

Review and Update of Discipline-Specific material

Review of Instructor Development (ID) Course, also known as Instructor Skills Review

Currently, these modules are only available as a Traditional, in-person course. However, the ID Committee is currently working on an on-line course for the Instructors Skills Review.

The ICE clinic needs to be at least 60 minutes long overall with a minimum of 30 minutes spent covering the Instructors Skills Review module.

The ICE should be taught by an IT of the appropriate discipline (such as OEC, OET, or Avalanche). However, the IOR can delegate the Instructor Skills Review to any ID Instructor.

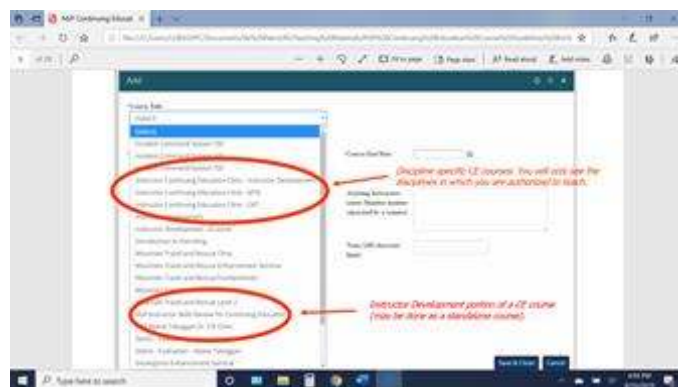
The ID Committee recommends that Six-Pack Lesson Planning, Mentoring, Administrative Procedures, and the American Disabilities Act be reviewed in each ICE clinic.

There are currently two ways to register this course.

Option 1. Course is registered as an ICE Clinic for a specific discipline, such as OEC or OET. When this option is used, it assumes that the IOR will teach the Instructor Skills Review module in addition to the discipline-specific continuing education material.

Option 2: The Instructor Skills Review module is registered as a separate course. With this option, only the ID review is covered. This option allows the two modules to be taught separately and entered onto the patroller profile as separate courses. This helps with the patroller who is an instructor in more than one discipline.

This picture shows what these two options look like on the Course Registration page.



If you have questions about the ICE program, or any ID issue, please contact me:

[Far West Division ID Program](#)  
Supervisor: [Loretta O'Brien](#),  
[lobrien110@gmail.com](mailto: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, if 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](http://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/](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:stevethorsted@gmail.com).



# Outdoor Emergency Care program preps for season!

“Days go by slow, but time goes by fast.” When you really sit and ponder that, oh how true it is. Fall is right around the corner and before you know it, winter will be here and the snow will fly.

**Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC)** courses are forming in a location near you. Some have already started. Remember those people “helping” when you were going through the course? You can now be that person giving back. Getting involved with a course can help not only the people going through the course but it can help you. Additionally, every OEC practical exam requires numerous people to participate as patients, evaluators, runners, and other helpers. This is another great way you can give back. I encourage all of us to get involved and help out. A lot of the people going through OEC now may possibly be patrolling with you as the years go by. What a great way to establish that relationship now.

**Instructors** – OEC instructor credentials renew every three years. During that three year period you need to be involved and teach. In addition to being involved you need to attend (at least) one Instructor Continuing Education Course during that three year period. If not, your instructor credentials will not be renewed. On Saturday, **September 14, 2019**, the Mother Lode Region and the Eastern Sierra

Region will be co-sponsoring an **ICE clinic in Davis, CA**. This has become a great event to attend. The day is packed full of great information shared by numerous people throughout the day. This is a great way to satisfy the ICE requirement. In addition to the event in Davis, there is also an Instructor Continuing Education Course scheduled in **Southern California on September 30, 2019**. Mark your calendar, go onto [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org) and register for one of these courses. You'll be happy you did.

**Refresher** time is rapidly approaching. Every OEC technician is required to attend an annual refresher. This is an NSP requirement. No one is exempt from this requirement. If you can't attend the refresher at the resort where you patrol, look on the NSP website ([www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org)) for another refresher to attend.

Sue Dennison is FWD OEC Advisor; reach her at [pwdrbabe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pwdrbabe@sbcglobal.net)



# The view from the bench; legal ponderings...

## Attention Patrol Officers!

While direct causation is a matter for speculation, some patrol leaders have been experiencing some problems accessing patrol accounts at banks. Some banks are giving close scrutiny to accounts managed by patrols and even regions. Bank personnel are asking for and questioning the authority of patrol officers to change the names associated with the accounts. Thus some subunits have experienced delays in being able to access their accounts. In one case this was given as a reason that the patrol dues were not timely paid.

We can grouse about changes in the banking industry, but some of the problem is ours. Patrols are authorized by tradition & practice to administer their affairs, including funds they raise, consistent with the NSP P&Ps, FWD P&Ps, and area management authority. Patrols generally elect their own officers for terms set by their own procedures and for terms set by their patrol policies. With each election a new slate of patrol officers embarks on their duties. One duty that has been overlooked is to maintain communication with the banks holding patrol money. Gaps have occurred and after several election cycles the new officers remember to contact the bank for a new set of authorized signatures associated with the accounts. The bank's question has been, "Who are you?" In some cases the persons whose names are associated with the accounts have left the patrol and the contact information is inaccurate.

The response to the bank's question can be confusing because of the NSP structure. NSP is a federally chartered corporation. For various reasons it is also a corporation pursuant to some state laws, but not in all states. Its subdivisions are the Divisions (you are in Far West), of which there are 10, Regions within Divisions and patrols. Each of the 10 Divisions has a tax id number used to report and account for all funds, wherever held, within Division. The other subdivisions are subordinate to the Division and all funds are the funds of the Division, and ultimately NSP (see 7.8.2 of the NSP P&P). The NSP assigns the delivery of its programs to the Divisions that report directly to the National Officers. This structure was presenting in the September 2018 edition of this newsletter.

Patrols are permitted by tradition and policy to manage the funds they collect consistent with the non-profit status, mission, and rules of NSP/FWD. Some consequences of this relationship are:

If a patrol dissolves with money in the bank, that money must be given to the NSP.

Patrols are subdivisions of NSP and are not authorized to create separate corporations and transfer funds to that new corporation (it has happened folks!).

Patrols cannot donate NSP funds to another non-profit

without NSP permission.

Patrols cannot spend or donate in support/benefit of for profit enterprises.

And most relevant, patrols must manage the money in a prudent, business-like manner.

Such prudence includes regularly balancing the account and maintaining clear records of acquisitions and expenditures. It also includes frequent contact and communication with the banks holding patrol accounts to insure there is no confusion or lapse in reasonably required paperwork. Based on experience, I recommend that patrol officers keep copies of the Federal Charter, FWD by laws, and the patrol election procedures on file with the bank or available to show to bank personnel. When officers present themselves they should be prepared to show the minutes from their board meeting in which the election is approved by the outgoing board and new officers are identified and seated. This document must be signed by the organization secretary. Having the immediate past officers who are being removed from account will also be helpful (with identification).

This may not be enough. If not contact FWD leadership who can provide you with a letter of authorization. Some banks are insisting that the account name be changed to the FWD with the name of the patrol following. If that makes them happy, it is OK. Some banks have suggested each patrol get a DBA. This is a new wrinkle and if it allows access to your patrol's money to keep operating, do it. The continuance and maintenance of a DBA as it relates to the relationship with the FWD and NSP is being investigated and at first impression thought unwise. But a DBA can readily be abandoned and when a policy, if any, is developed, patrol officers will be notified.

It is also important that you report all elections promptly the Division so that the Division can verify and authorize the elected patrol officers to access accounts, if that becomes necessary. Also report to Division leadership details of any problems you may be experiencing with banks or bank personnel. They can't help if the issues and facts are not clearly stated.

Hope this helps. Stay safe and do the snow dance.

Geoff Hutcheson is FWD Legal Advisor; reach him at [fwd-legal@farwest.org](mailto:fwd-legal@farwest.org)





## Alumni Celebration Day(s) shaping up for this season!

Details on several February or March “Alumni Celebration Days” are in the works. In 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, 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, 2020 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, Northstar for 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!

This issue profiles several dozen FWD members and patrols, recognized for outstanding work over the last ski season. They were the result of nominations from folks like you!

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. 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](mailto:leilanicconnolly@hotmail.com)

MLR Advisor Debbie Witcher at [witcher15@comcast.net](mailto:witcher15@comcast.net)

SoCal Advisor Barbara Baxter at [barbax14@gmail.com](mailto:barbax14@gmail.com)

NorCal RD Sam Lanier at [snoshoesam@me.com](mailto:snoshoesam@me.com)

Arizona RD Andrew Youngblood at [a.youngblo@gmail.com](mailto: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.



# A New AVY L1 Curriculum for the Season...Soon?

The final drafts are done for the updates to our Level 1 curriculum to meet American Avalanche Association (A3) guidelines for US avalanche recreational education. You may recall that US avalanche education programs were split into into recreational and professional tracks two years ago. The good news: A3 has approved our new L1 curriculum. The bad news: NSP's National Avalanche Committee (NAC) is still waiting to hear back from the Education Committee for approval within NSP.

The 2019 curriculum will remain modularized, allowing students to take classroom, field and rescue portions of the course separately and will include an organized rescue module that is NSP-specific. The new courses will be further subdivided and organized in four modules---L1M1 (classroom), L1M2 (field), L1M3 (companion rescue); and L1M4 (organized rescue). Unlike some A3 approved providers, NSP will require students to take modules one and two as prerequisites for our avalanche "companion rescue" course. It will not be offered as a standalone course, even for those looking for their prerequisite to the Pro-SAR course in the professional track.

Will NSP become a professional track provider? That is a distinct possibility, although discussions of the matter between with A3 are still nascent. The NAC will tackle that matter once our new L1 curriculum is fully approved and rolled out.

## What's the "Problem" with Avalanches?

The biggest changes in the L1 curriculum this season will lie in how material is presented. Instead of teaching skills and techniques in a vacuum, the modules will be taught in the context of "avalanche problems." An avalanche problem is comprised of? ? 4? ? factors? ? (type,? ? location,? ? likelihood,? ? size)? ? whose combination? ? describes? ? the? ? avalanche? ? hazard at the time. You may recognize the icons used by your local avalanche center to describe the type of avalanches that are part of the problem (e.g. storm slab or loose wet). The center will typically provide a compass rose or other graphic to describe the severity of the problem at various elevations and on specific aspects. The hazard rating (green through black) will forecast the likelihood and potential size of slides at the time.

We hope that teaching the course within the context of solving/avoiding an avalanche problem or problems will make the material more relatable and more useful for students. Check out the following link for a quick refresher on avalanche problems: <https://avalanche.org/avalanche-encyclopedia/avalanche-problem/>.

## California Avalanche Workshop: November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Per the Sierra Avalanche Center's website: "Please join us for the 6th annual California Avalanche Workshop. This

is a preseason knowledge sharing gathering of the backcountry snow traveling tribe and an opportunity to analyze accidents, learn from pros, and network." The workshop starts at 9AM and ends at 5PM.

Cost: \$20 if paid online in advance; \$30 on day of the event

Location: **North Tahoe Event Center  
8318 North Lake Blvd  
Kings Beach, CA**

The California Avalanche Workshop is a "regional avalanche workshop" (RAW) and qualifies as the *academic component* of avalanche instructor continuing education. Watch their Facebook page for updates.

## Tri-Advisory (back in Yosemite this year): Nov. 1-3

Attending all avalanche-related sessions and the instructor development module during the Tri-Advisory weekend qualifies as an Avalanche Instructor Continuing Education Clinic. See Karl Chulski's article in this newsletter for details!

## Mammoth Mountain AVY ICE\* Clinic: December 7-8

Looking for an opportunity to share avalanche program teaching materials, hone field skills, catch up on current administrative issues and do a bit of early skiing too? Mammoth is the place to be! SoCal region has been offering this annual clinic to avalanche instructors and instructors-in-training for over a decade now. Load you best classroom presentations to a thumb drive, pack your pit kit, wax your skis and head to Mammoth this December. Contact SoCal Region Avalanche Advisor, Jeff Pierce, at [pierce\\_group@msn.com](mailto:pierce_group@msn.com) for details. Partial reimbursement for travel expenses for out-of-area instructors is available. Contact [keith\\_church@hotmail.com](mailto:keith_church@hotmail.com) to inquire.

\*All NSP instructors must (among other things) attend an Instructor Continuing Education (ICE) clinic registered with NSP at least once every three years in order to maintain their instructor certification. Your division supervisor cannot renew your teaching credential with NSP without that ICE clinic attendance on your record. Avalanche ICE clinics must include academic, field, administrative, and instructor development components.

Keith Church, FWD AVY Program  
Supervisor;  
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# US Ski Patrol Asia, Seoul, Korea

**(Editor's Note:** I thought this was unique enough to run a second time, in case anyone missed it earlier...)

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](mailto:usskipatrolasia@gmail.com)





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