

# NEWSLETTER



FALL 2008

## IT JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER!!!

*S. E. Schopfer, Region Director*

### National Issues

Your Region Director has been very busy over the past 12 months!! I have tried to keep the Region's Patrol Directors and Advisors up to date on what has been happening during the many months and hopefully they have been passing those e-mails to each and every Patroller in the Region.

### One Patroller...One Vote

Check the National Website to be sure your e-mail address is up to date. This is the way you will be able to vote in the upcoming Board election.

### E-Newsletter

This is the first e-newsletter. I am able to e-blast Patrol by Patrol throughout the Region. Eventually, I hope to be able to e-blast the entire Region at one time once the National Office makes that feature available to the Region Directors. Again, in order to receive this e-newsletter your e-mail address must be up to date.

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## SOUTHERN SECTION

*Doris Rollins, Section Chief*

The Southern Section registered 242 patrollers.

**Hidden Valley** is under the management of new owners. They have been active with snowmaking and improvements on the mountain and base lodge.

**WISP** has no update

**Canaan Valley** has no updates. Guest services and their contract with the state are still a contention

**Women's Clinic** I was hoping to talk to Dick Barron and settle on a weekend. Potential weekend of the Women's S&T Clinic is either 1/31-2/1 or 2/7-2/8. I have communicated with Bill Smith and need to confirm dates with him.

## WESTERN SECTION

*Guy Lombardo, Section Chief*

This has been a year of ups and downs but in the end the Western Section came out as the most outstanding Section in WAR. The Section has won the Section Award that was started in 2001 and has only lost once to the Southern Section in 2002. The rules for this prestigious award are to be the first Section to get in their registration and 990 to the Region Director. I'm very proud of my Patrol Directors and the Patrollers in the Section for their outstanding cooperation. Kudos to every Patroller in the Section.

There were two down sides of the 2008 season. One was that Mother Nature did not provide enough snow in January and into February but thankfully for snowmakers we had great skiing. In the 2007 season I registered 203 Patrollers but in 2008 only 193, a loss of 10 valuable Patrollers. Thankfully Boyce Park held on to their numbers and Seven Springs gained two. Hopefully in the coming season we will gain more Patrollers than we lost to bring up our numbers.

To all of the Patrollers and Patrol Directors of the Western Section please allow me to thank you for your outstanding dedication to the NSP, Eastern Division, WAR, and the Western Section. You have proved this time and again and I'm honored to represent you in the Region. From day one when I became an Officer in the Region I have lived by an OPEN DOOR POLICY code which means I'm always accessible to all to help whenever possible. You can reach me by sending an e-mail to: [guylom@comcast.net](mailto:guylom@comcast.net).

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## MOUNTAIN, TRAVEL & RESCUE

*Jerry Timcik, MTR Advisor*

The program is alive and well. I have received great support from the folks at Division to help bring up our instructor base so we can offer this course more frequently and to also offer it at any area willing to host the event.

Starting this year off the A/M/N Fall Instructors Meeting was held in Pittsfield, MA on 9/6,7/08. This is a gathering of instructors from all over the Division who shares resources and update their skills. Thus making it one of the most informative and useful events in keeping everyone updated.

The WAR MTR-F (one day) and MTR-1 (overnight camp-out) will be at Laurel Mt. Ski Lodge on 10/18/08 and 10/19/08. **Note:** Pre-Registration is required as space is limited.

The MTR-2 will be held this winter, but no date has been confirmed. More information on this will be posted after the Division Meeting.

Anyone interested in being an instructor please contact me. The work is easy and the pay is great!

## EASTERN SECTION

### *Nancy Heller, Section Chief*

There are four mountains in the Eastern Section, totaling 134 patrollers.

<i>Mountain</i>	<i>Patrol Director</i>	<i>Patrollers</i>	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Nationals</i>	<i>Certified</i>
Blue Knob	John Boburchuk	49	13	2	1
Mountainview	Buzz Walker	17			
PSOC @ Tussey	Ted Hovermale	36	4	1	
Ski Sawmill	Jim Hamilton	32	1	1	

As your representative, I feel it is important to visit every mountain and listen to all Patrollers' ideas on how to improve this wonderful organization. In my travels this past winter, I have driven 1637 miles all across the northern border of PA. Given an allowable reimbursement rate of 20 cents per mile, my travels have cost the section \$327.40. Staying in touch with all patrollers, either by phone calls or e-mails is a top priority for me to do the best job possible. Therefore, I will continue to travel and talk to my patrollers face to face so I can represent your views in the region and Division meetings.

There is a big push for all Patrollers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Bureau Emergency Medical Services

under the Department of Health. I have appointed someone to keep track of our Patrollers who have joined and encourage those who have not to join. The appointee will also have administrative duties to obtain EMS certification for our OEC refreshers. It is a personal decision which has no further training or voluntary hours. This is a way for the PA authorities to know what your training is, so if you wish to volunteer at a city, state, or national disaster, they will know your skill level and be able to assign you to help out in a meaningful way, not just handing out water. Gary Deitke, an EMT and a pro patroller at Blue Knob, will be the EMS Coordinator

## ELECTION COMMITTEE

### *Marty Silverman, Chairman*

This fall, at your OEC refresher, you will receive a ballot for the positions of Region Director, Southern Section Chief, and Eastern Section Chief (the Western Section Chief will come up for election next year). In addition, you will be given the opportunity to ratify the amended Region Bylaws.

This is the first time patrollers will have a chance to vote for their section representative. In the past, only patrol directors could do this. Please don't take this new right lightly.

While most Patrollers don't think much beyond the limits of their own patrol, many dedicated Patrollers through out the Region, through out the Division, and across the country, are volunteering many hours beyond their traditional patrol duty to make your role as a Patroller easier. From OEC Administrators, I/T's, and OEC Instructors that work during the summer to bring you a better refresher to make you a better patroller, to program administrators and advisors who work to improve patroller's skills, to region and section administrators that work on your behalf. So when you walk into a refresher in the fall, the only thing you have to think about is, "Did I remember to bring my pack?"

The Region needs more dedicated people like this. Even with your new right to vote, several of the positions have only one candidate running. If you feel that you have something to give to your fellow patrollers, if there is a need that you believe needs to be filled, then you should consider volunteering for an administrative role, or running for an office. The more talented people that come forward, the better the patrol organization will be.

## A TRIBUTE TO TOM HILLEGAS

### *Michael Calabrese, Blue Knob Ski Patrol*

Pennsylvania's Blue Knob Ski Patrol lost a dedicated patroller when Tom Hillegas died on January 27, 2008 from a heart attack while on duty. Tom was a personable leader, a good friend, and an accomplished skier. He was 51.

A Senior Patroller, Tom was a valued member of the Patrol for over 32 years and served as a Patrol Leader, an Assistant Patrol Leader, and an Executive Board Member. He was a Ski & Toboggan Trainer and a Senior S&T Trainer/Evaluator in the Western Appalachian Region.

Tom was an enthusiastic patroller dedicated to being the best in everything he did. He led by example. He wanted others to reach their potential and he worked with them until they got it right. He was genuinely interested in people, their families and their lives. There was comfort in his presence and he was able to bring out your confidence. Tom had a radiating smile and a big hug. Tom made you feel that you belonged and that you were always welcome and he took time to see how you were doing personally. Tom's general demeanor in good times and bad was unflappable, kind, quiet, confident and strong.

Tom was a loving husband and devoted father who motivated and trained his older son and daughter to become ski patrollers. He always tried to make a difference. He believed that life was all about family; your personal family, your community and church family, and your ski patrol family. He was instrumental in promoting patrol camaraderie and an inclusive patrol family spirit. He left a set of tracks for us to follow in leading our lives and I can hear him now... "come on, you can do it, make your own tracks."

Tom is survived by his wife Nancy and his children Zachary, Michaela, Kelsey and Brady.

## YOUNG ADULT PATROLLER PROGRAM

**Bart Gabler, Advisor**

The Young Adult Patroller Programs vary throughout the Region and the Eastern Division. Some are very successful, but most are non-existent. What is your Patrol's like? I have accepted the Young Adult Patroller Program Advisor position from the Region Director, Steve Schopfer. In doing so, I must learn what is currently in place. That's where I need your help.

Please contact me at [williamgabler@yahoo.com](mailto:williamgabler@yahoo.com) and let me know what's going on in your Patrol. Some time when the Patrol is all together, you may want to ask for a show of hands as to how many current Patrollers were first "Junior Patroller." You may be surprised!

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MODULE

**BOB SNOBY, EMM ADVISOR**

The 2008 Senior Program was very successful. Why? Twelve new candidates registered to participate in the program. All clinics were well attended by the candidates with each clinic designed to build upon the skills learned at the previous clinic. This design has proven to be very successful in the candidate pass rate proven by the 100% successful completion at the 2008 final evaluation. Congratulations to the following patrollers:

Mary Ann Versmessen	Seven Springs
Peter Goutmann	Seven Springs
Shawn Robbins	Seven Springs
Don Boger	Seven Springs
Don Bunney	WISP
Diane Murray	Hidden Valley Nordic
Jeff Nunes	WISP
Craig Bushey	Seven Springs
Danial Guy	Seven Springs
Ken Lichtenfelts	Seven Springs
Ron Eshleman	Hidden Valley
Kelly Zioiko	Laurel Hill

## 2009 SENIOR EMM CLINICS

January 4th	Seven Springs	8:00AM	Kick Off Meeting
January 11th	Hidden Valley	8:00AM	Clinic
January 25th	WISP	8:00AM	Clinic
February 1st	Seven Springs	8:00AM	Clinic
February 8th	Seven Springs	8:00AM	Clinic
February 22nd	Seven Springs	8:00AM	Clinic
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Seven Springs	8:00AM	Final Eval

To sign up please call Bob Snoby for an APPLICATION PACKAGE. 814-539-3490, [rsnobeas@atlanticbb.net](mailto:rsnobeas@atlanticbb.net)

\*\*\*It is recommended that candidates attend at least two clinics.

\*\*\*All candidates must be working on Senior Electives

\*\*\*All dates are subject to change

## OUTDOOR EMERGENCY CARE

**Ken Schweinsburg, OEC Administrator**

Well folks, it is time again for the refresher season. Summer toys are being put away and the weather is getting cooler. Are you ready for the ski season? Have you looked at your gear? Have you opened and checked your first aid belt and its contents since the end of last season? The time is now. Get into your pack and update your supplies.

As the Region OEC Administrator, I see many different people, instructors, and personalities. These people, although very different by nature, are what makes our OEC program and the entire NSP program so strong. Everyone brings fresh ideas and attitudes to the program each time they are delivered to the members. Our region offers 12 refreshers annually. When you come to this year's refresher, come prepared. You will need your OEC card, CPR card, registration number, and a fully stocked pack. If you don't bring the proper tools you can't get the work done. If you don't bring the required equipment and documentation you may be turned away from taking the refresher that day.

The regional refreshers are scheduled in May of each year. These dates are set by the host patrol of each refresher. Instructors volunteer to be at every location and to even be in charge of the whole darn thing. Imagine that, they give even more of their time than you do! Each one is run by either Instructor/Trainers or Instructors at all the locations. Although the materials are standardized the Instructors are diversified. In visiting the various locations, I learn a different teaching skill for everyone I meet. The Region has 127 Instructors and 19 Instructor/Trainers. They not only give of their time during the season with duty days but go way beyond that; teaching, mentoring, and delivering program materials to their fellow patrollers.

This year the "catch phrase" is "I CAN." Well, "I can" say this about our Instructors and Instructor/Trainers...**"THEY DO"!!!!** I want to thank them for all they do and when you attend the refresher, training, or OEC class, say thanks for sharing their talents with you.

## SKI & TOBOGGAN

### Bill Smith IV, S&T Advisor

WOW! Last season went fast and was very good on the S&T front. We added three S&T instructors: **Brian Reed (Canaan), Brian Younkin (Tussey), and Michael Wess (Blue Knob)**. Also, five passed the S&T Senior Evaluation: **Adam Ray, Patrick McCaffrey, Michelle Guy, Roger Strane, and Daniel Guy**, all from Seven Springs. Please tell them congrats them when you see them.

We touched the S&T hearts of about 100 patrollers in the Region. If you were one of those, please tell 10 others if you enjoyed it. Call or e-mail me if you didn't.

Our S&T message remains the same..."We are here to help you, are very flexible, and all you have to do is tell us what you want." The deadline for Senior S&T candidates to enter the program is January 11th, 2009. E-mail me at wispskibum@verizon.net if you are interested and we can work together to set up a program for you. We can do Senior S&T clinics, toboggan clinics, instructor clinics, general skiing skills clinics, or whatever is asked of us.

Although not an NSP national requirement, we still encourage ski patrols to have annual S&T refreshers for their patrollers where local S&T Instructors review current shaped-ski techniques and put the toboggan in the hands of the patroller. Also, we encourage patrollers to use their local PSIA, which usually is free, and attend their lessons. PSIA instructors are in tune to current changes in shaped-ski techniques and both patrollers and S&T Instructors can benefit from the PSIA.

See the 2008-2009 schedule for events and if you want anything, e-mail one of the Instructors and we can try to make it happen.

### SKI & TOBOGGAN SCHEDULE—2008-2009 SEASON

Region T/E Meeting and Refresher	Sat., 20 December 2008	7 Springs	Bill Smith IV
S&T Instructor Meeting and Refresher	Sun., 21 September 2008	Wisp	Bill Smith IV
S&T Clinic	Sat. 3 January 2009	7 Springs	Bill Smith IV
Senior S&T Clinic	Sun., 4 January 2009	Wisp	Bill Smith IV
Senior S&T Clinic	Sun., 11 January 2009	Canaan Valley	Bill Smith IV
Deadline for Senior S&T Program	Sun., 11 January 2009	All areas	Bill Smith IV
Patroller School	Sat.-Sun., 24-25 January, 2009	Windham, NY	Bill Smith IV
Toboggan Clinic	Sun., 25 January 2009	Wisp	Bill Smith IV
Toboggan Clinic	Sat., 7 February 2009	Blue Knob	Bill Smith IV
S&T Clinic	Sun., 8 February 2009	Sawmill	Bill Smith IV
Senior S&T Clinic	Sat., 21 February 2009	7 Springs	Bill Smith IV
Senior S&T Exam	Sun., 1 March 2009	7 Springs	Bill Smith IV
S&T Clinics - Tuesdays	7 Springs	Bill Cline (email in advance)	
S&T Clinics - Sundays	Wisp	Joe Closic and Bill Smith IV (e-mail in advance)	

#### Contact Information

Bill Smith IV  
wispskibum@verizon.net  
304-788-0248

Bill Cline  
wtcline@sprynet.com

## NORDIC NOTES

### Jerry Timcik, Nordic Advisor

The fall meeting of Avalanche/Mountain/Nordic Instructors was held in Pittsfield, MA. Two patrollers attended. During the summer months trail maintenance and clearing was held for four days with patrollers and DCNR participating.

Early October the On-the-Trail was held at Hidden Valley with 18 participants. The highlight was the demonstration by Butch MacQueen working with his search and rescue dog, Badger. Then in January and February at Hidden Valley, two NorPine Clinics were held with a total of 17 folks experiencing terror at two miles per hour! Also in those two same months, two Senior Clinics were given for the preparation of the Nordic Senior Ski & Toboggan Evaluation.

In March the Nordic Senior S&T Evaluation was canceled due to snow conditions.

The A/M/N meeting in the spring was held at CRREL, New Hampshire. A special treat was the tour of CRREL followed by a day of skiing at Killington, VT.

The Nordic Master's Program, a higher level program than the Nordic Senior, is continuing with seven applications received and three applicants accepted.

Congratulations to Diane Murray who completed her Nordic Senior E.M.M. this winter and is now a full Nordic Senior.

On-the-Trail	NorPine	Senor Clinics	Senior S&T Evaluation
10/04/08	1/10/09 & 2/14/09	Start with first snow	1/17/09

**Check the Website for other dates that will be posted after the Fall Division Instructors meeting.**