

# WAR News

Volume 3 Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2001

## ANNUAL REGION MEETING INDIANA, PA. AUGUST 11, 2001

Guy Lombardo, RD

NOTICE TO ALL WESTERN APPALACHIAN REGION OFFICERS ANNUAL REGION MEETING, INDIANA, PA, AUGUST 11, 2001

This is the third "REMINDER" of the annual Region meeting that is scheduled for August 11, 2001 at the Best Western Hotel on Wayne Ave. Indiana, Pa. at 9:30 AM. Please make a note of this date.

**IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND YOU MUST HAVE SOMEONE THERE IN YOUR PLACE TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION.**

This is the only meeting the Region will hold BEFORE the Season gets started. Bryant Hall the Regions OEC Administrator will have dates for the OEC refreshers to pass out. This schedule will also be printed in the Regions Springs Newsletter and is now on the War web page. You will also receive information of dates and locations from all the Regions Program Directors for the coming season

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## NATIONAL SKI PATROL MIDWINTER MEETING SUMMARY 2001

Bill Sachs, National Chairman

### National Board Leadership Session

Inspired by the changing timbre of the snow sports industry and the increasingly sophisticated expectations of the membership, the NSP Board of Directors has made a bold and unified commitment to rejuvenate and redefine its leadership role.

The new direction comes as the result of an in-depth and, by all accounts, highly productive session at the opening of the board's midwinter meeting January 25-27 in Lakewood, Colorado. Led by professional facilitators Pam Hemann and Nina Merrill of Association Management Services, the group devoted an entire day to formulating a cohesive philosophical tenet that is to serve as the touchstone for ways in which this national-level body will govern the NSP from now on. Above all, the board is committed to focusing its efforts on ensuring the value and relevance of patrollers throughout the industry.

In essence, the function of the NSP Board of Directors will change to address strategic national issues of importance to the organization. This change will result in a business model that will be more effective for members and industry stakeholders.

The board will be working on the details of these changes in the next few meetings with the assistance of Association Management Services, a Los Angeles-based consulting agency that specializes in this area. Look for more information in future postings.

### 10th Mountain Division Foundation

Also at the midwinter meeting, the board was treated to

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As and ADVANCE NOTICE please **pass** on to your IT and OEC Instructors the following dates:

For **IT's ONLY** a refresher date is schedule for July 14, 2001 at Hidden Valley.

FIRST INSTRUCTORS'S REFRESHER date is August 25, 2001 at the Seven Springs Area, contact Bryant Hall. The second one will be September 16, 2001 DC area, contact Ann Rahn and the third at Ski Sawmill September 30, 2001 contact Steve Schopfer. With three there should be no reason for an Instructor missing a refresher. For those that seem to miss the IR every year there is a change in the format this year so please be aware.

Every year we ask for a sponsor for the meeting. This means, "Offering to pay for the food bill". Last year the Springs did this "Honor", I know that some of the smaller patrols would find this hard to do. However this can be done by combining two patrols. Please think about it and let me know. Thank You.

## Remember When?

Author Unknown                      November 15, 1941

Dear Skiing Friend,

We are looking forward to having you again with us to enjoy the skiing season at Seven Springs this winter. There have been so many new developments of interest to you that we believe you will enjoy an extended visit to our slopes and trails.

Our accommodations for overnight skiers have been greatly enlarged, as a new streamlined ski lodge has been constructed on the northeast corner of the ski tow slope. With this large sun terrace, cozy hall, gay dining room, comfortable bedrooms and sportsmanlike bunk rooms, we believe it represents the last word in winter sport accommodations. You will also find that there is a Union Supply Company Sport shop, having the best skiing equipment, repair facilities and the rental of skis and poles.

Our trails have been greatly improved. Your attention is called to a big slalom slope, starting at the Virgin Timber Trail and ending in Front of the new ski lodge. This slalom slope along with the other slopes and trails before the ski lodge will be flood lighted. In addition to the new skiing facilities you will find at the base of

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## Top Guns

Are you a good skier? We can make you better. Ego writing checks that your body can't cash? We'll provide the cash. Would you like to ski with the best skiers on the mountain? We'll get you there. Bored with patrolling and need a challenge? We'll give you one. Earn the respect and admiration of your peers and the skiing public? Yeah! We'll help you push the envelope and ski better than you have ever skied before. We're looking for a few good patrollers; you know who you are and we want you!

Outrageous claims? Maybe, maybe not.

We're talking about the Senior Program. We'll definitely provide you with challenges to make you a better skier and patroller. Along the way you will experience camaraderie with other patrollers and develop friendships that will last a lifetime. Guaranteed you will have fun and learn something.

Want to push the envelope even further? Why not become a Senior S&T Evaluator. We'll teach you what we call the "eye", how to spot those little things that with a little tweak will push one's skiing to the next level. You'll have fun with this as you watch others improve with the tips that you provide.

Want to push the envelope to the max? Go for Certified and become one of the best patrollers on North America. You'll ski and train with the best and get the opportunity to see how the best perform in the most unbelievably challenging situations. You'll develop and experience a quiet confidence like never before.

The challenge has been made will you step forward?

Contact:

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## **NSP History**

The National Ski Patrol (NSP), founded in 1938 by Charles M. (Minnie) Dole, had followed its creed of "Service and Safety" since the establishment of skiing as a popular sport in the United States. The NSP has become the largest winter rescue organization in the world. It is composed of more than 28,500 members serving over 600 ski patrols including volunteer, paid, alpine, snowboard and nordic patrollers throughout the United States and certain military areas in Europe.

The National Ski Patrol has worked closely with other countries in outdoor emergency care education, and has assisted in establishing ski patrol organizations in Canada, Korea, New Zealand, Israel, Turkey, Argentina and Chile, as well as the Victorian Rescue Service in Australia. The NSP was organized and directed by Dole as a committee of the National Ski Association (now the United States Ski Association). Through his efforts as the first national director of the NSP, the organization spread its effects and esprit de corps across the nation. Upon his retirement in 1950, Dole had built the NSP into an organization of 300 ski patrols and 4,000 members. During World War II, Dole was responsible for the establishment of the famed 10th Mountain Division of the US Army. Applicants for this remarkable military unit, which saw much of its fighting activity in Italy, were screened by the NSP. Many individuals who were responsible for the establishment of many ski areas in the US served in the 10th Mountain Division, and have contributed significantly to the sport.

The NSP is composed of 10 geographic and one professional division for paid patrollers. The organizations' members are engaged in patrol activity on the slopes and in the promotion of safety programs across the mountain recreation community. Safe skiing and snowboarding attitudes are offered to the public continuously in a sincere effort to reduce accidents and make mountain sports more enjoyable.

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a special presentation on the 10th Mountain Division by guest speaker Earl Clark, senior vice president of this distinguished group of World War II veterans.

Accompanied by Gene Hames, president of the 10th, Clark described the colorful history of America's most famous winter warfare unit, and the positive influences its alumni have had upon the industry over the past 60 years. He also discussed Minnie Dole's role in the creation of both the NSP and the 10th, describing the two as "sister associations."

Part of Clark's purpose in addressing the board was to seek administrative assistance from the NSP on a contractual basis. Noting the mutual benefits of the arrangement, the board asked NSP Executive Director Stephen Over and National Chairman Bill Sachs to work out the logistics of the arrangement.

### **NSP Awards**

In other business, the board accepted recommendations of the National Awards Committee to revise verbiage pertaining to awards in the NSP Policies and Procedures manual. The changes are intended to provide a more logical flow of information about awards criteria in an effort to simplify the process of identifying potential recipients.

### **Instructor Development to change**

Another board decision was to simplify the process of developing instructors to lead NSP educational programs—a recommendation of Instructor Development Program Director Cindy Holben and Assistant Program Director Ed Riggs. In short, the ways in which members become instructors will change to include less course time and more mentored teaching time. More details will be available in the upcoming minutes from the meeting, which will be sent to all line officers and inserted in Pointers and Ski Patrol Magazine.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your board representative.

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The NSP, in addition to its own ski safety programs, works closely with the United States Ski Team, National Ski Area Association, Ski Industries America, Professional Ski Instructors of America, US Ski Writers Association, US Forest Service, National Park Service, and other organizations and agencies in the promotion of skiing and ski safety. Movies, television, radio, brochures, lectures and ski area signage all devoted to ski safety have either been initiated by the NSP or cooperatively produced.

In 1980, the National Ski Patrol was recognized as a Federal Charter by the United States Congress. This is a coveted endorsement that only a few other American institutions, like the Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts, have earned. The Charter stipulates the promotion of safety and health in skiing and other outdoor winter recreational activities

The NSP annually reports directly to Congress.

The usefulness, stature and position of the National Ski Patrol had been attained through the devoted efforts of thousands of ski patrollers, some of whom have become involved in other phases of the sport. The NSP is continually growing and improving, offering many invaluable services to area management as well as to the public to include summertime activities such as mountain biking.

The National Ski Patrol is a nonprofit organization, deriving its primary financial support from membership dues, donations, user fees and corporate sponsorship. The national office is located in Lakewood, Colorado, and is staffed with full-time employees to handle administrative duties.

### WAR SCHEDULE 2001/2002

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
7/14/01	IT Refresher Only	Hidden Valley	Bryant Hall
8/25/01	Instructor Refresher	7 Springs	Bryant Hall
9/16/01	Instructor Refresher	DC Area	Ann Rahn 703.241.1587
9/30/01	Instructor Refresher	Ski Sawmill	Steve Schopfer
9/08/01	OEC Refresher	Laurel Mt.	Jim Darr
9/16/01	OEC Refresher	Boyce Park	Carl Beltram
9/23/01	OEC Refresher	Blue Knob	Gregg Jones
9/29/01	OEC Refresher	Canaan Valley	Bryant Hall
10/14/01	OEC Refresher	Hidden Valley	Dave Kuckenbrod
10/21/01	OEC Refresher	Ski Sawmill	Steve Schopfer
10/27/01	OEC Refresher	7 Springs	Dick Barron
11/01/01	OEC Refresher	Wisp	Mark Halsig
Mountainview will be combining with Peak and Peak in New York.			Doug Sinabaugh

\*All refreshers start at 8:00am unless noted.

12/08/01	S&T Trainers Clinic	7 Springs	John Toth
01/05/02	S&T Senior Clinic	Wisp	John Toth
01/12/02	OEC Senior Clinic	7 Springs	Bob Snoby
01/26/02	S&T Senior Clinic	7 Springs	John Toth
01/27/02	OEC Senior Clinic	Wisp	Bob Snoby
02/09/02	OEC Senior Clinic	Blue Knob	Bob Snoby
02/10/02	S&T Senior Clinic	Laurel	John Toth
02/23/02	OEC Senior Clinic	Laurel	Bob Snoby
03/02/02	S&T Evaluation Time and place TBA. May be extended to 2 days.		John Toth
03/02/02	OEC Final Evaluation	Hidden Valley	Bob Snoby

**NOTE** – To participate in an evaluation you must attend a minimum number of clinics. Clinic times, dates, and locations are subject to change. Call before attending. **RETAIN THIS SCHEDULE AS THE NEXT PRINTING WILL BE WINTER ISSUE.**

## WAR Awards

### Purple Merit Star

Mark Roman, Denton Hill  
Dave Yutzy, Blue Knob

### Blue Merit Star

Mike Knefly, Denton Hill  
Gill Brought, Denton Hill  
Penny Demler, Blue Knob  
Joanna Grudziak, Blue Knob

### Yellow Merit Star

Geo Bliss, Denton Hill  
Lewis Fowler, Denton Hill  
Gregg Gass, Denton Hill  
Lew Dimler, Blue Knob  
  
Jim Blauch, Canaan Valley

### National Certificate of Appreciation

Mark Halsig, Wisp  
Jack Neil, Wisp  
Larry Pease, Wisp

### Meritorious Service Award

Carl (Skip) Rebele

### Distinguished Service Award

Milton Golden, Canaan Valley  
John Clark, 7 Springs

### Patrollers Cross

Marek Rybka, 7 Springs  
John Markwell, Canaan

## Web Resources

### WAR Web Page

[www.patrol.org/war/index.htm](http://www.patrol.org/war/index.htm)

### NSP Web Page

[www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org)

### The Patrol Pages

[www.patrol.org](http://www.patrol.org)

### Skipatrol.org

[www.skipatrol.org](http://www.skipatrol.org)

### Snowboard Patrolling Tips

[www.monmouth.com/~dschutz/](http://www.monmouth.com/~dschutz/)

## RD Thoughts

GUY LOMBARDO (WESTERN APPALACHIAN REGION DIRECTOR)

I have had the question asked many times, "Why are there not more WAR News newsletters?" The main reason is the EXPENSE. Registration for the patrols starts after all that is required by the NSP. Some patrols start as early as September while some must hold off till November and do not finish up until late December.

The Patrol Director/ Representative has the great responsibility of correlating all Patroller's records to make sure that they have completed the requirements. They must check the roster of their patrol sent by NSP, and record "yes" for those that have completed the necessary requirements and "no" for those that have not or have terminated their involvement with the patrol. He or she must make sure that the dues are paid and that all personal information for the patroller's is correct. When all of the information is correct it is sent to the Section Chief, he will check and if approved will send on to the Region and Division.

The Division will send the completed paperwork to National who will issue the cards. This is the long process of registration. After it is complete National will send a roster of those that are current to the Division & Region. This is the address list that is worked off of to send the newsletter. Every year there are changes, additions and losses. We get new people and lose some of the old, we try as much as possible to ensure that the newsletter goes only to those who are still active to save on expenses.

As I have said many times "I am here to serve not dictate." I have an "Open Door Policy" to all. If I can help with a patrol problem or question please feel free to write or call, I promise to do all I can to help.

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### Remember When Cont. from page 2

the ski tow slope a skating rink.

The preparation and organization of all ski activities will be under the direction of Mr. Ferdinand de Weiss, a well known Swiss and Austrian ski expert. You will receive in his ski school, we believe the most effective training available in the State.

Please remember that because of the heavy snowfall characteristic of Seven Springs you are requested to use chains on all cars entering the property. Snow and weather conditions will be announced regularly by radio and will be published in the Pittsburgh newspapers.

The entrance at the gate will remain \$1.00 per day and includes the use of the tows. Rates for overnight lodging and 3 meals for the weekend will range from \$3.75 in the Bunkhouse to \$6.50 in bedrooms having a private bath. Each ski school lesson will comprise a two-hour period. The tickets for a ½ day of two hours will be \$1.25 and for a whole day of two hour periods will be \$2.00. (My how things have changed ☺)

## **It is in the Stars!!**

Carl Rebele, AwardsWAR

Most NSP members are familiar with the association's merit star system of recognition, but many don't realize that you needn't be a patrol director, or line officer or board representative to nominate a fellow patroller for a Purple, Blue, Green or Yellow Merit Star. Another thing that may not be common knowledge is the relative ease of submitting a successful nomination. There are basically four steps:

**Step #1** Take note of a colleague's commendable effort.

**Step#2** Read the rules and directions for merit star nomination.

**Step#3** Follow the rules and directions for merit star nominations, such as compiling supporting documentation and witness accounts.

**Step#4** Fill out a nomination form and submit it with appropriate documentation to the patrol director.

If a significant event that meets the criteria comes to your attention, consider sponsoring your fellow patroller or patrollers for the appropriate merit star honor. The primary source of guidance, of course, is the awards section of your PD's NSP Policies and Procedures Manual, which includes a description of merit stars, their qualifying requirements, and an application. A secondary source of this information is the awards section of the Ski Patroller' Manuel purchased through the Winter Catalogue, or [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org). If you know of an incident in which a patroller or patrollers showed extraordinary effort, you need to determine which level of merit star may be most appropriate. Even if you don't have a specific act in mind you might want to acquaint yourself with the criteria so you can be more prepared to follow up commendable acts with a nomination. Look to the aforementioned reference for the specifics, but in general terms, the Purple Merit Star is awarded to members who are primarily responsible for saving a human life, either by themselves or in conjunction with others.

The Blue Merit Star is awarded to members for outstanding or heroic use of ski patrol skills in an attempt to save a human life, but whose efforts have not met the Purple Merit Star criteria. This award may also be presented for outstanding service in support of roles associated with a lifesaving incident. The Green Merit Star is awarded to members for an outstanding act of heroism that does not meet the life saving requirements of the Purple Merit Star. It is given for arduous and hazardous rescue work at ski areas in which the recipient uses ski patrol training. The Yellow Merit Star is awarded for any outstanding act or service to the National Ski Patrol. It can also be presented to members who perform outstanding service in support roles associate with the Purple, Blue, Or Green Merit Star.

Required documentation varies with each level of merit star. Depending on the level of award sought, supporting documents such as doctor's statements, knowledgeable witness statement, Forest Service letters, newspaper accounts, letters of recommendation and an accurate sponsor letter are instrumental in the process.

An event in which several patrollers participate can pose a dilemma for the sponsor and for the region and division awards coordinators. A common sponsor question is "There were eight people involved in the event, so who do I nominate for what and how do I do it?" For a CPR-related save, for instance, an application that nominates all the patrollers on the scene for a Purple Merit Star would probably not be successful. The patroller who initiated the EMS system and started CPR would be the logical choice for a Purple Merit Star. The next patroller on the scene who aided in the CPR could be put in for a BLUE Merit Star. The patroller who handled the toboggan might be eligible for a Blue, but probably would receive a Yellow Merit Star. The patrollers who phoned the ambulance service, opened the ambulance door, and helped load the patient in would probably receive no individual recognition. From the outset, sponsors should hone in on the appropriate documentation to support the nomination

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What many sponsors do not realize is that each merit star application (for the same accident/incident) requires its own sponsor letter that demonstrates what each individual did to warrant the award requested. Consequently, it is unwise to submit multiple copies of one generic letter explaining the event in an attempt to gain the same level of recognition for everyone from the door opener to the patroller who led the effort. These types of applications are usually rejected. Writing out each individual's specific actions will help you prioritize the level of recognition so that you will not fall into this trap. If you have questions, contact your regional or division awards coordinator for advice on how to proceed.

Remember, though, that the NSP awards program operates year-round, and is not limited to February, March, and April. If you know patrollers who deserve recognition, get started on the merit star process now,



## A Legal Note

From [www.NSP.org](http://www.NSP.org)

In a decision handed down April 2, 2001, the 4th District Appellate Court of California found in favor of The National Ski Patrol, reversing the prior trial court's judgment against them filed in 1997 by plaintiff. The circumstances which give rise to this appeal are tragic. "It's an unfortunate case because it deals with a tragic incident resulting in loss of life, and the loss of energy that was a result of the litigation. If there's anything positive that comes of this, it's that people won't be worried about providing the educational services NSP members are known for providing," notes Stephen Over, NSP Executive Director.



## Become a Lifetime Member of the NSP.

From [www.NSP.org](http://www.NSP.org)

Become a Lifetime member of the National Ski Patrol. Never pay national\* dues again and help support the long-range efforts of the National Ski Patrol. This offer is open to all active and alumni members of the National Ski Patrol and comes with:

- Prestigious walnut framed Lifetime Membership Certificate
- Gold Lifetime Membership Lapel Pin
- NSP Registration Card with Lifetime indication

Lifetime Membership \$400.00 One time fee

Lifetime Membership with 30 years or more of continuous service \$200.00 One time fee.

See <http://www.nsp.org/forms/lifetime.pdf> for more information or contact the National Office at 303-988-1646.

\* Active members are still responsible for their patrol, section, region and division dues.

## THE MOST MEMORABLE PERSON

He has no bounds in helping a person or doing what I consider to be a "Patroller's Patroller" and an outstanding human being. He has never asked anything from others, but this is his way. Awards? Many, from the Bronze Star, The Legion of Merit and the Italian Military Cross while serving his country during WWII, and every award possible from the NSP to becoming the first PD of the Seven Springs Patrol then Section Chief, Region Director, Awards chairperson Assist Division Director, Board Director ED, Avalanche & Mt. Instructor, Instructor Trainer in OEC and CPR and makes time to serve with the Am. Red Cross that he still does at 89 years old. In 1995 I with Ron Verbaluw had the honor to get an ED award "Outstanding Instructor " in his name. This will be part of the ED awards forever. Do you know who I'm writing about? The most memorable person and an outstanding man I have ever met is Tyler Davis. I know many others would agree.

Guy Lombardo/ WAR RD.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

John Greiner / Region Risk Management

Last summer Guy Lombardo Region RD asked me to serve as the Risk Management Advisor for our Region. The post had previously been held by Bill Cline, who served as both Legal and Risk Management person. Bill will continue to serve as the Region's Legal Advisor and we will work together when ever necessary for all of the patrols and Region.

I have been a member of the Seven Springs Ski Alpine Patrol for the past 10 years and also an OEC, S&T instructor. A quick view of my background is I am a practicing attorney having begun my practice in the Westmoreland County DA office. For the last 15 years I have been in private practice representing injured persons in personal injury and workers compensation claims. I also do some defense work primarily inddefending law enforcement agencies when they are sued. This has provided me with the opportunity to do risk management training with law enforcement groups county and statewide level. Over the next several months a growing emphasis on the part of the ED in risk management is expected. I'm available at all times to help and can be reached during the day at my office 724-834-0300 or evening 724-838-7017. My e-mail address is [jgreiner@beldenlaw.com](mailto:jgreiner@beldenlaw.com). Please do not hesitate to contact me about any risk management question you my have. If you are unsure whether your question is a legal or risk management problem contact me or Bill Cline, we will work to sort out a solution to your problem. Thank you.



## **QUIZ 2001**

1. WHO IS THE NSP NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON?
2. WHAT DIVISION ARE YOU IN?
3. WHO IS YOUR DIVISION DIRECTOR?
4. WHAT REGION ARE YOU IN?
5. WHO IS YOUR REGION DIRECTOR?
6. HOW MANY SECTION ARE IN YOUR REGION?
7. WHAT SECTION ARE YOU IN?
8. WHO IS YOUR SECTION CHIEF?

SCORE:

IF YOU GOT EIGHT YOU MAY BE IN LINE FOR NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON  
SEVEN? DIVISION DIRECTOR  
SIX? A SURE BET FOR RD  
FIVE? MAYBE AN SC.  
FOUR? ARE YOU SURE WHAT ORGINAZATION YOU BELONG?  
THREE, TWO, OR ONE? SORRY, HIT THE BOOKS.

### **REGION OFFICERS:**

Guy Lombardo, RD	John Toth S&T
Jack Winter, Assist RD	Dave Sheaffer Mt T&R & Avalanche
Steve Schopfer, Eastern SC	Louise Waszak, Leadership Development,
Jim Jacobs, Western SC	Jerry Timcik, Nordic
Marty Silverman, Southern SC	Bob Marlett, Student Program
Bryant Hall, OEC Adm	Lou Mammone, Alumni
Ken Schweinsbrug, Assist OEC Adm	Dr. H.F. Sherman, Region Medical
Bob Snoby, S&T	Pat Boccardi, Awards
Bill Cline, Legal	Sam Strohm, Newsletter Editor
John Greiner, Risk Mgmt	
Ann Rahn, Inst Deveopment	

EVERYTHING WE ARE TODAY WE ( I ) OWE TO PEOPLE LIKE  
YOU- Guy Lombardo

WAR Spring/Summer Newsletter 2001  
Guy Lombardo  
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