

RD Ramblings 9/12/2014

It may be a cold rainy day in Northern Michigan but Northern Michigan Region shines bright again in 2014. The NSP Central Division held its annual fall meeting and awards banquet last weekend in Detroit. Northern Michigan region was recognized with four major awards during the awards banquet.



Jerry Rodeman was first runner-up as Central Division's Outstanding Patroller. Jerry patrols at Schuss Mtn and is a very active OEC, Mountaineering, Instructor Development, and Patroller 101 Instructor.



Annaka Norris received the Division Outstanding Instructor Award. Annaka patrols at Nub's Nob and is the Region Toboggan Advisor. Among Annaka's accomplishments was the development of a process to keep trainee information so that any instructor could pick up where the training left off in the candidate's last training session. This process has greatly improved Nub's Nob basic and senior training programs. Annaka has also been a great asset to the region's toboggan training program by assisting in the training new toboggan trainers and evaluators.



The Treetops Ski Patrol was named Central Division Outstanding Small Patrol and National First Runner-up Outstanding Small Patrol. This 17 member patrol provides hill coverage every week their resort is open. They are very active in OEC training and provide significant support all Region off-hill training programs.



Tena Lechtanski of the Boyne Highlands Ski Patrol received the Central Division and National Ski Patrol Outstanding OEC Instructor Awards. Tena teaches OEC classes at Boyne Highlands. She also teaches Outdoor First Care for her area's host program. She is Boyne Highlands Assistant Patrol Director in charge of off-hill activities including patrol medical supplies and equipment. Tena has been Region OEC Advisor twice in two different regions and has taught OEC classes throughout the region when they were needed and local instructors were not available.

Congratulations to all our Award Winners.

Now is the time to start working on those award applications for next year. It's hard to take time when the skiing is good and customers are on the hill needing our help. There is a lot more time between refreshers and fall classes to gather the information and to recognize that colleague that goes out of their way to make our patrol, section and region run a little better. See the Calendar later in these ramblings for submission deadlines.

### **Refreshers**

The Instructor refresher is this Sunday at Tree Tops Resort. At this time, we only have about a dozen instructors registered to teach. We are expecting about 200 patrollers at the Gaylord Refresher or roughly a 17 to 1 ratio. Unless some more instructors turn out, we could have a longer day than usual in Gaylord. Patrol Directors; please encourage your instructors to give us a hand. Instructors taking their refresher at Schuss or Nubs do not need to attend the Instructor Refresher to help teach at Gaylord.

### **Education Kick-off Internet Meeting**

We would like to generate some excitement for NMR Education Programs not only for Senior Candidates but for anyone looking to improve their patrolling knowledge and skills. To that end, all disciplines have scheduled a full calendar of educational opportunities. Avalanche, Mountaineering, Tobogganing and OEC have all scheduled activities for this season.

To get us all off on the correct foot, we will conduct the first NMR Fall Training Kickoff Internet meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Although geared to Senior Candidates, the program will provide an opportunity for everyone to learn about the classes to be offered during the coming season. Please encourage your Patrollers and Alpine Patrollers to get involved with the Senior Program and everyone to look at the Toboggan Enhancement Seminar and the activities offered that weekend. If we have enough interest we can offer an OEC Enhancement Seminar.

Because the season is short and we are spread out all over the state and Chicago Land, we are looking at ways to bring training programs closer to home. Watch for a pilot or two this yer.

### **Fall Board Meeting**

The Northern Michigan Fall Board Meeting will be held immediately following the Region OEC Refresher at Gaylord High School. I may have a better idea of timing after the Instructor Refresher this Sunday.

### **Central Division Womens Program**

I'm excited to announce that the Central Division Women's Program annual ski training weekend will be at Schuss Mountain the weekend of January 24, 2015. This program provides a unique opportunity for female members to enhance their ski and toboggan skills by working with some of the best female instructors in the Division. I'll forward more details as they become available.

## **Division Meeting Recap**

There was a lot of discussion centered around the need for patrol management to understand the NSAA/NAP Joint Understanding and the proper use of patrol funds. I'll take some time at the Board meeting to discuss these issues.

NSP Board Elections. Central Division's big push this year is to get members to vote. We did well last year, however, only about 10% of Division Members voted. We would like to try and get that to that to as high as 25%

The Safety Committee will have SWAG available to again this year. Safety week is now safety month. They have also developed Accident Investigation 101 with basic information every patroller should know about when to trigger and AI. The manual is available in PDF format. AI 102 with more detailed information for AI teams is in final review.

Tim Zimmerman is looking for an assistant to learn about editing the Rusty Parka News and to replace him some time in the future.

Central Division is going to take the lead in updating the Patroller 101 Manual. The current manual has not been updated in 19 years.

NSP has updated their insurance policy language and we no longer have to pull a course for member to member ski training as long as ski trainers are members of the Central Division Ski School.

Gunther Dieterle is our new Alumni Advisor. He has made contact with over half of Central Division Registered Alumni and is actively trying to find the rest. Please Advise him of any retiring patrollers so he can get them an information packet about the Alumni Program.

After many delays the new MTR Manual is out and the Instructor manual is in the works.

Due to calendar conflict the Central Division Spring Meeting will be held April 17-19, 2015 (we think)

## **2017 Central Division Meeting**

Northern Michigan Region will be hosting the Central Division Fall Meeting September 8,9 and 10, 2017. That's only 35 months and 19 days away, but who's counting. We are going to need a team of planner/executers to plan a meeting to top what we did in 2009 when NMR hosted the largest, best meeting in Central Division History. The catch, we have to do it without the draw of Mackina Island. We would like to put together a winning team over the winter so we can have a kickoff meeting before the end of the season.

## **Open Positions**

We are still looking for a Region Ski School Director. This position requires PSIA/AASI Certification, completion of NSP Instructor Development and Membership in the Central Division Ski School.

NMR Calendar

**2015**

**Sept 14 NMR OEC Instructor Refresher – Tree Tops**

**Sept 20 Schuss Mtn OEC Refresher**

**Sept 27 NMR OEC Refresher**

**Oct 11 Nubs OEC Refresher**

**Oct 15 NMR 2015 Senior Program Kickoff Tele-Meeting**

**Oct 25 MTR – Schuss Patrol Room 8:45 AM**

**Nov 1 Instructor Development – Full Class**

Dec 6/7 Division STW - Afton Alps, Minn.

**Dec 13/14 Division STW - Boyne Highlands (Tentative)**

**Dec 13/14 NMR Avalanche – Boyne Highlands (Tentative)**

Dec 20/21 Division STW - Cascade Mtn, WI.

Jan 3-4 Post New-Year Weekend (no NMR events)

**Jan 10-11 NMR T&T Clinic - Boyne Mountain**

Jan 17-19 MLK Weekend (no NMR events)

Jan 24-25 CD Women's Clinic - Schuss Mtn (no NMR events)

**Jan 31-Feb 1 NMR TES - Boyne Highlands**

**Feb 8 NMR Senior S&T - Nubs Nob**

Feb 14-16 Presidents Day Weekend (no NMR events)

**Feb 20 Individual Awards Submission Deadline**

**Feb 21, 22 Section 1, 2 & 3 Basic On-Hill (venues TBD by Section Chiefs)**

**Mar 1 NMR Senior OEC Prep Clinic - Treetops**

**Mar 1 Outstanding Awards Submission Deadline**

March 7-8 CD Certified Clinic (no NMR events)

March 14 St Paddy's/Crazy Days

**March 15 NMR Senior OEC - Schuss Mtn.**

**March 15 Spring Awards Committee Meeting – Schuss Mtn.**

March 21-22 Nubs Carnival (no NMR events)

March 28-29 BH Downhill (no NMR events)

March ?? MTR Field Session - TBD

April 17,18,19 Central Division Meeting Oak Brook Ill

**May 2 NMR Spring Meeting & Awards Banquet – Cedar River**