

Region Director Ramblings Summer 2015

Thank you for a great year

2014 – 15 was a good ski year in Northern Michigan Region. Although we were not blessed with as much snow as the previous season, we didn't have as many subzero days.

Our region expanded to 11 patrols when Hanson Hill's in Grayling returned to NSP Membership. Thanks to successful recruiting campaigns by several member patrols our membership grew to 367 members this year. We also have 49 Alumni members. (See information on the Alumni Program later in this RD Ramblings.)

OEC Classes

Our region continues to draw candidates from all over Michigan, northern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. This year was no different with several new candidates from down state. Typically Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan Region Patrols have included our candidates in OEC Classes. This worked well for most of our candidates however; the schedule for these classes did not work for all.

This year our OEC instructor core tackled this problem with an innovative, flexible solution using the internet, coordinated hands-on sessions located close to the candidates and combined mid-term and final evaluations. Two classes, one in Traverse City and one in Petoskey with satellite locations in Gaylord and Eastern Michigan successfully trained 12 candidates for six NMR patrols and one Western Michigan Region patrol. Congratulations to all the new OEC Technicians and thank you to all the OEC instructors who helped them attain this goal.

Awards

The Region gathered at the Lodge at Cedar River in Shanty Creek Resorts on May 2nd to recognize the accomplishments of our patrols and patrollers.

Each year patrols nominate members who have gone above and beyond to serve the patrol, region and beyond. Patrols also document their accomplishments and service. The coversheet with identifying information is removed and the applications are reviewed by the region's Section Chiefs, Region Director and Awards Advisor with the Section Chiefs voting to select one application to be recognized by the Region and sent on to Division competition. Each Section Chief is also allowed to name a person making significant contributions to the Section as Section Outstanding Patroller. Other awards for individual accomplishments are also presented.

NMR 2015 Awards:

- Chris Vogelheim of Boyne Highlands and Michael Malanga of Schuss Mountain were presented plaques for completing the Senior Program
- Jim Parker – Section 1 Outstanding Patroller
- Adam Sinkus – Section 2 Outstanding Patroller

- Ben Granlund of Boyne Highlands and Larry Murton of Schuss Mountain – Park Willis Awards
- Sharon Crockett of Nub’s Nob Outstanding Administrative Patroller
- Tim Ronda of Boyne Highlands – Outstanding Patroller
- Virginia Rodeman was awarded a National Ski Patrol Distinguished Service Award
- Mike Booth of Boyne Highlands, Ron Bradley of Shanty Creek and Sharon Crockett of Nub’s Nob received 50 year service awards.

OEC Refresher

We are planning several changes for this fall’s Northern Michigan Region OEC Refresher. As you may know everyone involved with conducting the refresher at Gaylord High School must attend another refresher to meet their annual requirement. Teaching a station at a refresher does not meet the requirements set by NSP. Traditionally all the instructional staff has attended an “instructor refresher” a week or two before the general refresher. In many cases this has meant an extra weekend of travel, time away from home, etc. Executing the region refresher requires 50 or more instructors and support staff.

This year we are going to try and accomplish both refreshers the same day. The instructor refresher will be held first thing in the morning followed by the general refresher starting about noon. This will make a long day for instructors but will eliminate the extra day typically required of our instructors.

By now you should have received your 2015 OEC Refresher Workbook. Please spend some time to complete these exercises; you will need to turn it in at the Gaylord Refresher. The National Refresher Committee and the National Office are completing installation of the on-line portion of the refresher. We will forward information on registering and completing the on-line portion of the refresher as soon as it’s available.

Senior Program

The senior program is intended to help members develop and apply their OEC, Ski and Toboggan skills beyond the basic level. The skills involved in senior are the same skills used in everyday patrolling but are applied in more difficult scenarios and/or more challenging terrain. At the senior level OEC scenarios typically involve a patient with multiple injuries and/or multiple patients. Scenarios look at scene safety from a more universal view and may involve crowd control or dealing with concerned children, parents or bystanders but the care standard is the OEC Fifth Edition.

The senior ski and toboggan provide the opportunity to improve these skills on more challenging terrain and snow conditions. Attaining Senior also requires additional training to expand patrolling knowledge and prepare members for leadership roles.

I strongly encourage all Patrollers and Alpine Patrollers to start working toward Senior. We will have a Senior Program Kickoff on-line meeting October 21st to discuss the requirements, training opportunities, paperwork and deadlines for participation in the senior program. Attendance is strongly recommended.

Anyone participating in the 2015-2016 senior programs must complete a “Senior Program Application” on the region WEB Site on or before December 15, 2015. This deadline is to allow your training staff to adequately prepare events to help you be successful. Everyone must apply even if you have participated in the program before. **No applications will be accepted after December 15th!**

Women’s Seminar Advisor

Charlon Hibbard of the Nub’s Nob Ski Patrol has accepted the position of Northern Michigan Region Women’s Program Advisor. In this capacity Charlon will help develop programs to recruit and train women for Northern Michigan patrols. Studies show that women learn ski and toboggan skills differently than men and can be intimidated by traditional training styles. With Charlon’s input we hope to address these differences and improve our ability to recruit and train women patrollers.

Jim Cooley

Long time Northern Michigan Patroller Jim Cooley passed away on June 16, 2015 from a lung infection following surgery to remove a lung tumor.

Jim began skiing as a child and became totally addicted to the sport. He worked his way through Albion College by working as a paid patroller at Stow Vermont and Aspen/Buttermilk in Colorado winters and as a Taxi Driver on Mackinaw Island during the summer. Following college Jim had a very successful career as a stock broker however; this career was really just a way to support his real passions skiing and sailing.

Jim raced sailboats on Lake St. Clair seven nights a week and most weekends during the spring and fall and completed over 25 Port Huron to Mackinaw races earning the “Old Goat” award. Jim was about to join a very unique club this summer by completing his 25th Chicago to Mackinaw race and earning a second “Old Goat”.

Jim joined the Boyne Mountain Ski Patrol in 1971 and proudly served that patrol and Northern Michigan Region as an active patroller and as an Alumni until his passing. He was an active ski and toboggan trainer at the patrol and region levels early in his career earning National Appointment 5809 in 1981. Later in his career Jim backed off from region training and concentrated on developing candidates at Boyne Mountain.

I had the pleasure of knowing Jim as a sailor and a patroller, both communities will dearly miss him.

Alumni Program

The National Ski Patrol has created the Alumni program for members that want to maintain their affiliation with the NSP but retire from active duty patrolling. Alumni members can remain active with their local patrol to the extent approved by the area and patrol. They may not wear official patrol insignia or provide emergency care however, they may retain instructor (or acquire new certifications) and continue teaching in NSP Programs. All past and future NSP recognitions remain in effect including the accumulating NSP years of service.

If you are thinking of retiring, or know someone who is, please check out the alumni program. The costs are low. Lifetime membership continues and covers Alumni Dues. Otherwise, National Alumni Program Dues are just \$27.00 per year and includes your subscription to Ski Patrol Magazine, access to the NSP WEB Store and most NSP ProDeals.

2107 Central Division Fall Meeting

Northern Michigan Region will host the annual Central Division Fall Meeting and Awards Banquet in September 2017. This meeting will provide a unique opportunity to show off Northern Michigan Region and our patrols to the rest of the division. In 2009 when we last hosted this meeting more than 200 members representing every state and nearly every patrol in Central Division attended. Unfortunately, costs will prohibit us from taking the meeting back to Mackinaw Island so we asked for bids from the four major destination resorts in our region. Boyne Mountain submitted the best proposal and was selected as the meeting site.

In the next two years we have the opportunity to plan training, educational and recreational activities to meet your needs and to attract patrollers from throughout the Division to our Region. I've asked Division Meeting Planning experts Candy Jacques, Bob and Tena Lechtanski to lead this planning process. Please send them ideas of activities, classes, speakers, etc. that would bring you to the meeting. They will be asking for help to plan and execute this meeting, please say yes when asked.

2015 Central Division Fall Meeting

This fall's meeting will be held in Grand Rapids September 11-13. Western Michigan Region has a full agenda of classes and meetings. I encourage everyone to check the WMR WEB Site at <http://www.nspc203.com/> for details and to consider attending this event. At least two NMR Patrollers will be recognized at the Saturday Night Awards Banquet.

That's a wrap

Remember to mark the Gaylord Refresher date (September 26th) on your calendar; finish your refresher workbook and watch for information about the on-line portion of the refresher.

Have a great summer; I look forward to see you in the fall,

Dick Jacques
Northern Michigan Region Director