



- OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION NATIONAL SKI PATROL-

P O L L A R I S

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Hello Patrollers!

From the Director’s Desk,

ONE LAST TIME

First of all, I would like to extend a BIG congratulations to Dan Schaefer for stepping up as your next Division Director. I hope everyone in the division takes a moment to fill Dan’s email inbox with a congratulations and a supportive note as he is now calling the shots. I encourage everyone to get involved in helping Dan move the Division forward, however that may look.

For myself, I wish to thank all the Division’s Board members, division members, and our ski area partners for your encouragement and help during these past six years. There is no way I could have accomplished even 1% of what we’ve done without everyone’s enthusiasm and hard work. It’s been a pleasure working with each and every one of you! This is truly a great organization and I am very proud of what we collectively as a division have been able to accomplish.

NATIONAL LEVEL NEWS

I just returned from three days of National Board of Director and National committee meetings which were held immediately before Powderfall in Vail CO. Here are some highlights.

Stephanie Cox our National CEO spent a good portion of Monday morning outlining her and top leadership’s vision for our organization. Here’s a brief summary from my notes.

1. Continue boosting our membership. We have and will continue to broaden our membership. Think bike patrols, whitewater park patrols etc.
2. Strengthen NSP brand.
3. Adapt to the ever-changing environment



How do we get there. Here are some examples

- a. Reinforce/strengthen/enhance our core learning environments. Think OEC, ID as examples. Streamline the learning systems
- b. Establish a clear development pathway for advancement into leadership.
- c. Expand membership experience
- d. Build and maintain the relationships with ski area customers.
- e. Engage socially responsible leaders.
- f. Revisit Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI).
- g. Engage and partnership with industry partners to discuss socially responsible topics.
- h. Align our global brand across all channels by using a Public Relations strategy which includes a new strategic hire.
- i. Refresh brand identity, think of a bit of a rebirth.
- j. Simplify and streamline our processes as appropriate.
- k. OEC and EMT. Make training, cross training, and recertification easier to have members who are certified in each or both.

Dues and course fees. At this writing the finance committee is looking at increasing our national dues and some course fees. The finance committee is drafting the budget for FY 24/25 and intends to present the budget to the BOD in June. Stay tuned as I expect we will see increases in both out national dues and some courses. I'm not certain on the amounts yet.

DIVISION NEWS

The big news is the division has new leadership. I'm sure there will be some changes although I'm not sure of what Dan has in mind and will not try to guess. I will step back and let Dan explain to you what he is planning for the division. I'm very confident whatever it is things will improve and the division will continue to offer quality programs and learning experiences for those patrollers who wish to advance

IN CLOSING

Thank you, Northern Division patrollers, for allowing me the opportunity to serve you over the last six years as your Division Director. I've truly enjoyed the ride, made many strong friendships, worked on many issues both at the division level and at the national level, and had many exuberant chair ride conversations. As a benefit, I've also had an opportunity to take a few runs with many of you. I truly did enjoy the skiing part of the job. I hope to see you on the slopes in the future.

Karl Uhlig

Your soon to be Past Division Director
karlskis210@gmail.com

Alumni

Hello everybody,

Ski season is winding down and the summer season will be picking up soon. Surprisingly, the snow wasn't too bad, and the fun was had by all.

We had 20+ alumni, along with family and friends, gather in Whitefish, MT near the end of February into early March for the annual Alumni Celebration Week activities.

Alumni attendees and friends enjoyed each other's company, dining out each night together, and spending several ski days on the mountain or nearby cross-country trails. Most of the members joined for a winter tour into Glacier National Park. At Sunday night's opening dinner, the group enjoyed a presentation on the National Ski Patrol and its long relationship with the 10th Mountain Division.

Once again, the group centered its activities around Grouse Mountain Lodge, just a mile west of Whitefish, where good food, hot tubbing, old friends and lodging came together.

NSP alumni are planning a re-visit, next year from February 23 through March 1, 2025. For more information, contact NSP alumni Tim Viall, tviall@msn.com. Rooms will increase to \$99.00/night.

On another note, our First Eastern NSP Alumni & Patroller Celebration was held. It took place at Mount Snow Ski Resort in Vermont Feb 11 through 16, 2024. It was well attended, and everyone is looking forward to next year's event. Keep that in mind!

The Alumni renewal numbers are down a bit, so give a little push to those who need to renew!!

Happy Summer to all !!!!

Bruce Amrine

Northern Division Alumni Director
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OET

Paraphrasing Robert Hunter – What a long, strange Winter it's been! With delayed openings and some hills not opening, it's been tough to get in needed toboggan refreshers, but most of the Division powered through and GOT THEM DONE!

There will be a new emphasis on the ORM (Outdoor Risk Management) module this year. Although it has been an "official" NSP program for 5 years, the online module went live last month. As patrollers we are all involved in ORM, and OET is especially part and parcel of ORM as we are on the hill involved in sometimes dangerous transportation situations. ORM will be a focus of the NSP Board this year, and probably for many years to come.

This next year, you will see me handing the lead handles over to Brian Beattie of Huff Hills, but I will continue to be an active participant as his assistant (and mentor?)

Did you see the calendar on the last page? (Hmmm... flipping there now!) Are you interested in Senior? There are some placeholder dates for Senior next year. Please let your patrol rep know you are interested (so they can let us know) so we can plan accordingly. We need a minimum number of participants as this program costs the Division \$12,000 to \$15,000 to put on.

Lastly, if you didn't attend, you missed a great Powderfall at Vail. Make plans to participate in 2026. There was lots of great networking with other patrollers, great classes in OEC, OET, Avy, MTR, YAP, chair evac, medical, etc., and great speakers and announcements.

See you on the slopes!

Mike Marlow



Daniel “Dan’l” Moore

Daniel “Dan’l” Moore, 67, passed away unexpectedly from an undetected heart issue Feb. 12, 2024. His loss leaves a giant sitzmark in the Northern Division, particularly Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol, which he served for over 20 years. A tele skier, ski guide, blacksmith, musician, and role model to many, he had a large community that loved him and he will be deeply missed.

Dan’l spent many happy days tromping through the woods on skis, bike, and foot. Recognized by his long braid and big, often frosty, beard, Dan’l moved through life as he did on skis - with his own style and at his own pace. Sometimes referred to as the Snow Buffalo, he found joy in taking his time, taking it all in, and sharing his love of skiing and nature with anyone lucky enough to explore with him. This

includes those he guided through the mountains with Glacier Adventure Guides and Road Scholar.

A mountain sage on tele skis, he once skied every month for 17 years—more than 200 months straight. Even as the gear evolved, he stuck with the slow-going, old-school style; in 50 years of skiing, he never once locked down his heel.

Dan’l has been at the heart and soul of Flathead Nordic Backcountry Patrol for much of his two-decade tenure. He served as the Director of the Patrol from 2014-2016. He earned instructor certifications for Nordic/Backcountry, Avalanche 2, and Mountain Travel and Rescue, and was

the organizer and Instructor of Record for many NSP courses. He served as the Nordic Advisor for the Northern Division, an important part of the National team that guided the entire Nordic program for NSP. Dan’l was also at the forefront of coordinating a collaboration between NSP’s Nordic Patrols and local avalanche centers in the Northwest. Our community is incredibly lucky to have had a patroller and educator as dedicated as Dan’l.

He is succeeded by his wife of 37 years, Helen; his two children, Quincy and Gaelyn; his mother, Mary; sister, Sylvia; and brother, Douglas. Dan’l leaves behind a legacy of winter wisdom. Let his memory inspire us to always continue learning.

Minus 20

Today the thermometer hovers at -20 degrees and the wind is blowing at 20 mph. It's nice to be sitting inside and not thinking of taking care of others, whether it be guiding snowshoers or rescuing lost or injured backcountry users. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Peters Ridge avalanche in northwest Montana, and also the rescue of a skier caught in an avalanche near Marion Lake in Essex, Montana.

Although it wasn't -20 it was definitely below zero the night of the Marion Lake rescue. A small group of Flathead Nordic Ski Patrollers had just finished a 2- night, 3-day training campout in the cold temperatures. We were sitting in the basement of the Izaak Walton Inn starting to debrief the trip over hamburgers and beers, when an employee of the Inn showed up at our table inquiring if we were Nordic Ski Patrol. He suggested we go talk to the man on the phone who was in contact with Sheriff's Dispatch; a member of his group had been caught in an avalanche at Marion Lake and had a fractured femur. Dispatch had informed him that the ALERT helicopter was unable to fly. All eyes turned to me (I had been running the training session) so I headed upstairs to the phone. Talking to dispatch, I was informed that SAR was on the way but if I wanted to assume Search Leader and start the rescue it was okay. We unloaded unnecessary gear from our packs, gathered my pulk/sled and created another from gear at the Inn, we then transported to the trailhead with the witness. One of our two radios was left behind with a patroller who was in charge of communications (landline with the dispatch) the other went with our two person hasty team. He also suggested calling Malmstrom AFB to see if they could fly. Ultimately, Malmstrom flew, landed (on a slope steeper than recommended), and flew off with the injured skier. The two of us following with sleds arrived shortly after dark and watching the chopper fly off to find out the patient was on board. A return ski down the switchbacks by headlamp brought us to our transportation who had cocoa for us as we stood under the Northern Lights at well below zero.



With the 30th anniversary of the Peters Ridge avalanche there have been several stories about it that bring some of these rescues to mind. Searches for lost skiers and avalanche victims was one of the functions of Flathead Nordic when I joined. Most were done in partnership with Search and Rescue. My first mission started with a 4:30 a.m. phone call (which I didn't answer until the second call five minutes later). A lost skier on the backside of Big Mountain Ski Resort had been located and stabilized by SAR and they were requesting Nordic Patrollers to get him back into the ski area and safety. We transported to the top of the mountain sitting on the back of the groomer (wet!!) to an area above the lost skier then skied down with rescue sled and equipment. I was put in charge of setting up raising systems (three rope lengths) until we got close enough to the Cat Track that the groomer could lower a rope and winch him the rest of the way.

My last mission involved two missing snowboarders somewhere below Mule Ridge in the Zip's Cabin area near Marias Pass. It began with a grueling tow behind SAR snowmobiles to the last seen point. Then a downhill ski on a steep double fall line slope loaded with downfall, by headlamp. They were found safe but cold. We hiked them up a 100' slope to an easy ridge we could descend to a back road where SAR snowmobiles picked them up. A

normal mission: starting at midnight in rain turning to heavy wet snowfall and ending at 5 a.m. "A dark and stormy night"...

Over the years there were searches that left us scratching our heads. On one we showed up at the Big Mountain firehall and sat there for over an hour until someone from SAR showed up to tell us they had met elsewhere. We were told the ALERT helicopter had located the lost skier and had his coordinates. SAR was headed his way and we could stand down and go home as they "virtually had him found". An hour after getting home we were called again as SAR couldn't locate the lost person. When we arrived back (this time reporting to the same location as SAR) our skiers were transported up the mountain and had a find in about 15 minutes. The best part for our crew was the "pay" of skiing down Big Mountain by headlamp with no one else on the slopes. For me, the best part was logging in our last skier five minutes before anyone on SAR returned from the top. On another mission, we were told to wait deploying into the field as one of the searchers was following fresh blood. He quickly found the lost snowboarder shortly after that. He was dehydrated so had cut himself to drink his own blood. You can't make this stuff up!

My easiest search? Closing up the flyshop where I was working on one spring evening, I received a call from our search leader. We had a lost skier on Big Mountain but I was needed as the search leader. I had to call my future wife and cancel out on a trip up the Mountain where I was to meet my future in laws for the first time. When I arrived at the Mountain I was approached by a groomer driver as I walked up to our base with pack and skis. "Are you

with Search and Rescue? I think I have your lost skier in my cab". I did get to meet my future in-laws that evening, although dressed in backcountry ski clothing.

Anyway, being inside today instead of taking care of someone in real winter conditions is nice.

by Rusty Wells



Avalanche

APRIL POLARIS 2024

Greetings everyone,

Dan'l Moore: Dan'l was a great help and huge contributor to the Avalanche Program in the Northern Division. I can't count how many times he drove to and helped with our Level 1 and 2 classes at Lost Trail. Kind and enthusiastic, Dan'l will be missed. The N. Div. Avalanche program shares its kind and sincere sympathies to everyone in the Dan'l Moore family.

Weather update: There is a rapid shift occurring from El Niño to La Niña now and it is so sudden that the hurricane forecast for the southern and eastern US has been upgraded to a record forecast in numbers of hurricane events. The shifting of the jet stream from a southerly track (El Niño) to a northerly track (La Niña) means that the southern, upper atmospheric wind shear won't be there to disrupt hurricanes. For us in the Northwest, this means a cooler spring and summer and a wetter, colder winter. While this is a broad climatological prediction, local impacts are more difficult to predict.

Avalanche Classes: This winter we held a Division-wide Avalanche Level 1 class at Lost Trail with Field Days on March 9-10th. Zoom lectures were held every Wednesday night starting Feb. 8th through to March 6th. The Zoom lectures were also attended by up to 20 folks from Showdown as part of the lecture requirement for their Avalanche Class being taught by Allan Rabbitt and held at Showdown, MT; field days March 16th-17th. For the Lost Trail Class, 18 students, 14 of which were ski patrollers from the N. Division passed the class. Those ski patrollers were as follows; Antelope Butte; Wyatt Gardener, Great Divide; Bryan Baldwin, Jeremy Parkinson, Jeff Roush, Lindsay Ward, Karen Nelson and David Nielsen, Lost Trail; Tulley Mackey, Matt Nicoll, Tessa Sever, and Stephen McLaughlin, Snowbowl; Ken King and Jordan Rice, and from the Intermountain Division; Brian Anglin. The remaining 4 individuals were members of the public, with a ski patrol connection or acquaintance. Lost Trail Instructor Helpers who were involved in the Lost Trail Level 1 class were; Hardy Bloemeke, Robert Griswold, Hamp All, Stephanie DiBiaso, Morgan Throckmorton, Marie Ando and Eric Falk. Certified NSP Avalanche Instructors that participated in the class were; Marea Kuehl, Jeff Judkins, Marcus Dufort, Adam Cherni, Christina Cherni, Bret Rhinesmith, Greg Fortin (the New National Ski Patrol Avalanche Director), Allan Rabbitt, Chris Gaughan, Joe Messina, Nathan Basford, Heidi Messner, and Matt Galiher. Four new Northern Division Avalanche Instructors for NSP Level 1 were created and they were Lost Trail; Matt Amick, and Nathan Olson, and Flathead Nordic; Melissa Nelson and Trevor Howard. Finally, huge thank yous to Lost Trail Ski Area and owners Scott and

Judy Grasser for use of the lodge, their support before and during the Avalanche Level 1 class, and to all the instructors, Instructor helpers and students who participated in this class.

For all Northern Division Avalanche Instructors please know that within the NSP Avalanche Discipline, avalanche courses such as Awareness, Organized Rescue and Level 1 (Mods 1-3) are now American Avalanche Association (A3) accredited. The Level 2 class is under discussion within the National Avalanche Committee (NAC) composed of all the Division Directors for Avalanche.

If you are an Avalanche Instructor and you have not yet applied for A3 membership at the Affiliate or Pro level, please do so before October 2024; here is the link to their website:

(<https://www.americanavalancheassociation.org/membership-levels>).

In addition, please do not forget to renew your A3 membership (you will get an email prompt from A3 to do so). Please send me your email confirmation for your A3 membership, and please include your mailing address. The Northern Division Avalanche program is supporting your membership costs for this critical, required, A3 membership task. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Marcus Dufort of Antelope Butte has been made Region II Avalanche Supervisor and he is now the Asst. Northern Division Avalanche Director.

As always, if you have interest within your ski patrol for an avalanche class please contact me. I will need names and email addresses of students. Course fees per student for a level 1 are; Ski Patrol = \$200, non-ski patrollers = \$250. For the Level 2 class it is ski patrol = \$250, non ski patrollers = \$300. These fees go directly to the Northern Division Treasurer to support NSP N. Division classes and A3 membership fees in Avalanche. We need at least 10 students for a Level 1 class and usually 15 or more for a Level 2 class. Both the Level 1 and Level 2 classes within the NSP have a huge focus on organized rescue, which includes ICS use within training scenarios.

Have a great spring and summer and I hope to see you at either the Spring N. Div. Meeting or the September, summer meeting.

Steve Porcella,

Avalanche Supervisor, N. Div.
sfporca@gmail.com





Division Historian Spring 2024

Happy Spring to all. This article is going to be in the form of a couple of requests.

First request. I would REALLY LIKE EACH OF YOU to complete the Patrol History Form that I wrote about in the Fall 2023 issue of the Polaris. <https://nspnorth.flowforms.io/form/patroller-history>. Once you complete the form, it comes directly to me thanks to the computer wizardry of Mike M. and Andrew N. At this point in time I have received completed forms from Joe Messina (SB), Paul Janzen (SB), Molly West (SB), Craig Holtet (SB), Danielle Pettry (SB), Alex Frizell (SB), Cai Wear (SB Pro), Anna Jane Bucher (SB), Karl Uhlig (SB), Dave Martin (LT), Mike Marlow (GD), Rusty Wells (FNBP), Chris Sobin (FNBP), as well as my own (SB). Remember, if you want to put in a patroller friend/family member for an award, there is a lot of "Patrol History" that needs to be included in the nomination form. AND REMEMBER - this information is not available at the National office. Each of you volunteer your time and talents and the only "salary" you ever receive for your services is the recognition of your peers. Looking forward to hearing/reading from each and every one of you.

Second request: I still would like to receive a picture of each of you during your early skiing days. Please put your name on the back of the photo and an approximate date of the photo.

This isn't a photo from 5-10 years ago. I'm thinking more like a photo when you first started skiing - so your hairline, waistline and wrinkle line(s) will not be what they are today. I even came up with a picture of me when I had a full head of hair!!! Send them to me: Steve Thompson, P.O.Box 413, Seeley Lake, MT 59868. If enough folks participate, I thought it would be fun to display the pictures at the next Division meeting and have everyone try to guess who the patrollers are. I'm thinking a bottle of spirits are awaiting the winner of the contest, provided that we have enough entries. If we don't have enough entries, then Cheri and I will enjoy the spirits.

I have only plowed our driveway twice all winter. Certainly hope that there is more of this winter. If not, it could turn into a very ugly fire season OR it could rain June, July and August.

I'll leave you with a "Warren-ism" (Warren Miller) that truly is a doctrine in our household - "Freedom is located somewhere outside the box" — Hell we burned the box long ago.

Steven Thompson



Lost Trail Ski Patrol receives grant funding for vacuum splints: **We got grant funding, so can you!**

Lost Trail Ski Patrol recently received grant funding from Ravalli Electric Co-op's Power of Change Board to purchase MedTech of Sweden full body vacuum splints, replacing our long spine backboards.

We are so grateful to Ravalli Electric Co-op Power of Change Board for this grant as a full body vacuum mattress allows our Patrol better patient immobilization, patient comfort, and helps keep them warm.

After the check presentation, Ravalli Electric Co-op Power of Change Board member and staff got a demonstration of the effectiveness of the vacuum mattress. They were amazed at how quickly the splint can be applied and the extent to which the mattress molds exactly to the position of the patient.

So maybe you are reading this article, thinking, so Lost Trail Ski Patrol got a grant, whoopee for them. Our Patrol (1) doesn't have an in-house grant writer, (2) no organization in our area would fund our Patrol, or (3) I don't like asking others for money, it feels _____.

All of those are real thoughts and feelings and here are a couple of tips to help you and your Patrol get beyond them.

Fundraising is all about connections

The Ravalli Electric Co-op grant came about because a customer of one of our Patrollers, Lindi Gueldenhaar, mentioned the grant opportunity to



her. She then contacted me and well you know how this grant writing story ends.

So, ask your Patrollers, who do you know? Could be their employer, could be a community non-profit (especially those who funds first responders!), could be your utility company. The grant funds are there, you only need to find out who is giving what and when.

Ask who cares?

When thinking about potential grant funders, start with the question, "who cares if we have these _____ for our patients/Patrol". An organization who gets why your Patrol is asking for funding will be more open to saying yes. For example, an organization in Fiji would be unlikely to fund a vacuum splint request from your Patrol whereas a medical clinic who works on your patients would

understand exactly why vacuum splints would benefit your patients (and theirs).

Ask a good story teller to write the grant

Grant writing is all about telling a clear and compelling story. A quote from a former patient or from the responding Patroller who used x medical equipment and how their patient care would have been different with y medical equipment.

For example, when writing grants for full body vacuum mattresses, I recount my experience being strapped to a long spine backboard during OEC training, how I'm only on it for about a half-hour and how much pain I am in when I roll off (and I'm not even injured!), how long an injured patient might be on a backboard when transported to a higher level of care from Lost Trail (minimum of two hours), and how much more comfortable is the full body vacuum mattress.

Read and follow all directions

All funders have clear application guidelines. Want to be unsuccessful in your funding application? Don't follow their application guidelines.

Before you press the send button...

If it is an online application, copy and paste what you've written into a Word-type document so if your original submission goes awry, you only have to re-copy and paste into their system again.

Walk away from what you've written for a bit, when you revisit your application you might find you didn't finish your thought in this section or you left out this really important fact in that section. Do a spell and grammar check at the same time. Remember, how many times do we have the chance to make a first impression?



Lastly, say thank you, many times over

Yay you, your application was successful! Thanking donors and funders is so important and may yield unexpected results.

Ask the granting organization what social media platforms they would like you to use to announce their grant? Make sure to take lots of pictures!

Contact your newspaper, you may get an interview or they might ask you to write the article. If they do, easy peasy, use your grant application – your story is already written! And include your pictures, they help you tell the story.

Speaking of social media, use your Patrol's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts to help you thank the granting organization. Got a Patrol website, that's another great place to showcase your grantor and their gift.

What's the biggest reason people and/or organizations don't give???

Because no one asks them, so what are you waiting for, ask!

Hello Mountain Travel & Rescue Followers!

I hope many of you have had a great Season Patrolling this year! I know I am looking forward to some warmer weather and many Summer Activities!

We had a great season for our 2023-2024 year here in the Northern Division. We held a MTR1 & MTR2 combined course hosted by the Flathead Nordic patrol. We also held an MTR1 course hosted by the Great Falls Patrol. There are already plans to host another MTR1 & MTR2 combined course at the Flathead Nordic area in the 2024-2025 season.

This year we were able to add another 3 MTR instructors to our staff this season! Yahoo!

However, this season there was a great loss of one our great MTR instructors Dan'l Moore}

Dan'l passed away in February of this year. Dan'l was our Division Nordic Advisor, and he was also one of our most valuable MTR instructors in so many ways to me and the division! Dan'l was a great educator and very proactive as we worked together on the MTR-Nordic programs together. Dan'l was very instrumental in helping to mentor up and coming Instructors for the MTR program. I am sure the Flathead Nordic Patrol will dearly miss him along with his wife Helen, I am sure. There are so many more great things that I could say about Dan'l. His friendship and knowledge will be dearly missed.

I would like to thank the handful of MTR instructors and training instructors that stepped up to the plate to take over the MTR course that was being held at Flathead Nordic this season, Dan'l was the lead instructor during the time he passed away and the instructors and students even though there was a great deal of loss they pulled things together and continued on where Dan'l had left off with the course! Thank YOU all that were a part of this and worked together closely to make it a successful course this year!

As a reminder if you feel you would benefit at your local patrol area and are in need of some more information in regard to our MTR

program, I always look forward to hearing from those of you that may have questions or more interest into the program to enhance your skills and or your patrol area needs. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an instructor in the MTR program, please reach out and lets get you on the road to that accomplishment.

Have a Wonderful Summer

Troy Walker – MTR Supervisor
801-360-2445 - Troywalker13@gmail.com



Spring 2024 Polaris – OEC Updates

It has been a minute since I put an update in the Polaris. So, let's talk about the OEC Delinquency Roster. Who is responsible for cleaning up the OEC delinquency roster, well it is the Patrol Representative for each patrol. That said the patrol rep should pull the report and get it to one of their instructors to help in the clean-up effort. There are 2 reasons a patroller is on the list.

- The more obvious and legitimate reason is that the patroller did in fact miss a refresher. If they are within 3 years the person can make up the refresher. To do this an IOR will set up the appropriate cycle. For example, if a patroller missed last falls, refresher they complete the Cycle A online modules first. Then the IOR can create a new Cycle A Hybrid refresher and run the patroller through the skills for that cycle with an IT observing and the IT can mark the patroller at "attended"
- The second reason is that there was some sort of record keeping issue. What I mean by that is the patroller failed to either enroll in the Hybrid course or did not complete the online modules. If it is the online modules that are missing, they just need to complete the online course. If they have the course and certificate but the course is still not on their education record, they can send the certificate or contact the education department at education@nsp.org for assistance. If the patroller is missing the skills portion the IOR can add them manually to their course and ask the IT to mark them as attended. If the missing refresher predates the new Learning Management

System, have the IOR contact me, and we can work on a resolution. The best way to avoid these errors is for the patroller themselves to monitor their education status and get it corrected immediately.

On to some exciting news. Over the last year or so I have been working on a committee for the OEC Flagship course. What is happening is that we are putting the electronic portion of the OEC course into our Learning Management System and eventually discontinue use of the publisher's electronic version in Navigate. The OEC Flagship course will be a more robust learning experience for the student. The Education department is using best practices and lessons learned from the online refresher to put together the design. A professional firm has been hired to do the actual development and a team of broadcast students are doing the voiceovers. The development of the OEC Flagship will allow for the OEC program to better support a hybrid learning model. A team is also putting together a course for instructors on the best ways to teach this course in a hybrid environment. A true hybrid course allows learners to learn the didactic material at their own pace. When the students and instructors meet in person there is minimal review of textbook material and allows for instructors to focus on skill training. We are looking at a release of the course on the LMS this summer for a pilot. If there is a patrol interested in a pilot please contact me.

John Fradette

OEC Supervisor



2024 Northern Division Women's Event

Ski patrollers are a unique breed of special. We love getting together. Sharing our knowledge. Practicing new patrol-related skills. We geek out about it. Tips and tricks for snacks? Yes! We are in. New and improved techniques in the handles or on the tail rope? Absolutely!

This year's 4th annual Northern Division Women's event exemplified all of this learning and sharing. Women from the hills of North Dakota to the mountains of Montana joined us once again for more learning and, of course, more laughter.

On day 1, we hauled sleds, sleds, and more sleds. We worked in the handles. We worked on the tail rope. We practiced all the things, from balancing to transitioning in a variety of terrain. We finished the day at Top Rock with some map and compass work, followed by après snacks and a group ski down to the lodge at the end of the day. On day 2, we were blessed to ski with Josie from PSIA; she challenged us to ski bolder and brighter (and laughed with us!). We also searched practiced our avalanche skills, searching the hill for beacons.

As is always the case, we couldn't be more thankful for the support of Showdown Ski Area management. From top to bottom, they are literally the best, most supportive people in the ski industry. They make putting on this event seamless. Words cannot express how great they are and how lucky we are to have them in our corner.

To all of the women who participated, THANK YOU! To all of you who support this program, THANK YOU!

Cheers to all of the laughter and to all of the learning!

*Bridgett Paddock
& Colleen Finch*

Northern Division Women's Supervisors





Herman Handstede

Jan. 8, 1944 – Jan. 26, 2024

Eagle Creek Ski Patrol, Bear Paw Ski Hill, Havre MT.

“Life is like skiing.

*Just like skiing, the goal is not to get to the bottom of the hill.
It’s to have a bunch of good runs before the sun sets.”*

– Seth Godin

41+ yrs. of commitment to Eagle Creek Ski Patrol, N.S.P learning/sharing of knowledge and friends made by being a Northern Division Patroller make ski runs worth taking. Ski run awareness of surrounding beauty and the thrill of physical movement on the slopes is beyond belief. Knowing you can be of assistance during an injury or emergency is important. Thank you for the accolades and recognitions received for participation. But the best runs are the many friends that become an important part of life. Friends become family.

When surgery and illness partake a person the ski patrol family are there with prayers/support and are greatly appreciated. Herman’s wish for each of you as patrollers is: always enjoy the white carpet, be safe, be humble, forever be a learner, if you believe you can achieve, always be of assistance to others and share your skills/talents with others. Be proud of your association with your N.S.P family. The result is a life and here-after reward, created with wonderful memories when the sun sets. “God Bless You”.

Judy Handstede



2024 Northern Division Annual Meeting



September 13 - 15, 2024
Fairmont Hot Springs – Anaconda, MT

Accommodations information & meeting schedule to follow in the Summer Edition of the Polaris.

Questions? Email – Trevor Motley - secretary.nspnorth@gmail.com





Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
April 26, 27, 2024	eBoard Meeting Date	Livingston
June 8, 9, 2024	PNW Nuts & Bolts	Mt Hood, OR
Sept 13, 14, 2024	2024 Division Meeting.	Fairmont Hot Springs
Jan 17, 18, 19, 2025	Powder Rendezvous	TBD
Feb 15, 16, 2025 ??	Senior Clinic ??	TBD
Mar 15, 16, 2025 ??	Senior Clinic. ??	TBD