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June 2011
Volume 4 Issue 6

The Sweep!

The NSP Month in Review

NATIONAL SKI PATROL

133 S. Van Gordon St. 100
Lakewood, CO 80228
303-988-1111
fax: 303-988-3005
nsp@nsp.org
www.nsp.org

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From the Desk of Tim White

Board Meeting

It's the weekend of the annual board meeting here in Lakewood, and myself, the board members, division directors, and the staff have been having productive discussions all day on how NSP can best meet the challenges that face us as we approach our 75th Anniversary. In my four years with NSP, I have not seen an atmosphere of greater cooperation among the leadership.

This morning, we first spent some time reviewing the budget from the previous year and confirmed a balanced budget for the coming financial year.

Next up was an extensive review of the data from the recent NSP Member Survey. Just under 6,000 members took the survey, and the feedback we received will be crucial in our success at planning for the organization's future. Thank you to all the members who took the survey.

In addition to reports on finance and education, we reviewed concepts like successful branding, infrastructure, member services, education, and finances. We reviewed what constitutes a strategic planning method for meeting our goals, and to ensure further progress, we will create measurement tools to gauge our progress in areas like building our brand,

Fundraising and
Catalog spotlight

NSP Visitors

creating better infrastructure, meeting our financial goals, and delivering products and services to our members.

To ensure our continued success, it also necessary to periodically look at the structure of the NSP and review it to see if it meets our current needs. As such, we referred the current committee structure to the Planning Committee for review, and, if necessary, revision, to make sure that NSP is built for continued success.

As the NSP's official "chief executive optimist," I firmly believe we are poised for further greatness. To achieve that, we need to have a unified voice and work toward a common cause. I have mentioned before the concept of an "elevator speech" that members can have handy to discuss the NSP and its importance. I'd like you all to think about what you could tell the general public in five minutes or less about how the NSP serves the skiing public, in order to continue to build our brand. You, our members, are ultimately the NSP's voice, and we are determined to give you the tools you need to achieve success, and by extension, help the organization achieve it as well.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Tim White
Executive Director, NSP

Board Candidates announced

The six applicants for the 2011 board election have been announced. There are five open slots on the board. The candidates are:

Gary Deaver - Professional Division, PNW
Ed Gassman - Rocky Mountain Division
William Hummer - Far West Division
Scott Marland - Intermountain Division
Burt Mitchell - Eastern Division
Chuck Povitiz - Central Division

The nominating committee will announce the final list of candidates on September 15.

Young Adult Newsletter: Tips Up! Issue 2 Released!!

The NSP Young Adult Program has been revitalized under the direction of new Young Adult Program Adviser Christopher Rousseau. The Young Adult webpage has expanded information for those interested in starting a young adult patrol, and a new young adult newsletter, *Tips Up*, has been launched as well. Read the second issue of [Tips Up here](#).

National Avalanche School in October

This fall, the National Avalanche Foundation will hold the 22nd annual National Avalanche School at Snowbird Resort in Utah. This is the oldest and most acclaimed avalanche training program for snow safety professionals. The National Avalanche School offers comprehensive professional avalanche training for ski patrollers, avalanche forecasters and control specialists, mountain managers, as well as Forest Service, National Park Service and other land management personnel.

[22nd National Avalanche School](#)

October 23-27, 2011

Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, UT

Contact: Jennifer Ament, National Ski Areas Association

Flight For Life SAR Conference

The Flight For Life Colorado SAR Conference will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 16-18, 2011, at Colorado Mountain College in Breckenridge, Colo. The conference is dedicated to Colorado search and rescue groups, ski patrol, and EMS personnel who would like to learn and participate in wilderness medicine topics. Dale Atkins will be the keynote speaker, and will address wilderness rescue - mountain style. Two pre-conference workshops will be offered, one on high angle rescue medicine and the other on patient packaging and scree evacuation, both in the field. The registration fee is \$70.00, which includes dinner Saturday evening (accommodations not included). Please mark your calendars and watch for further details at [Flight For Life](#).

If you are interested in attending the conference, or for more information, please call Bill Spialek, Flight For Life Colorado Outreach Coordinator, at 720-321-3924.

Marketing/Communications/Events

Mark Your Calendar: Patroller Education Conference 2012 (PEC 2012) at Copper



April 12-14, 2012, is the date for the biannual NSP Patroller Education Conference (PEC). For a change of scenery this year, it will be held at Copper Mountain, Colo.! Come early with friends and experience some amazing skiing and snowboarding throughout Colorado in Vail, Breckenridge, Keystone, and of course Copper (with record-breaking April snow this past year). Seven ski resorts are within 30 minutes of Copper Mountain.

Plan to learn new skills and brush up on old ones. Clinics that will be offered this year are **OEC, Instructor Development, Certified, Nordic, MTR, Avalanche, Toboggan, Women's, Risk Management, and a Pro Patroller roundtable**. Thursday, April 12, will be a pre-conference day with a few clinics offered. The main conference will begin with our Welcome Reception on Thursday evening. All day both Friday and Saturday will be the main clinics, with our closing dinner on Saturday evening, April 14. The third biannual patroller challenge will be held on Saturday, April 14. Come cheer on your favorite team!

More details to come on transportation, conference fees, and clinic schedules. We look forward to seeing you all there. Please send any questions to Christine Albertson at calbertson@nsp.org.



Sponsor Spotlight: Apple/Lenovo

Looking to replace that old computer, or get the fastest, newest operating system? Well, NSP members can now get discounts on Apple and Lenovo computers! Login to the NSP Pro Page to view the latest that technology has to offer! (Discounts are available for computers only.)

Sponsor Spotlight: Swix

NSP is proud to announce its continued partnership with SWIX Sport USA! SWIX has been a valuable sponsor to the National Ski Patrol, and has allowed us to glide smoother, grip more, and perform better! Buy your wax this summer from the NSP Pro Page and be prepared for the next ski season!



Sponsor Spotlight: UVEX

Quality is everything when it comes to protecting your head, and NSP's new sponsor, UVEX, has got you covered. UVEX helmets exceed stringent engineering standards recognized worldwide to ensure the highest level of safety and quality. UVEX uses those standards as a starting point from which they look for ways to reduce weight, increase ventilation, improve aerodynamics,

and add comfort. Look for their cycling and winter sports helmets on the NSP Pro Page in mid-July!

NSP Photo Site

You do not need a login ID to view the photos posted by your fellow patrollers at the NSP photo site. Simply click this [link](#), or go to [Flickr](#) and search for NSP Photos under Users. The login ID is used if you want to post new photos of an event or your patrol. To post photos, go to [Flickr](#), click Sign In, enter the login ID "nspphotos" and the password. The password for July is Birkenstock (capitalize the "B"); if the login does not work, e-mail [Candace Horgan](#).

Education

A Message from Education Director Darcy Hanley

The Mountain Travel and Rescue book will be sent off to The Mountaineers Books in September, with a scheduled release date of fall 2012! It is very exciting news that a major publisher has picked up the book and will market it to NSP members and the outdoor wilderness community. Petzl has signed on as a sponsor of the book as well. Petzl manufactures much of the gear that is used in mountain travel, and gear that helps patrollers do their job, so this is further evidence of the excellence of the new *MTR Manual*. The **Ski Patroller's Manual** has started revision and is on track to publish in January 2012. Chapters are being written and submitted for editing.

The *OEC Fifth Edition* Instructor materials have been released. These can be found on the Brady website on the tab MyBradyKit/Resource Central. The OEC division supervisors and OEC ITs have been given access codes via Brady. These codes will be distributed to all OEC instructors. There is no charge for the instructor materials. OEC candidates and challenge candidates must complete the skill checklist prior to the final practical exam. OEC test materials will still need to be ordered from the national office as you have done in the past.

A few weeks ago, I was presenting information about the *OEC Fifth Edition* to a group of instructors in the PNWD. What a great group! Even more impressive was their call to action on an automobile accident involving two young men, one of whom was ejected from the car and lying face down in a creek. A PNW patroller was first on scene and called for assistance. More patrollers arrived from the Central and PNW Divisions. I quote, "This was a group of 10 patrollers from *three different states* (Michigan, Washington, Oregon) with varying backgrounds and expertise that had not met each other's group until that morning. It never mattered if someone was an alpine, auxiliary, or Nordic, nor that the accident was on snow, water, bicycle, or roadway. What did matter was that we all had the same level of medical training as an OEC technician and knew what needed to be done, and it showed. We continued in this fashion even after the local EMS arrived, and everyone there made me say again that ski patrollers rocked!" That standard of

first response care is what make OEC technicians outstanding! (Read more on the [NSP Facebook page](#).)

Industry News

Maine Releases Report on Sugarloaf lift incident

The Maine State Board of Elevator and Tramway Safety has released its report on its investigation into the lift derailment at Sugarloaf on December 28, 2010, in which five chairs derailed and hit the ground and eight people were injured.

The report found no specific cause for the derailment, but stated that, "interactions involving mechanical components, the environment and human factors all are believed to have contributed." The report also stated that, "maintenance records were inadequate" and "lift mechanics do not receive training in a structured or formalized manner."

In a statement released on the Sugarloaf website, Sugarloaf General Manager John Diller said "Our first concern remains with those who were injured during the incident. We continue to wish them the very best in their recoveries and remain ready to assist in any way we can."

The Spillway East chair is being replaced (it had already been scheduled for replacement before the incident). You can read the full investigative report released by the Maine State Board of Elevator and Tramway Safety [here](#).

NSP Bike Socks from Defeet

Last month, NSP announced the creation of the 2011 NSP Bike Jersey. With the arrival of the jerseys this month, we decided to add a couple of bike socks made for our riding/running enthusiasts. Defeet teamed up with



NSP and created two branded styles to help our members show their pride. The Aireator sock stays cooler and more comfortable on your feet, and lasts longer than anything else

out there. NSP's version is black, with the NSP Shield logo on the ankle, and will sell for **\$7.50**. The Levitator Lite Low is the leader of the Defeet "Thin" sock category. Runners and cyclists who are fans of ultralite and thin love this sock because it takes comfort and durability to a shocking new level. NSP's version is white, with "National Ski Patrol" in red lettering around the ankle



cuff, and will sell for **\$8.50**. Sizing for both socks is S-XL. For more information on both styles, and to see the full line of Defeet socks, such as the Ski-D, check out www.defeet.com. Socks will be listed in the online catalog with the 2011 NSP Bike Jersey, and will be available mid-July.

Great deals on closeout products

Be sure to check out the closeout section of the online catalog this summer to get amazing deals on Patagonia-logo gear, NSP-logo gear, and much more! Sizes are limited, so make sure to check the page for available sizes and styles. The closeout sale begins July 1, 2011.

NSP Visitors of the Month



Jim Quinn

Jim Quinn, M.D., of the Mt. Crescent Ski Patrol in Iowa, visited the office, along with his children, Julia, age 8, Jimmy, age 7, Joe, age 5, and Jack, age 4.

Thanks for stopping by!!

The Sweep was created to keep NSP members informed about national news. An archive of all issues of The Sweep is maintained under the Newsletters section of [Member News](#). After logging in, click Newsletters from the Quick Links menu. If you have news that's relevant to the national ski patrol audience, we invite you to submit it for consideration for The Sweep. Please e-mail it to [editorial](#) by the 15th of each month.

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