

# DOWNHILL



<http://www.ohionsp.org>

Ohio Region Newsletter, National Ski Patrol System, Inc. Volume 39, Number 2 January 2012

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Bill Currier, Region Director

## RD's Column

What a difference a year makes! Boy does it ever. Last year we were blessed us with late fall snows and cold weather that enabled Ohio resorts to open in early December. This fall we find ourselves in the Ohio Rain Forest zone, and have been blessed with more than 7 inches of above normal rainfall in Northeast Ohio so far. Suffice it to say that the ponds and reservoirs used by the resorts for snowmaking are filled to overflowing and are ready to fuel some serious snowmaking when it cools off. Some resorts opened the weekend of Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, but have now closed due to more rain and warm temps this week. I have my fingers crossed for the week after Christmas.

By now most refreshers and other pre-season activities, including patrol registrations, lift evacs, Division STW's, etc, are complete. Luckily they were held at resorts North and West of Ohio where there is snow. Early in the New Year we will be starting the Ski and Toboggan training activities at your resorts beginning on Jan. 7-8 with the 1st Region STW as well as the Certified Re-certification/Pre-test, both at PNS. This will be followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region STW at Clear Fork on Jan. 14-15. Throughout January and February SES/SNES and TES events will be held at most Ohio resorts. Check the Region calendar in this newsletter as well as on the Ohio Region web site regularly as dates may change. All of these events require sign-up and pre-registration. Check your email regularly for details.

The final refresher of the season for most of us is the annual Toboggan refresher which some of us know as the Frostie refresher. As you know, anyone wishing to handle a toboggan on the hill must complete this refresher. Our goal should be to complete them within the 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks of resort opening and for the IOR to send completion records to National. This year National has sent each PD a copy of a patrol roster (it may look like an OEC roster and contain some words to that effect, but it can be used to record the toboggan refreshers) that can save you time by not having to write/type in the patroller details. Details for completing the rosters and where to send them were sent to each PD in November and early December.

The S&T season winds down in late February with the  
please turn to page 7



Bruce Heichelbech  
Asst. Region Director

## Help Wanted- Great Pay and Benefits!

Well ok, maybe not great pay but there are benefits to this open Ohio Region position. The open position is that of **Region Elections Officer** and the benefit is helping with the region you are a part of. This position is important but requires a relatively limited amount of your time. The Elections Officer manages elections for the Section Chiefs as these positions come up for the election process. All the required help and information will be provided to you. Our Region P & P describes this position as follows:

**15.1 QUALIFICATIONS:** *The qualifications for the Region Elections Officer are; 1) to be a registered member of the National Ski Patrol in the Ohio Region for at least the past two years, 2) not to be a candidate for the office of Region Director or Section Chief while serving as Region Election Coordinator, and 3) to be acceptable to the Central Division Elections Coordinator.*

**15.5 ELECTION DUTIES:** *The Region Elections Officer shall place a notification of election in the second issue of each DOWNHILL volume (January issue) and on the Region website about the elections scheduled to be held during the current year. The notification shall include the deadlines prescribed in The Ohio Region Policies and Procedures Manual Section 16, a description of the qualifications for office, and when appropriate, the designated Region electors, i.e. Patrol Representative/Director, Section Chief plus the number of additional voters allocated to each Patrol based upon the number of registered patrollers. The election schedule for information about qualified candidates filing for election and the results of the elections is listed in Section 16.2 of the Region's P&P manual.*

Please turn to page 7, col 2

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# OHIO REGION 2011-2012 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location	POC
STW=Ski Trainer's Workshop * SES/SNES = Ski Enhancement Seminar & Snow Board Enhancement Seminar TES = Toboggan Enhancement Seminar * SEM = Senior Emergency Management				
<b>JANUARY 2012</b>				
Jan 7-8	8:30AM	STW Skiing and Riding & Toboggan (Sun)	PNS-Sandi Hammons	Marty Collins/Troy Southwick
Jan 7-8	8:00 AM	Certified Re-Cert/Pre- Qualification	PNS	Sandi Hammons/Dan Moss
Jan 8		New Senior Candidate Application deadline for new candidates participating in Feb 25-26 Alpine/Toboggan Test		Tom Tavenner tom@tavgroup.net
Jan 14	5:30PM	Region Appointment Nomination Review Board	Clear Fork Ski Area	Greg Schoenman gschoenman@hotmail.com
Jan 14-15	8:30AM	STW Skiing and Riding & Toboggan (Sun)	Clear Fork-Todd Vermilya	Marty Collins/Troy Southwick
Jan 28	8:30AM	TES	Alpine Valley	Dave Purucsky
Jan 28	8:30AM	SES/SNES	MRM	Kent Oliver
Jan 28-29		Central Divsion Women's Clinic	Big Powderhorn, Bessmer, WI	Sandi Hammons
Jan 29	8:30AM	TES	BMBW	Tom Ciranna
Jan 29	8:30AM	SES/SNES	Snow Trails	Bryan Loveless
<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>				
Feb 1	Deadline	Section Chiefs Election Notice	Sections O-1 & O-4	Region Election Officer
Feb 4	8:30AM	SES/SNES	Paoli Peaks	Bruce Heichlebech
Feb 4	8:30AM	TES	Snow Trails	Jim Crowl
Feb 4-5		Telemark SES (requires advance registration)	Holimont Ski Area, NY	Dave Walker <dcamwalker@aol.com>
Feb 5	8:30AM	SES/SNES	PNS	Jon French
Feb 5	8:30AM	TES	MRM	Troy Green
Feb 11	8:30AM	SES/SNES	Alpine Valley	Marty Collins
Feb 11	8:30AM	TES	Paoli Peaks	Rick Jackson
Feb 12	8:30AM	TES	PNS	Sandi Hammons
Feb 12	8:30AM	SES/SNES	Boston Mills	Layton Ives
Feb 12	Deadline	Deadline for Feb 25-26 Senior Alpine & Toboggan Tests Application		Tom Tavenner tom@tavgroup.net
Feb 12	Deadline	Deadline for Signoffs Completion for Senior Alpine & Toboggan Tests		Tom Tavenner tom@tavgroup.net
Feb 12	Deadline	Deadline for a <i>new</i> Senior Test Application for Mar. SEM		Tom Tavenner tom@tavgroup.net
Feb 14	Deadline	Nominations for NSP Outstanding & Region Awards	ringley@fuse.net	Lori Ringley, Region Awards Adv.
Feb 18	8:30AM	TES	Clear Fork	Todd Vermilya
Feb 25-26		Alpine Senior Tests	PNS	Tom Tavenner tom@tavgroup.net
Feb 25	Deadline	Section Chief Nomination Submission	to Region Election Officer	Section Chief Candidates
Feb 26	Deadline	SEM Test Application & sign-off completion		Tom Tavenner tom@tavgroup.net
<b>MARCH 2012</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Change on March 11</i>				
Mar 1-4		Central Division Certified Exam	PNS	Sandi Hammons/Dan Moss
Mar 10	7PM	SEM - Evaluators Only - Calibration Clinic	Snow Trails	Dave Baumlein
Mar 11	8AM-4PM	SEM - <i>Daylight Savings Time Change</i>	Snow Trails	Dave Baumlein
Mar 12	Deadline	Sec. Chief Cand. resumes & position papers	to R. Election Officer	Section Chief Candidates
Mar 17	Deadline	DOWNHILL Spring issue	DOWNHILL@woh.rr.com	Max Davis, DOWNHILL Editor
Mar 19		1st Session - Instructor Development	BMBW	Janet Glaeser
Mar 21		2nd Session - Instructor Development	BMBW	Janet Glaeser
Mar 22	Deadline	Sec. Chief resumes, position papers + ballots	mailed to electors	Region Election Officer
<b>APRIL -OCTOBER 2012</b>				
Apr 5	Deadlines	Section Chief ballots returned by electors	mailed to Election Officer	Electors
April 28		Section Chief Election Results Announced	Region Spring Meeting	Region Election Officer
Apr 28		Region Spring Meeting and Awards Ceremony	PNS	Bill Currier/Sandi Hammons
May 21	Deadlines	DOWNHILL Awards Summer Issue	DOWNHILL@woh.rr.com	Max Davis, DOWNHILL Editor
Sep 7-9		C Div Fall Meeting and Awards Ceremony	Chestnut Mt, Galena IL	Ken Meldahl SDRD
Sep		Region Fall Meeting		Bill Currier
Oct 14-16		Open House and Ski Swap	BMBW	Tom Ciranna

## Senior Program Section

### Items of Special Interest to Senior Candidates



Tom Tavenner, Senior Program Advisor

## SENIOR PROGRAM SUMMARY

The senior program is a growing, dynamic and challenging sector of the Ohio region. Each season the region is tasked to clearly communicate the standards for achieving senior. Many senior instructors dedicate countless hours training senior candidates, often times traveling far from home to offer a helping hand. Logistics for conducting a quality senior core module

evaluation (SEM, Alpine, and Toboggan) demands the very best from every individual supporting the events. Senior candidates make significant time commitments towards securing training, which for many requires traveling to other areas within the region. A personal commitment and complete surrender to the senior program is required by every candidate to achieve success. Senior instructors are asked to provide genuine, constructive feedback to help the candidate master the senior standards, while occasionally confronted with individuals who are not receptive to their suggestions. Both the senior staff and senior candidates face challenges that appear throughout the season. How we face and overcome these hurdles, both individually and collectively, directly affects the success of the senior program.

Sounds grim, right? Actually, the rewards of being associated with the senior program far outweigh the challenges we face. Senior candidates develop new relationships with patrollers from other areas within the region, and visit ski resorts they wouldn't have if not for their involvement with the senior program. Candidates experience an improvement of their abilities and learn new techniques from seasoned senior instructors. The senior staff finds reward in the comradery of the program and by seeing their fellow patrollers achieve success. We have some senior staff members who have been involved in the program for more than 20 years!! On the flip side, we added 1 new senior alpine and 3 new toboggan examiners last season, which is the largest increase in a single season for more than a decade. The involvement of staff members over such a long time span and desire of patrollers to join the senior staff, is proof that the individuals who become involved with the program know that their contribution and dedication is worthy of the program's purpose.

At the risk of sounding like a military recruitment commercial, the senior program will bring the best out of those folks who genuinely and completely submit themselves. The rewards are great and the return upon your investment of time is measurable. The journey never ends, but rather the path takes a different direction and your purpose has a new meaning after you successfully complete the program.

If you want to improve your abilities, make new friends, and face manageable challenges, speak with your local senior contact for more information about the program. Come join us at the upcoming STWs to meet many of our senior staff members and to hear more about this season's program.

The remainder of this article provides important dates and specific information related to the 2011-2012 senior programs.

### Local Senior Advisors:

Each Ohio region alpine patrol has a designated local senior advisor or has made arrangement to coordinate with the senior advisors at a nearby patrol. These local advisors are an extension of the Ohio Region senior program, advising senior candidates about the requirements, standards, paperwork, and important dates related to the program. Senior candidates should utilize the local senior advisor as an additional resource and the initial point of contact for the senior program. Below is a list of the current local senior advisors.

Paoli Peaks –

David McKinley / [dmckinley\\_40026@yahoo.com](mailto:dmckinley_40026@yahoo.com)

Perfect North Slopes –

Cindy Wert / [cmwblackswan@yahoo.com](mailto:cmwblackswan@yahoo.com)

Mad River Mountain –

Patricia McCabe / [patricia.l.mccabe@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.l.mccabe@gmail.com)

Clear Fork & Snow Trails –

Amy Arnold / [luciwave@mac.com](mailto:luciwave@mac.com)

Boston Mills Brandywine –

Jim Burns / [jimaburns@yahoo.com](mailto:jimaburns@yahoo.com)

Alpine Valley & Big Creek –

Pat Aquila / [lzpaq@roadrunner.com](mailto:lzpaq@roadrunner.com)

### Senior Applications, Sign Offs, and Module Fees:

New Senior Candidate Applications and Senior Test Applications can be completed and/or downloaded online from the [Senior program page](#) on the Ohio Region website. PDF and Word versions of the applications are available, as well as an electronic solution allowing you to submit a paperless application. Refer to "important dates" below for the 2012 deadlines related to paperwork.

All module fees are due the day of the core module evaluation. The e-application process allows for payment of module fees by PayPal. If you would rather submit check or if your patrol is paying your fees for you, you can ignore the payment through PayPal request. Payment is due at registration table, the day of the test.

In addition to the New Senior Candidate Application and the Senior Test Application, a copy of the senior candidate's NSP education profile is to be submitted for all new candidates and up dated when a new senior elective has been completed by the returning senior candidates. Keeping their education profile current is an individual responsibility of each senior candidate. Please co-ordinate and stay in contact with your local senior advisor, as they can assist you with your paperwork.

Two signatures are required on Alpine (Ski, Board, & Telemark) Senior Skills Sign Off Form. TWO different signatures by qualified senior alpine examiners and/or PSIA level II or III instructors are required. The Toboggan Skills Sign Off sheet requires the signature of ONE qualified senior toboggan examiner. The Ohio Region highly recommends that all sign offs are made upon demonstration of the skill on a senior rated hill (Perfect North Slopes or Boston Mills).

The senior sign off sheets are available in the Central Division Senior Program Manual (<http://www.nspcentral.org/docs/senior/SeniorProgram3rded.pdf>). ALL candidates should download and read the Central Division Senior Program Module. In addition to the sign

Senior Program Summary, continued from page 3  
off sheets, other important information is included concerning the Alpine, Toboggan and SEM modules.

Refer to Dave Baumlein's section on Candidate Qualifications in the OEC article on page 6 in this newsletter for SEM sign offs requirements.

#### Important Dates:

January 7 & 8 – STW Perfect North Slopes

January 8 – Deadline for new senior candidate applications for new candidates who wish to participate in senior alpine/toboggan evaluation

January 14 & 15 – STW Clear Fork Ski Area

February 12 – Deadline for alpine/toboggan evaluation senior event application

February 12 – Deadline for new senior event applications to participate in SEM

February 25 & 26 – Senior Alpine & Toboggan Evaluation (Perfect North Slopes)

February 26 – Deadline for SEM senior event applications

March 11 – SEM event (Snow Trails)

#### New schedule for the Senior Alpine/Toboggan Evaluation

The Region will be conducting a day and a half senior alpine/toboggan evaluation this season on February 25 & 26. The purposes of the new schedule is (1) to provide an on-the-hill calibration of the evaluation teams on Saturday morning, (2) to allow earlier Sunday departure for patrollers traveling from opposite sides of the Region, and (3) to provide those senior candidates who attempt both modules some time to recoup between evaluations. More information will be communicated by the local senior advisors as we approach the evaluation. For those candidates planning to attempt both modules, please plan to attend and arrive early on both days.

#### A Word to New Senior Candidates:

To all patrollers planning or considering participating in the senior program this season, know that you have the full support of the Region. Every senior staff member wants you to be successful and will support you along the way. Begin your training early, stay focused on your goal, and commit yourself to the program. Accept that senior status most likely will take two or more seasons of hard work and perseverance. Be open to constructive criticism, accept that your skills will improve, and stay the course. Follow these steps and YOU WILL be successful.

**Tom Tavenner** Ohio Region Senior Program Advisor  
[tom@tavgroup.net](mailto:tom@tavgroup.net)



Marty Collins, Alpine Ski School Co-Advisor

## 2012 Ohio Region STWs

Hello all!

Now that the Central Division STW's are complete, it's time to focus on the STW's for the Ohio Region.

Plenty of Ohio Region patrollers were in attendance at the Division STW events and they are itching to share what they learned with the rest of us. This year's Region STW events will focus on "Training the Trainer" and could include, but not be limited to, topics such as movement analysis, use of video for one-on-one feedback, and tactics for training all levels of skiing and riding.

There will also be an SES at both STW events for those wishing to pursue their Senior S&T certificate. (Note that PNS is a sign-off hill but Clear Fork is not.)

Ohio Region 2012 ski & ride STW's are scheduled for:

Saturday January 7th, 2012 at Perfect North Slopes in Lawrenceburg, IN starting at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday January 14th, 2012 at Clear Fork Resort in Butler, OH starting at 8:30 a.m.

Follow this link to [register for a '11-'12 Ohio Region STW](#). Once you have reached the event registration page please provide all of the information requested (i.e.: desired event(s), contact info, purpose, etc.) Then click the "Submit and Pay via PayPal" button at the bottom of the page. You will receive confirmation emails once you have submitted your registration and made payment.

#### Important Notes Regarding STW Registration:

1. You do not have to have a PayPal account to pay the registration fee. Look for "Don't have a PayPal Account?" on the next screen and click the 'continue' link next to it.
2. Submission of registration will redirect to PayPal for payment of \$25.00 per Event Location.
3. Event registration will close after the Wednesday prior to each event at 11:59 p.m. This is to allow the region to secure the appropriate staff for the event. Those who register late may be excluded from the event.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have.

THINK SNOW!

**Marty Collins**

419.778.4340 [mmcollins3@gmail.com](mailto:mmcollins3@gmail.com)

## Professional Image

How many times have you been asked by someone, "How much do patrollers get paid?" Answering this question can be both tricky and insightful. (If you are like me, you hold your tongue wanting to say "Not enough!" I digress.) But why are they asking? Do they want to become patrollers themselves? Are they just curious? Do they think what we do is work? To be honest it's usually a combination of all three and more.

It's easy to understand how the general public would get the impression that we are paid professionals. We are universally the single most recognizable group on the mountain. With our uniforms and time spent skiing and riding among the masses it is understandable how we can be perceived as paid professionals.

**'11 - '12 Ohio Region NSP-C Ski School Events**

DATE	AREA	EVENTS
Saturday January 7, 2012	Perfect North Slopes	STW, SES/SNES <sup>(1)</sup>
Saturday, January 14, 2012	Clear Fork	STW, SES/SNES <sup>(1)</sup>
Saturday, January 28, 2012	Mad River Mountain	SES/SNES <sup>(1)</sup>
Sunday, January 29, 2012	Snow Trails	SES/SNES <sup>(1)</sup>
Saturday, February 04, 2012	Paoli Peaks	SES/SNES <sup>(1)</sup>
Sunday, February 05, 2012	Perfect North Slopes	SES/SNES <sup>(1)</sup>
Saturday, February 11, 2012	Alpine Valley	SES/SNES <sup>(1)</sup>
Sunday, February 12, 2012	Boston Mills	SES/SNES <sup>(1)</sup>

**Event Descriptions:**

- STW -** The Ski Trainer's Workshop is an optional NSP education course taught by PSIA personnel to NSP ski trainers. It is highly recommended that all ski/snowboard trainers and evaluators complete the Ski Trainer's Workshop.
- SES/SNES -**
- Improve the skiing and riding skills of NSP members
  - Improve patroller image with ski industry and public by improving skiing and riding abilities
  - Maintain interest in sport and improvement of member benefit

**Notes:**

Visit the [Ohio Region Website](http://www.ohionsp.org) for event registration and (1) additional information

*Professional Image ... continued from page 4*

But just because most of us volunteer our time as patrollers does not mean we can present an image that is not professional. Our uniforms alone scream professional. Add to that the countless hours of training on and off snow we do each year to maintain certifications. Ask your area's manager and they are likely to agree that we project a professional image, with possibly one key exception; our skiing and riding skills.

We have all heard some form this before: *Area managers throughout the country have consistently commented that they would like to see their local patrols improve their skiing and riding skills.* Why this? Public perception of customer service quality is linked to what they see.

Being the most visible and recognized group riding and skiing the mountain, the public's perception, and in turn area management's perception, of our overall ability and professionalism is directly related to our skills as skiers and riders. In short, if we are strong skiers and riders the public believes we will be strong in those other areas of importance, which they rarely see. And since this perception is strictly subjective, one should expect a proportional distribution where good = good and bad = bad.

Becoming better skiers and riders will also help our personal ability to enjoy our sport through better skills as well as improving your area's overall reputation, which will keep the customers coming back again and again and allow us to enjoy our time as patrollers.

So to help you, our fellow patrollers, continue to enjoy and explore

*continued at bottom of next column*



Troy Southwick  
Toboggan Advisor

**Toboggan Program**

As always, we have a full schedule of events this year. It all starts with the two region Ski Trainers Workshops. It is essential that Senior Evaluators attend as well as any toboggan instructors that have not attended an STW recently. Senior Candidates are also invited to get a chance to see what the standard is and get some practice time in as well. All toboggan trainers are required to attend an STW every three years, but you are certainly welcome to participate more often.

To sign up, just visit the Ohio Region website [www.ohionsp.org](http://www.ohionsp.org).

Next, we will be bringing the Toboggan Enhancement Seminars to your area. Area Reps, we would like to hear from you. Help us bring a TES tailored to the needs of your patrol.

Contact your local toboggan advisor or APD of proficiency to sign up.

This year we are offering a TES taught by our women trainers for women. This will be a great opportunity, so don't delay. Participants should send an Email to Sandi Hammonds at [hammons@insightbb.com](mailto:hammons@insightbb.com). Instructors that would like to participate send an email to [tsouthwick@limitedbrands.com](mailto:tsouthwick@limitedbrands.com). The event will be held in conjunction with the TES at Perfect North Slopes.

We will wrap up the year with the Senior Test. This will be held at Perfect North Slopes.

Save these dates:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| STW at Perfect North Slopes. | January 7 <sup>th</sup> (Ski) and<br>January 8 <sup>th</sup> (Toboggan).  |
| STW at Clear Fork            | January 14 <sup>th</sup> (Ski) and<br>January 15 <sup>th</sup> (Toboggan) |
| Alpine Valley TES            | January 28th.   |
| Boston Mills TES             | January 29th.   |
| Snow Trails TES              | February 4th.   |
| Mad River TES                | February 5th.   |
| Paoli Peaks TES              | February 11th.  |
| Perfect North Slopes TES     | February 12.  |
| Clear Fork TES               | February 18th.  |
| Senior Test at PNS           | February 25th & 26th.   |

Looking forward to another great year!

**Troy Southwick Region Toboggan Advisor**

*Professional Image, concluded*  
our sport and to help your local management with our perceived professional image, the Ohio Region's NSP-C Ski School will be coming to an area near you to provide safe, fun and informative training sessions. If interested, which we hope you are, please plan on attending one of the SES./SNES or STW events listed on the calendar.

THINK SNOW! And I hope to ski with you soon!

**Marty Collins, Ohio Region NSP-C Ski School Co-Supervisor**



## SENIOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Dave Baumlein

Unfortunately Mother Nature hasn't been real kind to us with most Area resorts in the Region opening later than usual. The good news is, from an OEC point of view, SEM wasn't scheduled for the first weekend in December like some earlier years and needing to be cancelled because of no snow.

The Senior OEC program (Senior Emergency Management in Central Division), is a national education opportunity that allows members to participate in ski patrol-relevant

OEC exercises. These exercises are designed to develop and enhance the skills of decision making, problem management and leadership as applied to the management of emergency care situations in a typical patrol environment. SEM training provides an opportunity for Senior candidates to gain new and different perspectives on their own style of leadership in emergency medical situations. These scenarios emphasize leadership, triage and managing multiple-injury problems.

If it hasn't already, training should start after the Holidays for SEM. I've had preliminary reports that six Patrols will have SEM candidates this year. Each Patrol SEM IOR needs to register the class (risk management), get the necessary paperwork and fees into Tom Tavenner (see Tom's article for date details), and fulfill the check-off requirements for their candidates. **Due to the nature of the testing format and manpower required, enrollment is again limited to a maximum of 24 candidates.**

### Senior Emergency Management General Guidelines:

#### KEY DATES:

- **March 10** – SEM Evaluator Calibration meeting at Snow Trails at 7 p.m.

This meeting is for All SEM Evaluators and Advocates ONLY and is mandatory in order to evaluate the next day

- **March 11** – SEM Clinic hosted by Snow Trails (8 am-4 pm)

My first of many notices to follow – **THIS IS TIME CHANGE WEEKEND AGAIN!!** If you don't remember to set your clock ahead you'll be an hour late.

#### CANDIDATES QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must currently be an OEC Technician in good standing
- Must possess good quality OEC basic skills that are signed off at local level

- Completion of two written scenario responses (chosen by local SEM IOR from Appendix G of Ski Patroller Manual – TO BE KEPT AT LOCAL LEVEL)
- Submission to Region Administrator of one original scenario in OEC standard format grade level 5-7
- Successful lead on at least four (4) SEM scenarios in local practice
- Payment of fees and timely submission of application form

#### AREA SUPPORT:

- Each area must supply a minimum of one full toboggan, backboard, and pack for every three candidates. This is to be coordinated with the ROA in advance
- A total of about three people per candidate are needed to run the program. The areas for potential assignment are Station Managers, Assisting Patrollers, Patients, and Bystanders. Remember, lots of extra help can be used so it's a great opportunity for a variety of folks to get involved
- Candidates are to wear ski/board boots when testing and skiing to scene, if applicable

#### MISC:

- I will be sending out a packet of specific SEM info to each SEM IOR in the next few weeks to go over with your SEM candidates to calibrate SEM training in the Region
- After the first of the year I will be starting to solicit helpers for SEM so everyone be thinking about doing what you did last year or if you'd like an opportunity at something different

### **Dave Baumlein -Ohio Region OEC Administrator**



Dan Moss

## Ohio Region Certified Program

2012 will be a unique year for the Ohio Region; Perfect North Slopes will host the Central Division's Certified Test, 'right here in our own back yard,' March 1-3, 2012.

The Certified program tests a patroller who has applied and been accepted into the program, in 8 different modules over a three day period. It takes a lot of Certified staff and support from other patrollers to make execute the test.

We could use your support on Saturday, March 3, during the OEC practical testing period. IF you would like to volunteer to help out, please email [Bev Janke](mailto:Bev.Janke), and put your name in. Thanks in advance.

Four candidates have submitted their names from the Ohio Region to begin their Certified patroller journey: Andrew French, Jim Seeger, Chris Raudabaugh and Troy Southwick. Please encourage them along their path.

To understand more about the Certified program, please visit our [website: page](#). **Dan Moss, Ohio Region Certified Advisor**

## Notice of Section Chief Elections for Sections O-1 & O-4

This season, 2012 marks the start of another section chief election cycle. Sections O-1 and O-4 will hold elections for a 3 year term starting July 1, 2012. Section chief responsibilities of office, qualifications, the election process and cycle are laid out in detail in the Central Division Bylaws (Section 11.2) and Policies and Procedures manual (chapter 3). More information about the section chief responsibilities is found in Section 16 of the Ohio Region Policies & Procedures. All of this information is available on the respective Division and Region websites.

The qualifications for Section Chief as written in Section 5.1 of the Ohio Region P & P are:

5.1 QUALIFICATIONS: Shall meet the Central Division qualification requirements, be a registered Senior, be able and willing to provide administrative and operating leadership to assure a high standard of training and testing of Section Patrollers and to assist Patrol Representative/Directors in their management of their Patrols.”

The section chief election date deadlines are:

Election announcement by February 1

Nomination deadline by February 25

Candidate résumés & position papers due by March 15

Ballots, résumés, position papers mailed to electors by March 22

Ballots returned postmarked no later than April 5

Announcement of Section Chief/Region Director election results during Region Spring Meeting (April 28, 2011)

Electors for Section Chief election are the Section's PR's. More information will be sent to the PR's in the affected Sections by the date deadlines listed above.

**Bruce Heichelbech – ARD Administration**

## Mountain Travel and Rescue

Planning is underway for this season's Ohio Region [MTR program](#). A two-day MTR I course is tentatively planned for April—details such as dates and location will be announced in January. Topics such as leave no trace camping, survival skills, ropes and knots, emergency shelters, map and compass and search and rescue are covered. MTR II, which expands on the level I course, will be held in the fall at Tar Hollow State Park. Contact Bill Schick at (513)779-1511 or [wwschick@gmail.com](mailto:wwschick@gmail.com) if you have any questions or comments.

**Bill Schick** Region Mountain Travel and Rescue Advisor

RD's Column concluded, continued from page 1

Alpine Senior Exam on Feb. 25-26 at PNS. A first for the Oho Region, PNS will host the Central Division Certified exam on Mar. 1-4 at PNS. This will be followed by the Region SEM on Mar. 11 at Snow Trails. Other important activities that will be going on throughout the season include Section Chief elections in O-1 and O-4, awards nominations and judging, and Instructor Development class in late March. More details about all of these events and activities may be found in articles located elsewhere in this newsletter.

Ten Ohio Region Patrollers attended the Division STW at Boyne Highlands on Dec. 10 and 11. Snow conditions were reported to be pretty good. Those attending will bring back their learnings to the Region STW's in January.

It's never too soon for you all to begin finalizing your thoughts and recommendations for 2011 / 2012 awards. Make note of the Feb. 14, 2012, deadline for submitting outstanding nominations to Lori. Let's make a concentrated effort this year to have at least one or two submissions for the Region awards from each patrol. Awards are one of the few ways that we can recognize our peers for an outstanding deed or service, and they don't take that much work if you start early.

It looks like it's going to be another short season in Ohio. Therefore, every one of us in leadership positions need to take extra steps and precautions to ensure that every Patroller receives timely communications regarding deadlines for events in which they plan to participate. I and you as well, I'm sure, do not want to hear that a Patroller missed an event for which he/she had trained long and hard because of a missed communication. Please, let's use all of the tools at our disposal to make sure there are no communications hiccups this season. Candidates and other participants, if you see a deadline approaching and you have not heard about registration details, sign-off requirements, etc., do not hesitate to reach out to your local event coordinators, your PD and others.

My final request for this article is to ask that as many of you who can make it, come out to Clear Fork and ski a shift sometime during the season. Todd is a bit shy of properly credentialed Patrollers this season. I know he will greatly appreciate your help. Just give him a heads up in advance of your arrival.

I am looking forward to another great season and hope to see many of you at the various events that we have planned. Have a safe and successful 2011 / 2012 season.

**Bill Currier, Region Director**

Help Wanted - Elections Officer Position continued from page 1

If you are interested in this position (or know someone who would be a good fit) please forward your (or their) name to the ARD-Administration, Bruce Heichelbech at [heicheldog@insightbb.com](mailto:heicheldog@insightbb.com) or call with questions at 502-417-8142. Please consider stepping up and becoming a part of the Ohio Region Staff. We need you!

**Bruce Heichelbech – ARD for Administration**

## Thoughts on Region Communications

Hi all,

Well another month has passed. Soon, hopefully, with white and slippery will be in our backyards and on the hills at your respective areas.

I'm sharing Jim's note with you because he makes some important points re-communications and challenges all of us in leadership positions to do a better job to ensure that we don't drop the ball and find out later that a patroller missed a key deadline because he/she either did not receive/did not clearly understand what was expected.

I think that we all do the best job we can in communicating to the membership, but do we; is there something we can do either better or differently? I don't have all the answers, so I'm looking for you to help me out. Please share your thoughts and ideas and make whatever changes that you feel will improve communications in your respective programs.

What I will do is make sure that the registration deadlines and other key dates are posted on the Member page of the Region web site. Would you please make sure that this information is included in the Region calendar? You can do this yourself if you want (just ask me for the id and password) or you can ask either Max or I to update the calendar for you.

Once this is done, we need to make sure that the patrollers are aware of the deadlines and key dates. What I will do is blast an email to all patrollers in the Region telling them to go to the site and look for this information and to check back frequently during the season, because things might change. What you might do then is to send this information along with the details of your particular program to the PD's, local patrol contacts for your programs and others who need to know, and then follow up by whatever means works best for you.

What else can we do?

Let me know,

**Bill Currier – Ohio Region Director**

*Bill*

## Division Director's Message

Subject: "Every Member Counts"

Nov 24, 2011, Fort Lauderdale FL

Hello Everyone,

I trust everyone is preparing for the Thanksgiving food fest today! A bit to eat at home, over to Grandma's for yet another meal and then off to another with relatives for desert. I get all done with this and wonder which turkey got stuffed the most. Then all the great deserts gotta be some room in there somewhere, so down the hatch. Next to work it off with high activity sitting in my comfy chair and watching football on my TV. Now that's what I'm thankful for this ski season; to work off that extra 10 to 20 pounds. Oh, by the way, my family reminded me to throw in the quick trip over to the pool for some hot tubbing. Forgot to tell all of you, I'm in Fort Lauderdale enjoying the holiday before Trollhaugen.

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving! We have so much to be thankful for in this great country. We have a government that can create a Super Committee to find the middle road, well maybe not! Based on what we have been able to accomplish in the past as a Division Leadership Team we can and do find the middle ground and do our best to make what we collectively do work. For that I give thanks

and appreciate our ability to work together.

As I travelled through a couple of states on Tuesday I had the opportunity to talk with several members about the STW deadlines and their feelings about this hiccup in our communications system. Also, when I opened my email this morning I had yet another note about the deadline from another patroller. Imagine for a moment if you had made arrangements to go find the first snow in the country and went through the process of buying plane tickets, making lodging arrangements paying for lessons with top instructors in preparing yourself for taking your PSIA Level I, II, III exam or maybe the ASE final or finish what you started last year. Then just after you made all the arrangements, paid your deposits or non refundable that: OH, BYTHE WAY YOU MISSED THE DEADLINES FOR SIGNING UP FOR THE STW! Yes it was on the web site, maybe your PD/PR got the note, perhaps the region or patrol advisor knew about it, but no one had accounted for your attendance or dropped you a quick reminder note. Sure this may be a fictitious scenario similar to many of our OEC scenarios, but maybe, just maybe it isn't. How would you feel? After all, the reason people go through all this work, expense, and self development is for their very own personal gain. It has nothing to do with their desire to help others or their patrol, their region or even the division. By now we all should have a clear picture that this hiccup in our process has caused our members some pain. We collectively screwed up and let our members down. We are only as strong as our weakest link and when it let's go the whole process fails. I can assure you that this (problem) is not quarantined to one or two regions.

So as I listened and read several emails from some pretty frustrated members we must learn from this experience and take steps to ensure it doesn't happen again. As I reflect back on the discussion at our meeting in Cincinnati where our Skills Development Team made it perfectly clear to each and every one of us that this year there is a deadline that we will hold to, that the date was posted on the CD website, that numerous emails have been sent out to us, to our advisors, to our PD/PR's, etc., etc. It still may take more than a passive arm chair leadership to ensure this information gets to our members. We will have to take a more proactive leadership approach and arrange a conference call with our advisors or PD/PR's or talk it extensively at a region meeting, or personally follow-up with my senior advisor to ensure that they have the right number of qualified/credentialed evaluators to pull off a successful exam. Perhaps even a quick reminder to each member of my patrol, region, section or whatever to the point: "Every Member Counts". Perhaps this may be just what the Doctor ordered, so to speak, to cure just what may be ailing in a couple of communications areas.

We have 12 to 14 weeks in this year's season. Maybe each of our regions would benefit from a weekly update in an email blast to each and every member. Exam dates, one liners or someone's accomplishment, prep classes for skills improvement, a very important date for submitting an award nomination, an update to the Central Division Webpage/ Region Webpage, theist is endless. These are just a few thoughts that I put to paper. Like good marriage, communication is a key component to making things work. We have just learned a valuable lesson at the expense of some members. You don't have to do a thing and I would expect we will have a few more incidents that repeat the same history. Doing nothing and expecting a different outcome is pure foolishness. We are too good of a group to let that happen again, so please step up your game and provide the proactive leadership so that: "Every Member Counts".

## Division Director's Message concluded

If you choose to write a weekly update to your region would you please copy all of us on the distribution such that we may each benefit from your example? It may remind each of us about something we could add that would make ours even better and beneficial to the member. I will put one together during today's football games as a beginning.

To finish, I'm thankful to work with such a dedicated group of people as you. It is a privilege and an honor. Even the best can make improvement and this experience just proved it. Let's lock arms together and ensure we have no weak links that holds up: "*Every Member Counts*".

**Jim Woodrum, Central Division Director**

## Editor's Comment

As you read above, good multi channel communications is very important to the Directors of our Ohio Region and the Central Division. Realize that good communications is a two way street. Leaders can write and call but for the message to be received, members must read and listen. If you are reading this, you are receiving the message. Turn your computer on. Bookmark your patrol, Region and Central Division and NSP websites. Checkout your email in-box(es). Read your ski patrol email And provide feedback about what you read. There is a lot going on and you won't wish to miss it!

**Max Davis, DOWNHILL Editor**

## NSP ALUMNI NEWS

For Several years the Alumni group associated with Mad River Mountain Ski Patrol has been the only one in the Ohio Region. This season alumni groups are being initiated by Perfect North Ski Patrol and Boston Mills-Brandywine Ski Patrol. As the Region Alumni Advisor contact me if your patrol wants information about starting an alumni group, or about alumni group activities and services. Keep me informed about the membership and activities of the new alumni groups by phone (419)394-2945 (Line) or (419)733-2555 (cell) or [email Ike](#). More information about [Ohio Alumni](#) is on the region website. A NSP Alumni application is printed on page 10.

**C Richard Ike**

**Region Alumni Advisor**



**Lori Ringley**  
Awards Advisor

## It's Awards Time!!!

Well, not actually, BUT it's certainly time to start thinking about awards. Even though everyone's season just started, awards are season-less. It's the job of every patroller to consider their fellow patroller for recognition through the awards process. The Central Division had an INCREDIBLE showing this year (on our home turf) at the Division Banquet in September. The CD racked up several National Outstandings and a couple of runners up to boot. So everyone can contribute by giving input to your area's awards committee. For an overview of the NSP's awards categories, please see the [awards page](#) on the Ohio Regions website

The deadline for regional submissions to me is *February 14, 2012*; unfortunately that isn't too far away. So get with your local awards representative (your PR will know who that is) to be part of the awards process. The Ohio Region has historically made a very good showing nearly every year...I have all of you to thank for that. Let's keep it up!

**Lori Ringley, Ohio Region Awards Advisor**

## Help Wanted! Region Staff Vacancies

1 [Region Elections Officer](#) See Help Wanted article starting on page 1

2 [Region Historian](#) maintains the Ohio Region History files and acquires contemporary materials of potential historical value. Qualifications and responsibilities are listed in [Ohio Region Policies and Procedures](#) Section 27. The Region's History Policies are listed in Section 28. This staff member works under the supervision of Bruce Heichelbech, ARD for Administration.

Patrollers interested in either of these vacancies should check out the duties and qualifications for the position in the Region's *Policies and Procedures* and then contact Bruce Heichelbech (502)933-6642 for more information. The region will do its best to help new staffers succeed.



## Alumni Membership Application

### What is an Alumni Member?

An Alumni member is a special registration category for people who, for various reasons, no longer provide emergency care or rescue services but wish to continue their involvement with the National Ski Patrol.

The NSP Alumni Members started in 1977 to maintain contact with former members and keep them informed of national events and activities. Today the Alumni Members total more than 1900.

### Why join the Alumni Members?

By joining as an Alumni Member you can continue to be part of the largest winter rescue organization in the world. Better yet, your involvement provides you with the opportunity to support the national organization on a new level.

As an alumni member you won't be required to fulfill any skill or educational requirements; however, depending on local needs and your experience, you might be asked to serve in an advisory capacity to local NSP units as an OEC instructor for example during annual refreshers.

Several areas in the nation have already taken advantage of their alumni's local knowledge and experience. A valued force within NSP, alumni members often attend ski patrol events, help recruit new members, provide administrative and IEC help, give safety talks, and participate in other community service activities.

Regardless of the scope of involvement, becoming an Alumni Member contributes to the success of ski patrolling at the local and national level.

### Other Benefits

Alumni Members receive:

- A subscription to *Ski Patrol Magazine*
- Access to some *NSP Winter Catalog* merchandise
- The opportunity to participate in NSP-sponsored events
- Membership dues may be tax deductible

### How much does it cost?

*Regular fee:* Annual dues are \$27. The national organization receives \$17 and \$10 is returned to the division with which the Alumni Member is affiliated. Active patrollers who are members keep that status on becoming an Alumni Member.

*Lifetime Membership Fee:* Patrollers who wish to become an Alumni Member, as lifetime members, may do so for a one-time fee of \$700, which helps support the NSP endowment fund. They will receive a Lifetime Membership Pin and a framed Lifetime Certificate.

### How does one join the Alumni Members?

Fill out the application form and mail it along with the membership fee to the National Ski Patrol, 133 South Van Gordon Street, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80228.

ALUMNI

### NATIONAL SKI PATROL ALUMNI MEMBER

ALUMNI



133 S. Van Gordon Street, Suite 100 Lakewood, CO 80228 Phone (303)988-1111



E-mail [nsp@nsp.org](mailto:nsp@nsp.org) Web Site [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org) Fax (303)988-3005

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If re-registering as an Alumni Member, please provide the registration number \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW ALUMNI MEMBERS PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Last NSP Affiliation: Ski Patrol \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

Region \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_ Last Yr. Registered \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_Alpine \_\_Nordic NSP Appointment No. \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to associate with a ski patrol please provide that information here: \_\_\_\_\_





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1911 Washington Creek Lane  
Dayton, OH 45458-2810

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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## Late News from Clear Fork Valley

Mother Nature is a “Momma-Dog” (as spoken to me by my High School AP Chemistry Teacher). However, this week, she appears to be in a better mood.

Clear Fork Valley has yet to re-open for ski operations; however, the current forecast is much better and we are hopeful to be good hosts for the pending STW (January 14-15).

Personally, I just want to make a quick ‘shout-out’ to the Ohio Region (of the National Ski Patrol) to say “Thank You”! I am overwhelmed with the support that has been provided to me by the Section, Region and others.

Hope Mother Nature’s mood continues to improve; and that I get the opportunity to see you on the slopes soon.

**Todd Vermilya, PR Clear Fork Valley Ski Patrol**

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### Changing Your Address?

*DOWNHILL* and *DOWNHILL* web posting notices are distributed to the E-mail or on request copies are sent to post office addresses listed in your NSP record at NSP headquarters. You can correct your addresses on your member page at [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org). If you have no access to the web, mail a change of address card (available at your post office) to NSP, 133 S. Van Gordon St., suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80228. If you have region USPS address problems you can contact the *DOWNHILL* editor by phone (937)648 9503, by email [DOWNHILL@woh.rr.com](mailto:DOWNHILL@woh.rr.com) or by regular mail at 1911 Washington Creek Lane, Dayton, OH 45458-2810.