

DOWNHILL



<http://www.ohionsp.org>

Ohio Region Fall Newsletter, October 2016, National Ski Patrol System, Inc. Volume 44, #1



News from the Region Director: *Guy Day*

Well it is that time of year again, OEC refreshers will have been completed, you should have checked your membership profile on the national site and we are hearing about early season snow storms out in the Rocky Mountains. I hope that you had a great summer and were able to spend time with family and friends. It has been a busy several weeks leading up to this edition of the DownHill. Your Region leadership teams have had multiple conference calls to plan both Region and Division events that are on the snow. But it will be up to Mother Nature to provide the cold and the ski areas can take care of the snow.

The Fall Division meeting was held September 9th – 11th in beautiful Bloomington, a suburb of Minneapolis/St Paul. Western Region along with Three Rivers Park District hosted the three day event. There were great fun activities on Friday as well as the executive committee meeting in the evening. Saturday started off with the general assembly meeting with great presentations about risk management, Powderfall 2017, a reminder about National Board elections and other things going on in the Division.

Melanie Hood from the National office made the trip to spend the weekend with us. She did a great job of presenting Powderfall for 2017. It is being held in Aspen on April 6th – 8th. Go to www.powderfall.com for all the specific details. Here are a few key points to consider –

1. Registration by November 30th costs \$299 which includes 3-day lift ticket, educational courses, access to events, demo equipment and evening receptions. The cost for a 3-day lift ticket by itself is \$372.00. Plus if you are one of the first 300 people to register you get a new Deuter pack full of NSP Swag.
2. The Westin Hotel & Resort has a discount rate of only \$139 per night. This rate is good from April 1st – 12th so if you want to bookend the trip with family and/or friends, you have a great rate at a five star resort.
3. There is a special Powderfall Scholarship being awarded to each Division for a Young Adult Patroller. The scholarship will not cover the entire price of the event but it will certainly help offset costs. Additionally, the Central Division Board also made the decision to provide a second scholarship. Melanie will be responsible the one being offered by National. If you enter for the National Scholarship, you are automatically enrolled for the one from Division. You can't win both.

There was a presentation on how the current National Board breaks down and which divisions hold positions on the board.

1. National Board currently has members from these Divisions –
 - a. Eastern – 4: b. Southern – 3: c. Central - 3: d. Far West – 1: e. Intermountain – 1: f. Rocky Mountain – 1

2. The National Board has several standing Committees that these members participate or sit on. The National Chairman is the one that appoints the committee chairs. The Breakdown is as follows –
a. Southern – 5: b. Eastern – 4: c. Far West – 1

3. For the all of the programs that the NSP offers, there is a National Program Supervisor. The breakdown for these positions is as follows –
a. Eastern – 10: b. Rocky Mountain – 3: c. Central – 3: d. Southern – 1: e. Intermountain – 1

This information is to provide a snapshot of how the board is made up of members across the entire system. As members of this organization, we get to elect who we want in these positions. You may think that your vote does not really count, don't know who to vote for or that it is inconvenient to vote. These are fair concerns but your vote does count. You would be surprised just how close past elections have been. As far as who to vote for, all of the candidates have profiles that will be posted online. If you make the time to read one person's profile every other day or every third day, you won't get overwhelmed. It gives you the opportunity to make an informed decision. Finally, it is really easy to vote. It is online and only takes a few minutes.

After lunch the Division Board convened to hear the Program Supervisors reports. There were excellent breakout sessions including presentations by Cascade Rescue, Dry Land Training, Beyond the Golden Hour, Boot Fitting ,and medical topics that covered the circulatory system as well as altitude sickness.. Our own Ron Gerdes and Mark Branham made the trip to talk about hand-making skis and Mortal Ski Company. On Saturday evening, we all gathered for a great dinner and opportunity to honor those individuals who received Division Outstanding awards, National Outstanding Awards and First Runner-Up Awards. There were several Certificate of Appreciations, Division Director Awards, Life Time Achievements and multiple other awards.

The NSP Safety Team will be offering SWAG again this season. The role of the Safety Team has also been updated. The NSP Central Division Safety Team strives to be the ski industry leader on mountain safety education and awareness for patrollers, resort employees, and the public. The Safety Team interfaces with the PSIA/AASI, NSAA/MSAA to achieve and maintain consistent safety messages and NSP branding of consumer outreach materials. This is all done using division & region safety pieces in print and digital formats which are distributed through NSP Patrols and the organizations listed above.

Please remember that Pro Deals offered by our sponsors are intended for your use only, not friends, spouses, children or other family members. There have been cases of patrollers abusing the system, even to the extent of purchasing product from one of our suppliers and returning it to a store for a gift card. This individual took a piece of clothing that cost less than \$60 and turned it into over \$600. This individual is no longer a member of the NSP. Furthermore, this one person jeopardized the Pro Deal for the entire NSP organization. Please remember that this benefit is a privilege, not a right.

Lastly, the Division Board has been working towards having the Outdoor Emergency Care, OEC, program get on even footing with the skiing/riding/toboggan programs when it comes to "Training the Trainers". The first step in this process was a summer event that was held on each side of the lake. These two events had 120 OEC instructors go through the training. The Division has over 1200 OEC instructors. We still have a long way to go but it is a start.

Refreshers: There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes before you get to this annual event. The instructors are willing to support this but they don't have to do it. Please remember to say "Thank You" to the instructors that have been working hard getting the new OEC classes completed and those that have been planning for the OEC refreshers, CPR refreshers and Evacuation.

Don't forget to check the Region website for events, dates and details coming up this season. Also remember to check and update your membership profile on www.nsp.org.

Thanks, Guy

For a complete organization chart of the Ohio Region Staff, go to <http://www.ohionsp.org/org-chart>.

AWARDS

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Hello Ohio Region!

As I write, the ghosts are about to start flitting about, and pumpkin spice is making its annual run at world domination of everything from candles to coffee. BUT – it's never never ever too early to start working on awards! ESPECIALLY WITH THE PATROL OF THE YEAR AWARD -- anyone who has worked on the POTY award knows that it takes months and months to prepare. Please contact me for examples of that award submission if you need some.

This year I want to continue helping all patrols effectively use the NSP awards program by getting the information out including the correct procedures for each award type. I want to encourage patrol committees to use me as a consultant and to submit drafts early for friendly critiques. I am always available by email or phone, so please don't hesitate to contact me anytime. There are several different award types, with each having its own specifications and submission requirements. It takes many people working very hard to complete what is a truly arduous process, described below:

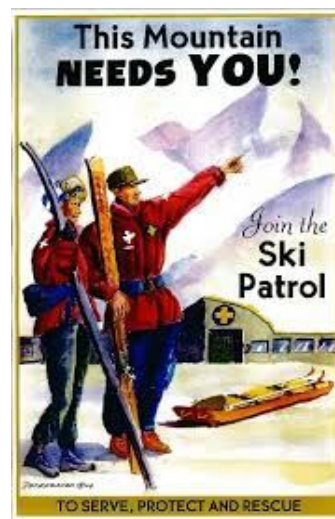
1. Local patrol awards committees review award nomination criteria for each award.
2. Information is gathered from a variety of sources.
- 3.. Each award is submitted to the appropriate place so that judging can begin.
4. Region awards judges receive, score and make final region decisions.
5. Region awards are recorded and prepared for further submission.
6. Successful region awards are sent to the division awards program for consideration, and then to the national level if successful.

While that might not sound too bad, I just described a five to eight month process. So please start early on your awards – deadlines to submit DSA's and National Appointments is December 1st to Greg Schoenman. National Outstandings and Ohio Region specific awards are due NO LATER than February 14th to me, thus freeing up all awards committee members to spend time with their significant other, who will no doubt thank me for the no exceptions deadline.

I know it's early but PLEASE get started on your awards selections. February 14th is MUCH

closer than you think!

Lori Ringley, MHS PT
Awards Advisor
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Ohio Region Web Site Manager

It is my pleasure to announce that the Ohio Region has a new Website Manager! **Rose DeJanette**, whom most of you know, will be taking over this role previously held by Mark Fogt. Rose has been patrolling for many years at Perfect North. She started in 1985, and took a hiatus from 1994 to 2000. She has been an Instructor Development and Outdoor Emergency Care instructor as well as Instructor Trainer in both disciplines. Over the years, she has held leadership roles at Perfect North Slopes and at the Region and Division levels. These include local OEC advisor and web developer, Region OEC administrator and Division Assistant OEC supervisor. Rose has created and managed numerous websites, including the NSP Women's Program website (<http://nspwomensprogram.org/>) and looks forward to her new role. Welcome, Rose, and thank you for your many contributions! Check out the Ohio Region web site at <http://www.ohionsp.org/>.



Clara Nin-Hilgefort
ARD - Administration



Ohio Region Certified Program

The Ohio Region continues to support and grow the Certified Program. With the addition of 3 new staff members last year (Steve Jarboe, Rashid Farahati, and Dave McKinley), the region now boasts 19 active staff members. We have approximately 5 active candidates and expect applications from several more who have expressed interest over the next few years. Applications are due by the end of the calendar year. Special thanks to Ellen Mulqueeny for providing the Region with a replacement Certified Plaque for Mad River.

Events Qualification Clinic and Re-Cert - This season's qualification clinic and re-cert for active staff will be held at PNS January 7-8. We plan to qualify any applicants who wish to enter the program. The program will provide "hands-on educational" opportunities for both active candidates and any other interested patrollers.. If weather permits, active staff within the division will be given an opportunity to recertify their ski/toboggan skills as well.

Seven active staff within our region will need to re-certify this season: (Jonathan French, Ron Gerdes, Sandi Hammons, Darcy Hanley, Rick King, Eric Massanyi, and Tom Worley). Division Certified Test- This year's test will take place at Marquette (March 2-4). PNS is unable to host a Certified Test until Showtime can be re-opened.

Eric Z Massanyi,
Ohio Region Certified Advisor



SNOWSPORTS

Health Care for the First Responder and YOU

With excitement in the air crispness of cool weather, leaves changing, and yes snow in other parts of the country, the Ohio Region NSP Snow sports school is preparing for another year. This means that it is time to get your “mise in place” on for the snow sports season and for all snow sports instructors to get ready.

Typically, we have our meetings, get our personnel motivated, and set our schedules for the upcoming season. Do you as an individual have a routine to help you get ready? Is it possible to get back in shape? Do you think about fueling your body for physical activity? Just a couple of questions to think as you prepare for the season. As NSP patrollers, many of you are physically active during the “off-season” by running, swimming, and competitive cycling and I see many social media posts, tweets, and pictures of your physical recreation. As my professional life gears up for fall athletics, I too need to prepare to participate.

First, let us begin with fuel to our engine. Are you a Ferrari or Ford F150? What is the one thing they have in common? Yes, they need proper fuel, and so does your engine. Alpine skiing, snowboarding and cross country are disciplines in snow sport that may require different types of fuel. For instance, an alpine downhill race may last no more than 2 minutes which may use a couple of the energy systems in the body (i.e. phosphagen system and anaerobic glycolysis to operate the body). Compare this to a 50 km cross country race which uses mostly carbohydrates for the aerobic system to compete. Without getting into specifics, start with setting a goal for your intake such as “eat healthier”. Secondly, be specific about adding more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, cereals, or vegetable-based proteins. Start with small changes and incorporate these into your life. The following meals are from the United State Olympic Committee’s Sports Nutrition website. They provide fueling help and techniques for our US Olympic athletes to be successful on the field of competition, and we can use them as ski patrollers as well.

Go to http://athletics.uwstout.edu/documents/2013/8/13/Athlete_Plates_Hard_Day_Handout%5B1%5D.pdf?id=577 to view a picture of a meal for an easy workout day. The first picture is an easy workout day. This picture represents what one might have for their plate. The amount total food and calories depends on the individual’s height, weight, and activity level. The following two pictures represent food intake when our training days have high intensity and duration. As we prepare for the upcoming season, remember that small changes will help you lead to bigger changes in your health.

The Ohio Region is following the NSP Central Division’s lead by changing our Ohio Region OET-Transpiration (Old STW). The NSP Central Division has scheduled two Snow sports workshops that are scheduled on December 7-8, 2016 at Boyne Highlands Resort, Harbor Springs, MI and December 14-15, 2016, Cascade Mountain.

If I don’t have the pleasure of seeing you at Central Division event, I will see you and your fellow patrollers sometime at a NSP Ohio Region Snow sports event. Please watch for the upcoming schedule as the preparation for this season is underway. Remember start with small changes to fueling your engine and you will be on your way.

#fuel #hydrate #recovery #success

Sincerely
Jim Seeger, M.Ed., RDN, LDN, ATC
Ohio Region Snow sports Advisor
NSP Certified Patroller #789



Assistant Region Director (ARD-Line)

As summer winds down, refreshers are underway, and OEC classes are in full swing or winding down, I would like to add a few observations and thoughts that come to mind as the ski season approaches. First, in my position of ARD-Line, there isn't much that requires my time or attention. I attribute this to the fact that I am very fortunate to have experienced, motivated people in roles in my area. The Section Chiefs seem to stay on top of anything that requires their attention but I think that is minimal due to the fantastic Patrol Representatives (PR) that we have in the Ohio Region. I am of firm belief that being a PR is the most demanding job in the entire National Ski Patrol and it takes special people to do it well. Having spent six years in the role and surely making my share of mistakes, I learned more about managing people than I have in my 37 years in my professional "real job" in the electric utility industry. I want to take this opportunity to thank all our PR's in the region for the amazing job that they do and also the Section Chiefs who are there to help them. You all make my job very easy and I appreciate every one of you.

On a separate note, I had the opportunity to attend the first Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) Seminar in the Detroit area this summer. While I am sure Jim Bichl will probably address this in some way, I came away with some great information and a new perspective. "Teach to the Objectives" was certainly a resounding theme about participant-centered learning which many of our OEC instructors have followed for a good while to keep our students engaged. One sidebar observation that always amazes me is that even though I knew very few people there, the intrinsic bond that we all share as patrollers makes everyone seem like family. I also came away intrigued by the online option for OEC which leads me to my next point.

We had five seemingly good OEC candidates lined up for this Fall but we decided to set them up in a formal shadowing program while we build our first ever Hybrid OEC course. At of this writing, our working team has met twice and is very excited about the potential that this option will provide. I think we will have the ability to deliver the didactic material in a variety of engaging ways, then use our class time to totally focus on skills, scenarios and hands-on applications. This will require less face to face meetings with our candidates and will hopefully be more attractive to people who have to travel a bit further to get to class. I also think this format will appeal to younger Candidates as it is certainly in their preferred medium and looks like a winner for all involved. Hopefully I can write later about what a great success this endeavor proves to be. We are very open to any suggestions from anyone else in the region who has experience in this area.

I will soon be traveling to Quality Assurance (QA), some refresher events and will also be helping with Toboggan Enhancement Seminars (TES) this season so I hope to get to see and ski with some of you. I wish everyone a very cold, snowy, safe and rewarding ski season. Now I need to start packing the bike...still have Daytona and Key West to enjoy on two wheels before the snow flies!

Bruce Heichelbech
Assistant Region Director (ARD-Line)



Ohio Region Senior Program

The 2015/2016 season proved to be a rather good teacher in persistence, flexibility, creativity and simply being able to think outside of the box. I'm happy to say that we were able to successfully pull off all three senior evaluations despite the lack of snow, torrential rains and a flooded lift! It certainly could not have happened without an incredible group of patrollers who are vital to the Senior program as evaluators and trainers. And the best part is that we have nine new Senior Patrollers in the Region. With twenty eight active Senior candidates, my goal is to see another ten wrap up their successful Senior journey this year!

For those of you that are interested in starting your Senior journey or want to find out more about the program, I encourage you to visit the Senior Program page on the Ohio Region Website, <http://www.ohionsp.org/programs/senior>. It contains all of the necessary applications, dates and links to any of the forms that you will need. You will be setting yourself up for success by reading through all of the information and making sure that you have the correct deadlines for applications and sign-offs for each of the modules.

Here are important dates for the 2016/2017 season:

Event application/sign-offs completion deadline – January 8th
Senior Candidate Skiing and Training Clinic – January 8th, 2017 (Perfect North)
Senior OEC Evaluation – January 22, 2017 (Mad River)
Senior Ski and Toboggan Evaluation – Feb. 25, 2016 (Boston Mills)
Event application/sign-offs completion deadline – Feb. 11th

As you may have noticed we are adding a Senior Only clinic this year. We tried it last year and the senior candidates that participated felt that it was very beneficial to work with our Region evaluators in a clinic format. Sign up information will be available on the Ohio Region Website soon. I look forward to a very successful season for all of our new and current Senior Candidates! Please feel free to reach out to me and let me know what I can do to help you along on your journey!

Tracy Buchanan
Ohio Region Senior Program Advisor
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ALUMNI PROGRAMS

I sent out an e-mail about the Alumni Program to Ohio Region Alumni Advisors and Patrol Directors including a Powerpoint presentation with an excellent overview. I am working with Clear Fork and Snow Trails to set up an alumni program. I also want to make everyone aware that the National Alumni dues are going up from \$27 to \$30. If you are interested in being an Alumni or starting an Alumni program at your area, contact your Patrol Director and me at RaSchieltz@aol.com.



Cheryl Nicol, Delma Robinson as Rusty the Ski Patrol mascot, Carolene Bechtel, Dana Lumbacher, and Jerry Lippe

Richard Schieltz,
Ohio Region Alumni Programs



Dave Cobb, Clem Gilliland, Cheryl Nicol, Carol Cobb, and a friend of the patrollers

Outdoor Emergency Transportation, OET

REFRESHING OUR SKILLS

Why is it that we have to refresh our skiing, riding, and toboggan handling skills each year. After all, isn't it just "like riding a bike?"

Why Do We Refresh?

Typically, we spend several years working hard to learn and master all of the skills required to obtain the Alpine Patroller classification. Then we fall into the rhythm of our patrol life which, perhaps, involves transporting two to three patients ... a season! Over the next few seasons, we may forget that one tip that an instructor gave us while we were candidates that made stopping that toboggan on ice so easy. We end up not "running" the toboggan quite like it was when we took our tests. The OET Refresher is our opportunity to review and demonstrate the relevant skills. It's also our opportunity to ask questions, discover new techniques and practice, practice, practice.

The Patroller's Perspective

For many Alpine Patrollers, the OET Refresher can be a very stressful event. It may be because of injury, perhaps they haven't transported a patient in a number of years or maybe the snow conditions are less than good. Instructors must understand that stress reduces the patroller's ability to perform and to learn. This lower performance causes more stress, and on it goes. Now consider that the OET Refresher is usually done with a group of the Patroller's peers. Put it all together, we can see how it could make for a very bad experience.

Some thoughts that the Alpine Patroller should keep in mind before participating in their OET Refresher are:

- The OET Refresher is a non-judgmental opportunity for you to demonstrate your skills and knowledge
- It is also an opportunity to learn new skills and techniques
- It is not an evaluation. You cannot pass or, more importantly, fail an OET Refresher
- Your OET Instructor(s) are supportive, patient and willing to work with you

The OET Instructor

Generally, the OET Instructor corps is the most "gung-ho" group of toboggan handlers on the hill. The handles or tail rope in hand is what they look forward to. So the OET Instructor is usually looking forward to getting out and working with anyone.

Some thoughts about the OET Instructors:

- They are knowledgeable and excited to share their knowledge with you
- They have been taught the latest techniques in toboggan handling and will share them freely
- They are ready to help you achieve any goal that you've set for yourself

How To Come Together for a Great Refresher

Keep in mind that many Patrol Directors are interested getting their "sled pullers" refreshed as early in the season as possible. Alpine Patrollers can assist in this goal by being ready to participate in an OET Refresher as soon as they can including making a trip to the ski hill specifically for that purpose. You can make sure you review toboggan handling by yourself, with your fellow patrollers, and/or with a OET Instructor. OET Instructor's, please keep in mind that these refreshers should not be "evaluations" or high pressure or stressful events. Make it to the point, informative, and fun.

Getting back to my original question, we refresh each year to ensure our skills are ready to provide Emergency Transportation to the guests of our ski areas. And, because it's fun!

Jim Vickroy
Ohio Region
Outdoor Emergency Transportation Advisor
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Snow Trails Ski Patrol Fall 2016 News~

Our evenings are turning cooler.... and Snow Trails Patrol is gearing up for another busy Fall and Winter! We have 6 GREAT new candidates (Brad, Abbey, Marilou, Martin, Jason and Chris) in our OEC class, they are all excited and ready for the snow and I am looking forward to them joining our Patrol Family this winter!!

Up-Coming Events at Snow Trails:

Our OEC **Fall Refresher** was held on **Sunday October 2nd, 2016**. If you missed that date, contact me for other refresher dates.

We will hold our annual **Snow Trails Ski Patrol Ski Swap** on the weekend of **Oct. 20-22, 2016** stop by that weekend to do some shopping, sell your gently used winter equipment.. or for a beer and brat on that Saturday! See link for complete dates and hour information.

<http://www.snowtrails.com/calendar/2016/10/20/snow-trails-ski-patrol-swap-weekend-2016>

Hut Clean up and Hill Captains Meetings will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016 . HC's and AHC's and Candidates...mark your calendars to save the date!

2016-2017 Resort Improvements:

Snow Trails Resort has focused on making improvements to our "Beginner" Area this season, so that we may serve all of those up and coming newbie's to the best of our abilities. See link for more information-

<http://www.snowtrails.com/calendar/2016/10/20/snow-trails-ski-patrol-swap-weekend-2016>

February 2017 Events!

Ski Patrol Women's Clinic held at Snow Trails

Snow Trails Patrol is happy to announce that we will be hosting a Women's Clinic the weekend of February 4-5th, 2017. Please watch the Ohio Region Women's Program NSP FB page for information and details.

<https://www.facebook.com/OHIOWOMENNSP/?fref=ts> We hope to see you there!

Respectfully, Sue Cline
Sue Cline PD
Snow Trails Ski Patrol
patrol@snowtrails.com
scline424@gmail.com
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Paoli Peaks

Wow! Mid September and another summer has flown by and it's time to begin getting ready for the upcoming ski season at Paoli Peaks. Our instructors are busy preparing for the upcoming OEC refresher. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Joe Collins and I have assumed the role of Patrol Representative for the Paoli Peaks Ski Patrol. I am an Alpine Patroller and have served on the Patrol since the 86/87 ski season and as a Slope Leader for 20+ years. I have served as a OEC instructor since 2010 and am looking forward to my tenure as the PR. On behalf of the Paoli Peaks Ski Patrol I would like to thank Rick Jackson for his service to the patrol as our PR for the past five seasons.

This season will usher in a management change at Paoli Peaks. Greg Gavrillets is replacing Matt Grenier as the general manager. Greg comes to Paoli Peaks after serving as the Terrain Park Manager at the Ober Gatlinburg ski resort in Tennessee. Greg got his start in the snow sports industry as a member of the Ski Patrol.

Unfortunately our efforts at recruiting candidates this year fell short. The Patrol cancelled our on-site OEC class as we had an insufficient number of candidates. We are exploring ways to retain these candidates until we can hold next year's OEC class. We are taking this as an opportunity to explore alternatives to the traditional classroom learning environment and have empaneled a team of instructors to look into introducing a hybrid model for next year's class.

Joe Collins,
Paoli Peaks Patrol Representative



Boston Mills/Brandywine/Alpine Valley



TRAINING:

- Patrol OEC refresher completed close to 300 patrollers • OEC candidate class evaluation Saturday, November 5th @18 candidates
- Nordic Refresher, Wednesday November 9th @Brandywine • Chair Evac/Opening Week training, November 14th - 18th. We train @55/night for 5 days in a row

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Open House/Ski Swap activities throughout the week of October 10th at Alpine Valley
- Open House: Monday - Wednesday (no swap) at Boston Mills/Brandywine
- Open House/Ski Swap Friday - Sunday, with Thursday evening Preview Night
- Summer events: Thomas The Train and Artfest, patrol provided over 400 volunteer hours
- Skiers on Bikes had over 50 patrollers staff a water station for the Cleveland marathon

AREA ENHANCEMENTS:

- Boston Mills experienced a flood. The area will do some modeling, including new rubber flooring and wall in front of the first aid area along with more patient privacy.
- Alpine Valley will be adding a remote patrol room to take more serious patients down lifts 3 and 4, opposed to loading into their pickup truck.

- Ski Enhancement Seminar & Toboggan Enhancement Seminar: Weekend of Saturday & Sunday, January 28th & 29th @Boston Mills & Alpine Valley
- D-Team event Saturday - Sunday, February 4th - 5th @Boston Mills and then Monday 6th @Seven Springs
- Meet the Ski Patrol, Sunday February 12th @Brandywine
- Senior Skiing & Toboggan evaluations, Saturday, February 25th @Boston Mills

Thomas Ciranna, Patrol Representative
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Perfect North Slopes

The patrollers of Perfect North are looking forward to the new season with great anticipation and hope, after last year's snow fizzle. We have a very engaged leadership team, devoted to making the snow sports customer's experience as fun and safe as possible. To that end, Management at our hill is helping in a big way! Our owners are building a large patio on the east end of our lodge that should seat 250 to 300 people and provide amazing views of the lake, Jam Session, Tuff Enuff, and Center Stage. Helmet rentals have increased every year, and PNS doubled its inventory this year to accommodate potential growth. Helmet and bib rental are moving into the basement of the West Lodge where the lockers currently are. While this will displace all of our lockers we hope this change is relatively short term as a new patrol room is in the planning stages. In the interim, our lockers and those of the ski instructors will be moved around and generally located outside the lodge buildings.

We have a candidate class of 12 people that started their twice weekly training in early August. Like last year's candidates, they have exhibited a strong desire to learn and are a very impressive group. The candidates should finish up the OEC part of their training just before Thanksgiving. One of our goals as a patrol is to evaluate adopting a "blended" OEC training program wherein class time would be almost exclusively used for hands on work and all other aspects of the training would be handled on-line outside of class. Our hope is that this type of program will dramatically reduce the amount of classroom time required, removing one of the barriers to entry into the Patrol. Although we only have 12 candidates now, we had approximately 25 people agree to participate in the training program after our ski-along last year. I do not know what our brother and sister patrols are finding, but in the last few years we have had very significant drop off rates between March, when we finished the selection process, and August, when people have to show up for class. We are also losing perhaps a dozen patrollers a year due to retirement, changes in jobs, personal issues, etc. We would like to increase the size of our Patrol somewhat and as such, need to increase the size of our candidate classes and look at retention issues to see if we can slow or reduce the number of people we lose each year.

Mike Reed, Patrol Representative
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DOWNHILL

OHIO REGION NEWSLETTER, NSPS, Inc.
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Please send all news items to downhilleeditor@gmail.com. Any photos, articles, or news items are appreciated. My home email is changing to leahmorgan51@gmail.com. Please delete the homestead@dmrtc.net as it will be deactivated.

Send items for the Winter Downhill by December 15th, 2016.

Let's all hope for a GREAT ski season!

**Leah Morgan,
Downhill Editor**

