

# DOWNHILL



<http://www.ohionsp.org>

## OHIO REGION FALL NEWSLETTER 2023

**H. Scott Griffith, Ohio Region Patrol Director**



Hello Ohio Region,

I hope everyone had a good summer and fall, with the temperatures dropping we will be on the snow before you know it. The Division meeting in Wausau, Wisconsin was in September. It was nice seeing everyone at your refresher this fall. Please visit the Ohio region website for all the updated calendar events. The region staff is Troy Green (MRM) ARD Line, Alida Moonan (BMBWAV) ARD Proficiency, Tricia Mencin (BMBWAV) ARD Programs, Jacki Kim (ST) ARD Administration and Cheryl Raudabaugh (MRM) Treasure. The region is looking to fill a few open Advisor positions, Safety Team advisor and Digital Records Advisor. If you are interested in any of those positions, please visit the web site (<https://www.ohionsp.org/resources/advisor-openings>) and choose the Open Positions Tab.

Thank you,  
**H. Scott Griffith LCA# 8551**  
**Ohio Region Director**  
**Central Division**  
**C: 614-309-5557**  
**[SGriffith@MadRiverSkiPatrol.org](mailto:SGriffith@MadRiverSkiPatrol.org)**



Greeting Ohio Region Ski Patrollers.

First, allow me to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me, which is probably many of you. My name is Troy Green. I have been a member of the National Ski Patrol (NSP) for about 28 years. My home Patrol is at Mad River Mountain (MRM). Over the years I have been involved in various roles within the NSP such as Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) instructor, OEC Instructor Trainer, Assistant Patrol Director, Patrol Director, and various Advisory roles in Region and Central Division. I am currently serving as the Assistant Region Director (ARD) for Line. What is that exactly? The ARD of Line supervises the Section Chiefs who in turn assist all Patrol Directors in the Region. The ARD of Line is also the region registration coordinator. One of the items that I will be looking to improve is the current utilization of the Section Chiefs in terms of their roles and responsibilities. This is something that is in process, and I will continue to provide updates in future communications. I hope to get out to all the areas of the Region this season. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or comments.

**I hope to ski you all soon!!**

**Troy Green**



### **Proficiency Update, Fall 2023**

The Proficiency group has been busy with new people and new programs as we prepare for the upcoming season.

#### **A Warm Welcome to our newest team members:**

##### **Assistant Snowsports Advisor**

Staci Kaliner, from BMBWAV, who joined us last Spring as the new Assistant Snowsports Advisor. She is working with Brook Patten to prepare a full season of training efforts for the region. Staci, who recently achieved her PSIA Level 2 as a Ski Instructor, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role.

### **Aid Room Module Advisor**

Alicia Knapke-Stanley, from Mad River Mountain, is our new Aid Room Module Advisor. She has plenty of experience and energy to share with us as she leads the ARM test this year. She will also help us to keep the Ohio Region at the forefront of innovative ARM programming.

### **Region OEC Administrator**

Chet Stanley, also from Mad River Mountain, is our new Region OEC Administrator. He comes with plenty of experience to help the Ohio Region to continue putting on excellent OEC programs – Candidate classes, Refreshers, and Senior events. His skills as a project manager are already proving to be valuable to us!

**Thank you to Alex Hermann** from PNS, who recently stepped away from the ROA role, and Tricia Mencin, who moved from the ARM role to her new position as ARD of Programs for the region. We appreciate both of your efforts and energy during the last few years as we worked through the Covid-19 crisis and returned to our new normal! We are especially appreciative of Alex's generosity on behalf of PNS during the last couple of years when we had to change venues for tests – and suddenly. Thank you Alex and PNS!

### **Boyne Festival**

A big shout out to Brian Monroe, our OET Administrator, who shepherded us through the Boyne Festival selection process. He worked with Snowsports Administrator Brook Patton to ensure that we secured the many spots that we did for this event in early December. The OET area is seeking to build its staff of trainers, evaluators, and ITs --- so the more people we get into the program the better – and stronger – our team will be.

### **OEC/ARM**

The Fall has been particularly busy for this group, because our testing schedule has changed. As if lots of refreshers and Candidate classes aren't enough of a challenge. In the Senior program, we have a whole new look – and dates!—for the OEC and ARM modules. On November 11, we will hold the Second Annual Senior OEC/ARM Candidate Calibration event at the Dublin Library in Central Ohio. Thanks go to Senior Test Coordinator Whit Eakin, Senior Program Advisor Chris Miller, and ARD of Programs Tricia Mencin, who have led the way to organize this event and mentor our new staff as well. With a large pool of candidates, and a new model for the test events, this session will be crucial in developing new Senior Patrollers and Senior Alpine Patrollers.

Finally, mark your calendars for December 2nd and 3rd at Mad River Mountain. Believe it or not, we are doing the Senior testing for OEC and ARM before we get busy on the snow. Thanks to a long overdue decision by the National Board of NSP to remove the “on-snow” requirement for these modules, we can move the test back to when we used to do it – and keep the snow season for fun on the snow! This event always welcomes volunteers – so let us know if you can come and we will find a way for you to help.

## Registration links

### Senior T/E's, Trained Help, Patients:

<https://www.ohionsp.org/ohio-region-events/support-team-oec-module-of-senior>

### Senior Candidates:

<https://www.ohionsp.org/ohio-region-events/oec-module-of-senior-test>



Thanks everyone. Stay well and think snow.

**Alida Moonen, ARD Proficiency**

## Want to be an OET instructor?

Looking to become an OET Instructor in your home area? Please sign up for the Zoom informational session on the Ohio Region Web Page.

Zoom sessions will be offered on Nov 8th or Nov 14 at 7pm.

## Toboggan Enhancement Seminar/Toboggan Trainers Workshop

Are you looking to refresh, renew, or sharpen your toboggan skills or just to have a fun day on the snow meeting new people? Sign up for a toboggan enhancement seminar at any ski area in the region. Many people don't know you can attend any event in the region! These events are FREE!!!! Dates are:

Jan 7: Snow Trails

Jan 21: Brandywine

Jan 28: Paoli Peaks

Feb. 4. Mad River Mountain

Feb 11: Perfect North Slopes

Please register on the Ohio NSP webpage. Signups will close Wednesday prior to the event.

Contact Brian Monroe, [bmonroe255@gmail.com](mailto:bmonroe255@gmail.com), with any questions.



Hello!

My name is Tricia Mencin and I am the new ARD for Programs for the Ohio Region. This is my 32nd year on ski patrol at Boston Mills/Brandywine/Alpine Valley. I am looking forward to working with all of you as you join us in the many programs the Ohio Region has to offer.

If you are looking to advance your patroller status, reach out to Chris Miller about the Senior Program or Jim Seeger about the Certified Program. I know they would both love to share details of those programs and the support they can provide to you along the journey to your new patroller classification or in your quest to enhance your skills. The Senior program is busy preparing candidates for the Senior OEC evaluation scheduled for December 2nd and 3rd. This early December evaluation should help those pursuing Senior to focus in season on Ski and Toboggan training. The Certified program is planning on a recertification/precertification at PNS January 6/7, 2024. In addition, the Certified staff is putting together some educational modules for everyone who is interested in learning about this national education program. Watch for more details this winter.

For those looking to learn a bit more about safety as it relates to our outdoor environment, watch for information from Jay Zedak about upcoming Avalanche Awareness courses and from Tim Durbin about Mountain Travel and Rescue sessions. There have been many discussions around the requirements for Avalanche courses and trainers across the NSP and we appreciate Jay's dedication to this realm, staying on top of the changes and ensuring we can continue to offer courses in our Region.

There will be a Level 1- Mod 1 Avalanche course Jan 6<sup>th</sup> at PNS and Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at BMBWAV. Jay noted we expect the snow storms to become heavier with more moisture in the snow. This will make for heavier loads of snow, higher than previous years, with the possibility of larger and more destructive force avalanches occurring earlier in the seasons. This is a great reminder to stay aware and learn more in an Avalanche awareness course.

Tim has scheduled an MTR course for November 11-12th at PNS for those interested in learning more about advanced rescue techniques and backcountry safety.

Our Women's Program Advisor, Kristin Anderson, continues to support and encourage the women patrollers in the Region. Look for details and plan on attending the Central Division Women's event at Nubs Nob the weekend of January 26-28th.

Mason Boswell recently joined as our Region YAP Advisor and has lots of experience and enthusiasm for the YAP program. As we look to the future of our organization, let's remember the great benefits of the Young Adult Program. Reach out and learn more about enhancing (or starting) a YAP program at your resort.

I look forward to seeing you on the snow and at some of our Region program offerings soon!



**Tricia, ARD Programs**

My name is Jeff Schneider and I'm the current Patrol Representative for the Paoli Peaks Ski Patrol. Our OEC instructors have been busy the past couple weeks preparing for our instructor and OEC refreshers. As we always do prior to the season, we are going through our current roster and evaluating shift needs to ensure our resort has proper coverage. This has become an increasingly bigger challenge year to year as our retirements are outpacing our recruiting. Unfortunately, we did not have an OEC candidate class this year due to candidate scheduling constraints. We continue to recruit and have three candidates that are participating in their ski and toboggan handling training in preparation for next year's OEC class. This is the first time we've run the process in reverse, and I'm interested to hear the feedback from the candidates and the patrollers on this process. My team continues to work and communicate very well with our local Vail management in an effort to work out some of the speedbumps we saw right after their acquisition of the resort. It has been a process, but the new manager has been very sympathetic to the patrol's needs and continues to do what they can to make everyone's experience a good one.

We could certainly use a long and snowy season to get our training back on track so please "Think Cold and Snowy!" I hope everyone in our Region has a very safe and productive season. If you get to Paoli please drop by our patrol room to say Hi.

**Jeff Schneider, Paoli Peaks Patrol Representative**





Our newsletter has been on hold since the pandemic. We are hoping to revive it as a service to our members.

To view Awards from Spring 2023, go to

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dDB3ErwKJtfCq5LQ3xkG1fXJzCkscAap/view?usp=sharing>

To view Spring 2023 Service Awards, go to

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KD6HMggP8g7pAmw368Prc\\_chlrGJDNHfO0aPZbz87OM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KD6HMggP8g7pAmw368Prc_chlrGJDNHfO0aPZbz87OM/edit?usp=sharing)

Send any ideas, comments, photos, or suggestions to [downhilleditor@gmail.com](mailto:downhilleditor@gmail.com) and/or [leahmorgan51@gmail.com](mailto:leahmorgan51@gmail.com) .

Thank you, Leah Morgan, Downhill Editor









Getting ready for toboggan training. Photo by Scott Brockmeier.

# OF VOLUNTEERS



