MHSP SnoJob February 2009

President's Notes - Joel Stevens

It's been a strange winter. Snow, rain, snow, rain, snow, rain, then too much sunshine. Looks like we're headed into a more normal pattern now. Hopefully Mt. Hood will get some snow this week and the Bluewood-bound patrollers will get some while they are there.

Successful tryouts filled our apprentice class this winter as well as the upcoming spring OEC class. Thanks to Lisa Hargrave and Jaye Miller for a great job recruiting. The new Mountain First (M1) and traditional apprentices are training at the areas. Most of last year's M1s completed their training and are now working as patrollers. Congratulations to newly qualified patrollers: Deb Moskowitz #1591, Eric Karr #1592, Jeff Foster #1593, Debi Wong #1594 and returning patroller, Rusty Gesner #90187.

It looks like dispatch is working well with coverage almost every weekend and most of the holidays. February's a little thin, but hopefully patrollers will sign up as we get closer. It's really nice to see almost all of the dispatch slots filled. Patrolling's a lot more fun with enough people to fill all of the jobs.

Most patrollers know about "tree bombs" , that is, when a tree releases a snowload landing in the snow, or on your head. Last month, I witnessed harsher tree bomb impact. Wendy Stuart's car was parked in the Govy driveway and hit by a huge tree bomb, falling from more than fifty feet. It took out her windshield and dented the hood. A word to the wise, look up when you are parking under trees in the winter. If there is a big snowload, and warming or raining, you might want to re-think your parking place.

Patrollers should carry a headlamp. Look for one with a bright beam for skiing with 1 watt and 2 AA batteries minimum. You never know when you may need to ski down Glade or Alpine, go into the Outback after dark or assist in a night chair evac. It's handy if you need to put on chains, or help with an accident on the road. With modern LED lamps you get a bright light with a small battery pack. Additionally, it is worthwhile to invest in a pair of clear goggles. Clear goggles are usually inexpensive. They work better than your regular tinted goggles with a head lamp.

Finally, please consider running for a patrol office. We have many newer members but have yet to benefit from their perspective in the leadership. If you have three years as an active patroller (not including your apprentice year) you are eligible to run for an office. If you are interested, or just curious, talk to Matt Hickok or one of the other trustees about the duties of, and qualifications for, the various offices. You get out of MHSP what you put into it, and the best way to make this an organization you love is to be part of shaping it.

Remember SPIF and "Be Careful Out There".

Joel Stevens

It's on YOUR calendar, right?

General Meeting
Date: Monday, February 9, 2009,
Time: 7:00 PM
Place:
Athey Creek Middle School
2900 SW Borland Rd.
West Linn, OR

General Meeting
Date: Monday, March 9, 2009,
Time: 7:00 PM
Place:
Athey Creek Middle School
2900 SW Borland Rd.
West Linn, OR

Save the date!

2009 OEC Refresher dates:

Saturday, September 26

Sunday, October 18

Sunday, October 25

SPIF—Ski patrolling is fun!

Patrol Chief - Paul Podett

Hope all is well and your New Year has had a great start and will be filled with new and rewarding experiences.

I would like to thank all of you for dispatching and am pleased to report we have only a few strays that have not yet called, written or dispatched. If you are having a problem with dispatch please contact me ASAP.

I hope those of you dropping back in service with MHSP, return soon and I would like to wish you and yours a speedy recovery, a safe journey and a new adventure around each turn. I hope you'll return to full duty soon – Please keep that OEC certification current.

Parking

All the ski areas are asking us to help with parking space availability.

- Carpool if you can and share the journey.
- Skibowl is asking that we use their shuttle whenever possible. Shuttle services start at 7 AM picking up patrollers going to the Palace, from the Govy building. Shuttle runs every 20 minutes until area closing.

First responder

You got the lucky draw.
You can't exchange it back for another day, time or place.
Because there is no one else at this moment to do your job.
You're it.
You are at the right place, at the right time – To save a life.
You're the first responder.

I would like to thank Alice Lasher for providing awareness to our patrol about being a first responder in our community. MHSP is a resource, not only on the mountain, but in our neighborhoods, on the roads and at work. We are all patrollers and may be called out as first responders – anywhere, at any time. It comes with the territory. Be ready. Carry a first aid pack in you car; keep a pack at work and at home, that is ready to go. If we are always prepared for our families, friend co-workers and community, we will be prepared to respond effectively as a first responder at the areas we serve.

Be prepared when your number comes up, save a life, be a first responder.

Doc

Dispatch

Don't forget the deadline for Fourth Module (March – May) is February 15th. Apprentices will not be dispatching at this time.

The recommended number of days for this module are:
Gold: 6 days
Silver: 5 days
Bronze: 3 days

Medics

Thanks to those of you who have referred your MD, DO or Nurse Practitioner to the Medic program. Timberline is finalizing paperwork for us to head into a 7 day per week program. And AMR is planning to help us as a resource for Paramedic members and supplies.

Stay tuned.

Paul Podett
Timberline Medic Program Director

First Aid Chief - Cleo Howell

What First Aid can Mountain First, Challengers, Transfers, or Returning patrollers do on the mountain? I have been asked this question several times. I will try to clarify the issue for you. First of all before any patroller may provide direct patient care as a representative of Mt. Hood Ski Patrol he/she must be certified as an Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) technician.

As a coach or trainer you should verify the OEC status of your trainee.

- Most Mountain First apprentices have not completed the OEC course. They are training on the hill and in the First Aid Rooms. During their on-mountain training they will learn some basic OEC skills such as taking vitals. After an initial assessment is performed on a patient it is OK for the Mountain First Apprentice to perform the following tasks:
- Take secondary vitals: heart rate, breathing rate, blood pressure
- Assist with splint removal and replacement
- Assist with backboarding in a non-critical role
- Get needed supplies
- Fill out forms
- Any other task you and the apprentice are comfortable with

The non-OEC-certified apprentice should not provide any patient care without direct supervision of an active patroller. One way to think about this issue is to ask yourself: what you would allow a bystander to do for patient care?

Some Mountain First apprentices will be challenging the OEC course, because of their medical background; such as paramedics, EMTs, nurses, and doctors. Trainers should monitor closely what patient care you allow this type of apprentice to conduct until they are OEC certified. People with medical training may not know how to use equipment we routinely use on the mountain.

Most transfer patrollers should already be OEC certified, but ask just to make sure.

We have a number of patrollers who are returning to MHSP after not patrolling for three or more years. They will be attending the upcoming OEC course and they should be treated similar to Mountain First apprentices. Keep in mind though that the OEC skills will probably come back quickly for most returning patrollers.

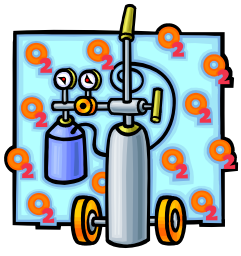
If you have further questions please contact me.

Cleo Howell
First Aid Chief

Free First Aid Supplies

If you know of a not-for-profit organization that can use any of the supplies listed below please contact me.

- C-collars in various fixed sizes
- 'D' size oxygen bottles; old style without the regulator
- 'E' size oxygen bottles; old style without the regulator



Cleo
howell.cleo@gmail.com
Home: 503-357-2665
Cell: 503-680-2472

Please sign your e-mails to the patrol or council members. While some of us have obvious email addresses, others don't. Occasionally I get an email with no usable ID. I have no ideal how to respond, since I don't know who you are.

Joel

Associate Director - Dave McKay

As Joel noted, the last month has been very peculiar with extremes in temperature, precipitation and wind – making a perfect recipe for avalanche, landslides, flooding and other fun situations.

In my little world, I worked at Skibowl on December 31st, enjoying perfect snow conditions, and about an inch of fresh powder with almost every run…My family and I attended the fireworks show then laid some fresh tracks down right after midnight… What a great way to start 2009! Then, at around 3:00 am, everything changed; it started to rain….and rain….and rain… I was at Summit on New Year's Day, watching as all the fresh powder turn to deep slush…In fact, there was a raging river flowing down thru Government Camp resulting in a nice large semi-frozen lake right in front of the Govy building….thought about ice fishing for just a moment…. Then, at around 3:00 am Friday morning, it all began to freeze again…temperatures dropped to the low 20's and the river that had been raging the day before became a solid sheet of ice. I packed up the family, and due to the mudslide on Highway 26, we took Hwy 35. *OK, Joel, I know you like your studless snow tires, but, I was sure glad to have my heavy-duty, STUDDED tires while driving on ice from Troutdale via Hood River. I'm a pretty good winter driver, but was white-knuckled all the way home, mostly due to other drivers and their lack of abilities.*

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all patrollers who made it up to the mountain on December 21st, the day of the "big" snow, wind and ice storm. I dispatched as Associate Supervisor at Timberline, but was iced in at home, unable to see more than ten feet due to blizzard/white-out conditions near my home. While watching the news early in the morning to check weather conditions, the Storm Team was reporting from the Truck Stop in Troutdale. *Behind the reporter, I could see someone outside their truck, struggling in the wind, and trying to chip ice off their windshield. They turned their back to the camera, and revealed a large white cross on the back of their blue jacket! WOW*, what commitment! So, to all patrollers who made the trip, and to Eric Granning who covered for me as Supervisor, my heart-felt THANKS and APPRECIATION for your dedication and commitment to the patrol and to the areas we serve.

Now, in other news, thanks for great coverage at Summit – where they love us. Remember when working in the FAR's, please don't wear heavy, alpine ski boots. They pose a slip and fall risk.

It appears our mini-summer on the mountain is almost over. Temperatures at T-line on January 18th were in the 50's, but low 20's in Government Camp. It looks like fresh powder is on the way. So, DISPATCH FREQUENTLY!!

See you on the Mountain!
Dave McKay
Associate Director

National Ski Patrol Avalanche Transceiver Advisory

PIEPS GmbH of Austria, one of several manufacturers of avalanche rescue transceivers, has become aware of a potential issue involving carrying the PIEPS DSP avalanche transceiver in close proximity to the Motorola Model GP340 radio transceiver. Although the GP340 radio is a European version, it is very similar to the Motorola HT750 series used in North America.

Avalanche rescue transceivers are extremely sensitive devices, and may be affected by the magnet found in a radio speaker. If the radio, or even a speaker-microphone, comes in close proximity with the avalanche transceiver, magnetic fields are present that may activate magnetic switches in the PIEPS DSP to turn it off or change it from transmit mode to search mode. This is NOT a Motorola radio issue-this is NOT a radio frequency issue-it doesn't matter if you are using VHF, UHF, or 800 MHz radios-it's a magnetism issue apparently affecting other transceiver brands and models as well.

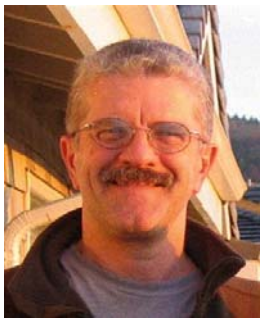
The manufacturers of avalanche rescue transceivers also caution users against wearing clothing containing permanent magnets (e.g. magnetic button closures, magnetic nametags) while operating avalanche rescue transceivers.

The issue is being investigated and is of no immediate cause for alarm. It does not appear to affect transceivers carried according to the separation criteria already specified in the PIEPS DSP owner's manual (at least 15 cm [6"] from other devices while in "send" mode, and 1.5 m [approx. 5 feet] while in "search" mode).

However, **the situation should serve as a reminder for all users of avalanche transceivers to read their owner's manual, and observe the criteria specified for separation distance between their transceiver and other potential sources of magnetic interference, regardless of brand or model.**

Mike Laney
National Avalanche
Program Director

Dick Woolf
National Telecom
Advisor



Nordic Director - Michael Curtis

They love us at REI, they love us at White River, they love us at Tea-cup (and maybe Pocket Creek too). Nordics are back on these trails by popular demand from previous events or by reputation at sheriff's dispatch. Thank-you Nordics for your dedicated appearances, ready to rock-n-roll for call-outs, or disappointed when they're called off (hmmm).

More to come....(check your crystal ball)

Training Director

MHSP Apprentice Meeting

A January 17th meeting provided orientation to the 15 Associate Apprentices and 31 Hill Apprentices joining MHSP this year. We discussed the training year, how to dispatch, uniforms, MHSP organization, responsibilities and benefits.

The program this year will involve two teams each day on Saturday and on Sunday. This is to spread the Apprentices across different areas so we don't overcrowd the slopes. Each team will be comprised of both Hill and Associate Apprentices spending time on the hill and in the first aid rooms.

Apprentices will wear bibs, as in prior years. Please be sure to make them welcome and help them out, especially early in the season.

Lift Evacuation

There are several members needing to participate in chairlift evacuation training. This is an annual requirement to patrol. If you haven't contacted me, please do so immediately we are planning to have one on a Sunday in the next few weeks.

Transfers

Jeffery Weitz is working on orienting transfer patrollers to our areas. We have several well-qualified transfers coming to us from other ski areas as well as former MHSP members who are rejoining after a long absence. Again, please welcome them to MHSP.

Avalanche Training

Check your beacons to be sure the batteries are in good condition. With the variable weather we are having, greater avalanche hazards may exist. Take time to practice while sitting bump and encourage others to follow your example. The life they save may be your own.

Tom Payne

Training Director

ELECTIONS

Elections for the Executive Council will be held at the April General Meeting. Terms of office are one year, except for Trustee, which is a three-year term. All offices are limited to two consecutive terms, except Trustee which has a limit of one three-year term. Due to term limits there will be no incumbents running for the following offices:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Patrol Chief
- First Aid Chief
- Associate Director
- Junior Trustee

Nominations

Any patroller who has been an active member for the last three years is eligible to run for office. Candidates for Patrol Chief must be an active Hill Patroller. Candidates for Associate Director must be an active Associate Patroller. And candidates for Nordic Director must be an active Nordic Patroller.

To put your own name (or someone else's) in nomination simply talk to a member of the nominating committee.

The February General Meeting will be the first meeting to announce nominees for an Executive Council Office and take nominations from the floor.

If you are interested in running for an Executive Council Office or would like to nominate someone, please contact me, Matt Hickok @ m.hickok@comcast.net, or contact one of the my fellow Nominating Committee Members, Steve Eversmeyer, Lisa Hargrave, Kathy Lee, Tobey Willey, Peggy O'Leary, or John Lacey.

Remember we vote at the April General Meeting.

Mountain Hosts

H - hospitality
O -optimize
S - safety
T – teamwork

Radios

Our radios are a vital part of our operations and a wonderful addition to our equipment. To use and care for them properly, please keep in mind:

1. *Host to Host channel is #9.* This is used on weekends and holidays when we have a Host Supervisor (HS) on duty. The HS will carry 2 radios so both the Host channel and the Patrol channel may be monitored. Important information from Patrol should be forwarded to the Host channel.
2. *The Patrol channel is #5* (Timberline Pro Patrol). This channel is used both on weekends and mid-week. When MHSP is present they are also on this channel. Calling Patrol when needed is as follows: switch to #5 -- wait a few minutes to be sure the channel is clear of traffic -- key the mike and wait a second or two -- call "DISPATCH DISPATCH THIS IS HOST _____" -- wait for them to reply -- give them the information on location and incident.
3. *Carry radio at all times* and have the volume turned up enough to hear it.
4. *Handle radios carefully,* NOT BY THE ANTENNA. The antennas are very fragile and damage easily. They may look just fine, but the inner fibers may break and the antenna will fail to transmit properly. Even slight handling of the antenna causes damage if any bending occurs.
5. Please consider getting a *radio vest* to carry the radio. Bobby Brown is taking orders for vest manufactured by one of our previous Hosts. Brown, Bobby <bob@iwpllc.com>
6. Except on those "bluebird days", *keep the radios protected from the weather*. They are not waterproof.
7. Please *turn off the radio when returning* it.
8. Please *LOCK the radio cabinet after putting the radio into the DROP BOX*. The "drop box" is the best location on weekends because the HS will return radios to their charger slots and charge them.
9. If you are mid-week Hosting, please *charge your radio* when leaving. Set the dial for a full 60 minutes. Any radios already fully charged should be turned around so that they don't continue cooking the battery.

Thank you for helping to maintain our radios in top working condition.

1050 Traffic Control

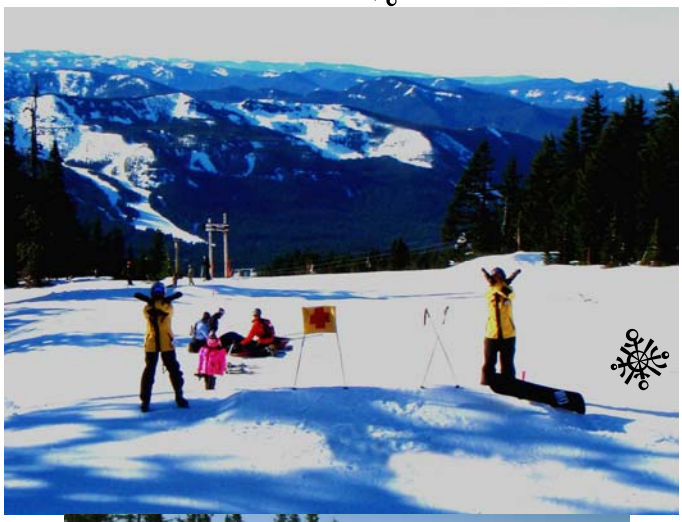
Have you ever tried to stick a pair of skis into an icy base and cross them above an incident scene? If so, you know very well just how hard it can be, literally. Most of the time crossing a pair of poles is the best that you can do, and they don't have a very high visibility index rating.

Holly Kosko, Mountain Host #60172, thought up solution to this. She fabricated something she calls a "pole cover". (see below) You stick your poles into the ice and put the "pole cover" over the ends, sort of like a pillow case over two sticks. By using a bright yellow fabric with a red cross on it, you have a highly visible cover to place over your poles.

I responded to several cases this last weekend on an icy base. I found this to be a highly effective means of deterring traffic. Even under normal conditions it would be a help, putting those poles to some practical use in addition to the crossed skis.

It also packs away very compactly in my pocket. Both Bill Johnson and John Moss have been looking for a way to mass produce them, just in case the idea of using them should prove to work. I know I'll keep mine in my pocket from now on!

Mike Cullen
Timberline



MILESTONES

Al George, #234

Patrollers who have been around for awhile will remember Al George (MHSP #234 and NSP #1491). Al died last summer in Fairbanks, Alaska, at the age of 84 after living there for 50 years. He had been comptroller of the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska.

Al was an Oregon State College graduate who worked for the Forest Service for 11 seasons, at Zigzag Ranger Station and Bear Springs Ranger Station. For a time he was Forest Service liaison to the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol. He became interested in volunteering and was eventually vice president and patrol chief. He also served a stint as manager of Multorpor ski area, then owned by Everett Darr and Carl Reynolds. He and his wife, Ruth, eventually took off for Alaska where Al continued as a ski patrol volunteer. He was slowed by Parkinson's disease in his later years.

Timberline APCs

New assignment cards and operating procedures have been posted on the wiki. They will also available in a pocket booklet to be checked out (and back in) by the Hill Captain each day. The instructions are easy, but having them in writing makes it easy to show your professionalism even if you don't patrol at Timberline very often.

There is a new run on the Jeff Flood Express. If you haven't been on it or don't know the name, maybe it is time you come visit us.

In January, the Timberline radio frequencies were modified to accommodate a new, digital private line code. Event Rental will reprogram your personal radios if you take it to their shop and tell them you are from MHSP. If you have your own Icom F-11 or F-14 radio, John Gastineau has the software to do this for you at a patrol event. Contact him directly and in advance to help you out.

Your Timberline APCs,
Lisa Hargrave and Mark Diamond

Skibowl APC

The sled pack contents have been changed at Skibowl. This are only for sled packs at Skibowl. In order to streamline the packs so they are a little lighter, and to allow the sled handles to lie flatter, the contents of every sled pack at Skibowl will include:

- 1 - sled pad
- 1 - blanket
- 1 - J-splint

The second blanket and the bag of 1st-Aid supplies will not be included from this point forward. Every patroller should have the 1st-aid supplies in their own belt, pack or vest and since the first aid room is usually a quick trip down the hill the use of a second blanket may be unnecessary. Brett has replaced the diagrams of what goes into each pack at both first aid rooms and the bags containing the supplies were taken out so all packs at the Bowl should be changed over. If you run across a pack at the Bowl that has not yet been changed please do so.

Your Skibowl APCs
Mike Klein and Toby Willey

!

Mt Hood at dusk - Photo by Wendy Stuart

Important Dates

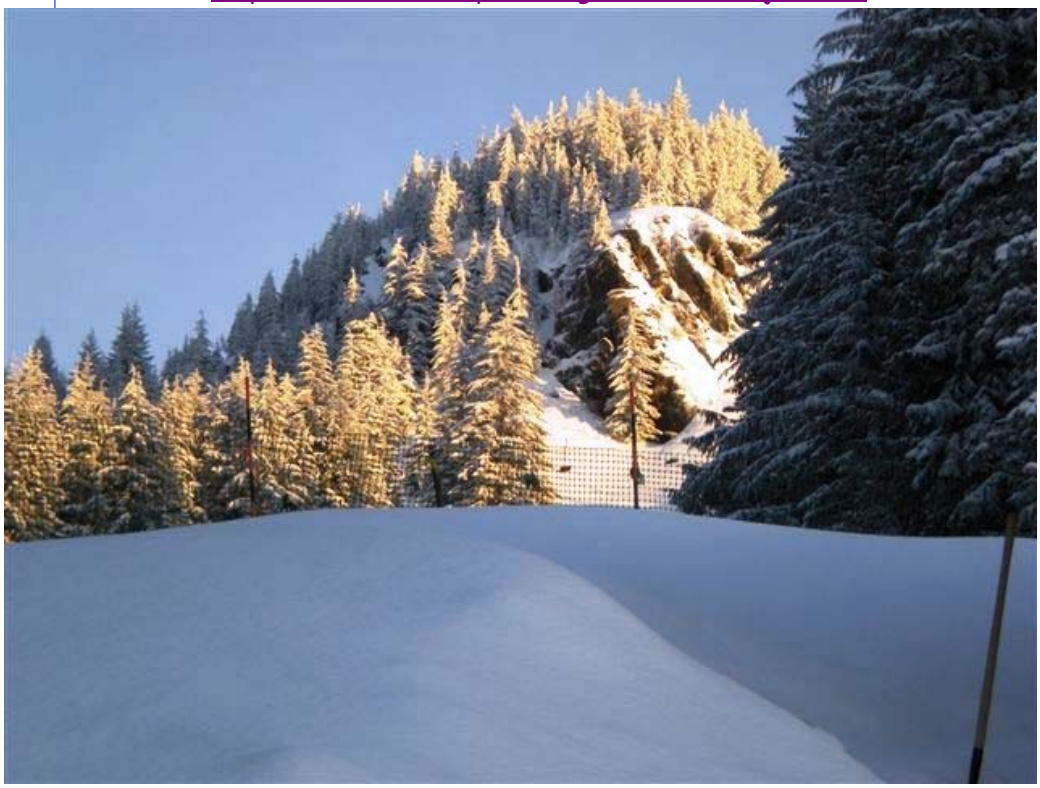
- *February 1 —Bluewood (continued from January 30)*
- *February 3, 18 – Level 1 Avalanche, 6:30-9:30 pm*
- *February 4 — Mount Hood Ski Patrol Executive Council , 6:45 pm*
- *February 7, 21, 28 —Senior EMM, S & T Ashland, MSHP- see online calendar for details*
- *February 7—Level 1 Avalanche Field Session —Timberline*
- *February 8—Avalanche refresher 8 am—Contact Matt Rea*
- *February 9—General Meeting—Athey Creek Middle School, 7—9 pm*
- *February 17—SnoJob Deadline*
- *February 22—Level 1 Avalanche Field Session*

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bluewood	2	3 Level 1 Avalanche	4 MHSP Council Mtg	5	6	7 Senior EMM S & T Clinic/Ave Field
8 Avalanche Refresher	9 General Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 SnoJob Deadline	18 Level 1 Avalanche	19	20	21 Senior EMM S & T
22 Level 1 Avalanche field session	23	24	25	26	27	28 Senior EMM S & T

http://www.mthoodskipatrol.org/members/snojobs.cfm

The official MHSP event calendar is available on-line through Google. Links are available from the MHSP Dispatch website through www.mthoodskipatrol.org —OR— if you have your own Google account access the calendar directly from your web browser by typing *calendar.google.com*. The name of the calendar is "*Mt Hood Ski Patrol – Oregon*". It is a public calendar so anyone may view it.



Skibowl *photo by Corey Schneider*

Important Dates

- *March 1—Senior S & T—contact Jeffrey Weitz*
- *March 4—Mount Hood Ski Patrol Executive Council , 6:45 pm*
- *March 9 —General Meeting—Athey Creek Middle School, 7—9 pm*
- *March 10—Ski Swap Committee Meeting—Macadam's Grill 7 pm*
- *March 14 —Avalanche field session—contact Matt Rea*
- *March 15—Avalanche Refresher—contact Matt Rea*
- *March 30—OEC Class 6:30 pm, St. Vincent Hospital*

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Senior S& T Final Eval	2	3	4 MHSP Council Mtg	5	6	7
8	9 General Meeting	10 Ski Swap Committee Meeting	11	12	13	14 8 am Level 1 Avalanche field Session
15 8 am Avalanche Refresher	16	17 SnoJob Deadline	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 6:30 pm OEC class	31				

Coming or going? Shelly Johnson
photo by Corey Schneider

http://www.mthoodskipatrol.org/members/snojobs.cfm

The MHSP SnoJob email address:

SnoJobEditor@gmail.com.

Now that you can hardly wait to be a contributing writer, remember:

- **Send copy as simple text in emails,**
- **Send pictures, graphics as jpg files,**
- **Send copy and all graphics separately;**
- **Make sure to identify who is in your contributing photo,**
- **Editors DO get editorial privileges to help formatting and standards of the publication.**

Donna Disch & Lisa Hargrave

SEND! Stories, pictures & those wonderful words-of-wisdom for the SnoJob to SnoJobEditor@gmail.com

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Mount Hood Ski Patrol
P.O. Box 4384
Portland, OR 97208

Mount Hood Ski Patrol

READ THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

Make sure to visit Mount Hood Ski Patrol Website

www.mthoodskipatrol.org

MHSP
Executive Council

President - Joel Stevens
Vice President - John Gastineau
Secretary - Mark Diamond
Treasurer - Kathy Lee
Patrol Chief - Paul Podett
First Aid Chief - Cleo Howell
Associate Director - Dave McKay
Nordic Director - Michael Curtis
Senior Trustee - Matt Hickok
Middle Trustee - Steve Eversmeyer
Junior Trustee - Lisa Hargrave