



Mt. Hood Ski Patrol

Snojob



March 2012

Patroller tryouts will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2012

We are especially looking for associate apprentices this year. There will be a ski/snowboard evaluation for associates but it is only for planning the teams, all abilities are welcome. For more information about tryouts and training go to the [Join Us](#) information on the website.

The best candidates are friends and family of patrollers. Advanced registration is REQUIRED for tryouts. Have your friends or family email their contact information to mhsp@okelydokely.com by March 18.

General Meeting

Date: Monday, March 12, 6:30 for clothing committee and vendors, meeting runs 7-9 pm.

Location: Athey Creek Middle School
2900 SW Borland Rd.
West Linn, OR 97068-9338

President's Message

By Steve Eversmeyer, President, HC 1170

We're still getting snow, and I know the President's Day weekend days were busy!!! The areas are counting on us to help ensure everyone coming up has a good day. With spring break approaching your help during the week days would really be appreciated.

We have lots of important dates coming up in the March to May module.

- The Mt. Hood Museum fundraiser, Ski the Glade, is March 3.
- We have our new member tryouts set for March 25.
- The National Ski Patrol's Education Conference is in April. If you've never been to the PEC, you should consider it. The opportunity to meet patrollers from around the country, learn about what ever interests you, improve your skiing with some of the best instructors is well worth the time and the cost is reasonable.
- There is the ALS fund raiser April 14 that's being led by Fred Noble at Meadows (he spoke to us at the December meeting). There's more information on the Meadows web page under events.



- We only have the March 12 and April 9 general meetings left. March is our business meeting, no speakers planned and April is our election meeting. Your attendance is key to helping us move in the best direction possible.
- Our annual banquet is set for May 19 and will be at Timberline. As we start to celebrate our 75 years of service we're hoping to get all patrollers up (associate, hill, host, Nordic) and even more alumni than in the past. (I know, I'm pushing the date a little since we started in the winter of '37 and officially organized in 1938). It seems fitting that since we started at Timberline we have our banquet there as well. We're looking to celebrate in town, too, but that will be in the fall.

I know it's a ways out there but our ski swap is something that should be on your calendars. We're at the Washington County Fairgrounds, Oct. 26 to 28. OEC refreshers start September 29, and continue October 6, and end November 3.

The comments and feedback from our areas continues to be very positive. You may not hear it directly but our being there makes a difference and is appreciated!

Thank you for all of your efforts, keep up the good work and remember, S.P.I.F.

See you on the mountain!

Elections

By Mark Diamond, Senior Trustee, HC 1464

How to run for Executive Council

To run for office simply inform a member of the nominating committee that you wish to run for an office. Or you may be nominated from the floor at the March or April meetings. Only those nominations made by March 19, 2012 will have their names published in the April Snojob and printed on the absentee ballot.

Nominating Committee

Mark Diamond, HC 1464
 John Gastineau, HC 1393
 James Schuler, AS 90481
 Eric Einspruch, AS 90461
 Doug Stanton, HP 995

Qualifications for Executive Council

- Must have been an active member for the prior three years. If you received your cross prior to June 2009 and have (or will) meet your membership requirements in 2010, 2011 and 2012, you are eligible to run for an office.
- Patrol chief must be a hill patroller. Associate director must be an associate patroller. Nordic Director must be a Nordic patroller. Mountain host director must be a mountain host.
- Mountain hosts are eligible to run for mountain host director only.
- All council members will find it easier to do the jobs if they have easy access to a computer and internet.
- The treasurer need not be an accountant but should have some basic bookkeeping skills. If you use Quicken or other personal finance software, or if you understand financial statements from your job or business you probably have adequate knowledge and skills to keep the patrol's books.

- The secretary typically delegates the newsletter to a willing editor so his/her primary responsibility is taking minutes and occasional correspondence. Candidates for Secretary will benefit from familiarity with word processing software such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs, and from being adept at learning internet skills such as uploading documents or photos.

Open Offices

The following offices will be voted on in the election. The ones marked with an asterisk have an incumbent eligible to stand for re-election.

President *	First Aid Chief
Vice President*	Associate Director *
Secretary *	Mountain Host Director *
Treasurer *	Nordic Director *
Patrol Chief *	Junior Trustee

At publication time the only nomination received is Jan Silagi, HS# 60054, for the office of Mountain Host Director.

How to Vote in the April Election

By Lisa Hargrave, HC/AS 1053

Active patroller and host members are eligible to vote. For patrollers, active means gold, silver or bronze membership; tin and redshirt members are not eligible to vote. Apprentices will not be accepted into full membership until May, so are not able to vote this season.

The easiest way to vote is to come to the April general meeting.

If you can't come to the meeting then you may vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will be available on the wiki after 3/19 and must be received at the PO Box 4384, Portland, 97208 by 5 pm, Friday, 4/6/2012.

FIRST AID

Traumatic Brain Injury

By Cleo Howell, First Aid Chief, AS 1444



At the February General Meeting Dr. Seth Izenberg, an Emmanuel Hospital trauma surgeon, spoke to us about traumatic brain injuries. The take-away message was that **if you suspect a patient has a brain injury get them to seek further medical attention immediately.** Some patients may downplay or deny that they have a brain injury, but it is our job to convince them to seek further medical attention.

One way to determine if a patient has a brain injury is to use the Glasgow Coma Scale. According to Dr. Izenberg and the OEC 5th Edition, "A total score of 13 or less is associated with a high risk for major neurological injury." To use the Glasgow Coma Scale determine the score for the patient's best eye, verbal, and motor response using the score card below.

Glasgow Coma Scale

Eyes

- 4 Opens eyes spontaneously
- 3 Opens eyes to verbal stimuli
- 2 Opens eyes to pain
- 1 Does not open eyes

Verbal

- 5 Speaks coherently
- 4 Speaks confusedly
- 3 Mutters words in response to pain
- 2 Moans in response to pain
- 1 No verbal response to pain

Motor

- 6 Follows commands
- 5 Localizes pain
- 4 Withdraws from pain
- 3 Has a flexor response to pain
- 2 Has an extensor response to pain
- 1 Has no response to pain

Remember, if a patient is unresponsive for any period of time following a significant mechanism of injury the patient should be placed on a backboard.

Buddy Bears

This is a reminder that stuffed animals are available in each First Aid Room for any patient who may benefit by having one. We have plenty of them so do not be shy about giving them out. A stuffed animal may help calm a young patient down and help you to complete the assessment.



Help Needed for OEC Scenario Exams

The scenario exams for the 2012 OEC Course are scheduled for April 24 and 26. We will need OEC instructors and regular patrollers each night. Some people will be evaluators and we will need patrollers to serve as back-up patrollers on certain scenarios. Please sign up on the dispatch.

We are also in need of people to play patient roles. The patient role players should be adults or mature teenagers who can role play as directed. Potential role players should contact Cleo Howell directly.

Incident Report Forms

By Cleo Howell, First Aid Chief, AS 1444

Just a friendly reminder to everyone about patient reports at the areas that we serve. It is critical that we get the proper reports completed before the patient leaves the resort. This is especially important with patients who go directly to an ambulance. If you believe that a patient will go directly to an ambulance someone must take the initiative to meet the patient or friends/relatives and get as much information as possible. It is no excuse for failing to complete the report just because the patient went directly to an ambulance.

A Terrain Park report is also required at all of our areas that we serve. If a customer was injured in a terrain park please make sure that the Terrain Park report is completed before the patient leaves the area. There may be additional forms to fill out for each area. Please be familiar with the appropriate forms for the areas that you volunteer at.

When completing the reports please make sure that every line, box, or category is filled in with the proper information. If the box or line does not apply put a slash mark through it or write N/A.

SKI PATROL OPERATIONS

Patrol Chief

By David Atkinson, Patrol Chief, HC 1239



The continuing season

MHSP has put in a tremendous amount of hours of volunteering this season, so give your selves a big high five on that! I want to thank everyone for the dedication you give to the profession of voluntary ski patrolling. Even though you may think it goes unnoticed, the ski areas truly appreciate our ongoing efforts serving their ski areas. I am told on many occasions that they appreciate the time and dedication of the Mt Hood Ski Patrol. For that, my hats off to everyone! You serve us proud!

The Areas

Timberline: Thanks to Brett's great leadership, we have had a good season at Timberline so far this year. A great team effort by all has allowed Timberline to rely on us to provide the staffing on the weekends and Brett is very pleased with our dedication. Many thanks to John Howard as APC and all the hill captains and supervisors for their continued efforts with the bump schedule that shares the Hill and FAR duties allowing for an integrated and trained patrol staff.

Meadows: Mel and the Meadows teams appreciate all our combined efforts to assist in the busy weekend days at the resort. Thanks to Eric Pool and Kat Moore for their efforts as APC's. They are always looking for more dedicated patrollers to join the teams at Meadows, so contact Eric Pool if you would like to join a Meadows team or just take a day and go over and shadow for a day. You just might fall in love with it!

Ski Bowl: Skibowl has had an up and down snow season, but is back in full swing with all the recent new snow. Thanks to Matt Rea and Shelly Johnson for their efforts as APC's, helping coordinate our patrol to handle all the crowds, the races, and the many other duties we are called upon to fulfill. Erich Mauer and Skibowl management are glad of our efforts. So keep up the great work out there!

If you haven't been to Skibowl in a few weeks be sure to check out the East side first aid room. The plumbing and electrical have been upgraded, the tube crew has relocated to new quarters so there is a lot less traffic, and the whole room has been re-organized.

Summit: They love us at Summit. Thanks to Claudia Pieters and Diane Kindall-Potter for their efforts as APC's for providing the leadership and commitment to the area! Charlie and the Skibowl gang are very grateful for what we do there.

Dispatch

For those of you who are current with your dispatch days in relationship to your commitment level, thank you. For those of you that need more days, the dispatch has plenty of holes to fill in. **Now is the time to do that!** Springtime is a great time to make up days at the areas where you still need to get your days in. Remember it is easy to dispatch and easy to un-dispatch. It is better to have days scheduled than to be excluded from patrolling by not planning far enough in advance. If you haven't already, sign up now for your springtime days on the mountain. Keep up the great work on making your days!

Your commitment

Remember that your benefits package for next season will be based on the days you put in the 2011-2012 season. I want everyone to have the opportunity to get the benefit package that they desire next season, so look at your schedule and sign up for your preferred days early so you are assured of getting those

specific days you want. The time is now to decide how many days of incredible skiing and riding you want to get in!

Training and Clinics

Senior Ski and Toboggan (S&T) Clinic: March 24, at Mt Hood Meadows. The final senior evaluations will be held at Hoodoo this year on April 1. All hill patrollers are welcome to attend any senior clinics as they will count toward your sled updates and calibrations that are required each season.

Senior OEC: Coordinated by Gina Malamphy and her group of instructors, the final senior evaluation will be at Hoodoo this year on March 31.

Transfer Training: A special thanks goes out Troy Muller for guiding our transfers through this year's training. We have 3 excellent transfer patrollers ready to join our patrol this year.

Apprentice Hill Training: A super effort by all the team coaches and guest coaches this year. Thanks to Toby and Mike for your endless hours of organization and leadership! We have 3 strong teams all progressing well.

Apprentice Associate Training: Many thanks to David Nead and all the coaches for coordinating the apprentice training this season. They have a strong group that will add to our great associate staff next season.

More Clinic Opportunities!!!

Annual Nuts and Bolts Clinic on June 1-3 at Timberline. Flyers will be sent out soon for pre-registration so don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to learn from some of the best instructors in the Pacific Northwest!

Tryouts

We will be holding Spring Tryouts again this year on Sunday, March 25, at the Govy building and at Skibowl. Tell your friends to come on out and see if they have what it takes to be part of our patrol family!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the training events and on the slopes this season! Let it snow!

Associate Director

By Kathy Lee, Associate Director, SS 90232



Spring is just around the corner but there is still plenty of skiing and patrolling left before the May awards banquet. Please be sure and sign up for patrol days to fulfill your commitment, and let's turn all the dispatch days **GREEN**.

There have been a number of very busy days at the areas this past month – KUDOS to associates and associate apprentices for jumping in to help where needed and providing good patient care in the first aid rooms and out on the hill. The apprentices have been getting some very good, practical experience and I look forward to bringing them on as full patrollers in May.

This brings me to next year's group of apprentices. Tryouts will be held Sunday, March 25th and we will be recruiting to fill half of next year's apprentice class with associates. The recruiting committee will be working to increase the number of associate applicants and your help to spread the word will be invaluable. Talk with your friends, neighbors, co-workers about joining, or if you have a Facebook page, post a brief note about how great an experience ski patrolling has been for you and that tryouts are coming up. If someone wants to do a shadow day and see what Associate patrolling is all about, please have them contact me. The skiing portion of tryouts for associate apprentices is not a test but more along

the lines of an assessment of skiing/boarding skills so we can provide necessary training for improvement and determine participation in hill activities.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about dispatching, tryouts, or anything about the associate program, please feel free to contact me. Thanks everyone, and keep up the good work! SPIF!

From the Nordic Desk

By Brett McLane, Nordic Director, NP 1603



A lot of people ask what the Nordic patrollers typically carry in the backcountry. The answer is “it depends”. Are we skiing at Teacup, out on a snowy Forest Service road, or somewhere like Sand Canyon? What follows is a list of our general guidelines. Obviously some things are more important than others, but they all serve a purpose. My thanks to Nordic patroller Steve Potter for helping to compile this list.

Communication: patrol radio, cell phone, avalanche transceiver and batteries, personal locator beacon, whistle

Navigation: map, UTM grid scale, compass, GPS, headlamp, flashlight and extra batteries, write-in-the-rain pad and pen

Avalanche and Shelter: probe, shovel, snow saw, flagging tape, space blanket (tarp type) and closed-cell foam pad (sit or sleep), bivouac bag

Tools: knife/multi-tool, windproof butane lighter, tape, ski wax, scraper

Cook and Fire Gear: jetboil, fuel, spoon, water bottle, fire starter, matches

Food & Water: energy bars (personal and for patients) instant oatmeal, instant cocoa mix, tea, water bladder

Harness: 1” tube webbing, carabiner, figure-8, and 100 feet of 6mm rope

Clothing: extra socks, gloves, stocking cap, and neck gaiter

Personal: Sunglasses/Goggles, Sunscreen, and Toilet Paper

First Aid Kit (of course!)

TRAINING

Four Die in Washington in two separate avalanches...

By Justin Zucconi, MHSP Avalanche Director, HC



I was driving home Sunday night when I heard the report on the radio. Text messages and e-mails started to stream in that night. Many of my students and fellow patrollers were paying attention to this story because they had been out on the mountain with me on that very day practicing transceiver, excavation, and probing skills along with checking the snow pack for instabilities for their NSP Level 1 Avalanche certification. The news was shocking at first but hit me like a ton of bricks as the reports rolled in.

The three that were killed in the Stevens Pass backcountry slide were all expert skiers and had the essential 3 tools when traveling in the backcountry (transceiver, shovel & probe.) They were

part of a group of 13 and were associated with pro skiing or the adventure writing niche. Many were very familiar with this terrain since one of the victims was the marketing director for Stevens Pass. So why did this happen and how?

Big storms send big skiers to potentially hazardous terrain. The avalanche hazard for the day was high. So why did they go, they should know better right? Right, but it is too late for that. Was it because they were shooting footage for magazines and movies? Possibly, I cannot say. Did they dig a pit and assess? We don't know at this point. Did they ski the slope safely? According to reports, yes. The trigger was the seventh skier down. The first six were all in "safe" zones in treed areas, but that did not stop the slide from getting to them. From what I know now at least 7 were caught, and all were buried or partially buried 2000 vertical feet downslope, except for a pro skier who was wearing an Avalanche Air Bag. She claims it saved her life. I think to myself, "Could this ever happen been me? Yes..."

Every time I step into the backcountry I accept the risks associated with it. But things are changing rapidly in my life. Yes, my mind still thinks I'm 26. But I'm going to turn 34, I have a great wife, and I have a baby on the way. Am I willing to give up the backcountry? Not right now.

So what can I do to improve my survivability if Mother Nature comes down on me? Well I'm staying educated, check. Practicing with my beacon, check. Carry the essential 3 plus one (AvaLung), check. Travel with experienced partners, check. And then it hits me. Crap do I really need to buy an avalanche air bag? I pondered this for a day and a half and finally asked myself one question. Is it worth \$400 to see my family again, be a dad to my unborn son, if something horrible like this happened to me? The answer was easy. Yes.

Yes, there will always be risks associated with these types of activities. All you can do as a user is prepare yourself as much as possible with the knowledge and tools you have to survive. That is all an airbag is. A tool. Not an excuse for skiing bigger lines or making stupid decisions. I have one more backcountry trip before my son is born, and I definitely want to be there for him for the rest of my life.

If you are a backcountry user please stay tuned up with your rescue skills and be smart out there. The Mt. Hood Ski Patrol provides NSP avalanche refresher courses annually, so if you feel rusty take one. You don't need to wait until you are due for your triennial update. They are fun!

For more information on avalanche airbags, there are two companies that sell them in the US. Visit www.BackcountryAccess.com or www.Mammut.ch for more information. If anybody has any avalanche related questions please feel free to e-mail me. I'm in the roster.

Senior Ski & Toboggan Clinics

By Tom "Tool Time" Payne, Senior S&T Coach, HC 1378

Senior S & T training has started but **it's not too late to sign up** and make the evaluation on April 1st!

Are you qualified? Take this simple test: have you been a patroller for at least a year? Can you make carved turns? Do you know how to run a sled pretty well? Can you attend two prep sessions? Are you available on April 1st to go to Hoodoo?

If you answered YES to those questions you are qualified to join us! If you are a hill apprentice coach, you can attend as well.

In order to attend the evaluations at Hoodoo, you simply need to attend two clinics in our region or at another region to sharpen up your skills and learn what the evaluators will be looking for. To make that easy on our coaches we will join the apprentice groups with the senior group to train together on a few occasions. The senior candidates can be demonstrators or help running sleds which allows the apprentice coaches to concentrate on coaching.

After your successful completion of the S & T portion of senior you can go on to the EMM segment to complete the full senior training and earn the rocker.

Please let me know if you are interested and I'll get you in the program.

Thanks! Tool Time (tpayne@comcast.net)

Tree Well Rescue

Check out this video on YouTube.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jvEYzh_1Sg&feature=youtube_gdata_player

It's a pretty scary example of NARSID (non-avalanche related snow immersion death) hazard.

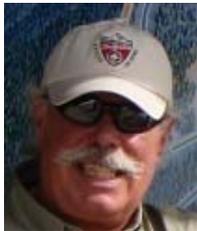
This group of recreational skiers makes mistakes but fast action and teamwork averted a tragedy.

Do you know what to do if you or a friend is trapped in a tree well? Would your ski buddies know how to rescue you? If the answer to either of these questions is NO or MAYBE, check out this important information at www.treewelldeepsnowsafety.com.

HOST OPERATIONS

Mountain Host Director

By Bill Johnson, Host Director, HS60001



There was a recent accident at Mt. Hood Ski Bowl that claimed the life of a young Sandy, Oregon resident.

Marilyn Hanson, Host Supervisor, with apprentices Jennifer Beaman and Starlet Heitz, provided assistance in the search attempt and outstanding support for family members and friends on-site that evening. Thank you for a great job and representing the MHHP/MHSP so well.

This incident began as a report of an overdue individual. This is a fairly common event at Timberline which is normally resolved in a short timeframe with positive results. It is a less common event at Skibowl. The person who initially receives the report is often a host or host supervisor. Coincidentally, the current process from first report through escalation and the information form is currently being updated with an eye toward a consistent form and procedure between Timberline and Skibowl. The ball is currently in the court of Brett Wesson, Timberline Patrol Director.

Timberline Procedures

Host Supervisors - beginning immediately, please post your names on the white board located on the left side of the Timberline first aid room. This will help with any needed ski patrol communications.

The current Timberline terrain park policy - "...it's merely a precaution to a perceived risk." There should be no host presence in terrain parks - not even to respond to a request for assistance. Your free time is up to you - but not while on assignment or in uniform. Please note this is NOT the policy at Mt. Hood Skibowl.

Radio Channels - there's still an ongoing debate regarding channel 5 and channel 7 - with pros and cons to both. I've had input from various Hosts and extended conversations with Brett Wesson. The final protocol decision will be on or before March 1. Watch your email for the announcement.

Upcoming Events

Ski the Glade Day - Saturday, March 3, 2012

Timberline Skiing Heritage Week - April 8 - April 15, 2012 (details to follow).

All is good on Hood

We're having great host participation this season and the apprentice group is outstanding. Recently, we have had several hosts take on the challenge and responsibility of becoming a hill or associate patroller. This is a great example of our members being able to move between the host and ski patrol programs as it suits their interests and stage in life. There are a number of past ski patrollers in the host ranks as well. The most important element is that we kept the resource on the mountain. Thanks for all the effort and work this season at Timberline and Mt. Hood Skibowl.

ADMINISTRATION

New Doings at the Swap

By Your Swap Team

It is not too early to put the 2012 Mt Hood SnoSport Swap on your calendar. You may already know, but the big news is that both the date and location are moving to allow a bigger and better swap in the future.

The new location is at the Washington County Fair Grounds in Hillsboro. We know this is a big change but after searching for two years for a location that would allow us to grow, would accommodate our physical and technical requirements, had lots of free parking, would guarantee the same weekend year after year and was available in October, we ended up at the fairgrounds.

The new dates are:

- Thursday, October 25th (Afternoon and Evening) Begin setup, move in, and public check in.
- Friday, October 26th (All day) Complete setup, move in, vendor and public Check in. Evening sales
- Saturday, October 27th (All day) Sales
- Sunday, October 28th (Morning) Tear down and move out.

As in the past, we will have a number of work parties to build additional racks, help tag at stores, place posters and hand out flyers to accommodate those members who can't be available on the Swap weekend. This year we will have sign-ups for these on the dispatch to make it easier for you.

Participation in the swap is required for all patrollers and hosts and is encouraged for family members, but we will have some new incentives this year to make the swap more fun and participation more meaningful. Go, Swap!

Government Camp Building

By Mike Anderson, Caretaker, AS 1510

Thank you to everyone who has been using the Govy building this season, you've done a great job of keeping the areas pretty clean, so my job has been pretty easy. I just wanted to cover a few things that have come up in the last 2 months.

First, remember to sign in on the register and remember to put your money in the box upstairs at the top of the stairs in the mailbox. I try to collect it each time I come up and balance the receipts with who has signed in, so I can give this to Gina, our Treasurer. I have had a few discrepancies, and I just note these on the report I supply to her with the money. If you forget to pay you need to make this up as soon as possible or let me or Gina know so we can expect it. Repeat offenders may be told they can no longer stay at the building.

The second item is for our dog lovers. There are a few people in the patrol who are allergic to dogs, so before you bring them into the building please come in and ask if it is OK or will bother anyone. If your dog is staying the night it is not allowed upstairs, and should be secured downstairs, or be well trained to remain on its bed.

Finally remember if you use any dishes please wash and dry them, and put them away before you leave. Also clean the counters after you prepare your meals.

Did you know that you can put the roster on your smart phone?

By Joel Stevens, Dispatch and List Server Guru, SHC 736

The specifics vary from phone to phone, but the basics are to use the "create a custom roster" function on the website to create an Excel file that you can import into your Contacts manager (such as Outlook) on your computer. You can then transfer this to your smart phone using the appropriate program, such as iTunes for the iPhone.

OTHER NEWS

Ski Patrollers in the News

The Mountain Times is a newspaper serving the communities of Mt. Hood. The February 2012 edition has a couple of stories about fellow ski patrollers Jerry and Emily Knowlton, and Buzz Bowman. The article on the Knowlton family is available via the link below.

<http://www.mountaintimesoregon.com/modules.php?name=Lead&acton=showad&aid=255>

There is no link to the story about Buzz, but a scan is attached at the end of this newsletter. And a copy of the newspaper is posted on the bulletin board at the Govy Building. Check it out.

Snojob Deadline is the Third Monday of the Month

Lisa Hargrave, Snojob Editor, HC/AS 1053 and Barb Korsmo, Copy Editor, Alumni AP 90260



The deadline for Snojob articles and photos is the third Monday of each month (7 days after the general meeting). Send your submissions to snojobeditor@gmail.com.

Articles: Please submit as the body of your email rather than an attached document. If you have a long article covering several topics please break it into several articles covering one topic each.

Photos: Send as an attachment in JPG format. Be sure to identify who took the picture, where it is and who is in it.

Calendar

For the most current information and details check the online calendar at www.mhspdispatch.org.

March

- 5 Council Meeting
- 11 Senior Outdoor Emergency Care
- 12 General Meeting
- 14 Mountain Travel & Rescue begins
- 19 Snojob Deadline
- 25 Senior Outdoor Emergency Care
- 24-31 Oregon Spring Break
- 31 Senior OEC Final Evaluation

April

- 2 Council Meeting
- 9 General Meeting
- 12-15 NSP Patroller Education Conf
- 24 Alumni Luncheon

May

- 9 Council Meeting
- 15 Predispatch deadline June-August
- 19 Awards Banquet

2012 OEC Refresher Dates

- September 29
- October 6
- November 3



Scenes from Level II Avalanche field session. Photos by Steve Eversmeyer.

Ski patrol volunteer schusses through 65 years on Mount Hood

By Garth Guibord
The Mountain Times

Members of the ski patrol receive a pin for the years of their service time. But when Mount Hood Ski Patrol volunteer Buzz Bowman hit the 60-year mark more than five years ago, there was no pin.

Instead, his fellow volunteers gave him a walker with skis and a horn attached to it.

Bowman, who joined the MHSP in 1946 when he was just 16, still patrols the slopes on Mount Hood at the age of 82.

"The only disagreeable part is getting up so early in the morning," said Bowman, who still runs Bowman's Hillsdale Pharmacy in Portland where he displays the walker. "Once you get up to the mountain and click into your skis, it's fun. A cup of coffee helps, but you're still not so sure it's a good idea."

Bowman recalled that back when he joined, the patrol wasn't as regulated as it is now and volunteers didn't have to be as good skiers as today.

Bowman skied in high school and would take a Trailways bus to Government Camp and hike to Timberline Lodge to ski back down during World War II.

"We weren't very good skiers then but we did it," he said. "The big skiers were the guys from the 10th Mountain Division that came back from the war. Those were kind of our ideals."

Bowman noted that much more has changed since the days when he first patrolled

"If somebody was lost anywhere on the mountain, they called the ski patrol," said Bowman, who participated in a handful of searches, including locating people who perished from the cold. "It's a lot more organized now than it used to be."

In a typical year, Bowman still patrols approximately 15 times (down from a peak of 25 times), while also skiing in his spare time, including a yearly trip with the family to Sun Valley in Idaho.

Three of his children also became volunteers for the MHSP, and he sometimes gets to patrol with his son.

"It's nice to have somebody to drive up with; keep you awake," said Bowman, who has also climbed Mount Hood a number of times.

"After all these years, aside from my family, (MHSP is)



Contributed photo
Buzz Bowman takes a break from patrol duty.

Mount Hood, most noticeably the equipment he uses and ski area expansion. But he also recalled that in the earlier years, no organization existed to lead mountain rescues.

probably the most important things I ever did. Once you join the patrol, you have 250 new friends."

His years of patrolling led to many unique experiences, including one far from home. As a member of the National Guard, when his brigade had a cold weather mission Bowman led them up to an arctic training center in each of three years.

"I was the only senior officer that was in good enough shape to do it, and that's because of the ski patrolling," he said. "That was kind of a highlight of a mediocre career in the military."

These days, Bowman mostly

patrols at Timberline, thanks to the gentler slopes and the quality ambiance. The resort even has a trail named after him: Buzz Cut, a black diamond run near the bottom of the Jeff Flood-Still Creek lift.

"That probably keeps me going a little bit," Bowman said. "Every time I go up there I feel obligated to ski the run."

And he'll continue to keep Mount Hood and the skiers and snowboarders who enjoy it safe for now.

"When I get to the point where I don't think I can do it, I'll probably stop," said Bowman, adding, "I don't think I did anything spectacular, I just outlived everybody else."

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