



The Sweep

January 2022

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The mountain resorts have been open for a couple of weeks now and most of you have done at least one day of ski patrol duty. Thank you very much. Let's hope it keeps snowing.

I hope you had a good holiday season and that you survived New Year's Eve.

Listed below are just a few of the accomplishments this patrol has achieved in the past year.

- Brought on our first Bike Patroller only member (good job Laura Pike)
- Ownership of Rescue Center at Skibowl was officially transferred to Skibowl
- Bylaws updated
- Policy and Procedures updated
- The MHSP building in Government Camp was officially renamed the Buzz Bowman Mt. Hood Ski Patrol Center



Intel Donation

Last month I requested that current and retired Intel employees submit documentation of their volunteer hours. Kam Komeyli did so and his volunteer hours for MHSP should result in a \$9000 donation from Intel to MHSP. A huge THANK YOU to Kam.

COVID-19

At the December 6th 2021 Council meeting a motion was passed that requires all patrollers and hosts to be vaccinated for COVID-19 in order to participate in-person activities. I know this is a very controversial issue and that some of you will not agree with the Council's decision.

We took this step in the interests of protecting our members and to model safe behavior in all our interactions with the public. I have personally heard positive feedback from about 20 of you regarding this requirement.

See page 3 for the full text of the motion passed by the Executive Council.

Cleo Howell, MHSP Council President

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Editor: John Mark Ripkey, AS 1658
Asst Editor: Courtney Walsh, HC 1833



Affiliated with the National Ski Patrol

The Sweep is a Newsletter published monthly by Mt. Hood Ski Patrol Inc. a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit.

Patrolling Area Operations/Showtimes:

<u>Skibowl:</u> Open. Contact Team leads	<u>Timberline:</u> Open. Contact Team leads	<u>Meadows:</u> Open. Contact Team leads	<u>Summit Pass:</u> Open. Contact Terry Niedermeyer	<u>Teacup:</u> Open Contact Steve Potter
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JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Courtney Walsh, Council Secretary, HC 1833

In January we will again host MHSP's General Meeting virtually. Please feel free to bring your questions for Council – we look forward to seeing you!

19:00, Monday January 10th, 2022

tinyurl.com/MHSPGeneralMeeting

Use Passcode: 757929 (if needed)

See you then!

COUNCIL DECISION ON VACCINES

Cleo Howell, President, AS 1444

For the period of December 1st, 2021, through August 31st, 2022, consistent with Oregon Administrative Rules, only those members of MHSP who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 may participate in active ski patrol and mountain host duties and functions, to include active duty at any of the areas on Mt. Hood served by MHSP, as well as any in-person formal training sessions, administrative meetings, and social gatherings sponsored by MHSP requiring in-person participation. Access to the Buzz Bowman Mt. Hood Ski Patrol Center will also be limited to only fully vaccinated members of MHSP and guests. In order to qualify to participate in active MHSP duties and functions, MHSP members must show proof of full vaccination in the form of a CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card presented for inspection. MHSP will not maintain copies of member's vaccination record cards but will record names of members who have provided documentation.

The COVID-19 vaccination requirement does not apply to any meetings, training, or other activities where remote participation via online web-meetings or telephone access is possible, including service on an MHSP Committee or the Executive Council. For the purpose of this policy, "Fully Vaccinated" means having received both doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or one dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine and at least 14 days have passed since the individual's final dose of COVID-19 vaccine (The definition of "fully vaccinated" shall follow US CDC guidelines and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) statutes in force at any time for the duration of this requirement).

This policy will automatically expire on August 31st, 2022 (at the end of MHSP's fiscal year) unless the Executive Council takes action to extend it. The Executive Council will periodically review this policy in light of the ongoing pandemic and may make modifications, including earlier cancellation, if warranted.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Matt Wood, Vice President, HC/AS 1768

The Governance Committee is in the home stretch of the *complete* revision of the MHSP Policies & Procedures – more than two years in the making (with a short break for refreshers this Fall!).

The annual addendum with team commitments and benefits is done, admittedly a bit late. We continue to correct typos and copy-and-paste errors, but there has been nothing of great significance.

Chapter 7 on MHSP Finances is the last chapter to write – it is our plan to finish this chapter and review any errata by the end of this Council's term in May 2022.

[The version on the Wiki is up to date at this time and available for review or download at any time.](#) As always, please feel free to contact the VP or committee members Kathy Lee and Lisa Hargrave with any comments, questions, or suggestions.

AWARDS

Matt Wood, Vice President, HC/AS 1768

I only had a couple of patrollers reach out about missing service pins. We are still researching and will continue to check records if we missed folks in error.

CLOTHING COMMITTEE

Matt Wood, Vice President, HC/AS 1768

Contact the VP to arrange purchase and collection of any items – we have a fairly full selection of new coats and pants, and a few 40L packs left in both frame sizes (S/M and L/XL). No 28L packs were available this year at all – SAD!

Special orders for non-standard sizes may be possible from The North Face – check in with the VP.

I'll be on the hill most weekends and can arrange to drop off in Govy or on the way to or from. Because I tend to do weekend doubles through most of the season, I *will not* be planning any more weekend popups. Stay tuned for a popup announcement for a Tuesday night before or after OEC class, once they get into session.

I have a small assortment of FREE items donated by former patrollers, including a couple of decent coats, a fanny pack and some pants. If you or a patroller you know are hard up for funds, get in touch and let's see what we can do! vicepresident@mthoodskipatrol.org.

MOUNTAIN OPERATIONS

Dave Winterling, Patrol Chief, HP 1806



Fellow Members,

After a slow start, December turned out to be an amazing month on the mountain, with as much new snow as we could possibly hope for, and great (cold) conditions in the second half of the month. Smiles all around, from everyone on the hill.

Our members at all areas did solid work assisting on a quick startup once the snow started to fall. Who needs the gym when we're carrying and setting up tower pads, bamboo, and ropes all over the mountain in deep/soft snow?

Very special thanks to our Skibowl teams, who provided such strong support to the new paid staff on hill setup. Doug Reynolds and Scott Minton were standouts in identifying needs and priorities, and managing the process. Well done!

As of this writing, we have a small team (Matt Rea, Jennifer Jackson, Mark Brooks) convening on New Year's Eve Friday at Skibowl to set up Outback, and tour the new paid staff members through that terrain. Based on the text messages I've been receiving, the public can't WAIT to ride those slopes.

Our OET training team has made a strong start this year. Heather Van Houten and Jeff Weitz, with help from Gina Barendrick, Dave MacIntyre, Courtney Walsh, and others organized our annual two-part "Instructors Calibration" clinic to align the trainers on plans for the year.

This includes hill apprentice training, annual toboggan checkoffs, TES clinics, and empty-sled training for associate patrollers and SPY members. The clinic started with a "dry-land" session the evening of Tuesday 12/7, followed by an on-hill session on Saturday 12/18.

We are lucky to have such a strong OET training team; they do amazing work behind the scenes and on the hill to ensure that our patrollers receive the best and most consistent training possible.

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Paul Van Der Bosch is doing great work on an enhanced SPY (formerly YAP) program for the 21/22 winter season. Their season kickoff was on 12/18 at Timberline, where they started strong with shovel-filling and boot-packing all of the tower wells on the Jeff Flood lift (on a deep-snow day), followed by ski evaluations by our OET IT team. The SPY group will be working at all three alpine ski areas this year.

Robyn Gelfand is now working with [SheJumps](#), an organization that organizes and promotes on-snow training events for young women (middle-school age) who aspire to work in an outdoor environment (e.g. as a ski patroller). Stacy Stokes from MHSP and Libby Koroch from Timberline are working with Robyn to plan an event soon, possibly in March. Stay tuned for further information on how you can help.

As a reminder, the Bowman Center is open for overnight stays, with a capacity of two people per night, and a request that all surfaces be wiped down before leaving the next day. Other than that, the building rules are the same as in prior years, [as posted on the Wiki](#). These guidelines and capacity will be reviewed at the January Council meeting on 1/3/22.

Hope to see everyone soon on the hill!

Stay safe, Dave W



Alan Harvey on December 26th demonstrating how easy it is to be buried in snow when wandering off-piste after a great storm.

Photo by Timberline Paid Staff

ASSOCIATE OPERATIONS

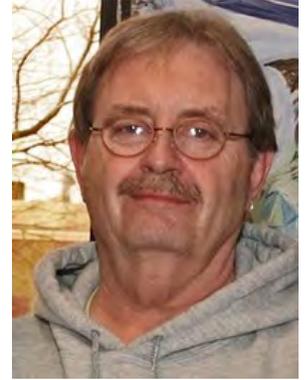
John Howard, Associate Director, AS 90227

Thank you to all MHSP Members who helped get the area up and running the past two weeks. From no snow on December 8th to anywhere from 71" to over 100" by December 26th, it was a major challenge to help get the areas up and running. A wonderful job by all.

Training is about to begin for new Associates and one or two Hill patrollers transitioning to the Associate program.

Please welcome them warmly as you have always done.

Be careful out there.



MOUNTAIN HOST OPERATIONS

Jan Silagi, Mountain Host Director, HS 60054

Be careful what you wish for... we all wished for snow, and boy we got it! It is a rare year when all the resorts on Mt. Hood open during the same week. We opened dispatch for the first shifts of the season on December 18th at Timberline, Summit Pass, and Skibowl, and did on-hill training with our apprentices the same day.

It was a busy weekend, but exciting to get up on the hill.

Many thanks to our Supervisors who have been managing early season shifts and to all the Hosts who have stepped up and dispatched during these winter break weeks.

Now that the winter holidays are behind us I hope you will all consult your calendars and dispatch for regular shifts. Our minimum requirement is 10 shifts per winter season, so don't let the time slip away before you schedule those dates!

Apprentice Training

Our apprentices were on the hill training at Timberline, Summit Pass, and Skibowl on December 18th. This long day of training included skiing/riding skills evaluations as well as an orientation at all three resorts to become familiar with duty stations and procedures at each. We were a bit soggy by the end of the day due to constant rain, but it was a good day overall.

Our apprentices are now able to dispatch for shifts and work with veteran Hosts to further build their skillset. Please say hi to them when you see them. All can be identified by the Host bib uniform they are wearing. (See photo next page!)

Dr. MLK Jr. Day

Monday January 17th, 2022 is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will have full dispatch open on this three-day, federal holiday weekend. Hope to see you then!

And finally... happy 2022 to you all! I wish you good health, a long snow season, and happy times this year!





Host Apprentices training at Skibowl on December 18th.

From left to right: Patroller Scott Minton, Hosts Bill Johnson, Frank Joyce, and Laura Pederson, Host Apprentices Lisa Alexander, Robert Austin, Jeff Alexander, Chris Barrar, Lance Wells, and Jeanie Ritz.

Not pictured, Host Apprentice Rae Ritacco.

Photo by Jan Silagi

AVY PROGRAM UPDATE

Mike Levis, Avalanche Program Coordinator, AS 1742

Avy Awareness Wrapping Up Soon!!

If you are an Associate Patroller, or a Hill Patroller over 65, you need to take Avy Awareness every three years.

We have run three cohorts (October 15th, November 15th, December 15th) this year. If you missed all three cohorts, and are still planning on patrolling, you need to contact me ASAP to make arrangements to complete this requirement.

Gearing Up For Avy 1

Avy 1 starts January 5th. If you are a rookie Hill or Nordic Patroller, or an Associate who is interested in raising your Avy skills to the next level, you should be dispatching for this.

Please dispatch for ALL classroom days (January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th) as well as the field weekend (January 29th & 30th) and ONE (and ONLY ONE) Avy 1 refresher (February 12th, February 27th, or March 27).

Avy 1 Refreshers

Hill patrollers are required to take an Avy 1 refresher every three years. If you are due, please dispatch now for one of the three Avy 1 refresher dates available February 12, February 27 and March 27.

Avy 2 Planning Underway

Avy 2 preparation is well underway. If you are interested in taking Avy 2 this year, please dispatch. The classroom session is March 5th, and field dates are March 12th, 13th, 19th and 27th.

All The New Snow Is Leading Is Increasing Avalanche Risk

All the new snow is increasing the avalanche risk on Mt. Hood. According to the [NWAC forecast](#) of December 21st, 2021.

“Storm slab avalanches won’t be as easy to trigger on Tuesday, but the potentially very large size should give you pause. Give the snowpack time to heal, sticking to open slopes less than 35 degrees and simple terrain where you limit your overhead exposure. At lower elevations warm up, pay attention to changes to the surface snow or rollerballs to avoid small wet loose avalanches on steep slopes.”

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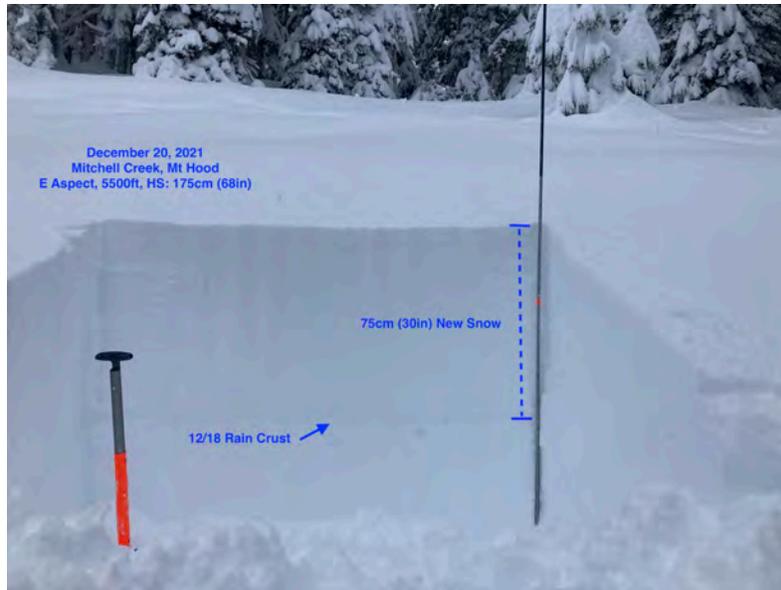
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With a lot more snow on the way, be careful out there. Pay attention to Avy conditions at the start of your shift and be aware of the terrain you are traveling on.



On December 20th, 2021, a test dig was done at Mitchell Creek, Mt Hood. The dig was an E Aspect, 5500 ft, HS: 175cm (68 in). (For reference Timberline lodge is at 5900 ft.)



On December 20th, 2021 a skier triggered a small avalanche (D1) that broke 4-6in deep within new snow near Vista Ridge (6200ft, E aspect).

Photo: Andrew Kiefer

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON

Matt Rea, Senior Trustee, HC 1138

The annual process for nominating and electing a new slate of officers to serve on the MHSP Executive Council for the 2022/2023 season has begun. Anybody interested in the details of that process should review the [MHSP Bylaws](#), Article III, Executive Council, Section 3, "Term and Election" and the [MHSP Policies and Procedures](#), Section 3.4, "Election of Officers." Both of those documents are available on the MHSP wiki page.

In a nutshell, the process began in November with formation of a Nominating Committee. From November through March, we work to identify and nominate qualified candidates for each open position on the Council. Nominations will close on March 22nd, which is 20 days prior to our General Membership Meeting on April 11th, 2022. An electronic voting process will occur between late March and April 11th (more details on that later). The newly elected Executive Council will take office on June 1st, 2022.

The members of the Nominating Committee approved by vote of the members attending the November 8th General Membership meeting are:

- Matt Rea, Senior Trustee, Committee Chair, Skibowl APC, Bike Patroller
- Scott Collier, Hill Captain, Timberline Team Member
- Joan Turner, Associate Supervisor, Timberline Team Member
- Steve Bonham, Hill Captain, Meadows Team Member
- Michael Cummings, Associate and Nordic Patroller, Meadows and Teacup Lake teams
- Rick Anderson, Mountain Host

The Nominating Committee represents the broad cross-section of our member categories (Hill, Associate, Nordic, and Bike patrollers, and Mountain Hosts), and teams from all of the areas we support on the mountain. It is the responsibility of the Committee to nominate at least one qualified member for each office to be filled. It is also the duty of the Nominating Committee to secure the agreement of proposed nominees and to assure that all nominees meet the specified minimum requirements for the office for which they are nominated.

Any currently active member with a minimum of three (3) years as a member in good standing (as of swearing in of the new Council in June 2022) is qualified to run for a Council position. We encourage anybody who is interested in running for one of the Council positions to contact any member of the Nominating Committee. The Committee is also very interested in hearing your ideas about members who you believe have the right skills and experience to serve on the Council.

The Council positions that are open for the upcoming election and the additional eligibility requirements for each are:

- President: all active patrollers
- Vice President: all active patrollers
- Secretary: all active patrollers and mountain hosts
- Treasurer: all active patrollers and mountain hosts
- First-Aid Chief: all active patrollers
- Patrol Chief: all active patrollers within the Hill Patroller category
- Associate Director: all active patrollers within the Associate Patroller category
- Nordic Director: all active patrollers within the Nordic Patroller category
- Mountain Host Director: all active Mountain Hosts
- Junior Trustee: all active patrollers

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Except for the Trustee positions, all Council position are elected for a one-year term which may be reelected for up to four consecutive terms in the same position. Trustees are elected for a three-year term serving consecutively as Junior, Middle, and Senior Trustee. The Trustees provide continuity and organizational knowledge on the Council and are expected to be senior members who preferably have previous experience as a member of Council or other MHSP leadership experience.

President

- Cleo Howell
- ?

Vice President

- **No Nominees at this time**
- ?

Secretary

- Courtney Walsh
- ?

Treasurer

- Lee Hall
- ?

Patrol Chief

- Dave Winterling
- ?

First-Aid Chief

- Matt Wood
- ?

Associate Director

- John Howard
- ?

Host Director

- Jan Silagi
- ?

Nordic Director

- **No Nominees at this time**
- ?

Junior Trustee

- Steve Potter
- ?

The Committee believes that our organization is strengthened by having multiple candidates for our membership to choose from for each position.

IN-PERSON OEC CLASSES STARTING

Will Pardy, First-Aid Chief, HC 1744

OEC Instructors, Assistants, and those who want to help with the new OEC class.

In-Person OEC Class training begins on Tuesday evening January 11th, 2022 and continues every Tuesday evening through mid-May.

Here is our [Training schedule - Brief](#). Please understand that this is a living document and is subject to change based on availability of the best instructors on specific dates. Also, this document is subject to change to allow this year's new instructors to get signed off. It is work in progress.

As for the OEC In-Person training:

- Class starts at 1900 and can potentially run to 2200 (although I prefer shorter classes.). **Arrive before 1850.**
- The location of the class is at [The Mountain Shop](#)
- Study traffic patterns in advance so you don't get stuck in traffic.
- Dates are now on dispatch. Feel free to sign up. However do not sign up for the 1/4/22 class.
- As of last tour of The Mountain Shop, we will be entering from the lower back entrance of the building.
- Note: As of right now, the class shows on dispatch spanning Tuesday and Wednesday - which is NOT correct. It is being worked on, but you can still dispatch until it shows correctly on dispatch.

****Masks and temperature checks are required.****

CALENDAR

January

- 3 Council Meeting (virtual), 1900-2200; contact Courtney Walsh (secretary@mthoodskipatrol.org)
- 10 General Meeting (virtual), 1900-2030 (tinyurl.com/MHSPGeneralMeeting)
- 11 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
- 18 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
- 25 *The Sweep* Newsletter deadline, 1800
- 25 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
- 29 Avalanche 1 Field Session, 0800-1600, Skibowl
- 30 Avalanche 1 Field Session, 0800-1600, Skibowl

February

- 7 Council Meeting (virtual), 1900-2200; contact Courtney Walsh (secretary@mthoodskipatrol.org)
- 8 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
- 15 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
- 15 General Meeting (virtual), 1900-2030 (tinyurl.com/MHSPGeneralMeeting)
- 22 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
- 25 *The Sweep* Newsletter deadline, 1800

March

- 1 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
 - 7 Council Meeting (virtual), 1900-2200; contact Courtney Walsh (secretary@mthoodskipatrol.org)
 - 8 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
 - 10 General Meeting (virtual), 1900-2030 (tinyurl.com/MHSPGeneralMeeting)
 - 15 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
 - 22 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
 - 22 Council Nominations Close
 - 25 *The Sweep* Newsletter deadline, 1800
 - 29 OEC Class (in-person), 1900 @ The Mountain Shop
-