



The Sweep

November 2021

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

THANK YOU to all who have finished the required fall training such as the OEC Refresher, CPR skills demonstration, Chair Evacuation Training, Nordic Refresher, and Avalanche Awareness.

Forgive me if I missed a training session that you participated in. I am totally amazed at the level of training that is required now to be a ski patroller. Thank you for keeping up your skills.

There are a few patrollers who were unable to attend an OEC Refresher because the owner of the facility where the refreshers were held had a strict requirement that all persons entering the building be vaccinated. We were fortunate to be able to use that facility for the refreshers.

A huge thank you to Matt Wood and Furuno USA.

I am aware that some of you chose not to get vaccinated for a variety of reasons. That is your personal choice. There are also many patrollers who have expressed gratitude that the MHSP leadership has chosen to enforce vaccination requirements and mask wearing at the refreshers.

We are trying to set an example and follow guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority and executive orders from Governor Brown.

I do not want to lose any patrollers over the vaccination issue. Many of the OEC instructors have agreed to help with another OEC Refresher to accommodate those patrollers who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19.

That refresher will be on November 13th in the Clackamas area.

The current governor's executive order requires that all health care providers be fully vaccinated. We as volunteer ski patrollers fall into this category. Being fully vaccinated means that you have received a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or one dose of a single-dose vaccine and at least 14 days have passed since your final dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

As of the time that I am writing this article Mt. Hood Meadows and Timberline Lodge will be enforcing the vaccination requirement for paid and volunteer patrollers.

SNOWVANA

The Snowvana Ski and Snowboard event will be November 19th-21st at the Oregon Convention Center. This is one of our biggest fundraising and recruiting events. Please mark your calendar and try to volunteer at least one shift at the event.

See article by Jan Silagi for more details.

Cleo Howell, MHSP Council President



<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pg.</u>
Area Operating Hours	2
General Meeting Times.....	2
OEC Refreshers.....	3
Clothing Committee.....	3
Awards Committee	4
Mountain Operations.....	5
Associate Operations	7
Mtn Host Operations.....	7
Avy Program Update.....	9
OET (Toboggan) Refreshers....	10
Snowvana	11
Events Calendar	13

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Affiliated with the National Ski Patrol

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Patrolling Area Operations/Showtimes:

<u>Skibowl:</u> Closed.	<u>Timberline:</u> Closed	<u>Meadows:</u> Closed	<u>Summit:</u> Closed	<u>Teacup:</u> Closed
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NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Courtney Walsh, Council Secretary, HC 1833

The November General Meeting will be held virtually (via Zoom) on Monday November 8th, at 1900.

Connection Information (can also be found on the [MHSP Google Calendar](#))

tinyurl.com/MHSPGeneralMeeting

Use passcode (if prompted): 757929

See you there!

OEC REFRESHERS – PROCEEDING WITH CAUTION

Matt Wood, 2021 Refresher Manager, HC/AP #1768

All,

Thank you to all the amazing instructors who spent so much time putting on a high-quality “Hands-On/Socially Distanced” Refresher. Thanks to the many patrollers who got all the online work done and attended one of the in-person refreshers. We hope it was engaging, educational, and maybe even a little fun. It was good to see so many (masked) faces over the three days of Refreshers!

What comes next:

- If you have completed the refresher and other training requirements to date for your Patroller class, you will soon receive an email from NSP prompting you to pay your dues. Please pay your dues promptly – late fees apply after 12/31/21.
- If you were not able to complete the refresher for whatever reason:
 - If you intend NOT to refresh this year and defer to next year, *you will be required to make up this refresher cycle next year in full*. Please make sure you contact the Patrol Chief, Associate Director, or Nordic Director to confirm your status for 2021-22 and please be sure to pay MHSP dues and NSP Alumni dues to keep on our rolls!
 - It is not widely publicized but patrollers can make up “up to” three refreshers. If you are delinquent more than 3 years, you will be required to go through the complete OEC class. So, even if you need to take a year or two off of active patrolling, it is ALWAYS a good idea to keep up your OEC certification!
 - If you DO intend to refresh this year, we are working to offer ONE additional refresher that will not require proof of vaccination. Date/Time/Details and Venue are TBD. Whatever the case – Please make sure to pay your MHSP dues!
 - STAY TUNED for an email on the additional refresher.



The big take-away? **STAY ENGAGED AND PAY YOUR MHSP AND NSP DUES** if you intend to return to active duty with MHSP at some point, even if not this year!

I can be reached for any questions or concerns at vicepresident@mthoodskipatrol.org.

CLOTHING COMMITTEE

Matt Wood, 2021, MHSP Vice President, HC/AP #1768

New coats and pants are in and we have a limited number of packs as well.

Coats

We have limited supply of the older coat style. These are the coats we have had for a few years now. There is a limited quantity of both Men’s and Women’s sizes, some with crosses and some without. These older coats are still \$180 apiece.

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The new coats this year are made with a new “super-fabric” and are a little more expensive at \$230 apiece. These coats came plain – no crosses and were available only in Men’s/Unisex sizing.

Pants

New pants are in, we have a good variety of sizes, all Unisex at \$180 apiece.

Packs

Unfortunately, pickings were slim this year. TNF had no small packs (28L) available at all – sorry! As of this edition of *The Sweep*, we have about 15 of the 40L packs in the L/XL frame size and just 2-3 of the 40L pack in the S/M frame size. Packs are \$80 apiece.

We still have plenty of tees and sweatshirts and are reordering hats soon. Look for a clothing committee popup coming soon in November – December in a covered location in central PDX.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Matt Wood, MHSP Vice President, AP/HC #1768

Years of Service Pins – Makeup Time!

As we handed out years of service (YOS) certificates and pins this year, it rapidly became apparent that not everyone in every class received their recognition and for that – we apologize! We are working now to reconcile both NSP and MHSP Years of Service lists, find out what (and who!) we missed and generate the missing certs and get pins on order

MHSP will get the most recent YOS pin and certificate for patrollers that were missed. For example, if we missed your 15-year pin, we will get that for you! Remember, at any time, Patrollers can order their own prior anniversary replacement YOS pins.

NSP Years of Service – if you are missing a recent certificate and pin, please contact me at vicepresident@mthoodskipatrol.org with your NSP patroller # and join date and the most recent pin you are due (5, 10, 15, etc.).

MHSP Years of Service – we still intend to award the MSHP YOS pins but have run into some sad roadblocks. Unfortunately, since our jeweler Klein Jeweler went out of business due to the pandemic and struggles in downtown PDX, we are without a vendor for these pins at this time. Please “stay tuned” for more on the MHSP pins as we find new vendors.



Three of our ‘feather’ banners. Two on the left are new and the right one is one of our current ones.

Thanks to Terry Niedermeyer and his banner company.

Photo by Dave Winterling

MOUNTAIN OPERATIONS

Dave Winterling, Patrol Chief, HP 1806

Fellow Members,

Hopefully this is the last article in *The Sweep* where we're talking about the "coming 21/22 winter season." When you receive the December issue of *The Sweep*, I'm looking forward to including a recap of our first patrol days in November.

First, as we wrap up our "off season," an acknowledgement of our fellow members who work so hard this time of year to keep MHSP ready for hill operations:

- Matt Wood and his instructor team who prepped and ran the October OEC refreshers.
- Michael Cummings, for his support in setting up and administering the online survey for patroller intentions and team preferences.
- Dave Miller, who continues to make dozens of improvements to improve the functionality and data-management features of Troopiter.
- Wendy Stuart and Mike Cullen, who are currently well into setting up the many different pieces of the winter Troopiter schedule - weekend team operations, winter break/holiday schedules, apprentice hill training schedules, avy and toboggan and other training clinic schedules, Host schedules, etc.
- Mark Ripkey, for his great work facilitating the CPR program.
- Lee Hall, for the many hours he puts into processing and documenting our dues payments.
- The APCs, hill captains, and associate supervisors who ran the on-hill chair evac sessions and are working now and into November to set up and launch team operations.
- And of course, Kathy Lee, who provides massive support for the OEC refreshers, the OEC apprentice class, the Dispatch Management Committee, plus tracking and summarizing the annual training and dues for each individual patroller so that we correctly manage "active" status. Where would we be without Super-Kathy?

These efforts are behind the scenes, but the hours invested are real and significant. Please give these fellow members a big thanks, when you communicate with them or see them on the hill.



Looking forward, we plan to have "teams" dispatch complete by November 15th and will open up dispatch for all patrollers on November 22nd - an e-mail announcement will come out at that time.

Our fundraising and recruiting efforts are getting a nice boost with a new trade show backdrop screen and a couple of new MHSP feather banners that will be used at our Snowvana booth in November, and at other recruiting and on-hill events.

Glen Anderson and Alaina Waller sifted through hundreds of photos to select good, updated action shots of all our member groups, and Terry Niedermeyer's company is doing the artwork and manufacturing.

Many thanks; this will be a nice upgrade to our "trade show" presence.

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John Gastineau has provided great assistance on selecting, purchasing, and programming some new radios as needed replacements, plus some repairs. This will have a real positive impact on every patrol day

Our training leaders have set up a comprehensive training schedule for the winter season, covering avy, toboggan, and other topics. Be on the lookout for announcements for individual sessions, and make sure to dispatch for the training events you need or want to complete.

If you haven't seen the announcement yet, Timberline is combining ski operations with Summit, resulting in the biggest "vertical" of any ski area in North America (from the top of Palmer down to Government Camp).

This means that the Alpine Trail will be groomed during the winter season, and there will be an enhanced shuttle schedule to get guests back uphill to Timberline. Some details on how this will impact patrol operations are still to be worked out - e.g. 10-50 logistics and who gets to sweep Alpine. This is a great change - new ways for guests to enjoy the mountain plus a return to the 1930's roots of MHSP, patrolling the trails connecting Government Camp to Timberline.

Stay safe, Dave W

MT. HOOD SKI PATROL

Volunteers since 1937

- Hill Patrollers
- Associate Patrollers
- Nordic Patrollers
- Mountain Hosts
- Bike Patrol

www.mthoodskipatrol.org

PHOTO Eric Carlson
DONATED DisplayStar

This is our new tradeshow backdrop. First outing will be at Snowvana 2021, November 19th.

ASSOCIATE OPERATIONS

John Howard, Associate Director, AS 90227

Thank you to all for attending the OEC refreshers. Your participation made them a success.

Thanks to Matt Wood and Furuno for hosting this years' refreshers.

Matt Adamosky has agreed to be the new Assistant Patrol Chief (APC), succeeding Mike Levis, at Skibowl. Thank you, Mike, for your time and service.

Mask Fitting

As MHSP is not bound by OSHA guidelines, the Executive Council has changed the Mask Fit Test policy for the Patrol. Only those members who have not been previously fit tested and all new members will be required to have an N95 Mask Fit Test. Please visit the Wiki to read the [N95 FAQs \(fourth revision\)](#).

If you have been previously fit tested there is no need for annual fit testing. MHSP is providing new 3M N95 masks to all patrollers. If I missed you at one of the refreshers, reach out to me and I will make arrangements to get you a new mask.

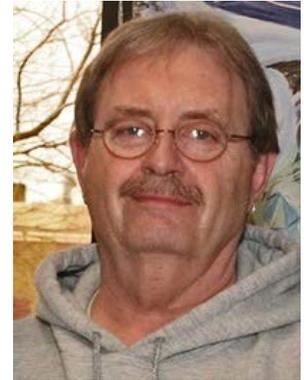
If you did not use your mask from last year, you will now have two.

Teams

Finally, Teams for the various areas are in the process of being finalized. If you want to be on a team and have not indicated that previously, please reach out to Dave Winterling or myself to see what teams have openings.

Thanks again.

John Howard



MOUNTAIN HOST OPERATIONS

Jan Silagi, Mountain Host Director, HS 60054

We are pleased to welcome back for the 2021-2022 season, several members who stepped away from volunteering last season due to the pandemic! We are back to more typical duties this season, with modified COVID-19 protocols.

Fall Refresher training has wrapped up for the season and most of our Host members have completed recertification for CPR. We are well on our way to getting up on the hill!

Several Hosts participated in chairlift evacuation exercises at Timberline and Skibowl in October. My thanks to those of you who volunteered to be evacuated. Chairlift evacuation is one of many skills that our patrol colleagues must recertify every year and the more 'civilians' who can load the chairs, the faster all the patrollers can refresh their skills.

This month we are focusing on interviewing apprentices for the coming season. We will begin 'in-town' training at the end of the month and will proceed with on-hill training in mid-December.

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Our start date at Timberline is December 1st, 2021, unless there is enough snow for chairs to be turning on Thanksgiving Day! If the snow supports the resort opening, the four-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend will be our launch date.

In the meantime, please dispatch for a shift to help out at the Snowvana Show later this month. This is the only winter sports trade show in the Portland Metro area this year, and it is the largest opportunity for us to sell SnoPark Permits for fundraising. The dates for the 2021 show are November 19th, 20th, and 21st. Look at the article about Snowvana in this issue of *The Sweep*.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the mountain!

Jan



Bill Hof being evacuated from Multorpor chair on Saturday, October 16th, 2021.

Photo by Rick Anderson.

AVY PROGRAM UPDATE

Mike Levis, Avalanche Program Coordinator, AS 1742

It's Time For Avy Awareness!!

We have just completed the first Avy Awareness cohort, with 22 people signing up for the course. We are getting great reviews on the new Avy Awareness video (thanks, Har Rai!) and the new format for the course.

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

This year, we have revamped the way we teach Avy Awareness. The class has been recorded and is now available as a YouTube video.

To complete the Avy Awareness requirement:

- 1). Register on dispatch for one (and only one) of the Avy awareness classes.
- 2). On the class date (e.g November 15th) you will receive an email with a link to a YouTube video.
- 3). Watch the video within 30 days
- 4). Email me when you have watched the video.
- 5). I mark you as complete on dispatch once I get your email confirming you have watched the video.

Avy 1 starts in January

Avalanche level 1 starts January 5th.

If you are a Rookie Hill or Nordic Patroller, you need to sign up for this.

Sign up for:

- all four (4) classroom sessions,
- both days of the field session (January 29th and 30th) and
- one (and only one!) of the Avy 1 refresher days (either February 12th, February 27th or March 27th).

All of the above are available on dispatch now.

The latest advice from NWAC

NWAC has released their early season avalanche advisory.

"When dealing with early-season avalanche hazards the bottom-line is simple: If there's enough snow to ride, there's enough snow to slide. Approach steep smooth snow-covered slopes with caution and bring your avalanche rescue gear. Don't let the date on the calendar fool you when you encounter winter-like conditions; early season avalanche fatalities have occurred.

You are most likely to encounter early season avalanche hazards in higher elevation terrain, on permanent snowfields, and in wind-loaded pockets. This can pose a dilemma since these are frequently the same locations where early-season recreational opportunities exist. Pay attention to how much snow is on the ground and where the wind may pile the snow deeper. Limited information this time of year can make assessing avalanche hazard more difficult. When you find a steep smooth snowy slope assume it could avalanche, take time to make observations, and consider lower angle terrain. Early season conditions harbor numerous obstacles and can make even small avalanches deadly by carrying you through rocks, into trees, or over cliffs."



OET (TOBOGGAN) REFRESHERS

Heather Van Houten, Wy'east Regional OET Advisor, MHSP #1793

Just like your OEC Refresher, the OET (Toboggan) Refresher is required every year by all hill patrollers. Just like the OEC Refresher, it is YOUR responsibility to dispatch and partake in an OET Refresher.

For many years we have added alternatives to getting all hill patrollers signed off for their OET Refresher besides offering Toboggan Enhancement Seminars (TESs), like having the toboggan instructors at the areas to get people signed off. This has proven challenging over the years since the toboggan instructors are busy training though the middle of the season, and it takes us all season to get everyone signed off.

TES's are the official NSP course for OET Refreshers; as in past years, we will be offering these clinics multiple times throughout the season. The sessions will now be how Hill Patrollers maintain their OET status, so please take the initiative to sign up on dispatch and participate in a TES!!

This year we will be offering a TES every month. These training clinics will be posted on Dispatch early November:

December 19th, 2021- Timberline – this is a B Team day for patrol

January 15th, 2022 - Mt. Hood Meadows – this is an A Team day for patrol

February 6th, 2022 - Skibowl – this is a D Team day for patrol

March 5th, 2022- Women's Clinic – MHM – this is a C Team day for patrol

April 2nd-3rd, 2022 – 350 Clinic – 1st day at Timberline (C Team day) , 2nd day at MHM (D Team day).

These dates have been coordinated with the Team schedule so, for example, if you patrol on a B Team Day you can dispatch for a TES on another day besides 12/19/21 when you are not patrolling.

Will we have OET Instructors available to sign members off if you do not participate in a TES? Yes, BUT there is no guarantee of when and where they will be at the areas to run sleds with patrollers. You CAN participate in a Senior Clinic training day BUT you will have to coordinate with me in advance. There will be a limited number of extra patrollers allowed and you need to plan on participating for the entire day.

We have a large class of Hill Apprentices this year, so OET Instructors will be very busy and may not have time to get your OET Refresher sign-off done. So please don't ask them. Coordinate with Kevin Havre for any sign-off that is not part of a TES.

If you have any questions about OET Refreshers, please contact me or Kevin Havre so we can talk about it.



SNOWVANA IS BACK!

Jan Silagi, Snowvana Co-Coordinator, MHSP #60054

After a year away due to the pandemic, the 2021 Snowvana show is scheduled for November 19th, 20th, and 21st. Snowvana has acquired the SkiFever and Snowboard Show, resulting in the largest winter recreation trade show in the Portland Metro area. The show has extended its hours from two days to three days, and will now include a Ski Swap.

Mt. Hood Ski Patrol will have a booth at the show once again and will be the only vendor to sell the 2021-2022 Oregon SnoPark Permits. This is our major fundraiser for the year, as well as a valuable opportunity to recruit new members and educate the public regarding winter recreation safety.

Additionally, in exchange for volunteer labor to help set up the Ski Swap on Thursday, November 18th, and help to tear it down on Sunday, November 21st, Snowvana will make a direct donation to Mt Hood Ski Patrol.

The Oregon Convention Center has put in place several protocols to assure a safe environment for the show. Two important protocols are that the show will be held in the largest space at the convention center, allowing wider walkways between the booths and event features, and **all participants working or volunteering at the show must be fully vaccinated.**

In addition, all guests of the show must be vaccinated, or show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of entry to the venue. Per mandates by the Oregon Health Authority, everyone must be wearing a mask.

All **fully vaccinated** MHSP members may dispatch for shifts. If you wish to flex your muscles outside of show hours to help set up, or tear down the Ski Swap, look for shifts on Thursday, or Sunday. If you wish to help meet and greet the public, sell SnoPark Permits, and educate winter recreationists, look for shifts Friday, Saturday and Sunday during show hours. You may dispatch for multiple shifts, and multiple days.

Here are the dates and times of available shifts:

- Thursday, November 18th – Set up Ski Swap
 - 0900-1300 (4 hours)
 - 1300-1700 (4 hours)
- Friday, November 19th – MHSP booth
 - 1530-1830 (3 hours)
 - 1800-2100 (3 hours)
- Saturday, November 20th – MHSP booth
 - 1030-1500 (4.5 hours)
 - 1430-1900 (4.5 hours)
- Sunday, November 21st – MHSP booth
 - 1030-1330 (3 hours)
 - 1300-1600 (3 hours)
- Sunday, November 21st – Tear down Ski Swap
 - 1600-2000 (4 hours)

Please wear some kind of MHSP clothing/uniform item and your name tag. We have aprons you may wear with our logos on them also.

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We will ask you to put your smart phone into service to help sell SnoPark Permits. This may require access to your data plan, and Bluetooth connectivity to our card readers. Instructions to set up your device will be provided.

We have a strong relationship with Snowvana, and we want to continue to foster that relationship. Hope you have time in your schedule to participate.

See you there!

Jan



Steven Geisey talks to Snowvana visitors
Snowvana stock photo
Photo by Jan Silagi

CALENDAR

November

- 1 Council Meeting (virtual), 1900-2200; contact Courtney Walsh (secretary@mthoodskipatrol.org)
- 7 Nordic Refresher (0900-1600) @ Teacup Lake
- 8 General Meeting (virtual), 1900-2030 (tinyurl.com/MHSPGeneralMeeting)
- 19-21 Snowvana
- 25 *The Sweep* Newsletter deadline, 1800

December

- 6 Council Meeting (virtual), 1900-2200; contact Courtney Walsh (secretary@mthoodskipatrol.org)
- 13 General Meeting (virtual), 1900-2030 (tinyurl.com/MHSPGeneralMeeting)
- 25 *The Sweep* Newsletter deadline, 1800

January

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