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## **BUTCH MACQUEEN ELECTED TO NSP NATIONAL BOARD**

NY Region Patroller, Butch MacQueen, has been elected to the NSP National Board. Butch is a very familiar face around the region. He has been patrolling for over 45 years, and has been involved with just about every aspect of ski patrol, from Avalanche to Mountain Travel & Rescue. While his accomplishments are too numerous to list here, his most notable achievements are that he is the co-founder of the Nordic Master Program and was awarded nordic Master #002. In 2023, Butch was awarded National Ski Patrol's highest honor, the Minnie Dole Award. Butch's 3 year term began on January 1, 2024.



Butch MacQueen

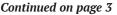
## CHUCK DUNN IS NEW WESTERN NEW YORK REGIONAL DIRECTOR

huck Dunn was elected as the new Western New York Regional Director during the last election. Many of our patrollers have had some opportunity to work with Chuck in the past. Chuck became a Kissing Bridge Patroller in 1997 and is active in Kissing Bridge OEC training and also maintains the Patroller weekly participation records at that resort. He is a long time OEC Instructor, Instructor Trainer and is active in the WNY Region Senior Program, as well as being the current WNY Region OEC Program Administrator. He also maintained the archive of WNY Region Training Records from 2000-2014.

At the NSP National level, he has served on the the NSP National Elections Committee. This is his 3rd year serving on the NSP Education Committee and 2nd year on the NSP Planning Committee. Additionally, he served on the NSP initiative for Change Task Force, the NSP Code of Conduct revision Task Force, was the co-proj-



Chuck Dunn







## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DAN MEESS - WESTERN NY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

s of this mid-February writing, the late-starting winter season has been a roller coaster of ups and downs. Our region conducted a great MTR-1 course at Allegany State Park in early November with 11 students and a half-dozen instructors participating, including two new ones. Monica Lee Zablotny "rocked it" as the Instructor of Record in the words of Mary MacQueen. Thanks to all the instructors! The region offered a Women's Program Event at the Buffalo Ski Center on January 21 with 16 participants. Somehow organizer Barb Cosgrove teamed up with Mother Nature to produce an absolutely beautiful day with some new snow. Thanks Barb! A Level 1 avalanche class was conducted at Allegany State Park on February 18. These all count as Senior electives.

Senior OEC orientation was conducted at Peek 'n Peak on December 16 with 8 Senior candidates starting in the program. The candidates have demonstrated improved skills over the course of the six clinics with the final evaluation at the Buffalo Ski Center on February 24. Many thanks to Sadie Prescott, Senior Training Coordinator, and her team of moulage experts, Trainer/Evaluators and helpers for this program.

The Senior OET schedule kicked off on January 2 and the candidates have been honing their skills Thursday evenings and weekends under the leadership of Thad Brown and his team of TEs. Many thanks to Thad and the team. If you would like to strengthen your skills and learn the

most up to date techniques, I encourage you to participate in the Senior program.

Congratulations are in order for Chuck Dunn and Butch MacQueen. Chuck for being elected as WNY Region Director with his 2-year term beginning April 1 and Butch elected to the NSP National Board with his 3-year term begun January 1, 2024. Thank you both for your outstanding past service and in advance for your future service to our organization. I'd ask that you all support Chuck just as well as I have been supported.

This is my last Fall Line report as Region Director, and I want to thank all the region staff for their exemplary work and my support over the past six years.

Thanks to Chris Porter for volunteering to head up the WNY Awards Banquet Committee and Emily Williams for volunteering as the Fundraising Chair. Thanks also to Molly Pearson for chairing the Memorial Committee for the past few years. The Region Awards Banquet will be held on May 11 at the Dunkirk Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. Sign-up and more details are available on the region's website.

Ralph Estep, the Region's Alumni Advisor, is preparing for our annual Alumni Day on March 1 at Holiday Valley. He has also been working with the Eastern Division Alumni Committee to set up the first ED Alumni and Patroller Celebration at Mount Snow that was held February 11-16, 2024.

A couple of staff changes were made in February. After 14 years and increasing Eastern Division responsibilities, Denice Kaus has turned over the Women's Program reins to Barb Cosgrove. Thanks, Denice, for your outstanding work over this period and to Barb for taking over the leadership role. Butch MacQueen had to step back from Awards Advisor due to his position on the National Board and Ellen Conrad has been appointed to the position. Thank you both!

Speaking of region staff, our expert secretary, Monia Lee Zablotny, has been attempting to find a successor for the past year or so. If you know of a suitable candidate or are interested yourself, please contact Chuck Dunn.

This is my last Fall Line report as Region Director, and I want to thank all the region staff for their exemplary work and my support over the past six years. You all have been a joy to work with and have made my work much easier. Based on the many Eastern Division meetings and events I've participated in over the years, I can say that our Region definitely has some of the best talent in the division and a lot less drama than other regions. A big Thank-You to all patrollers and hosts for your dedication and great service.

Wishing you and your families a great finish to the season with new snow and more sunny days!

Thanks! Dan

## 2024 WNY NSP ALUMNI DAY CELEBRATION

he Western New York Region National Ski Patrol Alumni Day was held this year on Friday, March 1 at Holiday Valley Ski Resort in Ellicottville, NY. The day was sunny and great conditions for skiing with over 40 alumni, friends and family participating. A fun time was had by all as we shared stories, caught up with old friends, made new ones, and were treated to a buffet style cookout meal.

We also took the opportunity to celebrate our long

time Alumni Advisor Joan Reynold's 90th birthday who has decided to step down this year. Joan truly is an "Energized Bunny" that has served as the region's alumni advisor since 1997.

A big "Thank You" is also in order for Holiday Valley management and the Holiday Valley Ski Patrol for hosting the event. Management provided deeply discounted lift tickets and the patrol gave up the use of their family room for the day.

The WNY Region staff is already planning for next year's bash!





## **WESTERN NEW YORK REGION IS ON FACEBOOK**

id you know that the Western New York Region has a FacebookPage? We have had a Facebook page for many years and more recently we have been adding more information and photos from region events there.

If you would like to see more photos from the articles and events listed in this newsletter, many are available. Be sure to let all of you friends and family know about our page, and

feel free to share the posts with others!!

https://www.facebook.com/WNYNSP

#### Chuck Dunn - Continued from page 1

ect manager for Center for Learning Learning Management System implementation, provided LMS end-user support for 8 months following its release and member of the project that last year replaced the NSP Member Management System. Currently he is leading a working group to create an NSP Leadership Development program.

Outside of the NSP, he is a member of both the Niagara and Erie County Medical Reserve Corps, an amateur radio operator holding an Extra Class license (AC2DG).

Prior to retirement, he worked for the University at Buffalo where he was the Director of Technical Services and as such was responsible for central enterprise-wide information technology infrastructure. He then served as the University Information Security Officer as well as a 20 year member of the University's Emergency Management Planning and Oversight Committee. He is a trained ICS All Hazards Logistics Chief.

As the WNY Regional Director, he will serve on the Eastern Division Board of Directors as did his predecessors.

### **BSC SAFETY TABLE AT WARREN MILLER EVENT**

by Erin Francis

n Nov. 14,<sup>th</sup> another successful Warren Miller was hosted by Swain Resort at the Aurora Theater in East Aurora. NSP was invited back to set up a safety table and we had a blast as always. We got to chat with skiers and patrollers from all over WNY, Genesee Valley and far beyond. I chatted with one man who made the trek from Corning! He let us know that this was the closest showing of the movie to him. The movie was a little shorter this year and lacked an intermission but people didn't seem to mind since it didn't take up the whole evening on a Tuesday night. One could tell people still left the movie with that anticipation for a great ski season. There's nothing like the feeling of being on top of a ski mountain and seeing those scenes on that big screen really gives one that teaser taste of the season to come.

We handed out the usual neck gaiters, suckers, and stickers and promoted ski safety and the NSP. I'd like to thank the region again for the wonderful table cover. We now look so professional at these promotions. We were not able to attend 42 North's Gear and Beer this year but hope to again next year. We really love going to theses events and promoting the National Ski Patrol. I keep hearing that NSP needs to increase its presence in the industry. These safety tables may seem small, but if more hills did small things like this, it could really go a long way to helping NSP's image and presence.

I've found the tables don't just help us connect more with our patrons, but with each other as well. My family went out to ski Gore 2 years ago. While on break at the main lodge, I was passed by a person in an inflatable dinosaur costume with a patrol vest on! I followed him outside and sure enough there was a safety table set up and the dinosaur was handing out stickers to the kids. I went over and chatted for quite a while with the patrollers and took



Erin Francis manning the Ski Patrol table

some pictures with the dinosaur. It was great to have the opportunity to chat with the patrollers of Gore. They have a professional and volunteer patrol and it was fascinating to learn how they integrated them.

BSC hopes to set up tables at BSC during January which is ski safety month. We're going to try an idea we heard of setting up on at least 1 busy lesson days outside by where lessons start. We'll have a toboggan, quicksplint and our ski code poster so lesson groups can come over and spend a little time with us if they want. Maybe I can track down and inflatable dinosaur.

I encourage other hills to get out there and set up a table this year. Give out some stickers, Dum Dums and have fun chatting it up with the public. It's a ton of fun and goes a long way to promote ski safety and the NSP. Have a fun and safe ski year everyone.

## INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE HELD AT PEEK'N PEAK

n August 26, 2023 and Instructor Development Course was held at Peek'n Peak Resort. The Instructor Development (ID) Program focuses on the principles of adult learning and provides members with the tools, skills, and resources to ensure quality instructors in all National Ski Patrol disciplines. The ID Program is fundamental to achieving the National Ski Patrol's mission to provide quality education and training to improve the safety of the general public in the pursuit of outdoor activities. The Instructor Development Course is required for and Patroller that wants to become and instructor in any NSP discipline. The following patrollers successfully completed this course. From Holiday Valley; Zachary Amigone, Thomas Grolemund, Neil Held, Ansley Kelly, Rebecca Mansell, Stan Skotnicki, Scott Welka, and David Williams. From Holimont; Doug Anderson & Michael O'Shea. From Buffalo Ski Club; Colleen Murphy. From Peek'n Peak; Chris Dempsey.



## KRISTEN RUSSO APPOINTED NATIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM ADVISER

risten Russo, from the Western New York Region of the Eastern Division, National Ski Patrol has been appointed as the new National Women's Program Adviser.

Kristen joined the National Ski Patrol as a Young Adult Patroller (YAP) in 1996 and is a member of the Holiday Valley Ski Patrol of New York. She was most recently the Eastern Division Women's Program Supervisor and is not only an OET Trainer/Evaluator and member of the Eastern Division Steering Committee, but she is also an Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) and Mountain Travel and Rescue (MTR) instructor. Kristen is both a ski and snowboard patroller and was awarded a National Appointment in 2008. She has attended PSIA/AASI Women's Summit and Powderfall both as a participant and instructor. In her "real life" she is a client success manager at Alcott HR working in human resources.

Kristen is looking forward to continuing the women's program success and expanding women's events to other NSP programs. Congratulations Kristen!!

The NSP Women's Program mission is to empower patrollers by advancing skills and developing leadership

in a women-focused program.

Women's-centered, member-ship-focused, recruitment, retention, skill development and leadership are the women's program main pillars. It aims to support all women through mentorship, acceptance of diversity, examples for women in the industry, drive change within the organization, and guide the future.



Kristen Russo - National Ski Patrol's New National Women's Program Adviser

# DENTON HILL SKI PATROL HOSTS SENIOR OEC CLINIC

he Denton Hill Ski Patrol hosted a Western New York Region Senior OEC Clinic on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024. Between the Denton Hill Patrollers, Senior Candidates and Senior OEC Staff they had 23 individuals at that clinic. DCNR, which operates Denton Hill State Park, is working with Denton Go, LLC, a group of local businessmen, to resume ski operations at the park. This was one of the first events that the Denton Hill Ski Patrol was able to hold at the Denton Hill Lodge in many years. They are hoping to be able to hold many more WNY Region Ski Patrol events at their hill in the future.



### **ENHANCED PATROLLER SCHOOL**

▼ xplosions! Airplane crashes! Screaming Injured peo-• ple! Along with great training, good Patroller fellow-▲ ship, camping, and great food! If that sounds like a good time to you, you should be attending the Enhanced Patrollers Schools that are conducted every year by our friends at the Genesee Valley Region. This year's Enhanced Patroller School was held at Hunt Hollow Ski Area from Friday, August 25th to Sunday, August 27th. Jeff Baker and Tom Wallin have been organizing these training events since 2011. Jim Nickerson and Joe Menichino have been right there planning and working since the beginning as well. From year to year they bring in additional patrollers from around the Division to help act as guides and gurus because they have the expertise in the different modules they are planning for the given year. These typically include Low Angle Rescue, Chair Evacuation, Outdoor Emergency Care, Risk Management, and more.

This 3-day event typically starts on Friday with many folks registering and setting up their campsite in the early afternoon. Around 3:00 there is a safety briefing along with introductions. The Friday afternoon activities include gear checks, knot tying, dinner and Fire Pit talks well into the evening. Saturday is consumed with practicing various Patroller skills including OEC skills, Chair Evac, and Low Angle Rescue. The weekend culminates on Sunday morning with a huge simulated Mass Casualty Exercise where all the skills that have been practiced on Friday and Saturday are used. This year's simulated MCI was centered around an airplane crashing at a ski resort, clipping the haul cable on the chair lift, and knocking people from the chairlift to the ground.

The crux of the concept of an Enhanced Patroller School is making patrollers of any level better by improving their skills so they ultimately become a more valuable resource and provide value to the areas that they work for. They look at as many areas of patrolling that a patroller can come in contact with and try to provide training and experience in those areas.





Jeff Baker



Tom Wallin - applying final touches



Joe Menichino



Jim Nickerson - in character as one of the patients

Another concept of the Enhanced Patroller School is that everyone has something to offer. Whether it be patrolling experience, life experience, climbing experience, work experience, skill sets, etc. We can all learn from each other and apply these skills to our jobs as patrollers. That's why there are no instructors at this school. There are station guides or gurus that are there to keep the train moving during the station rotations. Each of the stations that are put out each year have certain "goals" in mind, be that skill based, equipment based, or knowledge based. They have tried with each successive year to build in current topics or hot button issues, most recently unseated passengers. Several years ago it was active shooters. In other years it was incapacitated persons up in a chair among others.

Jeff has also been instrumental in bringing in outside expertise to give their take on things such as their procedures, equipment, and training which may be beneficial to us as patrollers as well as interacting with local EMS agencies and systems. They have had people from Fire Departments, Ambulance Corps, paramedics, paramedic trainers, law enforcement, high angle rope teams, Search *Continued on Page 7* 

#### Patroller's School - cont. from page 6

and Rescue teams and backcountry rescue teams come and help out. Again, they are learning and interacting with these agencies from a cooperative perspective rather than an adversarial position. What can we learn from other people to make us more effective as patrollers? What equipment is out there that will make it easier and safer for our line patrollers to do their jobs?

Jeff started the school on Keuka Lake with some help from Tom and then they have had wonderful support from ski areas such as Blue Mountain, Bristol Mountain, Holiday Valley, and Hunt Hollow allowing them to use their facilities and have access to their lifts for Chair evacuation. The schools have had similar formats over the years though some of the modules do change or rotate from time to time. There is always an OEC module focusing on assessment and the core skills that we use as patrollers. This station works on refining assessment skills by making them faster and more efficient without missing anything. You will also see new equipment that patrollers may not have seen before like a Slishman traction splint, or this year it was a new type of pelvic sling. Low Angle Rope rescue



is a perpetual favorite with this course so it stays in the rotation. Patrollers like tying knots and bringing injured persons up the hill with ropes.

Chair Evac is also one of the perennial modules as it is something that we are tasked with as patrollers. This is the only area of patrolling that, if things go sideways during an evac, there could be life altering consequences. With recent updates in best practices, most recently with unseated passenger rescue procedures being scrutinized by states and insurance companies, bringing updates and information about lift evacuation changes and information like the Aerial Evacuation Resource Guide has been important. They have also had Risk Management modules, now Outdoor Risk Management in past years. This year they added Search and Rescue which is a topic that we as patrollers are tasked with doing but it rarely gets studied in depth.

The whole purpose of the Mass Casualty Incident drill

at the end is to put the skills and techniques that they have worked on over the span of the course into immediate practical use. MCI's are covered in the OEC refresher cycle once every three years, but how many of us could pull one off if it happened at our respective areas? It also gives the patrollers in attendance the opportunity to see interaction with EMS agencies whether that be Fire departments, Ambulance corps, or law enforcement agencies. These are learning opportunities for the patrollers and the goal is



Tom Wallin's moulage from the Active Shooter Training Incident simulation

that they learn something and take something home with them. No MCI drill ever goes perfectly and it usually hits the fan about 5 minutes in. If the patrollers listen to the feedback from the outside agencies that are critiquing the drill, both the things that went well, and more importantly the things that did not go well, then the patrollers have lessons that they can bring back to their patrols and start a discussion with their patrol leaders and their area management.

The most memorable drill for Tom was the one at Blue Mountain where the area specifically asked them to run an *Continued on Page 8* 



Another photo of Tom Wallin's moulage. This is an open mid-femur fracture from this year's Mass Casualty Incident Simulation

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#### Patroller's School - cont. from Page 7

active shooter drill. The Pennsylvania State police came in and gave a presentation to the group about what was going to happen during and after an incident. This discussion was eye opening for everyone. When the drill began it was interesting to watch the reactions of the Patrollers. They were chomping at the bit to go out and help people but the scene was not safe and the State Police would not allow anyone out until they gave the all clear. Tom noted that he was really happy how his gun shot moulage came out. If you have attended any of these events, you will know that when it comes to moulage, no one does it better than Tom. He is truly the "Moulage Master". His knack for coming up with real-looking wounds and injuries is amazing. Tom says that as far as moulage goes, he started in Jeff's shadow by helping him and doing some small stuff. It didn't hurt that he had some creative little kids at the time, that were always coming up with some



really interesting Halloween costume ideas and he would think "How am I supposed to do that?" YouTube has been a big help as far as ideas, techniques, and material ideas from the many FX channels that he follows.

When it comes to attendance at these events, they had around 25-30 attendees in the beginning and it has been up close to around 70. As far as overall total number of patrollers at this course they are not sure of the total number. At this year's event they had 51 attendees from 9 different Regions, 8 different states, and 20 different patrols. The actual planning of these events starts during the ski season when they start making inquiries about potential ski areas that are willing to host the event. The programming planning of the event usually starts in earnest in April.

This school has always been a low pressure, hands on, try stuff, get your hands dirty (or bloody), ask questions type of event. They have always wanted it accessible to patrollers of any level, including Candidates, Basic Patrollers, Senior Candidates, Senior Patrollers, and Certified.



They want everyone to have fun, learn stuff, and take ideas back to their home patrols. With patrollers coming from all around the Division, as you sit around the fire pit talking at night, you get the interchange of ideas and techniques from many other Patrollers.

Maybe the weekend answers a question that you might have. Maybe it sparks an idea for a procedure that your patrol has been struggling with lately. Maybe you saw some new equipment that you have never seen or used before and it made the difference for you. It is a networking event. They feed everyone that comes to the event and they feed everyone well. They have never wanted food at this event to be the reason they didn't learn anything or had a bad time. They have always said that if you go home hungry at the end of the weekend, it's your own fault.

Jeff Baker patrols at Bristol Mountain, Tom Wallin and Joe Menichino patrol at Swain Resort and Jim Nickerson patrols at Hunt Hollow Resort.





## **2024 SENIOR OEC FINAL EVALUATION**

he 2024 Senior Outdoor Emergency Care Final Evaluation was held on Saturday, March 2nd at Buffalo Ski Center. Sadie Prescott, WNY Senior OEC Program Coordinator, and her staff spent many hours working with the Senior OEC candidates at clinics in January and February. Congratulations to out to all six new Senior Patrollers! Charles Armstrong - Peek'n Peak, Kate Tedesco - Holimont, Shawn Patterson – Holiday Valley, Barbara Saikia – Buffalo Ski Center, Rich Randall – Buffalo Ski Center, Ansley Kelly – Holiday Valley.



Pictured from Left to Right; Charles Armstrong - Peek'n Peak, Kate Tedesco - Holimont, Shawn Patterson – Holiday Valley, Barbara Saikia – Buffalo Ski Center, Rich Randall – Buffalo Ski Center, Ansley Kelly – Holiday Valley.



Even our volunteer patients seem to be having a good time!





## 2024 WNY SENIOR OET FINAL EVALUATION

The 2024 WNY Senior OET Final Evaluation was held on Saturday, March 2nd at Holiday Valley. Thanks to Thad Brown and the Region and Division OET Staff for all oftheir har dwork this season. Here is a list of those folks that passed the evaluation:

Holiday Valley: Ansley Kelly, Don Schiedel, Shawn Patterson, Thomas Grolemund, Hanna Lee\* (skiing only)

Holimont: Cooper Biersbach, Jeffrey Kloss

Buffalo Ski Center: Rich Randall, Steve Rawlings\*\* (passed riding

to complete his Senior OET)

Peek'n Peak: William Lewis\*\* (passed toboggan to complete his

Senior OET), Alicia Furey, Jessy Smulski Kissing Bridge: Juliane Maciejewski

Swain: Ned Storm, Makayla Eldridge (toboggan only)

More photos are available on the WNY Region's Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/WNYNSP



Pictured from left to right are: Rich Randall, Thomas Grolemund, William Lewis, Jeffrey Kloss, Jessy Smulski, Alicia Furey, Ansley Kelly, Shawn Patterson, Juliane Maciejewski, Cooper Biersbach, and Donald Schiedel.











## **WOMEN'S PROGRAM CLINIC**

n Sunday, January 21st, the Western New York Region Hosted a Women's Program Clinic at Buffalo Ski Center in Colden, NY. Kristen Russo, the National Ski Patrol's new Women's Program Advisor coordinated the event along with Western New York OET Staff. Over 15 women patrollers showed up to take part in this training event. They spent the morning working on skiing skills before switching to toboggans in the afternoon.

















## WESTERN NEW YORK 2023-2024 REGIONAL AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, May 11, 2024

**Clarion Hotel Marina** & Conference Center

30 Lake Shore Drive East Dunkirk, NY 14048





## WESTERN NEW YORK 2023-2024 REGIONAL AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, May 11, 2024

#### Clarion Hotel Marina & Conference Center

30 Lake Shore Drive East Dunkirk, NY 14048

Beer/Wine Reception: 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM (Cash bar begins at 7:00 PM)

Awards following dinner



Early Bird Discount ends Feb. 29, 2024; \$40.00/Person Mar. 1 - Apr. 30: \$45.00/Person



Wine Tasting bus tour along the local wine trail. Bus departs the Clarion about noon. Please enclose \$15 per person for this popular and fun activity.

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> Mention that you are with the "Ski Patrol"



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Email: danmeess@gmail.com **WESTERN NY REGION FALL LINE** SPRING 2024

## **MOUNTAIN TRAVEL & RESCUE 1 CLASS**

atrollers from around the Western New York Region got together during the weekend of November 4-5, 2023 to participate in a Mountain Travel & Rescue 1 class. The class was held at the Art Roscoe Warming Hut at Allegany State Park. The group worked on many outdoor activites including navigation, knots, emergency shelters, backcountry medical, clothing and sleep systems and more. The 10 class participants and instructors set up camp on Saturday evening and spent the night camping in tents and hammocks. One of the highlights was preparing their own backpacking type meal and sitting around the campfire on Saturday evening sharing stories.













## **AVALANCHE LEVEL 1 MODULE 1 COURSE**

Thile we didn't have a lot of snow in February, the WNY Avalanche Instructors held a Level 1 Module 1 Avalanche class at Allegany State park on February 18th. Several Patrollers from the region gathered and worked with transceivers, probing, weather effects, and more. Thanks to the WNY Avalanche Staff for holding this course.











