



Northern Michigan Region

The Tip of the Mitt

August, 2010

The Director's Corner

Happy August! I hope you are enjoying this wonderful weather and are having a good summer with family and friends.

This newsletter is your first sign that the Snow Sport season is just around the corner. Some of us will be heading to Bloomington, MN for the Central Division Fall Meeting and Awards Banquet. Others are planning your OEC Refresher. So, it's time to dust off your OEC Book, refresher book and Patrol belt and get yourself prepared for the new season. You will notice a new piece of paper added to the refresher paperwork. Included this year is a copy of the Central Division Liability Release Form. You are required to sign the form and return it with your completed refresher paperwork

The other news is that there will be an increase in the late fee from \$10.00 to \$15.00. In order to avoid the late fee, please get your paperwork filled out and returned before the deadline. Last year the large number of same day registrants caused a delay in getting the refresher underway. Please turn your registration in on time. It will save you money and keep the morning check-in running smoothly.

If you cannot attend the NMR OEC Refresher, it is your duty to find a refresher. There are a number of refreshers available, be sure to check Tena's article for a list of refreshers scheduled in the Lower Peninsula. If you are planning to attend another refresher make sure you contact the Instructor of Record to get permission to attend. Also remember to get your OEC Refresher Completion sheet signed by the Instructor of Record and return it to your Patrol Director. The OEC Refresher Completion Sheet is located on the last page of the OEC Refresher Book found in your Patroller's Magazine.

See you soon and stay safe.

Bob Lechtanski,
NM Region Director

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Going for Senior?

Your Region Staff is here

to Help!

So, you are thinking about going for Senior! But there seems to be so many questions; How do I start? Who do I talk to? What are the Senior requirements? Where do I get the right information?

It's easier than you think. First things first, - go to the NM Region website at <http://nspnrm.org> and download the Central Division Senior Manual, Senior packet and NM Region Calendar. Fill out the Senior candidate application and information form. Then email the completed forms to the NM Region Senior Advisor, Galen Fairchild, at: galen.fairchild@juno.com. You will receive notification that your forms have been received and that you are now registered in the NM Region Senior program. **This process must be completed by December 15, 2010**, if you wish to test during the 2010/2011 NSP ski season.

The complete Senior process includes registering for the Senior program, training and preparation, then passing proficiency evaluations in: skiing, snowboarding, toboggan handling, OEC Senior Emergency Management (SEM), Aid Room Management Module (required for Auxiliary Senior), completion of three Senior enhancements (for Alpine Senior) and four Senior enhancements (for Auxiliary Senior) as described in the National Ski Patrol policies and Procedures Manual [Ch. 17.3.1(B)(1-2)]. Here is a list of some of the possible enhancements that could be taken for Senior credit: Instructor Development course, Mountain Travel and Rescue Fundamentals course, Introduction to Avalanche Safety and

Rescue, Skiing Enhancement Seminar, Ski Trainer's Workshop and Toboggan Enhancement Seminar to mention a few.

After registering with the Region, the next step is to contact your Patrol Director and/or Patrol Training Advisor to let them know that you are interested in signing up for training to get your Senior status. Check the NM Region calendar for Senior event dates and mark your personal calendar to make sure you don't miss them. Some of these dates are the NM Region Senior Snow Sport Clinic in January which includes skiing, snowboarding and toboggan handling, SES, TES and the Senior Proficiency Evaluation in February. On the OEC side, the Summer Program, OEC enhancements, OEC SEM application deadline and the OEC SEM in March, 2011. Working with your Patrol's trainers and attending as many Region clinics as you can, will help to better prepare you for the proficiency evaluations, whether it is Snow Sport or OEC events.

Remember the Region Senior Advisor is there to help you get through this process and is available by email and telephone. It helps if you keep good records of your Senior activities and update the Region Senior Advisor with your progress. In the end, it is your Patrol Director who has the final say in who is allowed to attend the Senior evaluations from their Patrol. So keep them advised of your progress.

SENIOR PROGRAM ADVISOR – Galen Fairchild

Email – galen.fairchild@juno.com

Cell Phone – (616) 350-6737

Good luck. See you in the Fall,
Bob Lechtanski, NM Region Director

OEC NEWS

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. Many patrollers have been active since the skiing ended in March. Schuss had 3 successful candidates pass the Basic OEC course in May. There were 4 successful candidates who passed the Basic OEC exam at Mt Holiday in June. There were also 4 successful candidates in Harbor Springs at that OEC Course. Thanks to Ginny Rodeman, Kim Hocking and Sharon Crockett for running those classes. There have also been 6 new OEC Instructors added to our NMR roster. Four completed their mentoring during the Harbor Springs basic OEC Class and 2 completed the process in EMR at several OEC courses held there. Congratulations to everybody. The Summer Program has been active, with 10-12 Instructors and 4-7 patrollers participating over the past three months. Thanks to all who assisted with the classes and the Summer program.

The NM Region OEC Instructors are already hard at work, planning the refresher stations that we all will visit. Please check out the registration form to see what you will need to return in the mail. Also note - the fee for late registration has increased to \$40. I strongly encourage everyone to get their registration in on time to avoid the additional fee.

Additional OEC Refreshers –

These are the other Lower Peninsula refreshers that I am aware of:

Saturday	25-Sep	WMR	Kalamazoo, Bronson Hospital	Jen Squires	squirthc@yahoo.com
Saturday	25-Sep	EMR	Mt Brighton Ski Area	Richard Poole	richard.poole@globalcrossing.com
Saturday	2-Oct	EMR	Midland	Mark Kuehl	judenmark@chartermi.net
Sunday	3-Oct	EMR	Pine Knob Ski Area	Orysia Novajovsky	anovajovsky@aol.com
Saturday	9-Oct	WMR	Crystal Mtn Ski Area	Jackie Bottomley	jbottomley@charter.net
Sunday	10-Oct	WMR	Cannonsburg Ski Area	Mike Fick	mficksr@steelcase.com
Sunday	10-Oct	EMR	Alpine Valley Ski Area	Allen Radke	theradkes@sbcglobal.net
Saturday	23-Oct	WMR	Caberfae Peaks Ski Area	Cassandra Proctor	missyoec@hotmail.com
Sunday	24-Oct	EMR	Middle School, Burton MI	Lynnann Hunt	mhsplynn@yahoo.com

If you wish to attend any of these you will need to contact the person listed next to the refresher for information. Several refreshers limit the number of “outside” patrollers who may attend, so don’t wait!

The fifth edition of the OEC textbook is still scheduled for release in the first quarter of 2011. The refresher next fall (2011) will be conducted using the new book as the reference. Please start saving some money now for purchase of the book when it comes out. Current estimates are it will cost \$65.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the refreshers or on the snow.

Tena Lechtanski,
Northern Michigan Region OEC Advisor

NMR REGION OEC REFRESHER 2010

LOCATION (same as last year)

Gaylord High School

Date: Saturday, September 25, 2010

Time: Registration 7:15am (Please be seated in the Auditorium by 8:00am)

What is Required for the 2010 Refresher?

1. Completed answers for the three "You are the Rescuer" scenarios. Bring your original scenario too. Please write your original scenario on a separate piece of paper, as it is turned in separately during registration in the morning. The others will travel with you to the various stations during the day. A prize will be awarded for the best original scenario submitted.
2. Patrol Pack fully stocked. Bring plenty of gloves. Every station is hand's on, and BSI is required at each one.
3. Bring your CPR mask.
4. Be prepared to be outdoors for one or possibly two stations. Warm clothes, rain gear etc.

Attached is the registration form to be filled out and sent back to Lynne Smetzer by **September 15, 2010. Your current OEC card must accompany your registration.**

If you do not have your OEC card, please call MIST (NSP-National Office) at 303-988-1111 to order a new card.

*****Please be aware that it does take two to three weeks to get a new OEC card.**

Please send the following 4 items with your Registration for the Refresher. These items must be sent to Lynne Smetzer by September 15, 2010

1. Completed Registration form (separate form for each patroller - please)
2. Completed liability release form (separate form for each patroller)
3. Current OEC card
4. Check for \$15.00 made out to "NSP"

Directions to Gaylord High School

From 1-75

Exit 282 - Go east on M- 32 (towards downtown).

Turn left (north) on to Old 27 at the 4th traffic signal (AG Edwards building is on the left).

Drive approximately 1.2 miles (past the Hospital). Gaylord High School is on the right.

Turn right -drive 500 feet- look for the Gaylord high school signs. Parking is in front of the high school building. Registration will be in the main foyer.

2010 NMR OEC REFRESHER
RELEASE FORM

I understand that I am about to participate in an OEC REFRESHER, Course No. 19378 on the premises of GAYLORD HIGH SCHOOL.

I have volunteered under my own free will to participate in the OEC REFRESHER, which is entirely elective. I have thoroughly investigated and understand what is involved in an OEC REFRESHER.

I understand and acknowledge that the OEC REFRESHER may include, but is not limited to, extensive classroom and/or field work on first aid scenarios, skiing/snowboarding, toboggan handling along with other events which ski patrollers encounter in their duties of patrolling a ski area and for training and education purposes may involve me simulating the role of an injured person (the "Event Activities"). I understand that I will encounter the inherent risks and dangers of patrolling, as well as the additional risk of working by myself and in groups on a variety of terrain and snowpack of varying conditions and difficulties and may involve movement through avalanche terrain, route selection/hazard identification, stability assessments, search and rescue and survival in the field environment. Field sessions may involve locations from which evacuation of participants would be long and difficult, if the participant was injured. I understand and acknowledge that such activity can be dangerous and I knowingly assume the risk of participating in this OEC REFRESHER. As part of this OEC REFRESHER I understand and acknowledge that I may also encounter additional risks not inherent to a normal participant to the sport of skiing or snowboarding. **These additional risks include, but are not limited to, risks of injury to any and all parts of my body and even the risk of death.** These dangers can be caused or created by many factors, which include, but are not limited to, terrain (both on prepared or groomed ski runs and on areas not prepared, maintained or groomed), weather, natural obstacles, man-made obstacles, human error, variable snow conditions, avalanches, and other conditions inherent to my participation in the OEC REFRESHER. By signing this Release, I represent that I understand that injuries or even death from skiing/snowboarding and this OEC REFRESHER are known and recognized occurrences from participation in the sport and the Event Activities, and that **I freely accept and assume all risks of injury or death that might result from my participation in skiing/snowboarding and/or this OEC REFRESHER.**

In consideration of the opportunity to participate in this OEC REFRESHER I acknowledge the following: that I, for myself, my heirs, representatives, agents, servants, employees, successors, assigns, and anyone claiming by or through me, do hereby remise, release, and forever discharge and agree to hold harmless and defend the Ski Area, the GAYLORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. ("NSP") and any of its subunits, officers, advisors, instructors and members, as well as all fellow participants, both individually and jointly, their respective representatives, agents, servants, attorneys, employees, successors, and assigns, from any and all liability, regardless of any negligence on the part of the same, claims, suits, proceedings, debts, sums of money, accounts, covenants, agreements, promises, judgments, contracts, damages, costs, expenses and demands of whatsoever kind and nature, whether in law or in equity, which I may have, have had, or may at any time hereafter have, arising out of or otherwise connected with, in any way, whether known unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, participating in the OEC REFRESHER.

*** PLEASE PRINT***

2010 Registration form – Northern Michigan OEC Refresher

Name: _____ NSPS # C- _____

Patrol affiliation: _____

Your address: _____

Your email: _____



Refresher location: Gaylord High School – **September 25, 2010**

Registration fee: \$15.00 if received before **September 15, 2010**
(\$10.00 for instructors who are working the refresher)

Late registration fee: \$40.00 (for everyone) if received after **Wednesday September 15, 2010.**

One form per patroller, please. Couples/families may send a single check, but each person must complete a separate form.

Total payment due: \$ _____ Registration fee
\$ _____ Total enclosed

- Mail your:
- 1) Check, made payable to “NSPS” (no cash)
 - 2) Completed registration form
 - 3) Current OEC card (not your 2010 NSP registration card)
 - 4) Signed liability release form

To: Lynne Smetzer
615 E. Main St.
Gaylord, MI 49735