

E-News, On-line Messenger for

## The Northern Michigan Regional News Letter

Newsletter of the Northern Michigan Region, National Ski Patrol

Mid-Season Edition

We are pleased to bring you this year's Mid Season e-mail Newsletter.

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### MID-WINTER MESSAGE

Wow, what a ski season we are having! Some of the best snow our areas have seen in the last 10 to 15 years and it is still coming down. Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup> we were skiing in 8" of new fluffy powder. Then Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup> we were at Boyne Mountain for the Section One Basic Ski and Tobogganing Proficiency Exam enjoying fantastic groomed conditions with blue skies and 29-degree temperatures. What could be better?

Once again I am happy to report that on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> the Northern Michigan Region, Western Michigan Region and the Eastern Michigan Region participated in the annual fun filled Northern Michigan Region Sno-Bowl 2009. Both the Snow-sport Enhancement Seminar (SES) and the Toboggan Enhancement Seminar were well attended, with super snow conditions and great instructors. Congratulations to Mike Cornell who headed up the Snow-sport Enhancement Seminar and Mike Leach who headed up the Toboggan Enhancement Seminar for stepping in and making the Sno-Bowl 2009 the best ever. I would also like to thank the entire group of instructors who participated in both events for a job well done. Last, I want to thank Don Loerch, the Central Division Skills Develop Program Supervisor for all of the time and support that he gave for this years Sno-Bowl.

With the holidays behind us we are heading into a very busy part of the season for many of our candidates, trainers and examiners. February and March are Exam Months. As I mentioned earlier, February 1<sup>st</sup> Section One held their Basic Ski and Tobogganing Proficiency Exam. It was one of the largest basic exams that I have seen in Section One, eleven candidates. At the end of the day when the snow settled there were Seven New Basic Patrollers and four more who will receive their patches and pins when they complete the Basic OEC Course. Congratulations to all of you! Congratulations and thank you to Section One Chief Carl Woodcock and Section One Proficiency Advisor Dan Dryden for completing such a well-coordinated and successful exam.

Later this month on Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> both Section Two and Section Three will be holding their Basic Ski and Tobogganing Proficiency Exams. The following day on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Northern Michigan Region Senior Ski and Tobogganing Proficiency Exam will be held at the Nubs Nob Ski Resort. Best of luck to all of the candidates who are working hard with their trainers preparing for these exams.

March starts off with a very important deadline. All Senior Candidates who are planning to attend the Senior Emergency Management Exam MUST have your paperwork into the Region OEC Administrator Tena Lechtanski by Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Emergency Management Exam will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Schuss Mountain Ski Resort. You will find more about the Senior Emergency Management Exam in the Region OEC Administrator's article.

Central Division Fall 2009 Meeting update: A/RD Jim Markey is heading up the planning committee for the Central Division Fall 2009 Meeting that we will be hosting on Mackinac Island. Jim is looking for members of the Region who are interested in helping during the planning stage and/or members who would like to work at the meeting. If you are one of these interested parties, please contact Jim by email at [jim\\_markey@ameritech.net](mailto:jim_markey@ameritech.net).

I enter the last six months of my first term as the Northern Michigan Region Director wishing to express how much I have enjoyed visiting the patrols in this region and meeting with all of you. I appreciate all the input and support that I have received from the patrollers I have talked with. I have decided to seek a second term as Region Director and would like to have the continued help and camaraderie of all the Region's Patrollers. We are a dynamic and positive force in the Central Division and National Ski Patrol. I would like to continue to represent this group and to serve as your Region Director.

Be safe and I hope to see you on the slopes.

Bob Lechtanski

### **Regional Fun Facts**

**Boyne Mountain's** property was purchased by Detroit native Everett Kircher in 1947 for the sum of \$1.00.

**Nubs Nob** opened in 1958, founded by Dorie and Nub Sarns. A weekend pass was \$5.00 and a season pass cost \$20.00.

**Mt. Holiday** started as Holiday Hills in 1949, founded by the East Bay Businessman's Assoc. in what was then the Fife Lake State Forest land. The main lodge was constructed with volunteer labor and materials salvaged from the old Coast Guard station barracks.

### **OEC Update**

Please let me know if you have moved since September 2008. The most current paper

mail address is from the form you filled out when you registered for the refresher in early September. The address list will be updated so we can get the 2009 registration to you with out delays. Send new address information to [tenalski@centurytel.net](mailto:tenalski@centurytel.net)

The organization and planning for the 2009 OEC Refresher begins in early July. Please contact me if you would like to be the lead Instructor for a station. I think its important to provide new folks the opportunity to take a lead role. We all benefit from fresh perspectives. The Instructor Refresher is Sunday September 20. The Region wide Refresher is Saturday October 3. Please note these dates on your calendar.

The Senior Emergency Management Evaluation for 2009 is on Sunday March 22nd, at Schuss Mtn. Please consider coming out to help us that day. We need evaluators, but most of all we need support for jobs that include role playing as patients and bystanders. Show us your acting skills. Who knows, you might become famous! At worst you will have a good time among other "aspiring actors". Contact me if you are interested in lending a hand that day.

A reminder – the deadline for applications to be evaluated at the Senior EM is March 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact your Patrol Representative ASAP for this form if you are coming to the evaluation.

Three separate Basic OEC classes were held this past Fall. Traverse City (Mt Holiday) hosted a class lead by Kimberlynn Hocking that had 12 enrollees. Ten people successfully completed the course. Thirteen patrollers and several family members showed up to help with the final evaluation, consisting of 4 separate scenarios. Those who helped include; Polly and Larry Gray, Linda Jacobs, Paula Larson, Jim Mottern, Rita Gierl, Pat Throop, Dan Willims, Dan Bodamer, Luanne Logan, Jim Woodrum, and Matt Lyons.

A class with 5 participants was held in Harbor Springs, jointly hosted by Nubs Nob and Boyne Highlands Patrols. All five successfully completed the course. The following patrollers either helped to teach and/or to evaluate the candidates; Sharon and Ken Crockett, Paula Larson, Jackie McCardell, Susan Reed, Dave Sayers, Mike Longfellow-Jones, Bob and Tena Lechtanski, Kirsten O'Keefe, Bill McCullough, Suzanne Jarose, Mike Leach, Kerry Chamberlain, Kim Medler and Jim Markey. Additionally, 5 patrollers from the Cannonsburg Ski Area helped at the final evaluation. Great to have fresh eyes see our candidates.

A class with 3 participants was held in Gaylord (Treetops hosted) and had a 100% pass rate. The class was taught by Tena and Bob Lechtanski, Dave Hartman and Rita Gierl. The final evaluation had many of the same evaluators participate who helped at the Harbor Springs final. Heartfelt thanks to all who helped during the three classes!  
GREAT JOB!

Tena Lechtanski

## Northern Michigan Section 1 Basic Evaluation

I had the opportunity to be an evaluator at the Section 1 basic exam at Boyne Mountain on 2/1/2009. The sun was out peaking over the lift as we ascended to the summit and an awesome view of perfectly groomed slopes below. Another basic exam I thought same old lack of preparation , but as the day went on I noticed the candidates consistently understood what we were looking for and if they erred they new and recognized the good and bad parts of their run. Good job candidates. At the end of the day at the wrap up and recognition, I polled other instructors and they had the same response, my group was not just a gift from the great snow god, there has been a massive improvement in the training. I would like to say to those trainers Great Job!!, Keep up the good work it is showing in your candidates. Oh they all passed.

Mike Cornell IT

## New Toboggan Advisor

I would like to thank the Northern Michigan Region for the opportunity to serve as the new Toboggan Advisor, what an honor. We recently had a TES clinic at Boyne Mountain on January 25, if everyone had as much fun as I did there legs were sore Sunday night thru Monday. The response from my group was very positive. Since I am new to a position, I am asking for everyone's help. Those that are instructors please send your activity logs at the end of the year so we can forward it to the proper people and National. Those not instructors, Why Not??? Even if you are fearful or lack some skill at toboggan contact your trainers they will be more than happy to help you brush up.

Gratefully yours,  
Charles Thomas

## Section 3 News

As no one has noticed we have been blessed with an abundance of Snow in Section 3. To date as of January 30th the Road Commission has recorded 143 inches of snow, one inch short of 12 feet. We have experience the coldest Ski season in recent years. Some of

us admit to getting older, and notice the cold more, others reinforce our findings and we all look a little plumper on the slopes. The Michigan Special Olympics will be in full swing at Schuss Mountain on February 4th, 5th, and 6th. Approximately 1000 athletes will participate. For those of you who have provided the on hill coverage there is nothing that warms your heart more !! There are a couple of O.E.C classes held in our section, the largest being the Class held at Mt. Holiday. Congratulations to the Candidates that completed the O.E.C portion of their training. There is a smaller class in progress at Schuss and will continue thru ski season. We applaud the patrollers that recruit new people. We hope the new candidates careers are long and fulfilling. A "Special Thanks " goes out to the trainers thru out Section 3 whether your O.E.C or Ski/Toboggan

Instructor. Your countless hours of training will not go unnoticed, the candidates and examiners appreciate your efforts and are grateful for your sacrifice.

This will probably be my last article for the N.M.R. Newsletter. I have term limited out, and look back at my time as Section 3 Chief with pride. I have enjoyed visiting the areas in my section. I made an effort to attend all examinations in my Section, and have no regrets. I wish my successor much luck and will help them thru the adjustment period. We all volunteer for different reasons, I believe in "pay it forward " and will continue to assist whenever I can. I am proud to be a member of the National Ski Patrol and Northern Michigan Region. Ski Patrol is extended family, and thru my tenure as Section Chief I have made many new friends and have enjoyed the Camaraderie.

Section Three Chief,  
Pat Throop