



## **BLUE AND GOLD BANNER**

**Western Michigan Regional Newsletter**

**August 1996**

### **AWARDS? WHO ARE AWARDS FOR?**

Can you think of a patroller who puts that extra effort into the ski patrol? Would you like to nominate them for an award but you don't know the award categories? Well, here is your chance to bone up on the categories and put in your nominations! Do it NOW! You don't have to wait until January.

#### **Outstanding Alpine Patroller, Nordic Patroller, Auxiliary, Professional, Instructor, Patrol Director, and Patrol (large and small categories)**

These awards need to be nominated at Patrol level. Then the Patrol Outstandings go to section. Here a committee reviews the awards and decides on the Region Outstandings. The Region Outstandings are sent to Division where a committee reviews all the Regions Outstandings to decide on the Division Outstandings.

To qualify for an Outstanding Award the committees look at years of service, positions held, hours on duty this season and last season, hours of duty this season and last season, Ski Patrol related training courses successfully completed and or instructed, NSP Leadership positions held, NSP awards received, support of NSP, contributions to skiing outside of NSP, and relation with cooperating agencies. There needs to be a letter of recommendation from a patroller. This is very important. The more specific and detailed the better!

#### **Distinguished service**

This is a very high award. It is only topped by the Leadership Commendation Award and National Appointment. It is usually awarded to patrollers that have been in the NSP for many years and have been involved in various parts of the system. This is also an award that can be given to people or organizations that have shown exceptional support or service for the skiing industry or NSPS but are not patrollers. The following are the areas that are looked at when a person is nominated: Ski Patrol membership or ski history (non-NSP member), leadership positions. Committee assignments, patrol activities, awards, involvement, training courses/workshops, non-NSP organization involvement, and support of NSP organization. Maybe you know someone who goes way above the basic requirements of a patroller but doesn't quite qualify for their National Appointment. This person would be a terrific candidate for the Distinguished Service Award.

#### **Leadership Commendation Award**

This award has the same status as a National Appointment but is reserved for someone who for some reason will not achieve their senior classification. Information needed for this award is the same as for National Appointment.

### **National Appointment**

This award is a recognition by other national ski patrollers of demonstrated leadership, good character, diplomacy, good judgement, unusual qualities of Ski Patrol ability, a genuine desire to serve the skiing public, and extraordinary service to the NSPS. Extreme care is taken to consider the nominations of only those ski patrollers who indicate genuine and lasting interest in the National Ski Patrol. These people must be nominated by a National Patroller. The following are areas that are looked at on the nomination form: leadership that benefits the NSP beyond the patrol level or serving two or more ski seasons as a certified instructor in a program beneficial to the NSP or exceptional performance as a patrol director, years as a patroller, years as senior, NSP Organization History (leadership positions, committee assignments, patrol activities, etc.), skiing public and skier safety education (show lectures, projects, interaction with skiing public), and NSP Awards. A letter of recommendation needs to be written by a National Patroller and should be very detailed and specific.

### **Merit Stars**

Purple - for saving a life by first aid.

Green - for hazardous and arduous rescue using ski patrol training.

Blue - for outstanding or heroic use of ski patrol skills in a lifesaving rescue attempt, or outstanding service in non-hazardous rescue, such as support in a purple or green star rescue. The attempt may be unsuccessful.

Yellow - for outstanding administrative service to the NSP over more than one season, usually over more than two seasons. In the Central Division, practice is to give it only for service beneficial to NSP above patrol level.

### **Angel Pins**

These may be awarded to spouses of ski patrollers, who although not members of NSP have provided extraordinary indirect contributions to the NSP by aiding their ski patrolling spouses in service to the Ski Patrol.

### **Certificates of appreciation**

These may be awarded to patrollers and non-patrollers for valued service and/or contributions in furthering the goals of the NSP.

**\*\*We hope this information will help you to understand the AWARDS better but even more importantly we hope that you will take the time to nominate the people you feel are deserving. If we can be of any help, please call us at 616-675-4998. Together we can honor many of our deserving people.**

Sincerely, Dave and Julie Johnson, WM Awards Advisors

### **PICNIC POPS AT CANNONSBURG**

Glen Gamsby, Assistant Region Director, reports that the Picnic Pops, Grand Rapids Symphony Summer Series, has been great! Cannonsburg patrol has been assisting.

## **THE FOLLOWING ARE THE AWARDS FROM THE WEST MICHIGAN REGION**

Outstanding Alpine Patrol - Timber Ridge, Karina Kabel - Patrol Director  
Outstanding Alpine Patroller - Diana Kooistra - Cannonsburg  
Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller - Janel Byrnes - Timber Ridge  
Outstanding Instructor - Bonnie Strand - Timber Ridge  
Yellow Merit Star - Jane Norton - Bittersweet  
Distinguished Service Awards -  
    Michael Allen - Bittersweet  
    Jack and Tim Meyer , owners of Caberfae Peaks ( non-patrollers)  
    Dave Johnson - Cannonsburg  
    Julie Johnson - Cannonsburg  
Sage - Bob Flink

## **AVALANCHE COURSE INFORMATION**

The indoor Basic Avalanche elective is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 1996, 9:00A.M., at Pando. The outdoor session is scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 1997, 9:00A.M., at Udell Hills. Please sign up at the refresher or call/write me so that the class materials can be sent to you. In an attempt for inter-region cooperation, patrollers from Northern Region will also be taking this class.

Nolan Singleton, 517-483-6350

## **FROM TOM NORTON, REGION DIRECTOR**

I have received the Annual Refresher copy of the Ski Patrol Magazine and that means it's time to start thinking about the 1996-7 Ski Season. Candidate classes and annual OEC (formerly WEC) refreshers will be held before we know it. Ken Young, Diana Kooistra, and Cheryl Miles Teirnan are starting to gear up for the upcoming Instructors' refresher and Section Refresher clinics.

This year, Western Michigan Region has elected one Section Chief and one Patrol Director. On the National scene we have a new National Chairman. The newly elected officials are:

Section Chief WM II - Hal Froot, Cannonsburg Patrol

Timber Ridge Patrol Director - Fred Byrnes

National Chairman - John Clair

It is necessary for me to raise the Regional dues from \$3.00 to \$5.00 starting with this years registration. Because of the additional requirements which the National Office has put on the

region, we can no longer operate on \$3.00. I believe this is the first time the region has raised its dues. In the past, regional staff members would only have to travel away from their home area once or twice. Now we are required to travel up to four or five times. I feel it is only fair to help cover some of their cost, such as mileage, and lodging/food (if outside of Michigan).

I want to offer my congratulations to Bob Russell and the Crystal Mountain Patrol. During the Ann Arbor Art Fair, they spent four nights on booth security duty for the Main Street. This adventure was done as a Patrol fundraiser event. From what I have heard from some of the exhibitors, they did an outstanding job.

I look forward to attending each OEC refresher and the opportunity to ski at each area this winter. Come up and introduce yourself. I want to meet you and discuss any concerns involving the Region.

DON'T FORGET to check your calendar for dates and times of Regional Activities.  
Let the Ski Season Begin.

Tom Norton, Regional Director

**NSPS of Western Michigan**  
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