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Dr. Keith A. Argow

Editor
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FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR

After our coldest winter all roads lead to Abingdon, Virginia for the Spring Convention. We have much to discuss and share. Details are included in this newsletter.

Beech Mtn. closed March 17th. This was the latest operational date this spring for a North Carolina ski area. Sugar Mtn. was first with a November 9th opening. Both areas skied over 100,000 people this year. At the time this is written, the closing date of Snowshoe has not been set.

There is still snow in Montana and 25 Southern Patrollers will be joining Dale Johnson at Bridger Ski Bowl for our first Avalanche Patch Course. Instructors include National Avalanche Advisor, Bill Hotchkiss and Northern Division Advisor, Clarence Serfoss. The Bridger Ski Patrol is our host.

Two candidates have been nominated for Division Director: Roger Bollinger and David Dillard. The election will be conducted by the National Office. Voting will be by line officers according to our division by-laws. Two candidates for Division Treasurer have volunteered. Selection will be made by the incoming Division Director.

See you at the Spring Meeting!

Keith A. Argow

SOUTHERN DIVISION SPRING MEETING

This meeting is open to all patrollers and will be held Saturday, April 16th, at the Martha Washington Inn, Abingdon, Va. Pre-registration blanks will be sent to everyone. Plan now to attend! This will be Keith Argow's last meeting as DD. Register early, lodging may be scarce.

The business meeting will start at 1:30 PM and will include reports from all PLs, Advisors, ADDs and DD. Following this will be other business and either a ski fashion show or some other entertainment. Those not wishing to attend the meeting may see a performance at Barter Theater.

The "Happy Hour" will be at 6PM, followed by the dinner and award presentations. The after dinner entertainment will be eight mountaineers, including the three Adams brothers from Beech Mtn. They will bring their fiddles, banjos and a violin for an evening of foot-stomping, square dancing and general hay-down. Free beer will be furnished thanks to the energies of Jim Underwood. It is guaranteed to finish the convention with a fun-filled evening all will remember. There will be lots of door prizes and special favors all weekend.

Sunday is your day - so far - to see the city or go to Bristol for the South-eastern 500 races.

WHERE IS THE WHITE ELEPHANT?

Along the road leading into Alabama's Cloudmont Ski Area is a large hotel with peeling white paint from a by-gone era. The sign still stands beckoning travelers to stop by for A White Elephant Sale.

WINTERGREEN DOG MAKES NATIONAL PATROLLER

Buckwheat, an engaging canine patroller from the Wintergreen Ski Patrol has made the National Patroller newsletter. She is the partner of Wintergreen co-patroller "Flash" Gordon.

A THANK YOU FROM THE DIVISION

We wish to thank the individuals, ski clubs and our own "Cat" patrol for their support of the division through financial contributions. It is much appreciated!

Asheville Ski Club	\$ 50.00
Cataloochee Ski Patrol	100.00
Huntsville Ski Club	50.00
Knoxville Ski Club	100.00
Smoky Mountain Ski Club	50.00
Larry Dietz	25.00
Farris & Susan Jackson	50.00
Don & Bobbie Rupp	20.00
Dick Thalacker	8.00

NSPS GOES TO SKI CLUBS TO STRESS SAFETY

Gary Delius, Joe Tittle and Jim Underwood gave a NSPS Safety Program at the December meeting of the Knoxville Ski Club. They also sold \$40.00 in NSPS Badges that evening. A binding test program will be presented at a future date.

SOUTHERN PATROLLER HAS YEAR ROUND DUTY

Snowshoe patroller Fritz Marquardt patrols two seasons each year. He has been active in the Southern Division for the past five years. During our four winter months he is on the patrol at Snowshoe. During our summer months he signs on with the Chilean patrol. He is the only member of the NSPS to have been awarded the Chilean Ski Patrol Medal.

A man for all countries, Fritz was born in Chile of German parents and received his college education, including a Ph.D. in chemistry, at Cornell and Indiana University. He maintains a chemical consulting business in Mexico.

CONTRIBUTORS

Keith Argow	Dale Johnson
Mary Lou Argow	John Lawrence
Janie Bollinger	Jim Scott
Roger Bollinger	Jim Underwood

NEW MOUNTAINEERING & NORDIC ADVISORS

Norman Bishop has accepted appointment as the Mountaineering Advisor. Norman hails from Atlanta and when not skiing or mountaineering is employed with the U. S. Park Service.

Jim Scott accepted appointment for the newly created Nordic Advisorship. Jim lives in Sewanee, Tn. where he teaches chemistry at Sewanee Academy. He is PL Great Smoky Mtn. Nordic Patrol and has had intensive training and experience in mountain climbing.

NEW PATROL LEADERS ELECTED

Ken Remington has been elected PL at Wolf Laurel. He succeeds Jack Britt who has been the PL there since the area opened. Also new this year at Wolf Laurel is a separate ski patrol building at the foot of the slope.

George Sanborn is the new PL at High Meadows as well as Cascade.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING PATCH COURSE

The Southern Division held its second Patch Course February 11-13 at Mount Rogers, Va. The trails were blanketed with from three to five feet of snow and there were wind drifts up to twenty five feet deep. Snow shelters were built and several patrollers spent the night in igloos. Many participants learned the value of skis and snowshoes due to the fact that it took over three hours to cover a mile on the trail.

Participants were: Kim Annas, Steve Benbow, Mike Chandler, Peggy Chandler, Dr. Allen Grantham, Jerry Grantham, Howard James, Farris Jackson, Susan Jackson, Joe Kennedy, Bill Moore, Mary Ann Moore, Lynn Pace, Brian Riel, Robert Sawyer, Lance Webb, Wilfried Wessely and Philip Yoder. Instructors were: Charles Benbow, Gary Delius, Dale Johnson, French Moore, Jr., Tom Moss and Jim Scott.

CIRCLE A

There will be a course at the beach again this summer. It will be held August 6th near Morehead City, N.C. at the Salterpath Campgrounds on Salterpath Road, South of Atlantic Beach, N.C. The course will be held at the campground and will start at dark. If you do not wish to camp, motels are located close by. Bring the whole family for a trip to the beach! Registration deadline is July 29th. Contact Dale Johnson, Division Avalanche Advisor, P. O. Box 9613, Greensboro, N.C. 27408 (phone 919-288 9790).

This year there have been 8 courses given with 105 participants. They were held at: Morehead City, N.C. on 8/21/76, Asheville, N.C. on 10/23/76, Cataloochee, N.C. on 10/24/76, Harrisonburg, Va. on 11/13/76, Boone, N.C. on 11/6/76, Beech Mtn., N.C. on 12/4/76, Gatlinburg, Tn. on 12/18/76 and Seven Devils, N.C. on 2/26/77. Since 1968, 166 patrollers have taken the course. Some have repeated since then.

Jim Scott, Division Nordic Advisor, offered to give a course this summer. If interested, contact him about the time and further details: Proctor's Hall Road, Sewanee, Tenn. 37375.

CIRCLE M

Jim Scott has offered to give this course with some climbing skills thrown in sometime this summer at Sewanee. If interested, contact him about the time and further details: Proctor's Hall Road, Sewanee, Tenn. 37375.

NEED A BOOK?

Jim Scott has 10 copies of "Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured", American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and will sell them for \$5.00 each, plus 35¢ for postage (book rate): Proctor's Hall Road, Sewanee, Tenn. 37375.

ABOUT FAR SOUTHERN SKIING
John Lawrence

To "Ski South" to a New Zealander means to ski about as far South as you can go, and that is Antarctica. The Ross Dependency is New Zealand's territorial slice of that great continent, and they have their own ski club. They used to ski on a slope which ended in an ice-cliff, but once someone didn't stop in time and so they moved it. The new area was a 500' steep spur of ice which terminated in a tide crack on the shore of Ross Island. The tow consisted of two 500' pieces of 1" manilla spliced twice into a continuous loop. The rope went up from the "motor" to a pulley block hung from a "dead man" in the ice at the top. The "motor" was a WW II Bren-gun carrier with busted tracks lying in a 7' trench dug by ingenious New Zealanders. The back of the carrier was jacked up sufficiently to get the 1" manilla rope around one of the gear wheels. Four forward gears allowed great variety in speed UP the hill. The day started in low gear, but when everyone got warmed up, the jokers shifted on you until it was possible to spit skiers expertly 40-50' uphill beyond the pulley block. It was difficult to down shift, so when the motor was in high gear, you either mastered the art of getting onto the tow and going from 0 to 20 m.p.h. uphill very quickly, or you didn't ski much of the time. A box of old gloves was thoughtfully placed by the launching pad, and there was usually a strong smell of burning leather and wool. Everything worked all right however, as long as you watched for that splice. Few made it all the way. To be a bona fide member of the club, you had to survive the tow and make it down the hill without falling at all. There is only about 8" precipitation a year, so the surface was almost all blue ice. Prospective members turned up with everything from toboggans to tea-trays, but the rules were still the same. You can usually tell a member by the way he walks and talks, or by the strange scars on his palms. If he doesn't look too stylish downhill, remember brother, he sure knows how to ride a rope tow!

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