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Division Director
Dr. Keith A. Argow

Editor
Roberta S. Rupp

FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR

In the 14 years of National Ski Patrol activity within the South, this is the coldest, snowiest and most skiingest winter we have ever had. In making the rounds of the division, I'm happy to report that we are more than responding to the needs.

In addition to all the good skiing, several new programs have been instituted in the Southern Division this winter. We have started a new NSPS hotline located in Asheville N.C. The purpose of this is to help further communications to patrollers about test clinics, first aid courses, mountaineering courses, junior programs, etc. Initial response has been quite favorable and we hope you will use it.

The training and testing committee held its 1977 clinic at Snowshoe, W.Va. January 8 and 9. Emphasis was on consistency of grading and on training. The new concept is training then testing. The goal of this effort is a higher pass rate for the basic and senior exam, and a better understanding among the candidates of what is expected of them.

Our Spring NSPS Convention is usually held the weekend before Easter (Palm Sunday). This year the date will conflict with the final weekend of the Southern Division Avalanche Course to be held in Montana. We have rescheduled the convention for April 16th at Abingdon, Va. which is more central to our growing number of patrollers.

See you on the hill!

Keith Argow

N S P S H O T L I N E

A 24 HOUR SERVICE

(704) 252 7102

(Remember, telephone rates
are cheaper at night.)

T & T

A Basic Test was held at Snowshoe on December 11th. The 6 candidates, all from Snowshoe, passed: John (Jody) Ballantyne, John R. Day, Jr., George Fahoury, Tom Illmensee, Ed Johnson and Bob Razzano.

A Basic Test was held at Wintergreen on January 16th. Those who passed are: Jim Baker, Jan Crenshaw, Brandon Deane, Shawn Feeney, Tom Gainey, Carter Hall, Frank Hoppes, Anne Royals, O. D. Royals, Jr. and Chris Stubbs, Wintergreen; David Lilly, Snowshoe and O. B. Schaltegger, Homestead.

A Senior Test was conducted January 16th at Sugar Mtn. Despite bitter cold, snow and a stiff breeze, Kim Annas and Chuck Benbow, Seven Devils; Phil Birdsong, Wintergreen and Debbie Johnson, Sugar Mtn. successfully completed the test.

The remaining Senior Tests are February 6th at Cataloochee and February 13th at Snowshoe. If you plan to take either, have your PL notify Tom Worley, 4 Pepperhill Court, Greensboro, N.C. 27407.

A T & T Clinic was held January 8 & 9 at Snowshoe. A great deal of information was exchanged and hopefully will benefit the division in the future. Two Senior Test Judges were certified: Marshall McClung, Snowshoe and Ken Remington, Wolf Laurel. Five Basic Test Judges were certified: Steve Benbow, Seven Devils; Randy Blackburn, Snowshoe; Jack Case, Gatlinburg; Jack Hall, Cataloochee and Fritz Marquardt, Snowshoe. Tom Worley, Division T & T Advisor wishes to thank all who came and participated.

MOUNTAINEERING INSTRUCTORS CERTIFIED

Last month Dan Dunlevy, National Ski Mountaineering Advisor, certified the following members of the Southern Division as Registered Ski Mountaineering Instructors: Charles Benbow No.84, Gary W. Delius No.85 and French H. Moore, Jr. No.86. He wrote "Your experience will provide an excellent background in this instructorship not to mention the lift you will be giving to the Southern Division".

CAROLINA HIGHLANDS

Don Rupp has resigned as SC due to a business transfer. We are all happy to know that Don will be skiing at Sugar Mtn. on his vacations. Charles Benbow is the new SC. He is a National Patroller, Division Awards Advisor, PL at Seven Devils, on the Avalanche and Mountaineering staffs and a Mountaineering Instructor. Let's all give Charles our full support!

VIRGINIA/WEST VIRGINIA

There were 74 patrollers at Harrisonburg for the refresher, representing 3 of the 6 patrols in the section. We are growing!

Snowshoe opened at Thanksgiving and Wintergreen a week later. High Meadows has been open intermittently since the middle of December and Cascade finally opened January 10th. George Sanborn is the new PL at Cascade.

DINNER AT SEVEN DEVILS

On February 19th Seven Devils will once again have their fabulous spaghetti dinner as a patrol benefit. All are invited to come after 6:30PM for great food and fellowship.

NEWS FROM A FORMER SOUTHERN SKIER

Dick Thalacker, former Dixie Region Director, is now living in Michigan and is active in the Eastern Michigan Region of NSPS. He is on the Mt. Brighton patrol, and had charge of the Patrol Directors Seminar held at the area on October 16th. We miss Dick, but are happy he is still active in NSPS!

CONTRIBUTORS

Keith Argow	Chuck Hancock
Randy Avery	Dale Johnson
Charles Benbow	Tom Worley
Peter Chamberlin	

NEXT DEADLINE March 10th

CIRCLE A

So far this season there have been seven courses offered in the Southern Division with 95 patrollers participating.

Another course will be given at Seven Devils on February 26th from 8:00AM to 12:30PM. Contact Charles Benbow 3914 Friendly Road, Greensboro, N.C. 27410 (phone 919-299-4900) for registration and your equipment list by February 15th.

AVALANCHE PATCH COURSE

This course will be held at Bozeman, Montana, March 26th to April 2nd. The registration deadline is February 15th. We must know the exact number of patrollers by that date to make final arrangements. (Requirements are Circle A and M.) To register, mail photostat copy of NSPS registration card and list the number of people (family/friends) who plan to make the trip. We will use group rates so no air fare will be due before March 26th. Those taking the course for credit must include a \$20.00 registration fee to cover the cost of manuals. Make all checks payable to "Southern Division NSPS". Send registrations to: Dale Johnson, P.O. Box 9613, 2326 Hiawatha Drive, Greensboro, N.C. 27408 (phone 919-288-9790).

FUND RAISING

We would like to thank Tom Worley, Dave Dillard and all the Benbows for the Swap Shop they had as a benefit for the Southern Division NSPS last November in Greensboro! It was a huge success and netted over \$260.00 profit for division.

Tom Worley has had some Ski Safety logo pins 3" in diameter made up to sell for \$1.00 for a patrol benefit. He has some left: "Poorly adjusted bindings are like snow tires. They both give you traction" and "People who drink and ski may get plastered". These have sold well and are not only a help to the patrol budget, but are a plus for Ski Safety. If you would like some, contact him: 4 Pepperhill Court, Greensboro, N.C. 27407 (phone 919-294-1491).

CIRCLE M

The Wintergreen Patrol sponsored the largest course ever held in this division with 34 participants on November 20-21st. The instructors were John Lawrence, Mickey Lawson and Dale Johnson.

A course will be held at Seven Devils on February 26-27th. Registration is required by February 15th. Contact Charles Benbow, 3914 Friendly Road, Greensboro, N.C. 27410 (phone 919-299-4900) for registration and your equipment list.

MOUNTAINEERING PATCH COURSE

The course will begin at 6:00PM February 11th and end around noon on the 13th. Contact Dr. French Moore, P.O. Box 516, Abingdon, Va. 24210 (phone 703-628-7266) as soon as possible to register and for your equipment list. Requirements are Circle A and M. The participants will meet at the Washington County Lifesaving Crew Headquarters, Park Street, Abingdon, Va. and then travel to Mt. Rogers for the field work.

IN MEMORIAM

The Southern Division mourns the recent passing of Eric B. DeGroat, a pioneer ski patroller in the South. He was the first PL at Appalachian Mtn. and Hound Ears and developed college courses in advanced winter first aid. He was the recipient last year of the National Gold Star Award for his outstanding service to NSPS and the skiing public. We will all miss Eric!

NEW PROFESSIONAL PATROL ADVISOR

French Moore, III, Wintergreen PL, has been appointed advisor for professional patrol activities in the division.

JOB MART

Mill Ridge needs a professional patroller. If interested, contact PL Randall Thomas at the area on weekends or write to P.O. Box 67, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514 (phone 919-966-1161, ext.383 work, or 929-9826 home.)

ELECTION OF DIVISION DIRECTOR AND APPOINTMENT OF DIVISION TREASURER

As he announced at the Fall Division Meeting at Beech Mtn., Keith Argow is completing his fifth and final year as Division Director. As required by both National and Division By-laws, a successor will be selected by a division-wide election, with each Patrol Leader, Section Chief and Region Director allowed one vote.

Chuck Hancock is chairing the nominating committee for the selection of candidates to be submitted to the National Office in Denver, which will conduct the election. The prerequisites as listed in the Operating Manual and outlined briefly here are:

1. Must be a registered National Patroller and served either one term as a Region Director or two terms as a Section Chief, or
2. Must have been a NSPS member for five years, with at least one year as a Senior, and served at least two years as a Division Advisor or ADD.

As part of the nominating procedure, any actively registered patroller may nominate a qualified candidate or a candidate may self-nominate. In either case, a resume of the candidate's qualifications and NSPS history must accompany such nomination. Upon acceptance of the nominee's candidacy, such candidate must submit a statement of his/her agreement to serve if elected. All nominations should be submitted by February 15th so that adequate time is available for the election process.

Chuck Hancock, who has served as Division Treasurer and Registration Coordinator, is also stepping down from that position effective with the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 1977. Under the by-laws the position is an appointed one, but the Board of Directors has requested that likely candidates be nominated. The requirements are:

1. Currently an active patroller, preferably Senior or National Patroller
2. Preferably having served as a PL, Division Advisor or committee chairman.

Send all nominations to: Chuck Hancock, 4708 Metcalf Drive, Raleigh, N. C. 27612.

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