



# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Official Publication of the Southern Division  
National Ski Patrol System, Inc.  
3914 Friendly Avenue • Greensboro, NC 27410

Division Director: Charles T. Benbow, Jr.

Editor: Bobbie Rupp

Vol. XII, No. 3

May 1983

## CHARLIE'S CHATTER

The Southern Division Season had a good early start, a very poor middle, (as did most of the East Coast), and a very good ending.

One problem that has been of concern to us is the loss of patrollers this year. This is the first time in many years that we have not had a growth figure of about 9% to 10%. It is not just the numbers that we are concerned about, it is the loss of trained patrollers. If we were to look at the trained patrollers as if they were in industry, we would be losing an experienced and valued employee. Even though most of us are volunteers, training patrollers who then leave the system is expensive to all of us. I do not know the answer to this problem, except personal contact with these patrollers. Another loss to the system is our Junior Patrollers who have just turned eighteen, become Basic Patrollers, and then go away from home to college. I feel that our Juniors are our "Leaders of Tomorrow" and we are losing them because there is no classification for these young patrollers while they are away at college.

We had some High and Low Points in our programs this year. Again the Avalanche Patch Course that was to be at Bridger Bowl, Montana, did not get off the ground due to lack of participation from patrollers. The Certified Program failed completely. At this time I do not know the explanation for the failure this year. We had far more success with most of the programs. I do not know how to list them except to name some of those that were the very best.

The Historian/Archivist again came up with an excellent scrapbook for the 1982-83 season. The only reason it was not complete is because all the patrols and officers did not get Patsy Harris or Joy Slagle pictures of their activities. All Patrol Leaders should make every effort to get pictures of their patrol and patrollers to Patsy or Joy. Bobbie Rupp again did her fine job with the Southern Cross and we do appreciate her efforts. The biggest problem we have with the Southern Cross is people not sending articles to Bobbie for publication. It is our newspaper and we all should do more to support the Southern Cross with articles and news from the Division.

Benning Garrison did an outstanding job with Public Relations. The Southern Division Information Brochures for Public Relations were very well accepted by the Ski Areas, and were also used by several patrollers for Fund Raising within the Division. We feel that these brochures can and should be used as a contact for fund raising. Let Mike Harris know of any contacts that you make that will help our fund raising appeal.

Our Junior Program has and still is producing some very good patrollers for the system. The problem is that for some reason we do not have that many Juniors in the division. There are only a few Ski Areas that have Juniors that come to the Division Junior Jamboree. There were only five Ski Areas represented by their Juniors this year at Hawksnest. We were happy to have ten Juniors and Explorer Scouts attend the National Junior Training Seminar at Crested Butte, Colorado. Congratulations are in order to Dale Spencer, Appalachian Ski Mountain, for placing first nationally in the free skiing competition.

This is the Third year that the Explorer Scout Program produced some Juniors and Patrollers. If we can ever get an Explorer manual approved and printed it will help the problem. It does take many long hours of hard work to start with the Explorers and see them through to the Junior or Patroller classification.

To those of you that missed the Spring Convention at Virginia Beach: You lost out on a beautiful weekend at the Beach! Randy Pugh and crew did an outstanding job putting it all together. The disappointing thing is all the work that goes into putting on the Convention and not having many people attend. We only had two out of eight Section Chiefs and only eight out of twenty-four Patrol Leaders attend. It was not a very good showing for the officers.

This season I was able to attend four Refreshers: Carolina Highlands Section, Grandfather Section, Virginia Section and the second half of the West Virginia-Kentucky Section at General Butler. I also was able to ski or just visit with every patrol in the Southern Division. The bad skiing weather that we had at Christmas did not help my schedule and plan to ski with every Patrol, but being able to visit did turn out very well.

This was my first year to have the pleasure of driving the AMC Eagle. I think the Eagle is very worthy of being called the Official Vehicle for the NSPS. We have almost 12,000 miles on the Southern Division AMC Eagle and it has proved to be a very fine vehicle. The Eagle has been up to and above any expectations that I had.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you of the Southern Division for allowing me to serve as your Division Director, and especially for being given the opportunity to serve you for the second term. Again, I plan to visit and ski with each patrol in the Southern Division this coming season. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve you.

Charles T. Benbow, Jr., D.D.



## CALENDAR

- Aug. 27 Executive Committee Meeting  
Sept. 17 Fall Officers Meeting—Appalachian  
Sept. 18 Southern Cross Deadline

## REPORT ON SOUTHEASTERN SKI AREA ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING APRIL 30-MAY 1, 1983

While many of you were basking in the sun and enjoying the Tidewater/Virginia Beach area, a couple of us were still at work. If you can call wining and dining with the great people at Ober Gatlinburg work!

Lynn Pace and I were very pleased to represent the NSPS at the meeting. You can be proud of your patrol. Every area manager we spoke with was very pleased with the work done last year, and the rapport NSPS has been building for the areas.

Cal Conniff, National Ski Area Association President, gave a report concerning skiing into the 80's. The summation is a very strong emphasis on safety and awareness.

This coming fall, I'm sure our area managers will want to discuss with each patrol, the implementation and observation of ski safety and the enforcement of the skier's responsibility code.

The rise of critical and paralyzing injuries resulting from reckless skiers has been noted. Control of reckless skiers is a First Aid measure that will become part of our accident prevention.

See you in the fall.

Peter Chamberlin  
Blue Ridge RD



The prestigious members of the "Rusty Coat Club." (L to R) Charles Benbow, Harwell Dabbs, Dave Dillard, and Keith Argow. We were fortunate to have all the present and past Southern Division Directors at the 1983 Spring Convention.

Photo by Joy Slagle

## SPRING CONVENTION NEWS

Virginia Beach was beautiful, the sun shone brightly, and the wind was brisk enough to call for sweaters while strolling on the boardwalk. Those who braved the Atlantic Ocean reported numbed or frozen feet. After all, it had snowed in the vicinity only a week before. Those of us who were given oceanfront rooms or suites had barely 20 paces to the sand. Glorious!

The news from the convention itself is both good and bad.

The good news is that Charles Benbow was reelected for another two years. Steve Over, the Executive Director of NSPS, who counts the votes, sent word that our division had the best turnout of votes of any division ever. Of that we should be proud.

About the bad news, we should be anything but proud. Wouldn't you have thought that out of 630 patrollers, at least 100 (some being spouses) would come to the annual meeting? Guess again! This lack of support was appalling. And expensive, because the treasury had to foot the bill for 30 unserved but guaranteed dinners . . . at \$20 per plate. Seventy—count 'em, 70—was the total attendance.

Too far to come, you say? The Dixie Region had as many attending as any region, with at least 11 from Tennessee alone, and four from Georgia. Doug Carlberg came from Florida. All of the executive committee was there with the exception of Pete Chamberlin, who was representing Charles at the SESAA Managers' meeting at Ober Gatlinburg; all four division directors—Keith Argow, Dave Dillard, Harwell Dabbs and Charles Benbow—were present. But only two of the eight section chiefs were there, both from Skyline; less than half the patrol leaders showed up; and of the 25 advisors, only 10 came.

Special guest this year was Ed Ziegenfoos, the Southern Region Director of Eastern Division.

Randy Pugh and his committee did a topnotch job hosting the convention, and planning a superb banquet Saturday night, which included steamship round of beef, carved to order; a sauteed seafood combination of shrimp, scallops, oysters and clams; a lot of other goodies, and cheesecake for dessert.

The DD had extras on the dessert, when he gave out three angel pins, along with kisses, to Adit Steinfatt, Carol Pugh and Debbie Chadick.

It's like the postcards sent from the beach always say: "Having a wonderful time. Wish you were here." We did. You should have.

Benning Garrison  
Public Relations Advisor



Southern patrollers soaking up sunshine at the spring convention—Virginia Beach, VA.

Photo by Joy Slagle



## OUTSTANDING AWARDS 1982-83

Southern Division is justly proud of its award-winning patrol and patrollers for the 1982-83 season, which were announced following the banquet at the Spring Convention.

Outstanding Auxiliary—Mary K. Twomey, Cataloochee

Outstanding Junior Patroller—Gena White, for the second consecutive year, Wintergreen

Outstanding Professional Patroller—Doug Molyneaux, Wintergreen

Outstanding Patroller—Mark Taylor, who also just became our third National Mountaineering Instructor, Ski Hawksnest

Outstanding Patrol—Ober Gatlinburg

Benning Garrison  
Public Relations Adv.

## NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to the two Southern Division patrollers who received National Appointments during the banquet Saturday night at Virginia Beach:

Sam Bruce, #6110, Wintergreen

Joy Slagle, #6120, Ober Gatlinburg PL

Benning Garrison  
Public Relations Adv.

## SERVICE AWARDS

Service awards were given to Patrol leaders to be presented at Patrol functions later. Only four Patrol leaders requested Service Awards. Mike Chandler at Sky Valley, Steve Benbow at Hawksnest, Joy Slagle, Ober Gatlinburg, and Bob Newton at Cataloochee.

Awards were presented for 235 years of service to the National Ski Patrol.

Bruce McLean	15 years
Ed Gassman	10 years
Ann Gassman	10 years
Robert Knoll	10 years
Debbie Cutler	10 years
Doris Benbow	10 years
Steve Benbow	10 years
Bob Edwards	10 years
Ed Saleen	10 years
Gail Jones	10 years
Don Jones	10 years
Bob Landin	10 years
Bob Twomey	10 years
Jack Hall	15 years

Three Special Patrollers accounted for 60 years.

Eugene Henderson	20 years
Janie Bollinger	20 years
Roger Bollinger	20 years

One very special young lady received her Quarter Century Award.

Benning Garrison	25 years
	Charles T. Benbow, Jr. Awards Adv.

The next issue of Southern Cross will have a "center-fold" of officers and division advisors. Be sure to get your picture in before the deadline (Sept. 18th).

Editor

## PATROL NEWS

### RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FOR OBER GATLINBURG

The Ober Gatlinburg Ski Patrol will begin the 1983-84 ski season with 2-way radio communication as a result of a major fund raising project. Patrollers eagerly sold tickets on a chance to win \$400.00 worth of merchandise from Rolf Lanz Ski Shop. The drawing was held Jan. 30, 1983, with David Oakley being the lucky recipient. The patrol worked extremely hard to raise the funds to purchase the valuable life-saving radio equipment. High honors and a pair of special Tyrolia bindings went to Linda Pace for selling the most tickets.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to everyone who supported our successful project.

Joy Slagle, PL

### SNOWSHOE A & M JANUARY 15 & 16, 1983

In the middle of a blizzard, 12 Snowshoe patrollers ventured into the woods of Black Run for an overnight camping trip. We all managed to survive even with temperatures dipping to just below zero and 18" of new snow dumping on us during the night. Sunday morning brought lots of sunshine for a beautiful 7 mile cross country ski trip back to the basin.



## ADDRESS CHANGES

### BLUE RIDGE REGION

- 1) Sugar Vol. Patrol  
Bill Dacchille  
1003 Faculty St.  
Boone, NC 28607

### DIXIE REGION

- 1) Sapphire Valley  
Tom Thomas, PL  
Rt. 2, Box 60-A  
Williamson Creek  
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768  
(H) 704-883-8559  
(O) 704-862-4463

### SKYLINE REGION

- 1) Wintergreen  
Jim Kneas, PL  
Wintergreen Resort  
Wintergreen, VA 22938  
(H) 804-325-1164  
(O) 804-325-2200
- 2) Snowshoe  
Chip Rettzo, PL  
(O) 304-799-6600  
Ext. 185

- 2) Sky Valley  
Billy Warner, PL  
5964 Twilight Trail  
Morrow, GA 30260  
(H) 404-961-7635
- 3) Cedar Cliff  
Billy Roberts, PL  
Route 1, Box 51  
Clifton, TN 38425

### AREA MANAGERS

- 3) Lakewood Village  
John M. Fletcher, PL  
250 Court St.  
Huntington, WV 25701
- 4) General Butler  
Everett S. Brown, PL  
6710 Highway 329  
Crestwood, KY 40014  
(H) 502-241-5245
- 1) General Butler Ski Area  
Phil Janke  
Box 347  
Carrollton, KY 41008  
(H) 502-732-6971
- 2) Snowshoe  
Pat Coleman  
Snowshoe, WV 26209  
(O) 304-799-6600 Ext. 144



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