



CONNECTICUT REGION – NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT

REGION DIRECTOR

April 12, 2023

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MISSION STATEMENT

NSP: TO HELP KEEP PEOPLE SAFE ON THE MOUNTAIN AND DURING OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.	MISSION STATEMENT: Provide support for all regional programs, patrols and members. Represent the Connecticut Region in the Eastern Division.
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REMEMBRANCE OF LOST PATROLLERS

- **Ken Post**, May 14, 2023 Pahquioque Patrol, Patrol Director
- **James Chagnon**, August 21, 2023; Mt. Southington
- **Morton (Morty) Pear**, September 18, 2023; Powder Ridge (36 years)
- **Louis Guerrera**; October 15, 2023; Ski Sundown, ?? (53 years)
- **Christopher Winsor**; November 8, 2023; Ski Sundown 28 years (1969-97)
- **Rick Crolius**; November 2023; Powder Ridge 20 years; PD, Hill Captain, RD NA 8200; ARC First Aid Instructor (prior to WEC)
- **Bob States**; March 14, 2024; Powder Ridge; over 25 years

2023-24 SEASON GOALS

Coming into this past season, I made a few goals for 2023-2024. Let's take a look.

1. Meet with Patrol Leadership as appropriate, a minimum of three times: Prior to the season, mid-season and end of season. *[Goal met: We had six joint patrol leadership/program advisor meetings]*
2. Meet with Program Advisors as appropriate, a minimum of three times: Prior to the season, mid-season and end of season. *[Goal met: We had six joint patrol leadership/program advisor meetings]*
3. Ski at least once a month at each ski area. *[Goal not met. I was able to visit all areas, but unfortunately did not ski everywhere.]*
4. Ensure that RD, ARD or SC will attend a minimum of one OEC & OET class at each area, per month and attend all OEC & OET evaluations in the region, schedule permitting. *[Goal partially met. Attended Mohawk, Southington and Ski Sundown OEC courses 2-4 times a month (plus evaluation). Due to scheduling conflicts, only able to attend the Pahquioque OEC final evaluation. Unable to attend any OET training or evaluation sessions. Participated in Southington OFC.]*
5. Attend as many other training events as possible (i.e., lift evac, on-the-hill, ID, MTR, Alumni, etc.). *[Goal met. Attended/participated in the following: Safety Events at Lakeridge, Sundown, Pahquioque, Mohawk, Powder Ridge, Nutmeg Nordic. YAP clinics at Bromley, Saskadena Six, Smugglers Notch. Senior: eight OEC clinics/Zoom presentations, meetings, OET evaluation at Catamount. Alumni Day at Ski Sundown.]*
6. Find new ORM Advisor to succeed Andrew Flint who is stepping down. *[Goal met: Andrew (Provo) Schuch]*

SEASON OVERVIEW: MILESTONES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CHALLENGES

Let's take a look at the 2022-2023 season.

PEOPLE, it really is all about our people, isn't it?

Peter Bayer, our Region OEC Administrator is stepping down and handing the reins over to Berni Fowler, effective April 1, 2024. Peter assumed the role as our CT Region OEC Administrator in 2019 and has been instrumental in continuing to grow our refreshers year after year. We continually hear from participating patrollers that the current refresher was the best one yet. He helped us through COVID-19 and as began to emerge from the constraints of the pandemic, he moved our refresher to Camp Sloper in 2021. Oh, and let's not forget the rollout of OEC 6 in May of 2020. Thank you for all your hard work in making this happen.

Mark Pahmer served as our Alternate Region Director since 2020. One of his first challenges in his new role came with COVID-19. It was a "baptism by fire". Never one to shy away from difficult tasks, he can always be counted on to offer new perspectives and alternate ideas. This has strengthened the region's leadership team, helping us better serve our membership. Thank you.

Berni Fowler has been working with Peter for the past season, learning all the tricks of the trade, and inventing some new ones along the way. She is always thinking of ways to harness technology to make our lives easier, especially when it comes to the ever-changing and somewhat complex procedures of registering for and administering our refreshers. I look forward to working with her for the next two years. It will be exciting. She's officially taking the reins on April 1, 2024.

I'd also like to welcome Greg Bruhin who is stepping up on April 1, 2024 to be our Alternate Region Director. Greg knows NSP and the CT region quite well, having been quietly leading and teaching at Ski Sundown for twelve years. I expect you will see him more in 2024.

Recruiting Andrew (Provo) Schuch was appointed as our ORM Advisor, allowing Andrew Flint to step down. I thank Andrew Flint's work on this program as our first ORM Advisor. This is a new program, just gaining traction with a course now available through the Center for Learning (nsp.org). Provo brings enthusiasm, energy and professional knowledge to the position. I look forward to working with him. As a Safety Captain for Mohawk, Provo has also been very active, staffing numerous Safety Events throughout our region.

Congratulations to our newest Senior Alpine Patrollers: Sherri Cormier, Aihong (Jason) Duan, John Ozolins.

I'd also like to thank Justin Regan and Sue-Ellen Repeta for raising funds for the region. Justin donated a pair of skis for us to raffle off at our OEC refresher. This was pure profit of \$912.00 for our region. Sue-Ellen Repeta (and family) once again sold pizza and water at our refresher, earning \$302.10 for the region.

OUR PROGRAMS

Kathy Fitzpatrick has been doing double duty as our Eastern Division Safety Supervisor and CT Region Safety Advisor. Melanie Muszynski who has been Kathy's assistant this past season, will be taking over as our CT Region Safety Advisor. Thank you for all the hard work you have invested in this program, and welcome to your new role.

The Safety team has been very active this year. Standouts who attended most, if not all of the events throughout the region are Melanie, Provo, Chris Warren, Ken Steiger and Greg Bruhin. Their efforts began with an October bike event sponsored by Bridge Healthcare in Milford, followed by Lakeridge's Think Snow event to kick off the ski season followed by Ski Sundown, Thunder Ridge (Pahquioque patrol), Lakeridge (yes, again!), Southington, Mohawk, Powder Ridge and Nutmeg Nordic. Of note is that this is the first time we have been able to run a safety event at Winding Trails (Nutmeg Nordic patrol). They had snow. It was a beautiful day and we were very well taken care of.

One thing we have noticed is that these events have the potential to recruit patrol candidates. I will try to develop a generic brochure that will have contact information for all patrols in our region.

We had a very successful Women's Day event at Ski Sundown this year. This was a joint endeavor between the Safety and Women's programs. Participants got some ski instruction, enjoyed some delicious food, and thanks to Berni Fowler, received commemorative hand-made buffs designed specifically for the event.

The Snowboard clinic at Ski Sundown was an opportunity for 13 participants to have some fun and work with three AASI instructors. This program is a highlight of many of our region's snowboard patrollers.

As mentioned above, the Senior Program continues to grow. We had many successes in both OEC and OET modules. OET was again challenged by warm weather. No moguls at all this year, but the program was able to provide the best experience as they could given the lack of bumps. OEC had

another successful year running under the new Leadership, Decision Making, Problem Management structure.

MTR was unfortunately, unable to run their program this year due to low interest. This is very disappointing, as it is a fun, engaging, challenging course taught by some of our best instructors in the region. This is a course that is relevant to all of us who work or play outdoors, not just for those who trek or camp in the wilderness. Let's overwhelm them this year with enrollments. It may be one of the best weekends you'll have next season.

We had yet another great day at Ski Sundown for our Annual Alumni Day. It was a bluebird day, warm, sunny with perfect snow, and of course a great group of friends. Ski Sundown was the perfect host, providing us with a continental breakfast, lunch spread and ski tickets for \$12.00!

We had three YAP events this year – Bromley, Saskadena Six and Smuggler's Notch. Participation was a bit lower than we would have liked, but our young adult patrollers are very busy and it is sometimes difficult to carve out time for out of region events. This is an amazing program and a great investment in our organization. These are our future leaders, and we need to support them. The future of NSP is really in their hands. A few years ago, at an Eastern Division Spring Officers' Meeting attended by RDs, Section Chiefs, division level program supervisors, national board members (past and present), about 70% of those in attendance had been YAPs (or student patrollers, or youth patrollers – the name has changed over the years).

A new and growing segment of patrolling is Bike Patrolling. We now have our own region advisor, Roger DelGiorno, who is just starting his bike season (after being on the snow all winter). We have new educational programs (check out the Center for Learning) and Roger is in the process of developing a corps of instructors and ITs. He is working on a presence on our region website as well as social media. He is also working with larger, established bike events this summer and fall. Expect to hear more from this program.

As a reminder, for those who are interested in learning more about region leadership opportunities – RD, Alternate RD, Section Chief – we do have a Leadership Development Program of which you avail yourself. We have Section Chief elections every spring, alternating between Housatonic and Pequot sections, and will be electing a new RD in the fall of 2025. Our ARD will also be up for re-election.

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3. Ski at least once at each ski area.
4. Ensure that RD, ARD or SC will attend a minimum of one OEC & OET class at each area, per month and attend all OEC & OET evaluations in the region, schedule permitting.
5. Attend as many other training events as possible (i.e., lift evac, on-the-hill, ID, MTR, Alumni, etc.).
6. By the end of the 2024-25 season, write a job description for RD position.
7. Develop a "generic" recruiting brochure for the region by December 1, 2024.

Thank you all for making this a great region to call home. I am very proud of what all of you were able to accomplish this past season. I know there is even a brighter future for us as we move forward into the 2024-25 season. Our success is due to the innovation, energy and dedication of our staff, program administrators and advisors, and the hundreds of patrollers who keep our patrols and areas safe and enjoyable for the skiing and biking public.

Thank you. I am excited to see what we will accomplish in 2024-25.

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