

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

**SUNDOWN SKI PATROL, INC.**

AS OF MARCH 26, 2023

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

<b>NSP:</b> TO HELP KEEP PEOPLE SAFE ON THE MOUNTAIN AND DURING OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.	<b>PATROL MISSION STATEMENT:</b> Do you have one? Have fun skiing / riding, and eat good food with friends. (just made that up)
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**SEASON OVERVIEW: MILESTONES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CHALLENGES**

On September 11 Sundown hosted the annual OEC Instructor Refresher.

Annual On-the-Hill Meeting and Refresher for the patrol was held on September 18, 2022. We developed a Narcan protocol, provided training at the refresher, and now maintain Narcan on the mountain.

In October, Sundown hosted a multi-agency event with a focus on pediatric trauma, with an emphasis on patient handoff to the next level of care. There were about 50 professionals in attendance including Sundown Patrollers, New Hartford EMS, Trinity Paramedics, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Childrens / Hartford Healthcare, and Lifestar helicopter and crew. Best take-away for the non-ski patrol community, was that they have a much higher level of knowledge of our capabilities, and respect for what we do. They realized that we are not just a bunch of scouts practicing first aid for a merit badge.

We are trying to foster a better working relationship with our local EMS service. In November, a few patrollers from Sundown went to New Hartford EMS for one of their training events, and trained all their EMTs on how to do boot removal. Most of these people don't even ski! On the second day of operation, we had a tib-fib that went right from the sled into the back of their rig, and the EMS crew of two very young people, successfully and expertly removed the patients boots.

Our OEC class began one week late this year, in August. At the last minute, I had to change IOR for the class, and appointed John Henry to take on this role. He hit the ground running, and had that class up and going with less than 10 days notice. John had a direct role in on-boarding 5 new OEC instructors. We have identified, and hope to recruit at least two more for this next OEC class.

Our CPR program, is also run by John Henry who is an AHA Instructor Trainer, new Training Center Coordinator, and Bristol Hospital faculty. We added 5 new AHA CPR instructors, and now have 12. John has gotten management support and involvement, and has begun to train people in multiple ski area departments in CPR, including area management and adaptive, with the goal of having all departments participate. The end goal is to have Ski Sundown become an AHA Training Center, and create new ITs.

Our challenges are few. We have a very skilled and motivated group of patrollers and hosts, that give it their all, every time they are on the mountain. We also have an awesome ski area owner and management team, that supports us on all aspects of our mission.

#### **STATISTICS**

This season we started with 84 active patrollers, promoted 8 from candidate to Alpine Patroller to end the season with 92 Alpine Patrollers. We began the OEC class with 12 candidates, 1 dropped out, 2 were unsuccessful with OEC, and 1 was unsuccessful with OET, leaving us with the 8 new Alpine Patrollers mentioned above.

We had 6 returning Mountain Hosts, and after some heavy recruitment, we added 26 new Mountain Hosts for a staff of 32 for the season. One of our new hosts was an Alpine Patroller that wanted to go Alumni, who instead decided to become a Host.

We had 2 patrollers that participated in Senior program. Neil Glagovich successfully completed his OET, which should make him a full Alpine Senior. Tom Kim successfully completed OET, and will work towards fulfilling other requirements at a later time.

Sundown opened on Monday 12/26, and closed for the season at 4PM on 3/26, for a total of 84 days of operation.

Total number of incidents requiring ski patrol assistance was 239. I recall just 1 lifestar response.

#### **FUTURE CHALLENGES AND PLANS**

We plan to begin our OEC class in August, and are already compiling the list. We hope to cap the class at, and begin with 16 candidates. At least 7 of those candidates will be drawn from our pool of Mountain Hosts, 5 of which have already completed OET this season. My goal is to rebuild and replenish the MH team, and continue to elevate some of them to Alpine Patrollers each season. The hosts are motivated, they seem to want more, I need more, and it seems to be a win-win.

Six of the hosts make up 3 husband and wife couples. Of the 6, 3 of them plan to become Alpine Patrollers in the next few years. Best part is they are YOUNG couples. Kind of a rarity as the average age of patrollers in the NSP is going up, and the families seem to be hard to come by. We will try to continue to draw in the families that can take this journey together.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff Barter – Patrol Director