



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

**REGION DIRECTOR**

April 1, 2025

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

<b>NSP:</b> TO HELP KEEP PEOPLE SAFE ON THE MOUNTAIN AND DURING OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.	<b>MISSION STATEMENT:</b> 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**

- **Nat Florian**, September 27, 2024, Mt Southington, 52 years
- **Rober C. Foster**, September 25, 2024, Mohawk Mountain
- **Dan Negrelli**, February 22, 2025, Ski Sundown, 7 years

**2024-25 SEASON GOALS**

Coming into this past season, I made a few goals for 2024-2025. 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 at each ski area. *[Goal not met. I was able to visit all areas, but unfortunately only skied at five CT Region areas.]*
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 not met. I was able to attend many OEC classes/evaluations. Did not attend OET training outside of home patrol]*
5. Attend as many other training events as possible (i.e., lift evac, on-the-hill, ID, MTR, Alumni, etc.). *[Goal not met. I was only able to attend or participate in Senior evaluations – OEC & OET, Alumni Day, Closer to Free Ride]*
6. By the end of the 2024-25 season, write a job description for RD position. *[Goal not yet met. This continues to be a work in progress and hope to complete prior to end of this season.]*
7. Develop a “generic” recruiting brochure for the region by December 1, 2024. *[Goal not yet met. This also is a work in progress and a useable version should be available for use by the end of this season.]*

## SEASON OVERVIEW: MILESTONES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CHALLENGES

Let's take a look at the 2024-2025 season.

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

I want to welcome Greg Bruhin, our new Alternate Region Director, who joined the region's leadership team on April 1, 2024. He brings 13 years of patrolling experience plus extensive management experience from his “day job”. Greg is high-energy and enthusiastic about patrolling and instructing. Did I mention he is a dynamic OEC instructor as well? I am excited to work with Greg.

We need to elect a new RD, and possibly ARD this coming fall. If you are interested in either of the positions, please let Dan Miller, chair of the Elections Committee know. I would be happy to talk with you about the positions.

Also, effective April 1, 2024, Berni Fowler assumed the reins of our OEC programs, taking over as our Region's OEC Administrator (ROA) after working together with Peter Bayer during the 2023-24 season. She quickly demonstrated her skills in running our best-ever OEC refresher which included, for the first time ever, two instructional videos: one showing how to enroll in the NSP online module, and the other on how to enroll in the skills session. She also created an online (through our region website) liability release form which also provided guidance on the NSP course enrollment process. In fact, all things related to the refresher could be found on our website, including the Refresher Skills Guide and refresher day information. The ROA's job is almost a year-round job that goes far beyond planning and running our refresher, but overseeing all our OEC classes and clinics, OEC Instructor certifications, IT assignments, etc.

Melanie Muszynski has officially assumed the position as our regional Safety Team Advisor, allowing Kathy Fitzpatrick to focus on her job as the division's Safety Team Supervisor. Melanie has done an excellent job of bringing the safety and patroller wellness message to outdoor enthusiasts throughout our region. This is a year-round undertaking encompassing both snow sports and bike seasons,

traveling beyond ski/bike resorts to events such as Yale-New Haven/Smilow Cancer Center's Closer to Free Ride in New Haven and Bridges Healthcare's Folks on Spokes Ride and Step Forward in Milford. she has even provided support outside our region to assist efforts in our division. Thank you, Melanie!

The Safety Team also provided critical assistance to Ski Sundown patrollers who were dealing with the untimely death of a beloved patroller we lost in a skiing accident at Solitude, UT in February. I would also like to thank the patrollers from Mohawk and Southington who volunteered to patrol at Ski Sundown so that their patrollers could pay tribute to Dan Negrelli and his family.

A lot of folks jumped in to raise funds to keep our programs running without having to raise region dues, which are \$17 per patroller. Larry Hyatt sold carabiner watches and glasses, both with our region logo. Kathy Fitzpatrick sold region pins and Melanie Muszynski and Berni Fowler provided reasonably priced sandwiches, chips and beverages. All told, they helped us raise \$1,334.25. Thank you!

Congratulations to our newest Senior Alpine Patrollers: James Wolff and Leianna Dolce. And a special Congratulations to Rebecca Morin-Rubin who passed her Certified Exam. She is only the 871<sup>st</sup> patroller in the history of National Ski Patrol to attain this level of certification. It is a grueling process that took her many years to accomplish. We now have only two Certified Patrollers in our region – Justin Regan and now Rebecca Morin-Rubin. And with any luck, we may have a third in a few years. Stay tuned.

Also, congratulations to Kate Ferris, a Ski Sundown patroller, was recently hired as the Lakeridge Recreation Manager. It will be great to have a patroller in that position.

### **OUR PROGRAMS**

Once again, this season we had another successful Snowboard clinic at Ski Sundown. 11 regional patrollers took advantage of this opportunity to have fun and avail themselves of the expertise of an AASI Level II instructor. This clinic is a season highlight for many of our snowboard patrollers.

Our Senior Program is strong, vibrant and growing. Our OET program is always challenged by Mother Nature and a dependence upon patrols outside of our region to host us for clinics and evaluations. Justin Regan and his team have done an admirable job in working behind the scenes to create an experience that is fun, challenging and I believe in every case, resulted in stronger patrollers. Our OEC Module of the Senior Program (OECMSP) experienced similar results. All told, we have two new Senior Alpine Patrollers and a number more in the system. Everyone is a stronger, more confident patroller, regardless of where they are in the process.

Mountain Travel & Rescue had a very successful MTR-1 clinic this season. The six participants were treated to actual winter weather, sleeping in a snowstorm! The MTR program is embracing the Moodle program through PatrollerSchool.org. This enables patrollers to arrive at the in-person clinic prepared for their hands-on training. If you haven't taken this course yet, I highly recommend it.

Alumni Day at Ski Sundown was another great day of skiing (conditions were absolutely beautiful), camaraderie and food – breakfast and lunch. Melanie Muszynski and Melanie Bowers were there to represent the Safety Team. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

We had two YAP events this year. We were invited to take part in Southern Vermont's joint SVT/WMA/CT clinic at the exclusive private The Heritage Club. They provided an exceptional clinic

environment (great snow, lack of crowds, beautiful facilities and lunch). The YAP Summit was again held at Smuggler's Notch. This was the largest Summit yet, in fact with 83 YAPs plus about another 80 or so adults (chaperones, evaluators, helpers), this was the largest NSP event anywhere. Unfortunately, our participation was minimal in both events. We will work hard to give our YAPs every opportunity to avail themselves of these once-in-a-lifetime events.

Roger DelGiorno, or Bike Advisor, has worked hard to grow this new program. Powder Ridge has a robust bike program with riders traveling great distances to our region's only bike resort. We have opportunities for paid and volunteer bike patrollers. In addition, Roger has created a CT Region National Ski Patrol bike team. We rode in the Closer to Free Ride (Yale-New Haven/Smilow Cancer Center) last year, and it looks like the team will grow significantly this year. He also has his eye on other team events. Stay tuned.

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.

### **2025-26 SEASON GOALS**

- 1. Meet with Patrol Leadership as appropriate, a minimum of three times: Prior to the season, mid-season and end of season.*
- 2. Meet with Program Advisors as appropriate, a minimum of three times: Prior to the season, mid-season and end of season.*
- 3. Ski at least once at each ski area & attend at least one mountain bike event.*
- 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).*
- 6. By the end of the 2025-26 season, have a written a job description for RD and ARD positions.*
- 7. Develop a "generic" recruiting brochure for the region by September 1, 2025.*
- 8. Fill open region positions. Currently: Historian, YAP Advisor, ORM Advisor*
- 9. Begin an orderly transition from current leadership to new RD & ARD beginning Nov 1, 2025.*

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving the CT Region for the past five seasons. I look forward to passing the baton to our next leadership team. Please support them, as you have supported our current leadership team. It will be exciting to see our region grow with a new vision and renewed energy.

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 2025-26 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 2025-26.

*Skip*