

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



**REGION DIRECTOR**

April 12, 2023

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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**

- Chester T. Dabrowski, Mt. Southington (June 2022)
- Paul Lee Haynes, Jr., Ski Sundown, Patrol Director, late 70s – early 80s, (November 2022)
- Lorraine Ratkiewich, Ski Sundown, patrolled 1985-2008 (January 2023)
- Joseph Rao, Mt. Southington (Patroller of the Year)
- Thomas Howard Gillespie, Jr. (patrol unknown)

**2022-23 GOALS**

Coming into this past season, I made a few goals for 2022-2023. 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. *[Objective met with four meetings.]*
2. Meet with Program Advisors as appropriate, a minimum of three times: Prior to the season, mid-season and end of season. *[Objective met with four meetings.]*

3. Ski at least once a month at each ski area *[Did not achieve]*.
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. *[All but one patrol]*
5. Attend as many other training events as possible (i.e., lift evac, on-the-hill, ID, MTR, Alumni, etc.) *[Attended many, but not all]*

## 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?

Jim Tully, Pahquioque Patrol Director, has moved to the Jiminy Peak area and has passed the torch to Eric Schmidt who has moved up the chain of command from Assistant Patrol Director to Patrol Director. Jake Worstell is now the Pahquioque Assistant Patrol Director. I would like to wish Jim and Jen Tully all the best in their new home in MA (but please come back and visit). And I'd like to welcome Eric and Jake to their new leadership positions.

Berni Fowler continues to make strides to help Peter Bayer improve the refresher flow, starting with the way we register for the course, to the on-site sign-in process and the use of QR codes to sign up for continuing education courses, as well as the resurrection of our Continuing Education Newsletter. We have heard great comments from our patrollers, saying that this was the smoothest refresher yet.

I want to thank Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief) for stepping up to fill in for me at our Eastern Division Spring Officers' Meeting in Albany. She represented our region very well. Thank you.

I also want to thank Tony Philpin for his years of service to our region as Housatonic Section Chief. In recognition of his contributions to our region, Tony was presented with a Meritorious Service Award.

I would like to welcome Kenn Kostuk as our incoming Housatonic Section Chief. Many of you may know of Kenn from his years as Ski Sundown Patrol Director (2013-2021). I look forward to working with Kenn.

Regional Recognitions—Congratulations to the following patrollers for their hard work and achievements.

- Alpine Senior Patrollers—Michael Dyer, Neil Glagovich, Aengus Repeta;
- Stan Ellison Continuing Education—Michael Dyer, Aengus Repeta;
- YAP of Year—Aengus Repeta;
- Director's Award—Peter Bayer;
- Mentor of the Year—Sue-Ellen Repeta;
- Dick Gardiner Instructor of the Year—Melinda Mingus;
- Nordic Patroller of the Year—Marshall Berger;

- Alpine Patroller of the Year—Peter Bayer;
- CT Region Hall of Fame—Paula Knight;
- National Appointments—Peter Bayer (12297), Rebecca Morin-Rubin (12298)

## **OUR PROGRAMS**

With COVID-19 pretty much in our rearview mirror this season, our programs quickly spooled back up and ran without a hitch. It was great to see everyone back outside and training again.

We kicked off the winter season with a very successful Safety Day at Lakeridge’s “Think Snow” event on December 3. On March 8, the Safety and the Women’s Program partnered up for a great event at Ski Sundown. Women patrollers from across the region were able to take a few fun runs, enjoy some homemade treats and bid on donated items for a fundraiser. In addition, a number of patrols have hosted their own Safety events. Kathy Fitzpatrick who is currently doing double duty as our Eastern Division Safety Supervisor as well as our CT Region Safety Team Advisor is a great resource for us and can help our patrols put on their own Safety events.

Thanks to the hard work and initiative of Kathy Fitzpatrick: we received a proclamation declaring March 8 as “Women of the Connecticut Region National Ski Patrol Safety Day” from the Governor Lamont, as part of the International Women’s Day event at Ski Sundown.

We had about 12 Young Adult Patrollers in CT who had opportunities to clinic at Saskadena Six in SVT and a joint CT/WMA clinic at Butternut. After a long three years, we were able to cap the season off with a YAP Summit at Smuggler’s Notch—our first such event since 2019, due to COVID-19.

Due to a lack of senior terrain (e.g., moguls) and management changes at some of our standard Senior OET training locations, the program had to travel a bit farther north this year. We had one clinic at Berkshire East. Two clinics and the final evaluation were held at Bromley. Six out of seven passed Alpine Skiing and six out of seven passed Alpine Toboggan.

OEC Module of the Senior Program: CT region was one of the beta test sites for the next evolution of this. Program. Two key elements of this revision are: a change in focus from evaluations to training and; an emphasis on Leadership, Decision Making and Problem Solving, coupled with OEC mastery as a prerequisite for entering the training program. All five who took the final exam were successful. Two achieved full Senior Alpine Patroller status this season.

We rolled out a Leadership Development Program designed to encourage and mentor patrollers who have an interest in running for regional offices, specifically, Region Director, Alternate Region Director and Section Chief. We hope to be able to further develop this program in coming years.

## **EVENTS AND OTHER NOTABLE ITEMS**

Unfortunately, due to an early season storm, Lakeridge lost power and was unable to open for the season. We’re hoping next season will be a banner year for all of our patrols.

Early in the season (e.g., opening days) Apple’s newly released Crash Detection feature activated, calling 9-1-1 when the Apple device (iPhone 14, 14 Pro and iWatch 8, SE 2nd generation and Ultra) detected a “crash”. In these cases, EMS was dispatched without the knowledge of

the ski patrol. This was eventually resolved locally with agreements between the local dispatch center and patrol.

While Bob Cassello had to do some shuffling with dates due to the weather, he was able to hold yet another successful Alumni Day at Ski Sundown. We appreciate their years of gracious hospitality for this event.

John Segretta set up a CT Region Ski Patrol group on Facebook. At last count we had over 50 members. Check it out and spread the news to other CT patrollers.

Thanks to Jeff Barter and Tom Kim, we had a very successful fund raiser at the OEC Refresher, raising \$916.00 which helped us balance our budget, enabling us to continue to provide programs and services to our region members without the need to increase dues. Thank you.

Speaking of fund raisers, the YAP program was able to raise \$410.40 which goes directly to the YAP program.

We are now publishing all annual reports on our website, available to all CT Region patrollers. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to all our Region Officers, Program Advisors and Patrol Directors. This season's reports have improved greatly over last year. These reports are essential in managing our resources during the season and for planning our resource allocations as we develop budgets for upcoming seasons. The reports start with a mission statement that drives the overall direction of the program, a review of last season's goals and performance to those goals and budgets, goals for the upcoming season, and succession planning. It keeps us all accountable to the region's patrollers.

ICS 100 compliance continues to be an on-going effort. Each patrol has a few patrollers who need to complete this requirement. Once we get the rest of our existing patrollers in compliance, we will just need to ensure we include this training requirement as either part of our OEC courses, or as a pre-requisite to the course. NOTE: this is all handled via an open-ended course on the new LMS. Instructions on how to take the course as well as how to submit completion certs can be found by entering "ICS 100" in the LMS search field.

We discovered that our CT Region logo was in violation of the NSP Brand & Style Guidelines which prohibit enclosure of the NSP shield within a shape, such as the State of CT. So we now have a new logo which appears on our website and at the top of the first page of this report.

## **2023-24 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 a month 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. Find new ORM Advisor to succeed Andrew Flint who is stepping down.

It has been great to get back to a “normal”, if there is such a thing, season. Our programs were all quickly back up to speed and patrollers were excited to get back to the business of patrolling and training. I want to thank everyone for all their hard work, dedication, energy and enthusiasm to make this a great season.

2023-24 is right around the corner. I can't wait to see what we can all do.

Thank you.

*Skip*