

Newsletter of the MRM Ski Patrol

THE PATROLLER



WORD FROM THE TOP

The season is almost upon us! Hope you all have your packs/vests restocked, skis or boards tuned and ready to go. This is my last season as Patrol Rep - I really appreciate all the support and the wonderful opportunity to be associated with one of the very best patrols. I dare anyone to find a friendlier, harder working, and supportive "family" of patrollers.

Please remember to check the MRM website for opening day information. For area status updates check www.skimadriver.com or call the toll-free number at 1-800-231-SNOW (7669). If you need to reach someone in the ski patrol room the extension is 219. Hill Leaders, try to check the answering machine on your shift - instructions are on the phone list.

Don't forget to bring your current OEC and CPR card to your first shift. Your Hill Leader is required to check these. If you are a sled puller, get ready to get your Frosty knocked off too. Frosty refreshers have to be submitted to National as a course completion no later than January 15th.

If you cannot make it to your shift, please find someone to cover for you. Simply not showing up is unacceptable. You must contact your Hill Leader if you will not be there - posting it on the Yahoo groups is not sufficient notification. Also, let your Hill Leader know who is covering for you, so they can plan for the shift. As always, if you are a sled puller, you need to have a sled-puller sub for you.

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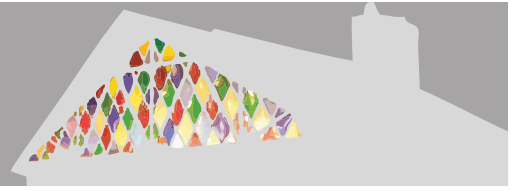
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EQUAL "PAY" FOR EQUAL WORK

By: Kim Hiser

Our new area manager is very concerned about some people working only a few hours a week versus the patroller who is there for many more and everyone having the same benefits. Unless you are a full time Mid-Madder, you must schedule a minimum of 8 hrs per week (as required in our P&P). My fear is you may have your benefits cut if you do not. Benefits are a privilege given to us from Area Management and not a right. Area management can change or revoke that privilege at any time.

If you do not feel you can meet your minimum hours and duty requirements this season, please reach out to me so we can discuss your options and develop a plan. I expect those who will be unable to meet their commitments will call me before the guns start up. A call mid season and well after the area opens will severely limit your options. Remember that I am always available. We are a friendly, family oriented organization. I know personal factors come up that interfere with our patrol responsibilities, and now is the time to decide if you can meet those requirements or need to change your status for a season to focus on responsibilities outside of the patrol.

PATROL ELECTIONS

By: Kim Hiser

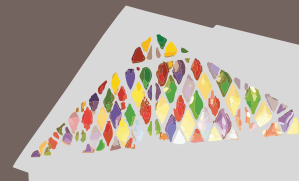
After a very close Patrol Representative election this fall between two outstanding candidates, Pat McCabe and Troy Green (who are both current APD's), Troy will take over as PR July 1, 2012. Elected to the two BOG positions were Chris Raudabaugh and Stephen Bechtel – their term begins next July 2012 for a 3 year term. Congrats to you both! Wes Soter has stepped down as APD of Operations, so Mark Fogt moves over to replace Wes and Shawn Roush will take over as APD of Organization. A huge thanks goes out to Wes for serving many years as APD!

2011-12 BENEFITS

By: Kim Hiser

Regarding benefits, especially in the cafeteria, you must have your patrol coat on to expect patrol benefits, please don't expect the cashiers to just recognize you. Many work long, long shifts for many days in a row and see literally thousands of faces. Do not challenge the cafeteria staff if they charge you for something they shouldn't have – simply pay for it and let me or your Hill Leader know and I will work as quickly as I can to get the issue resolved. We had yet another incident this past year and I really don't enjoy dealing with the backlash. My guess is if it happens again this year, whoever is involved will not have many more days at MRM, courtesy of area management.





TRAIL MARKINGS AND PROTOCOL

By: Kim Hiser

We should all see more safety signs around the area this year and in the Lodge, thanks to our new area manager. Also, we have been asked not to be "hill cops" but to get out and patrol and talk to people who are not skiing or riding in a safe manner. If they continue to disregard us after the initial encounter, your Hill Leader will need to be contacted to follow up and management will want to know.

RECRUITING NEWS

By: Pat McCabe

We'll be having a recruiting Ski Along on Saturday, December 17, at 2 pm. Most likely we'll be meeting in the Trophy Room next to the cafeteria. If you know of anyone interested in joining our patrol, please pass on this information. We'll spend the first hour discussing the Ski Patrol and the two-year candidacy. Then we will proceed to assessing their skills on the hill and doing some demos of our training. If anyone would like to participate in a group doing the demos, please hook up with me that day. Thanks!

AN EPIC SKI WRECK STORY (NO CASUALTIES)

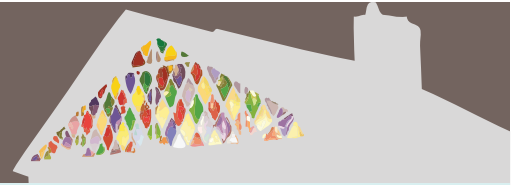
By: Michael Chamberlin

I've had my fair share of falls while skiing. There was that time I thought it was cool to white-out a friend while he was down, and instead received a sizeable bone contusion on my shin for my troubles. And there was the time in my youth when I tried to perform a triple axel, double Sow Cow a la Brian Boytano...tears cascaded. But none of those compare to the Carhart-sporting, cigarette-smoking, ski hill-bombing yard sale explosion I witnessed in the winter of '08.

Rick, that's what I'm calling him, chose to perform his best Johnny Mosely impersonation by exiting the chair lift with a few skating motions and a tuck all the way to his doom: the inconspicuously sudden drop-off midway down the slope. What he did not do was keep his balance centered which, anyone who's ever bounced repeatedly on a Wal-Mart pogo ball will tell you, is important. What resulted was a skis out, legs up, butt down, arms-swinging, rubber-necking midair position that had Kama Sutra experts scratching their heads.

And then...KABOOM! A sound that can be likened to a nitrogen-cooled balloon being smashed by a ball-pin hammer cascaded across the hill and met my anxiously awaiting ears twenty feet up on the chair lift. And I'll be honest; I laughed. I laughed hard. Sure, my elation in another human's demise will land me in the fiery eternity that is ruled by Beelzebub, but for those few minutes I was completely satisfied it was not I who had to shamefully search for the other half of my ass and all of my pride. So here's to you O' Breaker of Bones. We have all learned our lesson. And by the way, I think I saw your other eye under the third lift pole.





SENIOR PROGRAM

By: Pat McCabe

We're always looking for new Senior candidates. Don't let the "nay-ers" hold you back from advancing your skills and becoming a part of a new adventure. We train with some of the best of the Region and Division who are really great dedicated patrollers, and it gives you a chance to experience the NSP outside of just our local patrol.

If you're at all interested in seeing what the Senior Program is all about, please give me a call or shoot me an e-mail. I'd love to get a group together to venture down to Perfect North Slopes or up to Boston Mills/Brandywine to participate in a no-pressure "what's it all about" training day with a Region Senior Instructor.

A FEW QUICK REMINDERS

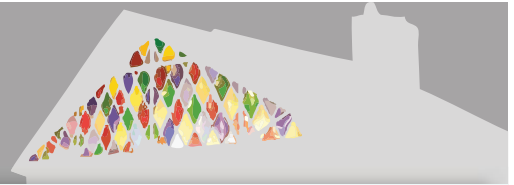
By: Troy Green

With the excitement of another season upon us and snow (or snow making) in the air, I wanted to send out a few reminders.

1. Frosties – Frosties will be just as last year and will be conducted in the first two weeks of the season. This will also be determined by when we open, as well as depending on Holidays, etc.
2. A Frosty MUST be conducted by someone who is on the S&T team. I know this can be an inconvenience, but it is for insurance reasons. We will try to have a trainer on every shift but cannot guarantee we can do that. We will be conducting Frosties on the first 3 weekends we are open. If there is not a trainer available on your scheduled shift, please attend one of the weekend Frosties. If you have any questions about the Frosties, feel free to contact me. We will be having an ID class early next year. If you would like to become an instructor of any discipline, you need to attend an ID class--dates and times TBD.



THE PATROLLER



WELCOME NEW OEC TECHNICIANS

By: Mac Logan

On Saturday, November 19, we welcomed into the patrol a new class of freshly minted OEC technicians. This is the first group trained under the new fifth edition of the textbook and therefore might be a source to compare with how we originally learned things. The candidates had passed their written final nearly a month ago and have been working diligently on Tuesdays with Cheryl and Chris Raudabaugh and crew, Wednesdays with Dan Moss, Scott Momburg, and Stephen Bechtel, and on Saturdays at the mountain with our instructor group on their practical skills. All of their work paid off on the 19th as all passed their practical finals with flying colors. They are a VERY hard working bunch and will be a great new asset to the patrol.

We can take special pride in the fact that we had a 100% pass rate on both the written and practical as the change to the new textbook has caused a higher than usual failure rate this year across the country (mostly on the written part of the test). Our team passed both parts of the exam 100%.

Thanks go to everyone who helped with their education: the Tuesday and Wednesday practical crews and the people who gave up their Saturdays all summer long to make this probably the best educational experience I've seen for a group of candidates since I've been on the patrol. Thanks also go out to Mary Rutan Hospital and the Mary Rutan Foundation for providing us with the absolute top of the line facilities in their conference room for the classroom part of the summer.

So welcome to the patrol our eight newest members and one returning face. They are K-1 candidates: Katherine Brownson (formerly a patroller at Clear Forks), Jason Bryant (certified nurse anesthetist), Andrej Gutik (also a member of Ski School), Jesse McPherson (Paramedic, firefighter, SAR), Eric Newkirk (Observer from last year), Bill O'Neil, Tim Pawlaczyk (aka T-Bone), and David Rutter. There was also one challenger, a former patroller, now back in the fold Eireann O'Connor. Congratulations to all of you on a summer of hard work. Now on to a winter of fun on the mountain!

THANK YOU

The MRM Ski Patrol would like to recognize Aspen Ski and Board Company for their continued support and generous contribution. ASBCO operates two locations in the Columbus area.

Main Polaris Location:

1170 East Powell Rd - Polaris Pkwy
Lewis Center, Ohio 614-848-6600

Upper Arlington Location:

1175 Old Henderson Rd
Columbus, Ohio 614-459-6666

ASBCO is located on the web at www.aspenskiandboard.com. Please consider referring friends and family to ASBCO, should they need professional equipment services or are looking to purchase new equipment and/or apparel. THANK YOU ASBCO, for helping us make the slopes safer!